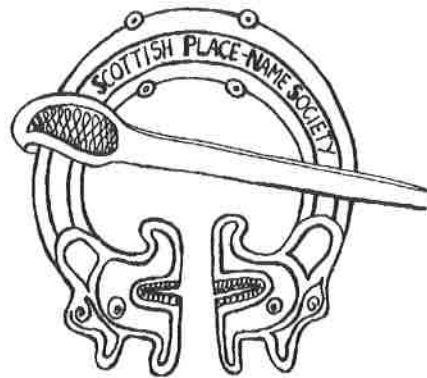


Scottish Place-Name News

No. 9 - Autumn 2000

The Newsletter of the
SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
COMANN AINMEAN-AITE NA H-ALBA



The postal address of the Scottish Place-Name Society is:

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Membership Details:

Annual Membership £5, to be sent to Peter Drummond, 2 Albert Place, Airdrie ML6 6DT

Website:

<http://www.st-and.ac.uk/institutes/sassi/spns/index.htm>

conducting important research in Scottish toponymics. We are all aware of the difficulties faced by students in all disciplines these days, but the post-graduate has a tougher time than most, with the uncertainty of funding, the lack of readily accessible source material, and the precarious nature of research facilities in general. The place-name student faces the additional problem of finding an institution where adequate supervision will be available, since there are so few scholars with an onomastic background who can act as competent supervisors.

In July, however, I attended a graduation ceremony at the University of Edinburgh, where Anke-Beate Stahl received her doctorate for her thesis on the place-names of the island of Barra. It is a tribute to Anke-Beate that she has completed this important piece of collection and research, especially as Barra's place-names had never been tackled by a competent scholar. The process of field-work, documentary investigation, cartographic research and linguistic analysis is something that few students can tackle competently, and they deserve all the support we can give them.

On a more mundane note, may I draw your attention to the column under 'Toponymic Varia'. I've started this in order to encourage members to contact me with any place-name or personal-name articles which they find in local newspapers, magazines or other media. Anything connected with names is grist to the Newsletter's mill!

The New Editor Signs On

After Simon Taylor's long stint as Editor of this Newsletter, it has fallen to me to take over. It will be difficult, if not impossible to maintain the high standards that Simon has set, but the Society members have an excellent record of keeping each other informed of events through the medium of this Newsletter and I would hope that this trend continues in future.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the past year has been the emergence of young scholars who are

Toponymic Varia

An Odd Name for a House

In Morningside, Edinburgh, just about where 10 Falcon Road now stands, only a stretch of old wall remains to show where there was once a house called The Bloom.

The first reference that I can trace is in the Register of Sasines dated September 11, 1809:

“William Paterson, Mason, Canaan, Seised Sept 1 1809 in 1 Rood & 7 flls of ground & house thereon now called the Bloom being part of the lands of Canaan par St Cuthberts:- on Feu Ch by George Watson solicitor Edinburg July 17 1809.”

On Kirkwood’s map of 1817 the house is shown but not named, and it first appears as simply Bloom in Johnston’s map of 1835 in Gray’s Directory. It is not, however, included in directory lists until 1837-38, where it is named The Bloom, and continues to be so designated for many years.

The name seems to me quite extraordinary. There was one other example, recorded in Forrest’s map of Linlithgow in 1818 as a house or farm called Bloom in Livingston parish, West Lothian. In his Place-Names of West Lothian (1941) Angus Macdonald mentions the name but makes no comment.

In addition to Bloom, at the top or north end of what is now Canaan Lane and on the corner of Newbattle Terrace, in Johnston’s map of 1835 there is a small complex of buildings designated Bloomberry Place and called in the directory Bloomberry house. The name continued for many years with variations as Bloombury and Bloomsberry.

Bloomberry Cottage, just next to Bloomberry House, is famous, of course, as being the home for a year (1838-39) of George Meikle Kemp.

In 1881 the villa known as Bloomfield was built next to Bloomberry Cottage. Had it been of earlier date one might have supposed that this was the origin of the name, which is quite acceptable as a field name. However, Bloom came first.

Can anyone suggest an origin for the name? And what about the added -berry? What can that signify?

May G Williamson.

From the Newspaper Clippings

Onomastic Coinage in Edinburgh!

A small slice of Greenbank history is brought into the 21st century as local pedestrian lane is finally given a name of its very own.

Residents of Greenbank finally know what to call the path between Greenbank Road and the City Hospital. The access road, one of the last surviving paths from the original Greenbank Farm area, has been given a proper title – Ashy Path. Local councillor Lindsay Walls said: “Several months ago local residents asked me if it would be possible to have the path named officially. The suggested name was ideal to act as a focal point to direct visitors to properties in Greenbank Road and, at the same

time, reflect a part of local history.”

Councillor Walls was pictured with Sheila Logie, whose father was the original owner of a Greenbank Road property and who helped carry out the official naming ceremony recently. *Edinburgh Herald Post*, June 15, 2000.

Book Reviews

The Province of Strathnaver, ed. John R Baldwin, Scottish Society for Northern Studies, IASBN 0 9535226 0 1, 249 pp, £12.00.

Many members of the SPNS will be familiar with the publications of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies. Over the last thirty years, the Society has published small volumes of studies on all the most northerly districts of the mainland and the Northern Isles, including Shetland (twice), Orkney, Caithness, the Firthlands of Ross and Sutherland, and north-west Ross. This volume, the proceedings of the SSNS Conference held in Bettyhill in 1992 effectively plugs the geographical gap, since it deals with the remote and scantily-peopled area west of Caithness and the north of the present-day county of Sutherland. The papers are divided into three sections – The Medieval Province, the Post-Medieval Province and Pre-Medieval Times.

Insofar as name studies are concerned, our main interest lies in the first two chapters, where Dr Barbara Crawford examines ‘Medieval Strathnaver’ and incorporates a good deal of place-name evidence in her assessment of the province’s name, extent and status. Dr Crawford is well-known as a keen user of onomastic evidence in the reconstruction of the past, and it is particularly valuable in this case, where historical information is extremely scarce.

Doreen Waugh’s chapter ‘A Scatter of Norse Names in Strathnaver’ will be of most interest to members of the SPNS. West from Reay to Strath Halladale, the proportion of Gaelic names rises, and that of Norse names becomes lower. However, Norse is still an important element in the nomenclature of the whole of Strathnaver province, and Dr Waugh examines a series of Norse generics found in the zone, beginning with *dalr* ‘valley’ and *vollr* ‘field’, moving on to *skálr* ‘residence’, *bólstaðr* ‘farmstead’, *aergi* ‘shieling’ and *saurr* ‘mud’ and finally a group incorporating *gil* ‘ravine’, *vík* ‘bay’, *gjá* ‘geo’, *skinandi* ‘the shining one’ (referring to a river) and *sker* ‘skerry’. From the place-name evidence, which discusses key names like Skaill, Kirkiboll, Fresgill, Skinnet and Torrisdale, Dr Waugh concludes that Strathnaver was in many respects a continuation westwards of the Norse colonisation of Caithness, and that it became part of the Caithness earldom.

There are many fascinating papers in this attractively-produced and well-illustrated book which will stir a great deal of discussion, in particular the account of traditional medicine practised by the Beaton and Mackay physicians, by Mary Beith and the account of souterrains in Sutherland with an accompanying list and map by Alex Morrison. The editor, John Baldwin, is to be congratulated for assembling a rich mix of studies, with his own paper

on seaweed working a particular delight.

The book is available from Scottish Book Source Ltd., 137 Dundee Street, Edinburgh, EH11, 1BG, tel: 0131 229 6800, fax: 0131 229 9070, or by email: orders@scottishbooksource.com at £12.00 plus £1.50 post and packaging.

Ian A. Fraser, *The Place-Names of Arran*, The Arran Society of Glasgow: Glasgow, 1999. 168 pp., £9.75 (paperback). [Available from the Editor at £9.00 (post-free) to members of the SPNS]

This is a valuable contribution to Scottish toponymics, bringing together not only the expertise of the author, Ian Fraser, who has been working at the Scottish Place-Name Survey, School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh, for several decades, but also the oral collections made by W.F.H. Nicolaisen in the early 1960s. Nicolaisen's informants came from both the Gaelic and the Scots speaking communities on the island, the former consisting of only a few score of folk.

The names are set out alphabetically in three separate sections: 'Settlement Names', 'Topographical Names', and 'Field Names and Minor Names'. There is also a useful Elements Index divided into 'Gaelic' and 'Norse', giving the full form of each element, as well as examples of places containing the element in question.

There is an extensive discursive section which helps put Arran place-names into a wider Scottish context. This looks at the different languages which have contributed to the place-nomenclature of Arran, from the probable pre-Gaelic name of the island itself, by way of Gaelic, Norse and Scots names, to 'names of the future', coined in Standard Scottish English.

It is to be regretted that this otherwise so comprehensive book has no maps, apart from the map of Arran taken from Blaeu's *Atlas* (1654), used as an attractive cover design. Even one showing the two parishes, Kilmory and Kilbride, and the chief glens and settlements, would have been a great asset. In the discussion of elements such as *baile* ('farm, estate') and *achadh* ('field, secondary farm') and their distribution, reference is made to distribution maps, but one has to look for these elsewhere, for example in the Scotland-wide distribution maps of Nicolaisen (in *Scottish Place-Names* [1976] or the *Atlas of Scottish History* [1996]). An interesting feature to emerge from Fraser's analysis of *baile*-names (pp. 20-1) is how late several of them are, referring to small-holdings and small tenanted units established as late as the 19th century. Out of the 38 named king's farms in Arran in the mid-15th century, there are no places containing *baile*, and J. Burrell's list of 105 farms from the year 1766 contains only three. This contrasts with names containing *achadh*, which is not only more common but also occurs earlier in the record, with three of the above-mentioned king's farms containing this element (Auchencairn, Auchagallon and Auchencar). This ties Arran in with Renfrewshire and north Ayrshire, where *baile*-names are very thin on the ground, in contrast to the ubiquitous *achadh*-names.

Norse settlement is discussed in a separate section in the Introduction (pp. 52-60). Since there are no

habitative elements in the Norse place-names of Arran, Fraser assumes that 'if they [the Norse] had a serious interest in the island, it was in terms of its natural resources – timber, fish and game'. The implication here is that they did not actually settle on Arran. However, it is difficult to imagine how so many important settlements and features can have retained Norse-derived names to this day without a period of fairly intensive settlement by Norse-speakers, names such as Brodick, Sannox, Ranza, Goat-fell. In fact, the topographic names – names referring to topographic features such as valleys, rivers and bays, without any direct reference to human habitation – are likely to have been given to Norse settlements in the earliest phase of Norse colonisation. The lack of names with habitative elements points rather to the fact that by the time secondary settlements were formed from the core holdings, Norse was no longer the chief language of Arran. This is the model put forward by Andrew Jennings in his Ph.D 'An Historical Study of the Gael and Norse in Western Scotland from c.795 to c.1000' (Edinburgh, 1994). It was also clearly expounded and elaborated by Arne Kruse in his paper given to the SPNSoc. Conference in Perth in May.

Other important names of Norse derivation, but later incorporated into Gaelic names, are Glenrosa, containing the Norse *hross-á* 'horse river', Glenormisdale and Glenashdale (*Glenascadale* 1503). Glenshurig almost certainly belongs to this same group: early forms such as *Glenservaig* and *Glensherwik* make Fraser's tentative suggestion that it contains Gaelic *searrach* 'foal' unlikely.

The importance of topographical names in the early settlement-nomenclature of Arran is equally pronounced in the Gaelic-derived names. One has only to look at the names of the medieval royal lands, many of which contain such generic elements as *leitir* 'slope' in *Letternagannach*, now Letter, *machair* 'machair, raised beach, fertile coastal strip' in Machrie, *cnoc* 'hill(ock)' in Knockankelly, and *monadh* 'muir, upland grazing' (or perhaps *mòine* 'peat-bog, moss') in Monyquil (*Monyculye*) and Monamore (*Monymor*).

This book is an essential addition to the library not only of anyone interested in Scottish toponymy, but also of all who care about the history and culture of this magnificent island.

Simon Taylor

This is a shortened version of a review to appear in Cothrom no. 25, the bilingual quarterly magazine for new Gaelic learners, 62 High Street, Invergordon IV18 0DH <www.gaelic.net/cli>.

Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names*, Shaun Tyas: Stamford, 2000. xxiv + 391 pp. (ISBN 1-900289-26-1)

One could be forgiven for assuming at first sight that this is simply a re-issue of Margaret Gelling's remarkable work *Place-Names in the Landscape* (1984). Both books examine the use and range of meanings of a large number of topographical place-name elements in England. The chapter headings group link terminology

together, as for example 'Hills, Slopes and Ridges' (Ch. 5), and within each chapter, the elements are arranged alphabetically. However, there are some important differences.

The Landscape of Place-Names has been written in collaboration with Ann Cole, who has contributed the majority of the maps and a case study on the topographical elements of the Chilterns (pp. 288-316). Cole's sketches of specific landscape features add a further dimension to Gelling's often precise definitions. It is easy to appreciate the definition of Old English *beorg* as 'rounded hill, tumulus' in names like Rook Barugh and Roseberry Topping in the North Riding of Yorkshire when confronted with an image of these sites (p.147).

The majority of the material relates to England, and so Scottish place-name enthusiasts may feel misled by the general map, which includes Scotland south of the Forth-Clyde line. Although there is slightly more reference to Scottish place-names in the more recent volume, as in the discussion of Primitive Cumbric *coid*, Welsh *coed* 'wood, forest', Gelling is quick to draw attention to the lack of comprehensive studies of individual elements in Scotland (p.224). This point is a reminder that Scotland, as yet, lacks onomastic resources comparable with the published volumes of the English Place-Name Survey.

As indicated by the bibliography, substantial progress has been made in this area of English place-name scholarship during the intervening sixteen years. Many individual articles have been published, and the English Place-Name Survey has continued its steady production of detailed county investigations. Those with good memories may recognise some familiar paragraphs, but the majority of the work has been rewritten in order to take account of more recent research.

Northern Studies

This journal, which will be familiar to many SPNS members, has been published since 1973. I have stocks of all the back numbers at £1.50 for Nos 1-19, and £2.50 for Nos 20-34, post-free. Many short articles on onomastic topics have appeared in the journal, so a list is included here. If you wish a copy, please contact me, enclosing a cheque for the requisite amount, payable to 'SSNS'.

Vol 4 1974 Ian A Fraser: 'The Place-Names of Lewis – the Norse Evidence', 11-21.

Vol 7/8 1976 W F H Nicolaisen: 'Scandinavian Place-Names in Scotland as a Source of Knowledge', 14-23.

Vol 9 1977 Aiden Macdonald: 'On *Papar* Names in N&W Scotland, 25-30.

Vol 13 1979 Rudolf Simek: 'Old Norse Ship Names and Ship Terms', 26-36.

Vol 15 1980 Adam McNaughton: 'Edinburgh's Runestone', 29-33.

Vol 16 1980 Alexander Fenton: 'Northern Links', 5-16.

Vol 18 1981 Gillian Fellows Jensen: 'A Bibliography of Onomastic and Related Topics relating to Scotland and Scandinavia', 13-19.

Vol 21 1984 Ian A Fraser: 'Some Further Thoughts on Scandinavian Place-Names in Lewis', 34-41.

Vol 22 1985 Veronica Smart: 'The Penny in the Pennylands: Coinage in Scotland in the Early Middle Ages', 65-70.

Vol 23 1986 Lindsay J Macgregor: 'Norse Naming Elements in Shetland and Faroe', 84-101.

Vol 27 1990 W F H Nicolaisen: 'Aberdeen: A Toponymic Key to the Region', 50-63.

Vol 29 1992 W F H Nicolaisen: 'Arran Place Names. A Fresh Look', 1-13.

Arne Kruse: 'A Few Names in a Vast Land – Scandinavian Place-Names in the Midwest' (USA), 25-34.

Vol 31 1996 Hermann Pálsson: 'Aspects of Norse Place-Names in the Western Isles', 7-24.

Vol 32 1997 Berit Sandnes: 'The Bu of Orphir, Burn of Gueth – a Gaelic Pattern in Orkney Place-Names', 125-128.

Vol 33 1998 Peder Gammeltoft: 'Sowing the wind? Reaping the crop of *bólstaðr*', 25-36.

Vol 34 1999 Berit Sandnes: 'Place-Names in Orkney as Evidence for Language Contact', 23-34.

Onomastics at Bangor

The Ninth Annual Conference of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland was held in the University of Wales Bangor, from 28 April to 1 May 2000, attracting some sixty-five attenders from all over the UK and Ireland. This is the third occasion that Bangor has hosted a Name Studies Conference, so many of the participants were renewing an acquaintance with the town and the university, although on this occasion, we were housed in a splendid new residence, Bryn Dinas, which afforded excellent views of the Menai Straits.

After a welcome by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Roy Evans, the opening lecture, on 'Language and History in Modern Wales' was given by Professor Emeritus J. Gwynn Williams. This was an

erudite and stylish presentation by a master of his subject, and warmly received by the audience. Saturday consisted of a full programme of papers, varying from Prof. Richard Coates (University of Sussex), on 'Chit-Chat about Ched-/Chad-' to Dr Mary Higham's fascinating paper on 'Harpers' Lands', which was well-illustrated as one always comes to expect with Mary's presentations. Of special interest to your reporter was Maggie Scott's paper on 'Privick - a Scottish place-name'. This was Maggie's first formal conference effort, and it was widely appreciated, with lots of useful feedback. Another particular of interest to the Scottish contingent was Peder Gammeltoft's paper on 'Some thoughts on the effect of Gaelic on place-names of Scandinavian origin in the Hebrides'. Those who have heard Peder lecture to the SPNS will be glad to hear that he has successfully defended his thesis on *bólstaðr* names in the University of Copenhagen, where he is now full-time was a member of the staff of the Stadnamnavkiv.

The coach excursion on Sunday afternoon was a circular tour, round Snowdon (via Caernarfon), and was led by Mr Bob Morris, an experienced member of the University staff whose group of local history, landscape and geology was without parallel.

Overall, it was a brilliant conference, in comfortable surroundings, with first-class dining facilities and excellent papers. The Scottish contingent, consisting of Maggie Scott, Carole Hough, Doreen Waugh and Prof. Bill & Mrs May Nicolaisen enjoyed the conference immensely.

Next year's affair is scheduled for Douglas, Isle of Man, from 6-9 April. Details are available from the Hon. Secretary, School of Medical Sciences, University of Bristol, BS8 1TD.

I.A.F.

Scottish Place-Name Data Ltd

This is the name of a new charitable company, set up in June of this year. It will be the legal owner of the Scottish Place-Name Database, and will safeguard the intellectual property rights of all those contributing to the Database. After detailed discussions with copyright experts, and in consultation Dr Maggie Mackay of the School of Scottish Studies, fundholder of the Carnegie award for the development of the Database, the Scottish Place-Name Society Committee decided that this was the best option for putting the Database on a sound legal footing. Copyright issues are looming ever larger, and growing ever more complex, in the world of electronic data, which is why the existence of such a charitable company which can negotiate and hold copyright of diverse material, is so advantageous. The aims (or 'objects' as the Memorandum of Association puts it) for which the Company is established are set out as follows:

'for the benefit of the public and through the creation, maintenance and distribution for the public benefit of a database, to advance and encourage research in and understanding of place-names and their contribution to the languages, history and culture of Scotland.'

The initial signatories of the Memorandum and

Articles of Association were Simon Taylor and Doreen Waugh, who are now involved in putting together a board of directors and enlisting subscribers. The intention is to have two types of directors: *ex officio* and named. The *ex officio* ones will consist of the office-bearers of the Scottish Place-Name Society and the Head of the School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh (representing the Scottish Place-Name Survey); while the named ones will be drawn from those who have been actively involved in the development of the database, including members of the SPNSoc. Database Working Group. The subscribers, all named, will be the present members of the SPNSoc. Committee.

Database Day in Edinburgh

Time: Sat. 2 December 10.00 - 17.00.

Place: Appleton Tower, University of Edinburgh (by Potter Row Car Park).

The day has a two-fold purpose: 1) to present and discuss the Scottish Place-Name Database structure; 2) to look at ways in which SPNSociety members can become actively involved in data-collection and inputting. Several machines with the Database will be available to enable some hands-on experience. Because of this, numbers are restricted. It is primarily aimed at those who are actively working with electronic place-name data, or who would like to be actively involved in the Database Project. There will be a more general presentation and introduction to this whole topic in 2001.

If you are interested in attending this day, please write to Simon Taylor, Dept. of Medieval History, University, St Andrews KY16 9AL or e-mail <st4@st-and.ac.uk>. If you would like, please say briefly what area of Scotland you are especially interested in.

What's on around Scotland?

Ayrshire

Place-Names of the Parish of New Cumnock

In 1650 the parish of Cumnock was sub-divided into the two new parishes of Old Cumnock and New Cumnock. The existing parish church of Cumnock served the parish of Old Cumnock whilst a new parish church was built for New Cumnock some five miles to the south-east on the site of Cumnock Castle, the ancient seat of the Barons of Cumnock. The element 'new' in New Cumnock is simply a reference to this new church (c. 1659).

Most attempts to explain the name Cumnock have concentrated on the geography and history of Old Cumnock with the similar attributes of New Cumnock largely being ignored. Although James B Johnston did

suggest that the name was a diminutive form of O.G. **cuman** 'a shrine' on the strength the presence of a St. Bride's Bank nearby to Cumnock Castle (New Cumnock) – Pont gives this as Brydsbank.

Another offering put forward by Cumnock historians is **cumar** 'confluence' and oich 'water', giving Cumnock as 'the confluence of the waters'. My own research suggests that this may well be the meaning of the name Cumnock but with a different derivation and location.

The inspiration came from the Gaelic form of the Scottish Place-Name Society, i.e., **comann** 'society'. W J Watson provides examples of **comunn** being found in the context of confluence and therefore I believe Cumnock is **comunn ach** 'the place of the confluence', where the confluence is the meeting of the Afton Water with the mighty River Nith – less than half-a-mile from the site of Cumnock Castle in the heart of the parish of New Cumnock.

I am in the process of developing a web-site (<http://www.new-cumnock.co.uk>) where I give some old and some new ideas to the meanings of some of my favourite names in the parish. I have also documented all the names given by Timothy Pont along with their modern-day equivalents. I would be pleased to hear from any member of the SPNSociety that may have some alternative suggestions.

Bob Guthrie

Glasgow

27 January 2001: Glaschu: Baile Mòr nan Gaidheal/Glasgow: City of the Gaels: a day conference in Gaelic and English, celebrating 100 years of Gaelic at the University of Glasgow. To be held at the **Western Lecture Theatre, University of Glasgow**; 9.30 - 17.00. Toponymics is represented by Simon Taylor, talking on Glasgow's Gaelic Place-Names. For more information contact Sheila Kidd, Department of Celtic, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, or visit the Celtic Department's website www.gla.ac.uk/departments/celtic/news.htm which also has details of their Centenary Seminar Series, which runs from October 2000-May 2001.

Inverness-Shire

The Arts and Humanities Research Board has awarded a nine-month research grant to Dr Barbara Crawford and Dr Simon Taylor, Department of Medieval History, University of St Andrews, as well as locally-based researcher Mrs Mary MacDonald, to investigate the micro- and macrotoponymy of the Beauly area, Inverness-shire. This was an area of cultural and linguistic contact between Gaelic and Norse speakers in the 10th and 11th centuries, and one of the aims of the study will be to investigate the extent to which this is reflected in the toponymy. Starting in early October, the project will feed information into the newly developed Scottish Place-Name Database. It is planned to hold a meeting on the project in or near Beauly early next year. If you would like more information on the project in general, the meeting in particular, or have any information which you think might be of relevance

to the project, please contact Simon Taylor, Dept. of Medieval History, University, St Andrews KY16 9AL <st4@st-and.ac.uk> .

The Editor's Booksale

Apart from my *Place-Names of Arran*, reviewed by Simon Taylor in this issue, I have the following books in stock:

The Place Names of Cowal, by Angus McLean (1985), 137pp. Although this is an amateur effort, and some of the derivations are speculative, it contains much useful historical information, plus many early documentary forms from quite inaccessible sources. £5.00 plus £1.00 p&p. Cheques payable to 'School of Scottish Studies'.

The Scandinavians in Cumbria, ed., JR Baldwin & Ian D Whyte. Published by the Scottish Society for Northern Studies, 1985, 167pp. Long thought to be out of print (and much sought after), one of the co-editors recently unearthed a box of 40 copies in his attic. It contains much onomastic material, in articles by Gillian Fellows-Jensen, Nigh Higham, Mary Higham and Ian Whyte, and is a snip at £7.50, post-free. Cheques payable to 'SSNS'.

I also have a number of copies of J B Basden's Index of Elements in W J Watson's *Celtic Place-Names of Scotland* at £2.50, and a few of *Place-Names of Northeast Angus* by C P Will at £5.00, both post-free. Cheques payable to 'Scottish Place-Name Society'.

Obituary

The death has been announced of **John Field**, a member of the Society since its inception, and a well-respected name in place-name circles. After teaching in Leicester College of Technology he took an MA at Leicester University, where his dissertation on the field-names of the Gartree Hundred of Leicestershire received much praise. He joined the staff of the English Department at Dacorum College, Hemel Hempstead until his retirement. John will be best known for his outstanding contribution to the study of English field-names, and his *English Field-Names, A Dictionary*, published by Batsford in 1972 was a model of its kind, written in clear, fluent English which made it easily acceptable to both layman and academic. His gift for making the onomastic record available to people of all backgrounds was quite remarkable.

Of equal importance was his *Reader's Guide to the Place-Names of the United Kingdom* (Paul Watkins, 1990) with the late Jeffrey Spittal. Before his death, he had completed a second edition, and this should soon be

published by Shaun Tyas and Paul Watkins, so it will be eagerly awaited. He was a long-serving member of the committee of the English Place-Name Society, and was one of its Honorary Vice-Presidents at the time of his death. Virtually every volume of the Society's county series over the past thirty years contains material supplied by John Field's meticulous research into many aspects of onomastics, and he will be sadly missed for his generous advice and his depth of knowledge.

At the Bangor conference, in May, he took a full part in the proceedings, and obviously relished meeting friends and colleagues from all over the country. His devoted wife, Mary, who accompanied him to innumerable meetings over the years, has our warmest sympathy. English name studies has lost one of its most influential workers, but he has left a substantial and lasting legacy of research and publication.

I.A.F.

Please let the Editor know about any talk or other event which would be of interest to the membership.

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:
20 January 2001**

PERTH CONFERENCE AND AGM

A very successful Day Conference and AGM were held in the A. K. Bell Library Perth in May this year. The speakers included Arne Kruse who opened the conference with an interesting paper on the Place-Names of the Western Seaboard. Doreen Waugh teamed up with William Milliken from the Flora Celtica project to give a joint presentation on place-names and plant names. William gave an illustrated talk about the work of this project, which is based at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. Doreen then gave a succinct analysis of the use of plant names in place-names, which generated a lively discussion. The library provided an excellent buffet lunch after which the society held a short AGM. The convenor Ian Fraser was absent, on sabbatical, and Doreen Waugh read his report of the year's activities. The treasurer presented a healthy set of accounts and Simon Taylor reported on Database developments. The AGM then elected the following office bearers:

Convenor	Doreen Waugh
Vice-convenor	Simon Taylor
Treasurer	Peter Drummond
Secretary	Morag Redford
Newsletter Editor	Ian Fraser
Committee	David Munro
	Peadar Morgan
	One space left for a younger scholar with an interest in place-names

The AGM was followed with a multi media presentation of the Islay Database by David Caldwell and Roger McWee. The depth of information and stunning viws contained in the database awed the audience. The day concluded with a fascinating paper by Angus Watson on the Lordship Patterns in Strathearn, in particular the parishes of Monzie and Monzievaird. A fitting end to the Society's second visit to Perth!

SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
Comann Ainmean-Aite na h-Alba

DAY CONFERENCE, MOTHERWELL HERITAGE CENTRE,
 SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2000

You are invited to attend our first meeting in Lanarkshire.
 Registration and coffee will begin at 10.30, the programme will be as follows:

- 10.30 Registration and coffee
- 11.00 Peter Drummond and John Young: Lanarkshire
Place-names
- 12.00 Ian Fraser: The Place-names of Arran

- 12.45 Lunch

- 1.45 John Moore: Lanarkshire Maps- Pitfalls for the Unwary
- 2.30 Maggie Scott: Privick and Lickprivick- Onomastic connections in
S,W.Scotland
- 3.00 Alan Steel: Place-names and the Church in Lower Clydesdale
- 3.30 John Reid: Going round the Bend in East Stirlingshire
- 4.00 Tea and Disperse

The cost will be £15, which includes coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Student rates are £12 (to include lunch) and £5 (coffee and tea only)

DAY CONFERENCE, MOTHERWELL, SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2000

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Tel.No. _____

I Shall / shall not attend the Day conference in Motherwell on 11.11.00. I enclose a cheque made payable to the "Scottish Place-Name Society " to cover:

Attendance at Day Conference	
£15 or £12 student rate, £5 student rate	£
My Annual Subscription for May 2000 – April 2001 (£5.00)	£
Donation	£
Total	£

Please complete this form and return it to –

P. Drummond,
 SPNS,
 2, Albert Place,
 Airdrie, ML6 6DT,

NO LATER THAN 3rd NOVEMBER 2000, Enclosing your fee.