SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME NEWS
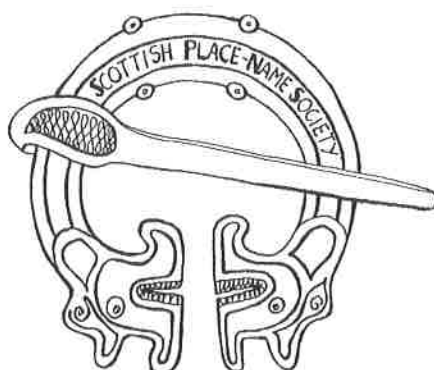## No.10
Spring 2001

The Newsletter of the

SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
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EDITORIAL

It is now fifty years since the School of Scottish Studies was established in the University of Edinburgh, and with it, the Scottish Place-Name Survey. The first decade of the Survey concentrated on building up an archive of place-name forms of paper slips, with many thousands of hours being spent transferring, by hand, (in ink) the documentary forms from such important Scottish records as the Register of the Great Seal, the Retours, the Origines Parochiales, and many others.

Today, with sophisticated electronic means at our fingertips, we take the labours of half a century ago very much for granted. And labour it certainly was! When Simon Taylor and I made a brief inventory of the archive in February, we were struck by the range of material covered, the care with which it had been transcribed, and the vision of the founders of the School, who had established this core of data.

It is no fault of these early workers if the vision has taken a long time to reach fruition. The optimism of the fifties and sixties was understandable, but the universities drew in their horns and money became tight in the eighties and nineties, and priorities in the School moved from collection and research to teaching, to produce a new generation of ethnologists. However, the establishing of a Scottish Place-Names Database is a very welcome development, and it will, hopefully, bring a new vitality to the study of onomastics. We now deal with data so rapidly that the workers and researchers of 1951 would have regarded such processes as science fiction. Their scholarly vision is one that we must keep very much in our minds in the twenty-first century.

INTERNET NEWS

Henry Gough-Cooper, 'our man on the Internet', writes:

WEBSITE NEWS

Your Society's website http://www.st-and.ac.uk/institutes/sassi/spns/index.htm continues to expand. There are between 100-150 visitors a week, and the major project for last autumn was putting some large chunks of Watson's 'History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland' on-line (courtesy of the Trustees of W Watson). At present, I am giving thought to the suggestion that a limited gazetteer of Scottish place-names would be useful. If anyone has any suggestions as to form and content, or, still better, has ready-made material they would be willing to share, please let me know.

It is hoped to provide a short demonstration of the Society's website at the Society's next day conference.

Anyone who visits the website can also be directed to http://www.egroups.co.uk/group/scotplace a discussion list for Scottish place-names. Many of the enquiries that used to go through the website now come here, and I hope to edit and paste the more interesting ones to the website. The site www.egroups.co.uk hosts many other discussion lists, some of which SPNS members may find particularly interesting, such as coed-celyddon, the 'Pictavia' discussion group, and Early-Med-Irl, the Early Medieval Ireland group. You can search for, and join, these and other groups on the site's home-page.

ON-LINE JOURNALS (AKA "e-journals")

The Heroic Age is now online at http://members.aol.com/heroicage1/homepage.html There is something for everyone interested in the "celtic heroic age" in this journal: literature, linguistics, folklore and legend, history, and archaeology.

MAPPING

Distribution maps of place-names are invaluable, and Tom Ikins of http://www.RomanMap.com The Roman Map of Britain, is researching some useful mapping resources on the web. Try http://www2.demis.nl/mapserver/Mapper.asp or http://www.geocomm.com. The latter has free downloadable data for the world. It covers settlements, rivers, streams and limited modern roads. Finally http://www.cubewerx.com/demo/cubeview is a map server that can access information from a wide variety of sources, including the DEMIS map server.

RECORDS

The new official website for the National Archives of Scotland is at http://www.nas.gov.uk. The National Archives of Scotland (or NAS), based in Edinburgh, has one of the most varied collection of archives in the British Isles. It is the main archive for sources on the history of Scotland as a separate kingdom, her role in the British Isles and the links between Scotland and many other countries over the centuries. The NAS holds records spanning the 12th to the 21st centuries touching on virtually every aspect of Scottish life.

THE TANGLED WEB

In their annual review of the World Wide Web, researchers at OCLC determined that the Web then contained over 7 million unique sites. More information on the Web Characterisation Project is on the project website at http://wcp.oclc.org.

FINALLY

Simon Taylor writes: That (travesty of) a Welsh place-name has hit cyber-space: from longest place-name in the world to longest internet address. Normally internet sites are given a maximum of 28 letters, but an exception has been made for the Anglesey village known throughout Wales as Llanfair PG. Visit the website and find out more about the name and the place on http://llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch.co.uk

MOTHERWELL CONFERENCE PAPERS

LANARKSHIRE PLACE-NAMES

The SPNS was welcomed to the Lanarkshires (North and South), home to 0.6 million Scots. As a starter, a flavour of local names was given, based on primary school names across the area – these reflect local area names well. Lanarkshire is at an interface between Gaelic and Scots/English, with underlying Cumbric/British. There are also pre-Celtic river names (eg Clyde), Cumbric (eg Lanark), Gaelic (eg Airdrie) and Scots (eg Stane and Dykehead) names. There's a hint of Norse too in Biggar, Dolphinton, Covington.

The speaker then looked at how Lanarkshire had been treated by place-name studies in the last 150 years, both in the few major studies that had been Scotland-wide (Robertson 1869, W J Watson 1916/1926, J B Johnston 1892/1934 and Nicolaisen 1976), and

in local study areas – which show a heavy bias towards more rural parts of the country. His own booklet on Monklands (1987) was one of the few to look at industrial areas, although the work of J P Miller on Lanarkshire in the 1920s blazed a more exciting trail - of which more later.

In the Scotland-wide studies, the four main writers had different biases. JA Robertson's (1869) central thesis was to refute works by Carlisle and Thos McLaughlin on the alleged dominant Cymric element in Scottish place-names. He argues they were <u>all</u> Gaelic, and that even English names were given by ancient Celts. He argued that Lanark, Calder and Clyde, for example, were all Gaelic, which we would not accept now.

Next on the onomastic scene was JB Johnston who seems to have had a lot of affection for Welsh, or Brython as he calls it. Some of his meanings were pretty wild, such as Coatbridge deriving from coed (Welsh, wood) or Airdrie as ard tref (Welsh, dwelling at the height). Johnston, although a reverend, is now seen as but a minor god beneath the ex-headmaster WJ Watson, whose "History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland" is for many the holy bible of toponymics. He got the balance right, accepting British names as well as Gaelic. However, this book's unsystematic layout, with circa. 100 Lanarkshire names scattered throughout the book, some in a sub-chapter on the county, many elsewhere, makes mining in his work a search for many veins. His explanations are generally soundly based, but there are lacunae in the omissions of places like Coatbridge and Motherwell (by 1900 major Scottish towns), and by his failure to relate to Scots language names. JP Miller's work [patience, it's coming] draws a lot on Watson's work, which indicates its reliability.

WFH Nicolaisen's 1976 book ("Scottish Place-Names") focusses on the geographical patterns of different <u>layers</u> of names. For Lanarkshire he found no genuine Early English names (eg –ingtun) – Symington and Abingtun being late adaptations from Symon's toun etc. He picks out Gaelic name-zones – most of Lanarkshire is in his zone 2 (shorter, less dense Gaelic settlement than in Stirlingshire or the south-west zones). He jalouses Old Norse personal names in Covington, Bonnington, Dolphinton: Cumbric names in Lanark, Papperthill, and the Car-names (eg – Carfin, mapped but not texted); and pre-Celtic river names incl Clyde, Avon. However he, like WJW, makes no mention of Scots names.

Last but not least the speaker turned to the amateurs who have worked on Lanarkshire: Paul Archibald on upper Clyde (Forrest's map) , Peter Lyons on East Kilbride, John Young on Stonehouse, Ruth Richens on Lesmahagow, Pete Drummond and Steven McCabe on Monklands, and others too, along with the 17th century's Timothy Pont who opened the bridgehead, so to speak. But JP Miller must be the grandpapa of these amateurs. Working in the 1920s he collected many old versions of names (some from local informants), lists them, refers to WJW, JBJ etc, and notes pre-Celtic, Brittonic, Gaelic and English possibilities. He lays out alternatives and does not always judge. His maxim was 'place-names are descriptive of the local topography', advice that some later amateurs might have done well to follow. He lists nearly 1, 900 names in his series, which was published in the local weekly "Hamilton Advertiser" in 1931 and 1932. Sadly, we presently know nothing more about the man, but copies of his work are in the School of Scottish Studies. A specimen article of his newspaper is shown nearby, indicating that his work made him a professional among amateurs.

[Summaries of the talk's overhead illustrations were distributed later in the meeting, and are still available from speaker Pete Drummond, the treasurer.]

PRIVICK AND LICKPRIVICK – ONOMASTIC CONNECTIONS IN SOUTH-WEST SCOTLAND – Maggie Scott (A version of the paper summarised here was delivered at the Annual Conference of the Society for Names Studies in Britain and Ireland, in Bangor, Wales, April 28th – May 1st 2000).

There are a number of place-names in Ayrshire and Renfrewshire which appear to indicate 'Anglian overlordship or sporadic influence in the area at a fairly early date', as WFH Nicolaisen sstates in *Scottish Place-Names* (1976). Old English *bodl* 'dwelling', *ham* 'village' and *wic* '(dependent) farm', are found as generics in a small number of place-names including Maybole, Eaglesham and Prestwick. Two place-names which may also contain the element *wic* are *Previck* in Ayrshire and *Lickprivick* in Renfrewshire.

The lost Ayrshire place-name *Previck* survives in the name of Privick Mill, near Annbank, and can be traced back to the twelfth century in written records. *Lickprivick* in Renfrewshire, from which the personal name Lapraik is

derived, is documented from 1456 when it appears in a transumpt of a charter dated 1397-98. Lickprivick Castle once stood in the area of East Kilbride now known as Greenhills, although the name has been retained in the nearby Lickprivick Road.

Nicolaisen has suggested that the first element of *Previck* could be derived from a word for 'pear'. If the generic is indeed Old English *wic*, then the possibility that the specific may be Old English **peru* 'pear-tree' can be supported by comparative evidence. Similar name-forms have been found in other parts of Scotland and England. Smith's *English Place-Name Elements* (1956) identifies tree-names as one of the major categories of first elements found in combination with *wic* in English place-names. More recently, Richard Coates had drawn attention to a group of English place-names in *-wic* where the first elements represent plants which can be harvested, 'including fruit trees' (*Nomina* 22, 1999). His examples include Crabbet in Sussex, 'crab-apple wick', and Appletreewick in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Similar constructions are found in Scotland including Old English *haga* 'hawthorn' in Hawick and Old English *hæddre* 'heather' in Hedderwick, East Lothian.

A number of other names found within the British Isles which can also be considered as sources of comparative evidence for the first element of *Previck*, including Parwich in Derbyshire and Perwick on the Isle of Man. However, the etymologies of these names remain problematic.

In conclusion I would like to suggest that the place-name *Previck* is of Anglo-Saxon etymology, from Old English *wic* 'dependent farm' with either Old English **peru* 'pear-tree', or the same unidentified Old English word that comprises the first element of Parwich in Derbyshire. *Leckprevick* in Lanarkshire appears to represent the same compound with the addition of Gaelic *leac*, 'stone'. These names can therefore be considered to provide further evidence of Anglian settlement in this area of the Scottish south-west.

GOING ROUND THE BEND – John Reid

East Stirlingshire has three principal natural water-courses: the rivers Carron and Avon and the Pow of Airth. All of these fall into the Firth of Forth and to do so each has to cross the Carse of Stirling. Consequently they formed meanders in their lower courses or, at least, once did so. The Carron and Avon have been subjected to engineering which has straightened their courses. The Pow of Airth being remote from the effects of the Industrial Revolution remains relatively untouched.

It is evident that the river convolutions and, by association, the portions of land enclosed within them were named. Some of this toponomy survived long enough to be recorded. Many such names fall into distinct groups within which only a limited number of elements are found as the nominative. On the other hand, the defining elements are more varied. A few names fall outside these large groups. It is apparent that the languages used to coin names for these features reflect the strands otherwise observable in the area.

The most common recurring elements are: **crook; hook; nook**. As we should expect, these often appear in a vernacular form: *cruik*; *heuk* or *heuch*; *neuk*.

While some examples of names containing the relevant elements are found beyond the bounds of the carselands the largest group does occur there or on the meadowlands in the lower reaches of the rivers where they approach the carselands. In the following list names preceded by the symbol Examples of the three main groups [*crook, hook, nook*] are:

Burncrook 1755 *sic;* Crook 1683 *kreuch;* Crooks [1] 1597 *cruikis;*

Crooks [2] 1755 *sic;* *Crooklandgate* 1755 *sic*; Headcrook 1597 *heidcruik;*

Richards crooks 1646 *ritschertsecruikis*; Thorniecrook ward 1627 *thorniecruik-waird*

Most of these, such as Crook and Burncrook, are literal. Crooklandgate was a road running through a tract of land bounded by the Pow of Airth. Headcrook lay at the extremity of the Pow where it

ran ito the Forth. Richards crooks, presumably, incorporates a personal name. Thorniecrook may be the more complex: it possibly represents *thorn-eg crook* where *thorn* was applied to a spur of land. If so, it might be rendered something like *hook-meadow crook.

Broken hook 1551 *brokenheugh*; Green hook 1541 *greynehuke*;

Ring and hewks 1806 *sic*; Heuk 1554 *huke*

Broken hook lay by the River Avon. The history of the River Carron demonstrates that natural breakthroughs in the meanders study of the River did occur[1]. The salt marshes common along the tidal reaches of the rivers were known locally as *greens* and explains Green Hook. At the confluence of the Carron with the Forth was a pointed headland known as Heuk. This is identical in sense with 'The Hook of Holland'.

Bent neuk 1662 *sic*; Higgins neuk 1707 *heggins-nook*; Kersie neuk 1817 *kersieneuk*; Mossneuk 1755 *sic*; Neuk meadow 1781 *sic*; Thorny neuk 1791 *sic*; Neuk 1685 *neuck of airth*

While *bent* is invariably rendered in place-name studies as representing the type of grass known as *bent*, this may not always be the case. Jamieson gives *bent*, the slope or ridge of a hill, a hillside; cognate with *band*. Arguably, the type of grass known as *bent* would have to be the most wide-ranging vegetation in the land. On the other hand it would be easy to demonstrate the co-relationship between many of the land-names incorporating the word and the existence of vertical bends or banks in the landscape. And so, Bent neuk may be rendered 'bank corner'. Higgins neuk was latterly used of the place where the last of the Airth ferries operated from but was transferred from Neuk, or Neuk of Airth which was in the possession of the family of Higgins for several generations. Kersie Neuk, now called South Alloa, lay in the lands of Kersie. Two Mossneuks were situated in Airth parish. They relate, one to Elphinstone Moss, the other to Letham Moss. Consideration of Thorny neuk would follow the same argument as that proposed for Thornycrook.

Just as most of the names in *crook, hook* and *nook* are transparent in meaning and need no explanation, others, also coined in English are equally obvious in meaning. One such, *ring*, appears unique in this area. It is, nevertheless, evident in English place-names[2]. Another, *point*, does appear as a naming element on a number of occasions but it is evident that it is a late introduction. Degedy Green Point has what may be an eroded *dal* name as its first element, while Green, as mentioned above, refers to the salt greens. Ferry Green Point was the place at which Newton Ferry operated. Hook Point is named from the lands of Heuk on the south bank of the Carron. The element common to Point and Tillage and Tillyflats, introduces other components that are less explicit. Given that the carse clays are homogenous in their structure, it is unlikely that the work relates to the nature of the soil at either place unless it is OE *til*, 'useful, good'. Nevertheless, perhaps we have a word with the same root as that in *till*, used in the sense of 'turning'. Just below the tidal limit of the Avon are Jinkabout Bridge and the site of Jinkabout Mill. Here the river takes an abrupt about turn, or as we say in Scotland, makes a 'jink'. The last is *wheel*. This is not an uncommon place-name element in England[3]. From OE *hweogol*, it is used of features which are circular in form; 'something which wheels round'. Here we find Meggats Wheel, which has as the defining element a work found in Water of Meggat DMF and Megget Water SLK. Less recognisable, at first glance, is Wholeflats [1683 *wheillflat*]. Some twenty instances of *flat* are found on the carselands. Given the paucity of Norse elements in the area, these are more likely to derive ultimately from OE *flet* rather than ON *flat*.

A further group is composed of Celtic names. Dalratho, now lost, would happily translate as *wheel-meadow. It would appear to have been situated close to Wholeflats. While Gael. *rath* is most often found as a term for a man-made structure it can simply mean 'circle'. There is too the derived *rathach*, of or belonging to circles, which word may be represented by –ratho. Claret appears as

Goodclaret in 1781. Given its situation, it is difficult not to take the first element to be Gael. *clar*, any smooth surface or plane. It is possible that the final element is, once again, *rath*. This may also hold true of Reddoch which is "lie redheuch" in 1442. This name appears to be a hybrid: **rath-hook*. Another 'bend' name of Celtic origin lies just above the carse: Camelon. In context, it is evident that *Cam-* represents either Gael. *cam*, 'crooked' or an earlier Celtic equivalent.

[1] Bailey, GB, Along and Across the River Carron, *Calatria*, No. 2, pp49-84
[2] AH Smith, English Place-Name Elements, Part 1, p265
[3] *ibid* Part 1, p272

FANCY A NAME OF POOL?

On display at the Motherwell conference was a map of the Clyde's tributary River Avon (S. Lanarkshire) with over 70 pools named. The map was compiled by member John Young from information collected by the Avon Angling Club and its secretary Hugh Burns in the 1960s. John has added a few names and the collection exceeds 80 now.

Names such as Deif Tam's Hole, Bilin' Pot and Puddock Hole indicate the strong Scots tongue in the area, while the noun in Arthur's Linn and Wee Linn indicates the Gaelic source of some Scots words. The word 'wheel' in several names (eg – Sandwheel) underlines a possible source for nearby Motherwell, which may have been the mither wheel on the Clyde.

Some names have very specific roots: Target Hole is where volunteer riflemen in the first war practiced their shots (there's an echo in distant Airdrie where the Target Tip's name originated simultaneously). At Washing Green Hole downstream the potshotters' wives got on with more serious matters – two large flat boulders made excellent scrubbing boards. Swallow Brae Hole remembers a 60-foot escarpment created by a landslip, where these summer birds made their tenement nests in its face, but a further landslip wiped out their hame but not the name.

Peter Drummond

TOPONYMIC VARIA

A TREE CALLED "EPPIE CALLUM"

On Ochtertyre estate there used to be a small farm called Oakbank (NN 8522, marked on last 1" OS map). The farm was situated near Turret Bridge, just over the western boundary of the burgh of Crieff in Perthshire. It was a very small farm with several discontiguous fields.

Latterly, in the 1970s, I think, the farm buildings were all demolished and replaced with a road house which later became a private dwelling house. In what had been the back garden of the former farmhouse, there is a monumentally large oak tree of about 500 years of age, whose girth, in about 1912, was 18'.

According to a historian of Crieff, in the nineteenth century the tree had been know locally as "Eppie Callum's tree". The farm building, or a previous one, had been a public house kept by Duncan Baine; and in the mid-nineteenth century, Eppie (presumably Euphemia) Callum had succeeded him in the public house: Alexander Porteous, *The History of Crieff*, (Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh and London, 1912), pages 240 and 291 and map at the back. There is a photograph of the tree, opposite page 210.

The author explodes the fanciful, but persistent, myth that the tree had originally been planted as an acorn in a teapot.

My grandfather (William Sinclair McNeill) was the tenant of the farm from about 1912 until his death in the 1950s. Thereafter, her was succeeded in the tenancy by his widow and then his daughter.

When as grandchildren, we visited the farm in the 1930s and after, the tree was no longer referred to as "Eppie Callum's tree", but simply as "Eppie Callum".

Eppie Callum still stands to this day.

The tree has been immortalised in verse by William Topaz McGonagall,

"The there's Lady Mary's Wald near the Bridge of Turret

Which I hope visitors will go and see and not forget.

Because nearby grows a magnificent oak most lovely to see,
Which is known by the name of Eppie Callum's Tree."

From "Beautiful Crieff" in *More Poetic Gems*, 1962

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

BHO CLUAIDH GU CALASRAID: FROM CLYDE TO CALLANDER, by Michael Newton. Gaelic Songs Poetry, Tales and Traditions of the Lennox and Menteith in Gaelic with English Translations. Published by Acair, Stornoway, 1999, ISBN 0 86152 265 6

When we consider the position of the Lennox and Menteith, on the edge of the old Gaelic-speaking area, few modern Gaels would associate these areas with a rich heritage of literature, poetry and song. But Michael Newton has produced a compendium of historical and religious legends, clan tales (mainly of the MacGregors, MacFarlanes and Colquhouns), poetry and songs.

Most readers of the Newsletter will find the most fascinating material that which covers 'History in Names', and the traditional accounts of saints linked to the area, including St Bearachan of Aberfoyle, and St Ceasag, the saint of Lennox and Menteith. Historical characters are described in later chapters, such as Black Duncan of the Cowl (Donnchadh Dubh a' Churraic), the crafty chief of the Campbells of Glenorchy, and Rob Roy, whose deeds were recounted many years after his death. The final section, on the post-1745 period, contains a number of songs now rarely heard, but which Michael Newton has gathered from a number of sources.

This excellent volume deserves a wide readership, as it covers a great deal of ground, uses a range of source material, and deals very sensitively with a part of Scotland which merits much more investigation, by historians and onomasticians alike.

Copies can be had from Acair, Stornoway, tel. 01851 703020 (or from the better bookshops). I A F

THE PLACE-NAMES OF SCARP, by John Maclennan, ed. and published by Calum J Mackay, 2001. 48pp ISBN 0903960 82 6, price £6 + 60p p&p.

This island lies on the west coast of North Harris. Deserted in 1971, it once boasted a population of 213 (in 1881) and was a thriving community. The late John Maclennan, born on Scarp, was a man who had an intimate knowledge of the place-names and general lore of the island, and it had always been his intention to publish a list of the Scarp names before his death in 1998. Friends in Harris, including a number of natives of the island, were instrumental in assembling the material and preparing it for publication under the editorship of Calum John Mackay, Headteacher of the Sir E Scott Secondary School, Tarbert.

The collection was based on John's extensive notes, supported by 6" OS maps. This attractive booklet, splendidly illustrated by useful colour photographs therefore gives an accurate picture of the place-name record, which forms an important part of the oral tradition of this fascinating place.

The collection lists 321 place-names, in two sections, each of which is accompanied by a 1:10 000 OS map reproduction, with a number key. These offer a good degree of accuracy, not always easy when one deals with the complex of rocky summits and gulleys which make up much of the northern section of the island, and the highly-indented coastline which is a usual feature of all the Western Isles.

The names provide us with a range of Gaelic generics, with the usual *cnoc, lag, uamh, glac, carn* and *creag*-names. Less common, however are terms like *leoba* 'cultivated plot' (59), *glupa* 'wet hollow' (121), and *aonaig* 'steep slope' (218,219). Norse generics are well represented on the topographic names, with terms like *mol* 'pebbly beach', *gil* 'ravine', and *palla* 'high step' (from ON

pallr) being quite frequent. One significant habitative name from Norse is *An t-Alabost* (83), from ON *bóst* 'stead', marked on the OS map as *Alabost*. This was a 'once cultivated area, north of the village' and where John Maclellan's father and other crofters had corn-rigs.

This little book is well presented, and is warmly recommended. Copies can be had from Calum Mackay, 1 Ardhasaig, Isle of Harris HS3 3AJ. Please make cheques payable to 'Scarp Placenames'

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF TOPONYMIC INTEREST

Black, R.J., 2000, 'Scottish Fairs and Fair-Names, *Scottish Studies* 33, 1-75.

Breeze, A., 2000 'The names of **Bellshill, Carmichael, Lauder** and **Soutra**', *Innes Review* 51 no. 1, 72-79.

Breeze, A., 2000a, 'Four Brittonic Place-Names from South-West Scotland: **Tradunnock, Trailflat, Troqueer and Troax**', *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* 74, 55-60

Dorward, D., 2001, *The Glens of Angus: Names, Places, People* (with illustrations by Colin Gibson) (Balgavies). [more on this in the next issue of *Scottish Place-Name News*.]

Gammeltoft, P., 2000, 'Why the Difference? An attempt to account for the variations in the phonetic development of place-names in Old Norse *bólstaðr* in the Hebrides', *Nomina* 23, 107-119.

MacGregor, A., 1886, *A Gaelic Topography of Balquhidder Parish* (Edinburgh University Press 1886, computer enhanced reprint 2000). [Rev. A MacGregor was minister of Balquhidder Parish Kirk; the book includes comments (post 1886) by his successor, Rev D Cameron. It is a thorough survey of local place-names, with otherwise unrecorded place-name lore and traditions. Sold in aid of the Fabric Fund of Balquhidder Parish Kirk. £2.75; original pagination given (5-32).]

Newton, M., 1999, *Bho Chluaidh gu Calasraid: From the Clyde to Callander* (Stornoway) [see note in this issue of *Scottish Place-Name News*.]

Newton, M., 2000, *A Handbook of the Scottish Gaelic World* [section on place-names and sense of place.]

Rixson, D., 1999, *Knoydart: A History* (Birlinn, Edinburgh) [section on place-names with early forms + close study of land-units.]

Scott, M., 2000, "Bullion" in Scottish Place-Names' *Nomina* 23, 37-48.

Taylor, S., 2000, 'Place-Names of Fife', in *The Fife Book* ed. D. Omand (Edinburgh), 205-20

Taylor, S., 2000, 'Columba east of Drumalban: some aspects of the Cult of Columba in eastern Scotland', *Innes Review* 51 (2), 109-30

Urquhart, R.H.J. and Close, R.(edd.), 1998 *The Hearth Tax for Ayrshire 1691* (Ayrshire Records Series vol. 1, published by the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies, Ayr) [valuable early forms of place-names, many of which seem to reflect contemporary pronunciation; arranged by the three bailliaries of Carrick, Kyle and Cunninghame, and alphabetically by parish within each bailliary.]

Watson, A., in Hall, M., Forsyth, K., Henderson, I., Trench-Jellicoe, R., **Watson**, A., 2000, 'Of makings and meanings: towards a cultural biography of the Crieff Burgh Cross [cross slab], Strathearn, Perthshire', *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal* 6, 154-88 [A. Watson's section on place-names relating to the **landscape and early lordship** of Strowan parish, Perthshire, the place where the cross-slab was found, 169-74.]

Waugh, D., 2000, 'A Scatter of Norse in Strathnaver', in *The Province of Strathnaver*, ed John R Baldwin, 13-24.

Waugh, D., 2000, 'In (and around)

Scatness', in *Old Scatness Broch & Jarlshof Environs Project: Field Season 1999*, 68-79

Compiled by Simon Taylor. Please let Scottish Place-Name News *know of any publications not included, but which would be of interest to Society members.*

FORTHCOMING TALKS AND CONFERENCES

FIFE .
4 Sept. 2001: 'From Calais to Dover: Place-Names of Dunfermline and environs', Simon Taylor, 14.00, Abbot House, Dunfermline.

PERTHSHIRE
24 March 2001: STRATHEARN: LANDSCAPE OF CHANGE, 09.15-17.00 A.K. Bell Library Theatre, Perth.
A Wide Ranging conference looking at recent and on-going research into the people and places of Strathearn. It will include (amongst others, and in order of appearance) papers by Angus Watson entitled: 'The Place-names of Western Strathearn: an Overview'; Dave Cowley 'Mapping the Archaeological Landscape: Survey in Strathearn'; Steve Driscoll 'Early Medieval Political Geography from Aerial Photography, Archaeology and Text'; and Fiona Watson 'Land, Lordship and Loyalty: Making (some) Sense of the Historical Evidence for the Earldom of Strathearn c. 1200-1300'. For more information contact Mark Hall, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, George St., Perth or phone 01738 632488

ISLE OF MAN
6-9 April 2001: SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND CONFERENCE, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN. Details from Dr Mary Higham, 22 Peel Park Ave., Clitheroe, Lancs. BB7 1ET. Tel. 01200 423771, e-mail: rheged@supanet.com. Speakers include Dr Margaret Gelling, Dr Gillian Fellon-Jensen, Dr Rosemary Power, Sir David Wilson, Dr George Broderick and Mr Donald McGiolla Espaig.

PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW ABOUT ANY TALK OR OTHER EVENT WHICH WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

SPN DATABASE DEVELOPMENTS

The Carnegie-funded Scottish Place-Name Database Pilot Project, managed by the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, is now drawing to a close. By the end of March 2001 a Users' Manual will be available which will describe the Database, the thinking behind its structure, and a full discussion of in-putting procedures. The end-product is the result of collaboration between Ed Dee of Computing Services, University of Edinburgh and Simon Taylor, Research Fellow, University of St Andrews, with important contributions from a variety of sources, especially from those who attended the two Place-Name Database Days held at Edinburgh University on 2 Dec 2000 and 17 Feb 2001. Another meeting of those who want to become involved in the inputting of data on a regular basis is planned for 9 June 2001 (venue to be decided). **For more information, please contact Simon Taylor, Department of Medieval History, University, St Andrews, KY16 9AL, st4@st-and.ac.uk.**

STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS: LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE:

On 25 January at the Head Office of the National Trust for Scotland Professor T.C. Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland, launched online access to the Old (late 18th-century) and New (mid 19th-century) Statistical Accounts of Scotland. The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the higher and further education funding bodies paid for initial scanning of all 28 000 pages of the two Accounts, and for the software engineering at EDINA (Edinburgh University Data Library). Funding to cover the creation of a computer-searchable text came from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, the National Archives of

Scotland, Gannochy Trust and Friends of Glasgow University Library, with additional funding from yet more sources. The end-product, hosted by EDINA, consists of two versions of the online service. The first is free to all, allowing pages of the Accounts to be searched, displayed and printed. The Accounts can be searched by the original subject index, by keyword, or parish-name. The second version is a subscription-based service, containing additional facilities, and available through UK universities and colleges, Scotland's schools, public libraries and archives, and the NLS and NAS. This will provide 'cut and paste' facilities to modern text versions of the two Accounts. A range of research tools for scholars is 'in development, to provide better access via a geographical user interface and also via and index to the statistical tables, maps and diagrams. Links to other digital resources are planned.

Of all the 166 questions in the original questionnaire sent out by Sir John Sinclair to the ministers of all of Scotland's 938 Kirk parishes, the one which received the most inaccurate and fanciful answers was question number two:

'What is the origin and etymology of the [parish-] name?'

Looking to the future when the Scottish Place-Name Database is online, a link to the relevant parish-name from the appropriate place in the Statistical Account will be able to modify such etymologies as 'cottage of the king' for Auchtermuchty or 'village of the cross' for Ballingry (which we are told by the overenthusiastic minister contains 'INRI' the initial letters of 'Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudicorum').

The web address of this important new digital resource is http://edina.ac.uk**. For more information email** edina@ed.ac.uk**.**

Please note that back copies of **Scottish Place-Name News** *are available from the Society for £1.50 (which includes p. & p.).*

Deadline for material for
next Newsletter:
30 July 2001
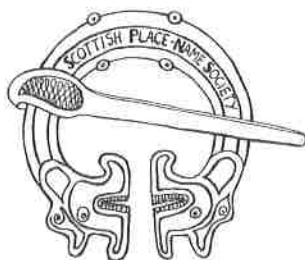
Scottish Place-Name Society
Comann Ainmean-Aite Na h-Alba

Conference and Annual General Meeting
University of Glasgow, Crichton Campus,
Rutherford McCowan Building
Bankend Road, Dumfries (tel. 01387 702034)
Saturday 12 May, 2001

PROGRAMME

10.30 – 11.00	Registration and Coffee
11.00 – 11.45	Dr Thomas Clancy, University of Glasgow
	'Place-Names and History in South West Scotland'
11.45 – 12.30	Dr Kay Muhr (Northern Ireland Place-Name Survey)
	'Name Links between Ulster and Scotland'
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch (available on Campus)
1.30 – 2.00	Society AGM
2.00 – 2.45	Dr Diana Whaley (University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
	'Lake District "Pass" Words'
2.45 – 3.30	Henry Gough-Cooper (SPNS website co-ordinator)
	'The Scottish Place-Name Society on the Internet'
3.30 – 4.00	Short reports on work in progress
4.00 – 4.30	Tea and informal discussion

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The cost for the day will be £15.00 (£10.00 for students) – cheques payable to 'The Scottish Place-Name Society' to Ian Fraser at the address below by 30 March – to include coffee, sandwich lunch and afternoon tea. Please indicate on the booking form below if you would like to give a short report during the afternoon session or, if you are unable to attend, to submit a report to be read by a committee member.

Name: ....

Address: ....

I shall/shall not attend the AGM and day conference in Dumfries on 12 May

I wish to give/submit a short report on the following topic:

....

Scottish Place-Name Society (C), c/o School of Scottish Studies, 27 George Square, University of Edinburgh, EH8 9LD