

SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME NEWS

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*This well drained track through uninhabited hill country is just 14 km south-south-west of Edinburgh's City Chambers. Running westward in the direction of view through the heart of the **Pentland** Hills from the A702 road near **Penicuik**, it uses the saddle between the lower slopes of **Carnethy Hill** to the right and **Scald Law** to the left, before passing **Bavelaw** Castle on the way downhill to **Malleny**, **Balerno** and **Currie**. The place-names in bold type are typical of the complex linguistic history of this middle part of Lothian: the first three are from Cumbric (P-Celtic); Scald Law is straightforward Scots; if Stuart Harris ('The Place-Names of Edinburgh') was right in suggesting for Bavelaw 'cleg clearing', with an Old English word beaw for a cleg, that is a very unusual naming but doubtless apt at the time; Malleny is arguably either Cumbric or Gaelic; and the last two are more definitely Gaelic in origin. It is worth noting that the name Pentland was originally that of a settlement (now Old Pentland), and was later transferred to the nearby hills.*

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EDITORIAL

Not too many place-names in any tongue or any land can be as thoroughly disguised as that of the village called Le Pen* within the borders of the French Republic. It's not in Brittany, as might be guessed; actually *pen*, 'head, end, hill' has not been very productive in place-names there anyway. It is in the far north: in 867 "... in pago Bononensi super fluvium Helichbruna" – on the Haly Burn in the district of Boulogne. The name then was Uphem, matching an Upham not too far away across the English Channel. By 1210 it is Li Pan and by 1297 Le Pen. What has evidently happened is that a construction such as 'ville d' Uphem' has been re-analysed by clerks with no understanding of the Germanic basis of the name as 'ville du Pen', and a new definite article has been back-formed to make Le Pen. With the successions of languages that took place in Scotland, and medieval clerks often unfamiliar with the speech in which place-names were coined, we should be well placed to match Le Pen with at least comparably spectacular instances of reinterpretation. Let us have examples, for wider dissemination through the Newsletter, to show that anything French scribes could do Scottish scribes could do better!

The first of the following articles marks a broadening of our usual range of topics to encompass a more theoretical study of the process of naming. It will be interesting to see, over the next few years, what contribution is made to place-name studies by research in this field. There will be scope for discussion, even disagreement, but not for taking no notice.

* Information on Le Pen from Auguste Vincent's 'Toponomie de la France'.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are now due, and as agreed at the 2006 AGM will now be £6 for the year. However the committee has agreed that those paying for 3 years at a time can retain the £15 rate for the 3-year period, since it cuts down on costs and time. For those living abroad, the annual sub is now £7, but again, if you pay for 3 years at a time, £18 will apply. If you did not receive a subs reminder slip with this mailing, then you are paid up in advance. If in doubt, email the treasurer Pete Drummond at <peter.drummond@btinternet.com>

PLACE-NAMES AND COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

In recent years, major developments have taken place within linguistics, resulting in a substantially new branch of the discipline known as cognitive linguistics. These developments have important implications for place-name study, which has always been closely related to linguistics, as well as to other disciplines such as history, geography and archaeology. The purpose of this paper is to discuss some of the ways in which the cognitive linguistics paradigm may affect how we look at place-names, both within Scotland and beyond.

Cognitive linguistics refers to the link between language and thought: the ways in which language reflects mental processes. For instance, all languages are hierarchically structured. Broad categories such as *animal* include narrower ones such as *dog* and *horse*, and these in turn include still narrower categories such as *dalmatian*, *poodle*, *cart-horse* and *race-horse*. In linguistic terms, *animal* is the superordinate of *dog* and *horse*, while *dog* is the superordinate of *dalmatian* and *poodle*, and *poodle* is the superordinate of *miniature poodle* and *standard poodle*. A hierarchical structure appears in all semantic fields of all known languages, suggesting that this reflects the way the mind operates.

Before the emergence of cognitive linguistics, all category levels were taken to be equal. *Poodle* was the superordinate of *standard poodle* in the same way that *dog* was the superordinate of *poodle*, and *animal* the superordinate of *dog*. It is now believed that one level of the hierarchy – in this instance, *dog* – is more cognitively salient than others, i.e. more meaningful in terms of everyday life. This is known as the basic level category. It is usually

the first term that comes to mind when naming an item.

Another difference between cognitive and traditional linguistics is the way that categories are believed to be organised in the mind. According to traditional linguistic theory, all items are either members of a particular category or not, and all members of a category are equal. As regards the category *furniture*, each item within a room is either a piece of furniture or it isn't.

However, cognitive linguists argue that some items are perceived as being more furniture-like than others. When asked to write down the names of the first ten items of furniture they think of, most people put *table* or *chair* first. That suggests that tables and chairs are regarded as the 'best examples' of furniture – the central or prototypical members of the furniture category. Other members, such as beds and wardrobes, are still items of furniture although not prototypical; while things like telephones might or might not be regarded as furniture.

This structural model of a category with degrees of membership is very different from the traditional view of closed categories of equal members. It applies even to categories with a scientific basis. Within the *bird* category, zoological criteria make it possible to establish exactly what is a bird and what isn't. Nonetheless, some birds are regarded as more bird-like than others. For most people in Britain, the prototypical bird is the robin, with the ostrich and penguin seen as less good examples on the edge of the category.

What has all this to do with place-names? Linguistic categories reflect mental categories, and linguistic prototypes reflect mental prototypes. Place-names are based on people's perceptions of the world; and I have suggested previously that prototypes may play a more significant role in the naming process than has traditionally been recognised.¹ The prototypical members of a category are those that are cognitively the most salient – the ones that come to mind first, and are most often used – and this may be relevant to place-names in two ways. Firstly, it might help to explain the enormous amount of repetition within the place-name corpus, with common formations being duplicated in many different areas. Secondly, it might account for names such as 'fish stream', which cannot be taken to have designated the only streams with fish in the area, but may be

explicable as prototypical instances of fish streams – the best examples in the area. Today I should like to focus on basic level categories, which are often structured around prototypes.

Basic level vocabulary is "the highest level at which category members have similarly perceived overall shapes".² Place-names are often descriptions of the overall shape or appearance of a feature, in the terms that came most readily to the minds of earlier speakers, and at a level of precision sufficient to differentiate one feature from another. It may be significant that the Old English superordinate term *deor* 'animal' occurs rarely if at all in place-names, whereas the same term with the basic level meaning 'deer' is quite common. I wish to suggest that place-names draw predominantly on basic level vocabulary, and that they preserve evidence for basic level categories in earlier stages of language.

Most research into prototypes and basic level categories has been based on experiments with native informants, so that the data is essentially limited to modern languages. Earlier stages of English and of other languages are not open to this approach, and it has therefore been considered impossible to investigate them from this angle.³ Place-name evidence may allow us to do so, and thus to gain a greater insight into the minds of the people who were here before us.

Much early research in cognitive linguistics was done on colour vocabulary. As a starting-point for work on place-names, I have compiled a corpus of all Old English colour adjectives in English and Scottish place-names recorded up to about 1100.⁴ The corpus contains just 17 terms. All are simplexes, and there is a great deal of duplication. This is in contrast to the wide range of colour vocabulary recorded in *A Thesaurus of Old English*, which has four pages of closely differentiated colour terms.⁵ Many are compounds, and there is a high proportion of nonce occurrences. The section for 'white' records separate terms for 'whitish', 'white as snow', 'white as milk', 'white as linen', 'pure white' and 'brilliant white'. Within the place-name corpus, only the simplex term *hwit* 'white' appears – 39 times. This seems to establish *hwit* as the prototypical term within this area of the colour spectrum, or the basic level category in this area of vocabulary.

In conclusion, I suggest that the Old English colour terms represented in place-names are the colour terms basic for landscape in Old English.

Through similar studies in other areas of vocabulary, it may be possible to identify basic level categories and prototypes in different semantic fields of Old English, as well as within the other historical languages that make up the toponymicon of the British Isles.

¹ C. Hough, 'Commonplace place-names', Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, Bristol, 7–10 April 2006.

² G. Lakoff and M. Johnson, *Philosophy in the Flesh* (New York, 1999), 27.

³ See e.g. F. Ungerer and H.-J. Schmid, *An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics* (Harlow, 1996), 263.

⁴ The corpus is presented and discussed more fully in C. Hough, 'Colours of the landscape: Old English colour terms in place-names', in *Progress in Colour Studies. Vol. 1: Language and Culture*, edited by C. P. Biggam and C. J. Kay (Amsterdam, forthcoming).

⁵ J. Roberts and C. Kay with L. Grundy, *A Thesaurus of Old English*, 2nd edn, 2 vols (Amsterdam, 2000).

<<http://leo.englang.arts.gla.ac.uk/oethesaurus>>

Dr Carole Hough, University of Glasgow (summarising a talk to the conference at Govan, 4 November 2006)

THE BRITTONIC LANGUAGE OF THE 'OLD NORTH'

Report by the author of his talk to the Govan conference

Alan James explained his philological, literary and historical enthusiasms that lie behind his project of investigating the history of the Brittonic language in the 'Old North'. That phrase, in Welsh *Yr Hen Ogledd*, refers in mediaeval Welsh literature to the extensive areas of northern England and southern Scotland that were remembered as having been once subject to 'Welsh'-speaking rulers. From the English point of view, it comprises the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria along with the obstinately independent kingdom ruled from Alclud (Dumbarton) and its 10th - 11th century successor (or successors?) known as Strathclyde and Cumberland/ Cumbria. For Scots, it might be thought of as An Deas Ùr, 'The New South' - at least, that's how the Kings of Scots regarded it in the 11th and 12th centuries!

In particular, Alan described his Guide to P-Celtic (and earlier) place-name elements to be found in this region, which he is preparing in a fair copy manuscript which the Scottish Place-Name Society will house on its website. This is modelled on the volumes of Place-Name Elements published by the English Place-Names Society [refs: Smith, A H, *English Place-Name Elements*, English Place-Name Society, vols 25-6

(1956); Padel, O J, *Cornish Place-Name Elements*, EPNS, combined vol 56-7 (1985); Parsons D et al, *Vocabulary of English Place Names*, (1997-continuing)]. It aims to include as headwords all P-Celtic words that have been proposed in scholarly publications as elements of place-names in the region between the Forth, Glen Falloch and the Rosneath peninsula in the north and the Humber, High Peak and Mersey in the south.

Alan argued that the Brittonic of this region was not homogeneous, but rather a range of dialects. Most of these were probably extinct by the early 8th century except in the Clyde Basin and the neighbouring uplands, perhaps as far south as the Solway and western end of Hadrian's Wall. In these regions, there are phonological and lexical features to connect the dialect with Pritenic (Pictish) beyond the Forth, indeed the P-Celtic of the Clyde basin and Lothian might be characterised as 'Brit-Prit'. Brittonic might have survived, in remote areas further south, but he questioned whether any P-Celtic names in northern England are decisive evidence of survival rather than re-introduction - until one reaches the Mersey Basin, where proto-Welsh may well have been in use at least in the 8th century.

The headwords in the Guide are presented in a phonetic script based on that used by Jackson, modified by Coates [refs: Jackson K H *Language and History in Early Britain* (1953), Coates R and Breeze A *Celtic Voices English Places* (2000)], in a form reflecting their probable pronunciation around AD 600. In some cases, this is conventional: 'ancient' river-name elements are included in the Guide, as they represent the earliest linguistic stratum transmitted from Brittonic to English speakers, though of course they were not still in use as items of vocabulary at that date, while a good many elements (identified with asterisks) are not recorded in any P-Celtic language in written form until the Middle Welsh period (post 1200), so their presence in the earlier Brittonic vocabulary can only be surmised. The publication on-line of the Melville Richards Archive of Welsh Place-Names, and on-going research on the important charter boundaries in the Book of Llandaf will throw much new light on the place-naming vocabulary of early mediaeval Wales and, indirectly, of the Old North.

Fairly detailed etymologies and lists of cognates

in other Celtic languages, and, where relevant, Latin, English, Old Norse and other Indo-European languages reflect the author's philological enthusiasms. References are made to scholarly discussions of the etymologies and other linguistic questions relating to the headwords. Phonological and morphological issues are discussed, including possible dialectal variants (for example the possibility that *prenn* in southern Scotland is a regional form for *brinn*, 'a hill' rather than 'a tree').

The meanings of the elements are discussed from the point of view of a semanticist keen to go beyond the 'dictionary meaning' to capture the senses of the words as used in place-naming: for example, Alan accepted the view that Govan is probably **vo-vann*, 'a little peak' [refs: Clancy T O Report of the Society of Friends of Govan Old 6 (1996) and 8 (1998)], but questioned whether *bann*, which generally indicates something pointed, could have referred to the Doomster Hill, with its strikingly level platform-top (to judge from early engravings) - the ridge on which the church was built may have ended in a pointed headland, and this might have been the referent, though the local geography has been too much modified by shipbuilding works for any certainty.

The distribution of places showing these elements is considered, bearing in mind, of course, the very varied depth of coverage of different parts of the Old North in scholarly surveys. A constantly recurring question is whether a P-Celtic place-name is evidence of 'survival' or 'reintroduction'. Alan argued that the concentration of certain elements in and around the Solway basin and in the uplands of the upper Tweed basin and the Moorfoots, along with the phonological or morphological form of some of the names involving these elements, associate them with a phase of reintroduction or revival related to the political and economic developments of the 10th-11th centuries.

The Guide includes occurrences of Brittonic elements in place-names in the region recorded in Roman-period sources: in a few cases, words that were used in toponymy in that period ceased to be so used at any later date. Names found in early mediaeval historical sources such as Gildas, Bede and the *Historia Britonum* are considered, along with those certainly or presumably in the Old North that occur in mediaeval Welsh poetry relating to the region, i.e. the *awdlau* attributed to

Aneirin and Taliesin, though Alan confessed himself to be sceptical as to the value of these writings as historical sources: from the toponymist's point of view, they are names occurring in manuscripts of the 13th and 14th centuries which can reasonably be taken to reflect forms dating from the later Old Welsh period (10th - 12th centuries), but not necessarily any earlier.

Finally, the Guide lists modern place-names which may incorporate these elements, though a health warning is needed against any assumption that such derivations are certain or even - in a good many cases - likely: the author's doubts and reservations are regularly noted. They are classified as simplex (or originally simplex) names, monothemes with a Brittonic prefix or suffix, generics in proper compound names, generics in name-phrases, specifiers in proper compounds and specifiers in phrases.

Photocopies of the Guide (currently sections covering letters A - C) are in the hands of Simon Taylor (for the Scottish Place-Name Society), Oliver Padel (for the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland) and David Parsons (for the English Place-Name Society): they have permission to show or copy any part to any members of those societies or other bona fide scholars who may find it of help or interest. The author welcomes contact from anyone interested in Celtic place-names, and in early Northumbrian names and linguistic history, in any part of the Old North. His e-mail address is

<alanatthelimes@hotmail.com> (but he warns that he is not an enthusiastic or reliable user of electronic communication!).

GLENS, BURNS AND OTHER LAKELAND RARITIES

Prof Diana Whaley summarises her talk to the Govan conference

The paper focused chiefly on names from Diana Whaley's *A Dictionary of Lake District Place-Names* (Nottingham: English Place-Name Society, 2006), and most of the information below is extracted from there; see also forms and discussions in the English Place-Name Survey's *The Place-Names of Cumberland I-III* (ed. A. M. Armstrong *et al.*, 1950-2) and *The Place-Names of Westmorland I-II* (ed. A. H. Smith, 1967); also E. Ekwall, *The Place-Names of Lancashire* (Manchester: Chetham Society, 1922) and his *English River-*

Names (Oxford: Clarendon, 1928).

A group of names in ‘Glen-’ occurs in north-east Lakeland: four habitation or valley names (Glencoyne, Glenriding, Glenamara, Glendowlin), two stream names (Glenderamackin, Glenderaterra) and two lost ‘Glen’ names (*Glentreske* pre-1184, *Glencrest* n. d.). All have recorded medieval spellings in Glen- except for Glenamara (*Glemorye*, *Glenmer*, late 16th century) and Glenderaterra (first recorded 1729). The early spellings of the second elements of all these names tend to be highly unstable and their etymologies disputed. The structure of the names, with generic first followed by a qualifying noun, adjective or pre-existing name, is compatible with Brittonic origins, specifically Cumbric **glinn* ‘valley’, or with origins in the cognate Gaelic/Goidelic *gl(e)ann*. Brittonic naming would be paralleled in nearby Penrith, Penruddock and widely throughout northern Cumbria including much of the Lake District, and, if Brittonic, the structural type represented by the ‘Glen’ names (as also by Penrith and Penruddock) would place them in the period from the sixth century onwards (according to Kenneth Jackson, *Language and History in Early Britain*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 1953, 225-7). Gaelic influence would also be plausible in a Norse-Gaelic context from, presumably, the tenth century: local indications of such a context include Patterdale (Gaelic personal name plus ON *dalr* ‘valley’, in Germanic word order), Setmabanning (ON *satr* ‘shieling’ plus Gaelic personal name) and probably Dalemain (ON *dalr* plus ON or Gaelic personal name). Although Brittonic explanations have generally been preferred for the ‘Glen’ names, they are not always convincing, and Gaelic alternatives may at least be considered. The paper did not propose solutions, but merely suggested that the question - which is of some historical importance - needs further investigation on both sides of what became the border (see, e. g., W. J. Watson, *The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland*, Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1926, 140, for a similar problem in Lothian).

A later-recorded outlier, The Glen SD4596 (*Glen* 1836) may well be a nineteenth-century romantic imitation of Scottish valley-names, though Smith’s suggestion of ON **glenna* ‘open place in a wood, grassy place among rocks’ opens up a further possibility for this and other ‘Glen’ names. Although it is difficult to prove its use in the Lake District, the word is preserved in

modern Norwegian and appears in Norwegian farm-names, especially around the Oslofjord (J. Sandnes & O. Stemshaug, *Norsk stadnamleksikon*, Oslo: Det norske samlaget 1990, s. n. *Glennie*).

Names whose forms on the modern map contain the syllable *burn* include some probable examples of the reflex of OE *burna* ‘stream’, such as Ludderburn SD4091 (*Litterburne* 1537, *Luderburne* 1605), probably with OE *blūt(t)or*, ME *lutter* ‘clear’ as specific, and Howburn NY2836 (*Holborn* 1867), ‘stream in a channel/hollow’. Some names, however, are definitely not from *burna*: Greenburn NY2902 (*Grenebotne* a. 1220) and Wythburn NY3213 (*Witthbotine* c. 1280) are clearly from ON *botn* ‘inner valley’, and given the general rarity of *burn* compared with *beck* in Cumbria, it may be that others of the apparent *burn* names have other explanations. In particular, the proximity of *burn* names to Bronze Age cairns or similar antiquities at Burnbank Fell NY1121, Burnbanks NY5016, Burney SD2585, Burn Moor SD1592 and Burnmoor NY1804 might lead one to wonder (despite the lack of diagnostic spellings for these late-recorded names) whether some of these might be cases of ModE *borran(s)* ‘cairn, tumulus’ from OE *burgas*n. For one final *burn* name no speculation is needed, since Burnbank Farm SD4180 was named by the present owners in 1979, influenced by their part-Scottish family origins.

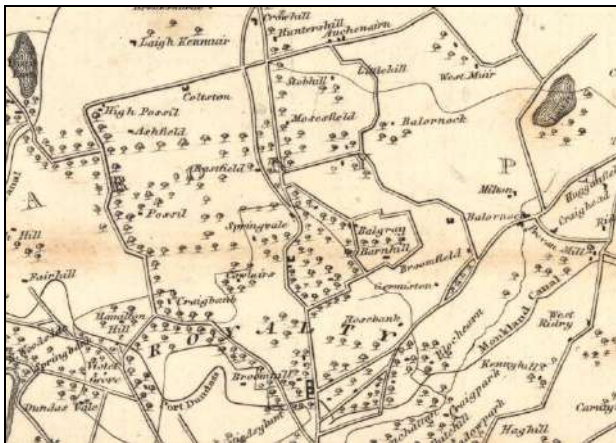
The value of intelligence about recent names from local informants was the theme of the final part of the paper, illustrated by Rowan’s Ground NY3409, a commemorative name given in 1988 and therefore unrelated to the early modern farm-names of southern Lakeland in ‘Ground’, and Huyton Hill NY3601, whose situation beside Windermere fits the etymology of ‘settlement by the landing-stage’ (OE *hȳð* + OE *tūn*), but fortuitously, since the name was transplanted from Liverpool along with a school evacuated from there early in World War II.

THE INFLUENCE OF INDUSTRIALISATION ON THE PLACE-NAMES OF NORTH GLASGOW

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, the lands immediately to the north of the city were largely open countryside, interspersed with the mansions of Glasgow gentlemen, together with various farms and small villages. With the arrival of the railways and other associated heavy

industries, the landscape of North Glasgow disappeared under massive engine works, machine shops and factories. Hills were levelled and lochs were drained, and the farms and meadows were replaced with mass housing for the ever-growing workforce. Naturally, such an impact on the landscape would have an impact on the local nomenclature, and this was a period of considerable onomastic upheaval and change in North Glasgow.

The process of industrialisation began in the late eighteenth century, when the Monkland Canal was dug, to facilitate the movement of coal from the extensive coalfields in the Monklands area (about 12 miles east of Glasgow). Then in 1831, Glasgow's first railway line opened. The 'Glasgow and Garnkirk' line was also initially constructed for the purposes of transporting coal from the Monklands into the city. The terminus



Extract from Richardson's 1795 map (with thanks as ever to National Library of Scotland for online maps)

of the line was at St Rollox. Within a few years a rival to the Garnkirk company started work on a goods and passenger line to link Glasgow with Edinburgh. In the late 1830s there was a massive influx of workers, many of whom came from Ireland, who came at first to lay the railway track, and then from the 1840s to work in the locomotive manufacturing workshops that evolved due to the massive demand for rolling stock for the rapidly expanding National Rail Networks. What followed was a massive industrial boom in the area, caused both by the locomotive industry itself, and also the development of other heavy industries reliant on the coal and iron being brought into the area by the new railways.

Industrialisation had a significant impact on existing settlement patterns in the area. For example, a sizeable part of North Glasgow is

known in the present day as Springburn, but this name is absent from the older maps, which feature instead a place called Springvale, a slightly larger settlement to the south of Springburn. In the mid nineteenth century, Springburn expanded rapidly, whilst Springvale was overshadowed and finally vanished altogether. The reason for change in fortunes is directly linked to the arrival of the railways. When the new railway line linking Glasgow with Edinburgh was built, the Glasgow end passed between Springvale and the Cowlairs mansion. The directors of the railway were denied permission to build a viaduct over the canal just to the south of this point, and their solution was to tunnel beneath the canal, but this created a steep gradient on the track which required a rope and pulley system at the top of the tunnel in order to pull the trains up from the city centre. The directors purchased the lands of Springvale Farm in order to house the steam engines required to power the pulley, and to build workshops for their locomotives. These new works were named Cowlairs rather than Springvale, and this was the birth of the Cowlairs Incline and the Cowlairs Works (see Thomas, *The Springburn Story*, ch.1, for further details). Subsequently, the track which had led to the Springvale Farm became known as the Cowlairs Road, and the workers houses which sprang up on either side of this road took on the district name of Cowlairs.



Extract from 1822 map by Cleland, Smith & Wood (again thanks to National Library of Scotland)

A little to the north, the tiny hamlet of Springburn had also begun to swell in size, as the navvies who came to build the railway line took lodgings there. Later, there was an overflow of workers from the two new railway works at Cowlairs and at St Rollox, and by the 1840s Springburn was sizeable enough to warrant the building of a parish church. In 1861, Walter

Neilson opened another locomotive works to the north of the Cowlares and St Rollox works, and Springburn found itself positioned on the main road (the Kirkintilloch Highway) and in the centre of a triangle of three major employers. Housing, shops and other amenities quickly sprang up at this convenient point, and as the land here was technically within the city boundaries, Springburn in effect became a new town in all but name. It starts appearing on maps from the early 1840s, and thus the birth of the railway industry quite literally put Springburn on the map. As the various works and the associated workers' housing expanded across the landscape, there ceased to be a meaningful distinction between Cowlares and Springvale, or between Springvale and Springburn. For a while Springvale was a part of the Cowlares district, within the Springburn area, but without an important industrial institution to help preserve the name, it began to fade into onomastic obsolescence, and finally with the changing of a great number of street names in the area in 1922, all trace of Springvale was gone.

Similar changes were occurring across the rest of North Glasgow. For example the name Flemington appears on quite a number of old maps, but disappears altogether during the nineteenth century. Examination of old Glasgow maps reveals the land being sold off for the laying of a railway line, and for the construction of the Hyde Park and the Atlas Works, both locomotive workshops. The only evidence of Flemington in the present day is a Flemington Street on the original site. Conversely, the name St Rollox has survived to the present day, although all that originally occupied the site was a small chapel with a graveyard. In 1800, Charles Tennant opened his enormous St Rollox Chemical Works alongside the Monkland Canal, and then the arrival of the Glasgow and Garnkirk railway heralded the construction of the massive St Rollox locomotive works at its terminus, whose workshops and parallel tracks would eventually fill a significant portion of land on the eastern side of the Kirkintilloch Highway.

Patterns of Place-Name Survival

A clear pattern emerges from the data on lost and surviving names from the industrial period. Perhaps unsurprisingly, if a local district name was adopted as the name of a new industrial works, for example the 'Garngad' Ironworks, or

the 'St Rollox' Chemical works, then the name is likely to survive. However, if an industrial works is given a different name to the land where it is constructed, the older name tends to be overshadowed and is often lost altogether. A significant number of field names, farm names and estate names from this area fell victim to the industrialisation process. Of course, the pattern reveals more complexity than the issue of whether or not an industrial works incorporated an existing site name, since with the works came associated housing, schools, hospitals, churches and cemeteries and so on, all of which require their own sub-nomenclature, and therefore have the potential to influence place-name survival or obsolescence. For example, the top of Sighthill was laid out as a cemetery in 1840, and about a decade later the lands of Barnhill were used for the Barony Poorhouse, and Stobhill to the north became a poor law hospital.

I was also interested in examining the reasons why some industrial enterprises chose to incorporate the existing name of the site into their company names, and others rejected them in favour of an alternative name. The pattern elicited from the data is that the new companies generally adopted the name of the land they were building on, whereas it was the already-existing companies who were moving to larger premises or opening secondary premises who retained existing and well-established company names rather than adopting local site-names.

A number of company names were introduced to North Glasgow in this manner in the second half of the nineteenth century, and it's interesting that whilst the incorporation of a district name into a company name helped to insure the preservation of that district name, where a company premises was instead given an alternative name, these new names had a tendency to evolve into district names themselves, superseding the original names. An example of this is Saracen, which survives to the present day. The name 'Saracen' has rather an exotic sound to it, but its origins are in fact rather mundane. In 1754, Robert Tennant of the famous brewing family built a hotel in the Gallowgate, which he named the 'Saracen's Head', reportedly after the famous London establishment of the same name (see House, *The Heart of Glasgow*, pp. 190-192 for further information about this hotel). The hotel was demolished in 1905, but the lane that ran along one side of the hotel became known as Saracen Lane, and in 1849 a man named Walter

MacFarlane established a foundry business in the lane. As MacFarlane prospered, he moved premises, finally finding a permanent home for his foundry when he took over Possil House and much of the Possil estate in 1869. The remainder of the estate was leased for other industries and for building workers houses. At that point, Possil consisted chiefly of the mansion and the home farm with around a dozen workers. Within 20 years, by the 1890s, MacFarlane's foundry covered 14 acres, and thousands of workers lived in the 'Possil Park' which was now a suburb in its own right.

Another name which was 'imported' to the area in similar circumstances is Hyde Park. The development of the name starts in the Anderston district, where a couple of local bleachers bought land and built a mansion which they named Hyde Park, potentially after Hyde Park in London. This gave rise to a Hyde Park Street, which was later to be the location of an engineering firm, principally controlled by Walter Neilson. By the 1850s, the firm had come to specialise in locomotive engineering, and the Anderston premises proved too cramped and too far from the railway lines, so Neilson moved the company to Springburn, taking the street name from his old works with him. The new works were built on the meadows of Flemington, and the rest of the Flemington lands were later built on by Neilson in the 1870s, when he surrendered control of his Hyde Park works to his colleague James Reid in somewhat mysterious circumstances, and started a new locomotive works just across the tracks, which he named the Clyde Locomotive Works. This venture failed, and in 1888 the premises were bought over by Sharp, Stewart and Co of the Atlas Works in Manchester, who brought the name 'Atlas' north with them (see Smart, *Villages of Glasgow*, pp. 162-163 for further information). The Atlas works were located just to the north of Petershill, and on that site today is the Atlas Industrial Estate.

From Industrial to Post-Industrial Place-Names

Names of this sort established themselves across North Glasgow, and by the turn of the twentieth century most of the open countryside had disappeared under works and factories and a mass of interconnecting railway lines. The Cowlairs works occupied a massive chunk of the land to the west of the Kirkintilloch Highway, which had become known as Springburn Road,

whilst the St Rollox Chemical Works filled up most of the rest of that area. Foundries and other metal works had covered most of the Possil Estate, a huge storage facility for locomotive engines was built on the lands at Eastfield, and streets of tenements had replaced the farmsteads and weavers cottages, as the population of Springburn reached 30,000.

What happened to heavy industry over the next sixty years is well documented. The various recessions and economic difficulties, growing competition from overseas, failure to modernise, and specifically within North Glasgow the decline of the Monklands coalfields, are the factors that led to downsizing and company amalgamations and takeovers, which in the end failed to save the industrial businesses of North Glasgow. The Atlas and Hyde Park works were amalgamated, but closed permanently in 1962. The Blochairn Steelworks shut the same year. St Rollox Chemical Works were demolished between 1964 and 1965. Cowlairs closed in 1966, and the Saracen Foundry was demolished in 1967. The St Rollox railway works survived for a time as a maintenance depot, finally closing in 1987. This decline in heavy industry led inevitably to other major alterations to the landscape. The now-derelict Monkland Canal was for the most part filled in, and the M8 motorway was built along its former route. There were other alterations to the road layout in North Glasgow, which included the driving of a new expressway right through the centre of Springburn. Many of the smaller railway stations were closed, and miles and miles of track were torn up. Waterways such as the Gad Burn were covered over and incorporated into the sewage system, and there was widespread demolition of the slum tenements, which were replaced by dozens of multi-storey towerblocks.

Whether or not place-names survived these transitions is as often as not down to whether the developers chose site-related street names for the new housing schemes they were building on the sites of the former industrial works. For example, the name Atlas has survived whereas the adjacent Hyde Park has not, because the Atlas name was given to a business park, and various street names, whereas the Barratt houses on the site of Hyde Park did not continue the name, and the college which took over the remaining Hyde Park buildings did not adopt the name either. All that survives now is the former Hyde Park school, let out as offices, perched

rather incongruously on the edge of Petershill Park. Where names do survive the transition, they have sometimes been shunted around the landscape somewhat, with the Sighthill High Flats built to the south of the cemetery, on land formerly occupied by the St Rollox Chemical Works and the bogs of Pinkston. Similarly, Petershill has moved to the east of Barnhill, at least according to many modern maps of the city, and St Rollox has retracted itself into a small area to the east of Springburn Road, where Tesco St Rollox and the St Rollox sorting office keep the name alive.

An interesting phenomenon in twentieth century North Glasgow is the deliberate replacement of a place-name due to social stigmatisation associated with that name. A prime example of this is the Garngad. It was an area long associated with poverty, slum housing and overcrowding, as far back as the eighteenth century when there was a large influx of navvies to help cut the Monkland Canal. Due to these negative associations, there was a movement in the 1940s to change the name. Eventually the name of the area was officially changed from Garngad to Royston, and 'Royston' was also inserted into street names in place of 'Garngad'. It was felt that with a new name the area could escape further stigmatisation, although it turned out that it would take a lot more than the changing of a place-name to solve problems such as poverty and social deprivation. In effect, all that has happened is that the new name, Royston, has gained similarly negative associations within North Glasgow.

Another name which was changed due to social stigmatisation was Barnhill. As I mentioned above, the land at Barnhill was used to build the Barony Parish Poorhouse in the 1850s, but due to parochial reorganisation it later became known as the Barnhill Poorhouse. A poor-law hospital was added to the site, which was later the Barnhill Hospital. From 1930 the Poor Law Amendment Act officially saw the end of the institution's 'poorhouse' status, although it continued to house vagrants and geriatrics. What happened was that people remained reluctant to be admitted to Barnhill, which was still viewed by many as the Barnhill Poorhouse, and in 1945 it was decided to rename the institute as the Foresthall Home and Hospital, to remove these negative associations of the institute's former purpose. The hospital remained in service until the 1980s, primarily

carrying for the elderly, and was demolished in 1988. The new housing estate built on the site retained the name Foresthall, and the only present-day link to the earlier name of Barnhill is the Barnhill Railway station, located across the road from the former Poorhouse Gates.

In conclusion, it is clear that the development of place-names in North Glasgow is inexorably linked to the rise and fall of heavy industry in the area. For names to survive they had to adapt to fit the purpose, and these purposes have changed in the last 200 years from farms and manors to factories and works and now in the present day to housing schemes and retail parks, with numerous onomastic casualties and innovations along the way.

Dr Alison Grant (based on a talk at Govan)

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A PLACE IN THE CURRICULUM

Place-names have acquired something of a bad reputation in geography education. One does not have to search too much into the literature of geographical education for the phrase, "Geography is more than place-names ...". In the past 20 years, innovations in academic geography have increasingly influenced content and methods of the secondary curriculum. With these changes investigating 'Why?' and 'How?' have rightly increased in prominence in the geography syllabus. Unfortunately, this has been to the detriment of knowing and exploring 'Where?'. The study of place-names can foster a sense of place that is essential for good local and global citizenship. Everything happens some-where—to appreciate fully the significance of past and current events, we need to be able to place them on a map and in our minds. Through the medium of place-names, pupils can engage with essential concepts relating to location, patterning, change and language, and can have an opportunity to explore topical cultural and political issues in other, perhaps less familiar, parts of the world in ways that are educational and fun.

The Royal Geographical Society has awarded me an Innovative Teaching Grant of £400 to develop a web-based place-name teaching resource and a CPD [continuing professional development] workshop for secondary teachers. The website will comprise a collection of lesson plans, project ideas, maps, photographs, and other resources related to place-names. Using the web as a platform means that the resource will be available to pupils and teachers all over the UK and further afield.

The website will also host links to other place-name resources including the *English and Scottish Place-Name Societies* and *The Online Key to English Place-Names* as well as including a bibliography of major place-name related publications that pupils and teachers will find useful. An important part of the project is the creation of a bank of digital photographs which illustrate topographical aspects of place-names. The images collected will be incorporated into specific lesson plans or available separately for teachers and pupils to use for their own projects.

I am hoping that members of the Scottish Place-Name Society might be interested in contributing digital place-name related images to the website as well as ideas for activities, games and lessons. I have already incorporated place names and a bit of Gaelic language into map interpretation lessons. The children responded with interest and enthusiasm. Recently, some Advanced Higher students commented that they had never realised how interesting maps were until they started reading the place names. Other lessons have included using articles about name changes in countries such as South Africa, India and elsewhere as part of thinking skills exercises for older pupils.

There is an element of uncertainty in the future of school geography. One way of strengthening its position in the present climate of educational reform is to emphasise the uniqueness of geography's use of the spatial dimension in understanding the world at any scale. I hope the project will also contribute by increasing, albeit in a small way, the profile of place name-study and its importance. If you would like to ask me any questions about the project or contribute ideas or materials, please email me:

<darceygillie@fastmail.fm>

Darcey Gillie

The Journal of Scottish Name Studies

Articles to be considered for publication in the Journal, of which the inaugural volume is due in early Summer 2007, should be sent to the Publisher's address below. Short articles, *varia*, reviews and reports on work in progress will also be considered.

Notes for contributors are available from the Publisher, or on-line at-

www.clanntuirc.co.uk/JSNS.html.

Editor: Dr Simon Taylor. Publisher: Clann Tuirc, Tigh a' Mhaide, Brig o' Turk, Perthshire FK17 8HT.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Names Through the Looking-Glass: Festschrift in Honour of Gillian Fellows-Jensen, edited by Peder Gammeltoft & Bent Jørgensen (C.A. Reitzels Forlag, Copenhagen 2006) XVIII + 350 pages.

This *Festschrift* celebrates the scholarship of Gillian Fellows-Jensen, on the occasion of her seventieth birthday. Gillian has devoted her career to Scandinavian studies, and has produced numerous books and articles on many different aspects of Scandinavian language and culture but is particularly known for her work on Scandinavian place-names.

The collection of essays within this volume reflects her varied and wide-ranging interests, with topics including Danish rune-stones, early Scandinavian tribal rivalries, Icelandic farm-names, English field-names, Norwegian and Dutch onomastics, Danish hydronymy, and the geographic evidence of place-names in the Icelandic Sagas. There are several contributions on English place-names, including a paper by Margaret Gelling on the Anglo-Norse place-names of Yorkshire as evidence both of linguistic interaction and settlement density, and a paper by R. I. Page warning of the dangers of identifying otherwise unrecorded personal names and bynames as place-name specifics.

Additionally, there is a warm and light-hearted dedicatory piece by Professor Nicolaisen, which is unfortunately positioned in the middle of the volume rather than at the beginning, due to the presentation of articles in alphabetical order by

author's surname. The *Festschrift* concludes with a very useful bibliography compiled by Bente Holmberg, which details all of Gillian's publications (including reviews) in chronological order.

Of particular interest to Scottish readers will be the various articles on Scottish onomastic topics, such as Barbara Crawford's study of the administrative significance of the names *Houseby*, *Harray* and *Knarston* in western Orkney. In a similar vein, Berit Sandnes writes on the chronology of Scandinavian settlement in Orkney, with particular focus on topographical names. James Graham-Campbell examines the significance of the distribution of Scandinavian place-names in northern Scotland, focusing particularly on Sutherland and Easter and Wester Ross. Peder Gammeltoft offers a fresh perspective on Hebridean island names, within the context of the complex linguistic interaction which occurred between Scandinavian and Gaelic speakers. Doreen Waugh contributes a useful modern survey of the *-by/-bie* names in Shetland, including detailed etymological and chronological information. Shetland is also the focus of an article by Tom Schmidt, whose study of sixteenth century Shetland personal names and surnames reveals a sharp contrast with Norwegian names from the same period, and whose linguistic patterns indicate considerable onomastic influence from the Scottish mainland.

The eighteen essays in this volume provide a wealth of material on a diverse range of topics, with something to interest everyone. It is a fitting tribute to the career of Gillian Fellows-Jensen.

Dr Alison Grant

A Dictionary of Lake District Place-Names, by Diana Whaley. EPNS, 2006.

What a splendid book! The beautiful wrap-around cover photo, of Great Gable in the evening sunshine, and the fine set of photos inside (all by Ian Whaley), are but an appetiser to the main course, the dictionary listing of every name within the Lake District National Park from the one inch maps. Each name is grid referenced, all the older forms listed, and an etymology discusses its meaning. And there is a dessert course too, for all the *elements* – the specifics and generics – that compose so many of the names, are examined in a 'dictionary within a dictionary' in 40 pages at the end. Many of these

elements shed light for Scottish place-names study, since Old Norse (important this side of the border) was such a major onomastic player in the Lakes area too. Loan-words from Old Norse (like the ubiquitous *fell*) and Old English (e.g. *pike* and *rigg*) abound in southern Scotland, and Old Norse up the west coast too. The book sums itself up very accurately on the title page, thus: "... It is based on previous scholarship and fresh research, and combines detailed and authoritative commentary on the names with insights into the setting, languages and history which gave rise to them." Exactly.

Peter Drummond

[A fuller review, by Alison Grant, will appear in the JSNS later this year.]

ISBN:0904889726. Available from SPNS conference bookshop, or Shaun Tyas, 1 High Street, Donington PE11 4TA. 424 pages. £20.

CULTURAL CONTACTS FUND

We are pleased to remind you that following successful fundraising for the Shetland conference volume *Cultural Contacts in the North Atlantic Region: The Evidence of Names* (P. Gammeltoft, C. Hough and D. Waugh eds.) we have surplus funds which we plan to use for the benefit of name research in the following ways:

- **Grants to enable students of onomastics to attend conferences**
- **Travel grants to enable students of onomastics to pursue their research in the field**
- **Grants towards publication of onomastic material relating to the North Atlantic region, defined broadly as in the publication**

A small steering committee, representing the three societies, has been appointed to make decisions on the fair allocation of funds. Further information is available from the coordinator of the steering committee, Dr Doreen Waugh: <doreen.waugh@ed.ac.uk>

Application forms can be downloaded from the Scottish Place-Name Society website:
<<http://www.st-andrews/institutes/sassi/spns/>>

'PLACE-NAMES OF THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK'

The Cairngorms National Park Authority (Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh) has recently published a leaflet of this name, colour-printed on both sides of A2 paper and folded to A5 size for convenient handling. One side is presented as eight A5 pages, including the cover which shows a collage of sign-posts to places in the national park. On the reverse, half is taken up by a map naming main settlements, watercourses and lochs, woods and traditional routes; numbered symbols are used for 13 'Places of Interest' and for 52 'Topographic Features'. The other half of the reverse is the related gazetteer, including a panel to help Anglophones with pronunciation of the local Gaelic of the place-names.

A first glance shows that the place-name material in this leaflet has nothing in common with a 'misinformation board' once in place near the western bank of Loch Lomond, which claimed that Tarbet (G *tairbeart*, an isthmus over which boats could be taken) was a place-name of Norse origin. The material is up-to-date in terms of place-name studies and plainly well grounded in local knowledge: 'research and text' are attributed to 'Dr. Alison M G Diack with Dr James H. Grant'.

This soundness of content should be expected, in a publication from such a public body. What is more astonishing is how much information has been packed into the leaflet, without resort to clutter or tiny print. The presentation is enhanced by attractive photos and the A5 pages include sections on Place-Names in the Cairngorms, Linguistic Heritage, Recording Place-Names, Traditional Routes, Common Words, and Further Information (which includes a short bibliography).

In the A3 sized spread of the Gazetteer there is obviously no scope for historical depth in the expounding of place-names, but apart from the 'places of interest' and 'topographic features' already mentioned no less than 26 settlements, 18 rivers and burns, 15 lochs, 16 traditional routes and seven forests and woods are listed by English or Scots name or anglicised Gaelic name (whatever is in general use); pronunciation of anglicised Gaelic; Gaelic form and its pronunciation (often more than subtly different from the anglicised); and translation from Gaelic.

Sometimes there is additional information, such as that Glenbuchat contains an old Gaelic personal name *Buichead* or Newtonmore (*Baile Ùr an t-Sleibh*) has often been referred to locally just as *An Sliabh* ('The Moor'). The real anatomical translation of *Bod an Deamhain* is given, for the mountain feature listed under its bowdlerised English name 'Devil's Point'.

There is a helpful mention, in the panel on pronunciation, of the local tendency to drop unstressed final syllables, which must have made many place-names sound strange, and perhaps grammatically lax, to those from Gaelic-speaking areas where this was not characteristic. The section on recording place-names admits that some older place-names remain obscure and to illustrate the effects of language change gives a neat example of how *Drochaid Bhruthainn* became Bridge of Brown, by way of Scots *Brig o' Broom*, and thus progressively further from the Gaelic vowel sound of the burn name.



Hut near Braemar, which the leaflet tells us is Bràigh Mhàrr, the Upland of Mar, and consists of two settlements, Baile a' Chaisteil (Castleton) and Achadh an Droighinn (Field of the Thornbush).

This leaflet sets a high standard for other such organisations to emulate. It will be of value to residents in the national park as well as to visitors who are interested in its human history and seek reliable, scholarly information rather than the fanciful and romantic. It ought to shame those who cynically exploit obviously false Gaelic etymologies to sell their products. (WP)

The leaflet states that a large print version is also available from the publisher:-

Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Grantown-on-Spey
PH26 3HG

☎ 01479 873535 Website: <www.cairngorms.co.uk> e-mail: <enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk>

MAPPING A PAIR OF AYRSHIRE TWINS

During a recent work trip in Ayrshire, on a country road some 9km ESE of central Ayr and 2½ km WSW of Drongan, the names of two adjacent farms demanded attention. They were Sandhill, at National Grid reference NS 412175, and Bargenoch, at NS 415714. These farms, on a small ridge between burns about 1 km east of Martnaham Loch, are in an area with a wonderful linguistic mix of place-names. Besides the mass-produced Burnside, Hillhead and Mossend there are the hand-crafted Chipperlagan, Cloquhairnan and Millmannoch. As well as the predominant Scots and the ubiquitous Gaelic, a Cumbric presence declares itself in the large village of Ochiltree, 9 km ENE of the twins. Somewhat more distant place-names like Prestwick and Maybole recall the period of Northumbrian overlordship.

Genoch is a name that occurs just inland from the Heads of Ayr and again at the head of Luce Bay in Galloway, where Genoch Mains is beside the vast expanse of sand of the Torrs Warren. It is a reasonable supposition that it records a south-western pronunciation of Gaelic *gainmbeach* (fem.), ‘fine sand’. Hence the pairing of Sandhill and a name which appears to mean the same in Gaelic (with *bàrr*, ‘top’, extremely common in names of places on hills in the South West, as the generic), is so striking. Maps available online through the National Library of Scotland are the most accessible way of checking whether the pairing may have coexisted for centuries. (Thanks to NLS for making the following maps freely available.)



From Johan Blaeu: *Coila Provincia* 1654

Unfortunately there is no surviving Timothy Pont manuscript map of the area. The first published map of the area is Johan Blaeu's mid

17th century map based on Pont's. This has *Bargannoch* where we should expect it. It also has a *San*, between Bargannoch and Martnaham Loch. But does this represent a simplex *Sand*, with <d> assimilated to <n>? Or was it a case of a longer name of which only the first three letters were readable on a worn manuscript?

Andrew Armstrong's *New Map of Ayrshire* (1775) has *Bargannoch* again, unfortunately close to the edge of a sheet. There is no sign of Sandhill on this sheet or its neighbour.



From Andrew Armstrong: *New Map of Ayrshire* 1775

However, from Thomson's map of 1820 onwards, the pair of names is always side by side, though Thomson's Gaelic twin is *Bargonoch*. Whether that <o> is deliberate or a transcription error for *Bargenoch* one cannot tell.



From John Thomson's maps of Ayrshire 1820

Since the Ordnance Survey First Edition 1859-60 that name has remained *Bargenoch* and the twins have been inseparable. Recourse to a few maps has not satisfied curiosity as to whether Sandhill is a conscious translation name or an independent naming from the same geomorphological circumstances. But it has been a pleasant reminder of the artistic quality of work by the early surveyors and mapmakers, in a toponymically fascinating area. (WP)

APPRECIATION: TERRY JAMES 1948-2007

It is with sadness that I have to report that Terry James died on 21 January this year, after a long and painful illness. Archaeologist, Dyfed historian, toponymist, printer, computer expert, and honorary member of SPNS, Terry was best known to members in Scotland as the architect of the prototype Scottish Place-Name Database.

Ian Fraser, Doreen Waugh and I first met him at a Place-Name Digitisation symposium in Belfast in September 1993. At that time Terry was Information Systems Manager at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. In his spare time he had constructed a FoxPro database to record and analyse Carmarthenshire place-names (Enwau), and over the next few years Terry and I worked together on a voluntary basis adapting and expanding Enwau's core structure for use as the basis for a Scottish Place-Name Database. Terry gave generously of his time and expertise, making several visits to Scotland to work on the development and design of the Database and to take part in discussion groups and seminars, even after ill health had forced him to take early retirement from the Royal Commission in 1998.

It was the structure of this Database which informed and inspired the Carnegie-funded Access Database Project at Edinburgh University in 2000-2001. Terry also gave a paper at the 'Uses of Place-Names' Conference in St Andrews in February 1995 (which saw the foundation of SPNS). This was later published in my 1998 edited volume *The Uses of Place-Names* as 'Place-name Distributions and Field Archaeology in South-west Wales' (101-19)*. Another chapter in this book ('Gwaun Henllan - the Oldest Recorded Meadow in Wales?', 169-79) was written by Heather James, Terry's wife, also an archaeologist, who at that time worked for the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

Together Terry and Heather made a huge contribution to the understanding of many aspects of the history of south-west Wales. Something of the breadth of this contribution, as well as of Terry's IT skills, can be gleaned from their website <<http://www.terra-demetarum.org.uk>>. This includes a link to the online Carmarthenshire Place-Name Database. As a tribute to Terry's work the Carmarthenshire

Antiquarian Society intends to publish a volume of essays dedicated to his memory.

Simon Taylor

* Terry was unable to attend the conference in person. His paper was read out by Dauvit Broun. A version of this paper, with updated figures and appropriate textual changes, can be found on

<<http://www.terra-demetarum.org.uk/Articles/Place-name%20distributions.pdf>>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Notice of the SPNS **spring conference and AGM** at Fort William on Saturday 5 May is included as a flier with this Newsletter.

The SPNS **autumn conference** is expected to be held at the Riccarton Campus of Heriot-Watt University, on the western outskirts of Edinburgh, on Saturday 3 November. This venue can be reached by frequent buses from central Edinburgh or by walking from Curriehill suburban station, and is close to the M8 and the western end of the City Bypass.

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(compiled by Simon Taylor with the help of Carole Hough and Maggie Scott)



John G Wilkinson remembers hearing profound philological observations during a name studies field trip. On this occasion any fears that the Holy Islanders may have entertained about marauding Picts, Scots and Vikings proved unfounded.

**WEST
LOTHIAN
PLACE-NAMES**

John G Wilkinson's study of *West Lothian Place-Names*, originally published in 1992 and now difficult to obtain in print, is now freely available on-line at

<<http://www.cyberscotia.com/west-lothian-place-names>>



If you are looking for financial support for study of names like these, you may be interested in the Cultural Contacts Fund advertised on page 12 in this Newsletter. (Photo: Dr Doreen Waugh)

THE HEROIC AGE

Issue 12: Early Medieval Languages and Linguistics (January 2008)

The Heroic Age invites submissions on any aspect of Late Antique or Early Medieval languages and linguistics. Topics may include (but are not limited to): place name studies; vocabulary borrowed from different languages (such as William Sayers' exploration of the borrowing of nautical vocabulary from Norse in Issue 8 of *The Heroic Age*); growth of vernacular languages; the influence of Latin on vernacular; vernacular influence on Latin; runes; ogam; editions or translations of little known texts or inscriptions; the use or mis-use of Greek or Hebrew.

Submissions will be received at any time up to 1 October, 2007.
Submissions should be sent to <haediting@yahoo.com>



*In the 'Old North': the Yarrow valley, Selkirkshire. The river name (Gierua ca. 1120, Gierva ca. 1150) is problematical: there is no easy route to this from Celtic *garb, 'rough'; *argant, 'silver', is possible but again not readily explained; a counterpart of the Yorkshire Ure (Earw ca. 1150), from ancient *Isurā, 'strong or swift', would require unusual sound changes; the medieval forms recall those of the Norfolk Yare (Garienno- in Ptolemy), possibly from a root *gar/get, 'shout, talk'; and a connection with the Tyneside Jarrow, named from the people of the marsh (OE *gerw) would be semantically implausible even if an English river name here were not. (Thanks to Alan James for thoughts on this name; any errors are not his.)*