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Contents

Editorial

- Golden Jubilee: the *Journal* celebrates its first 50 years 5
Richard Coates

Articles

- Where in Suffolk was *Wicklaw*? 11
Keith Briggs

- Dorking, Surrey 17
Rob Briggs

- Two lost place-names in the west Midlands: *Gaia* in Lichfield
and *The Gay* in Shrewbury 55
Richard Coates

- Two Chiltern place-names reconsidered: Elvendon and Misbourne 65
Ann Cole

- Medieval place-names in a landscape: Branscombe 75
John Torrance

Reviews

- Lindy Brady (2017), *Writing the Welsh Borderlands in Anglo-Saxon
England* 97
David Callander

- Vanessa Greatorex and Mike Headon, eds (2014), *Field-names in
Cheshire, Shropshire and North-East Wales. Recent work by
members of the Chester Society for Landscape History* 99
Eleanor Rye

4	JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY 50 (2018)	
	Patrick Hanks, Richard Coates and Peter McClure (2016), <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland</i>	102
	John Insley	
	Mark McKerracher (2018), <i>Farming Transformed in Anglo-Saxon England: Agriculture in the long eighth century</i>	112
	Debby Banham	
	Simon Taylor with Peter McNiven and Eila Williamson (2017), <i>The Place-Names of Kinross-shire</i>	114
	Sofia Evemalm	
	Tom Williamson, Gerry Barnes and Toby Pillatt (2017), <i>Trees in England: Management and disease since 1600</i>	116
	Jessica Treacher	
	<u>Obituary</u>	
	George Redmonds, 1935–2018	121
	Jennifer Scherr	
	<u>Notices and addenda</u>	
	Alfred Oscroft Essay Prize 2018	125
	Reports:	
	Hon. Director	127
	Richard Coates	
	Hon. Treasurer	129
	Andrea Ellis	
	Accounts	131
	Errata for vol. 49 (2017)	138
	Abbreviations	139

For the first time, abbreviations for counties, languages, county place-name surveys, and other frequently-cited publications can be found in the back of this volume.

The Bibliography for 2017 will appear in *The Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 51 (2019).

Editorial

Golden Jubilee: the *Journal* celebrates its first 50 years

Richard Coates

General Editor and Hon. Director

2019 sees a milestone in the history of an onomastics research publication: volume 50 of the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, the first periodical in the United Kingdom devoted entirely to onomastics. The occasion demands a short history and appreciation of the enterprise.

John McN. Dodgson, the Society's Secretary back in 1968, proposed the creation of such a periodical, and volume 1 appeared for the academic year 1968/9, edited by the Secretary himself. It consisted largely of addenda and corrigenda to *English Place-Name Elements* (1956) by the recently deceased Hon. Director of the Survey, A. H. Smith: those for Germanic names were provided by Kenneth Cameron and those for Celtic names by Kenneth Jackson. These were followed by apparatus, some elements of which remain familiar today: an annual bibliography, compiled by David Mills, stretching over an entire page; a review by Dodgson of F. Smith's *A Genealogical Gazetteer of England*; and reports by the Society's Officers (which justified its being issued free to Members). All of these were topped off by a list of those Members, the Society's Rules and a list of the Society's Publications. The *Journal* has always carried the Director's and the Treasurer's reports, along with the audited accounts; that of a Secretary has appeared more sporadically. The members' list disappeared after volume 1.

The first Editorial makes it clear that in the late 1960s there was (no doubt genteel) disquiet about the rather testudinal process of releasing toponomastic findings to the membership county by county. It was also felt that interim publication of material suitable for writing up as notes and articles was dependent on the 'chance of free space offered by the editors of the historical and archaeological journals'. The *Journal* was intended to fill this gap by offering space for items such as those just mentioned, as well as for 'notes and articles on English place-names and the study of

English place-names, or related topics' without impeding or replacing the Survey. Dodgson noted the large amount of supplementary material of interest to members and editors which 'has had to lie on the Society's files', as well as the 'considerable body of notes and correspondence ... which has not been judged important enough for publication in this issue [of the *Journal*]'. Dodgson's intention was to 'publish such material ... as it comes to hand'. A truncated version of the editorial, the full addenda and corrigenda and the list of Publications were soon issued as an offprint representing well over half of volume 1.

I cannot write the whole history, or offer a profound analysis, of the *Journal* here. Some highlights of its progress will be picked out. Volume 2 included a restrained selection of addenda (etc.) to county volumes—for restrained it was: 'We have not found it necessary to publish all the information which [contributors] have sent in.' It also included the first substantive article, a ten-page contribution by Gillian Fellows Jensen on 'The Domesday Book account of the Bruce fief'. In volumes 3 and 4, Alexander Rumble perfectly exemplified the spirit of the original intention for the *Journal* with his well-known discussions of the bounds of Merstham and Coulsdon (Surrey), half of each of which is taken up with an appendix serving as a complement to the data in the Surrey county volume. Volume 3, uniquely, contained reviews of Survey volumes. Volume 4 included the first article elucidating a place-name type (Shoelands, by Cyril Hart) and the first distributional analysis of an element (that of *-ingas* in Kent, by Sarah Kirk).

The running of the *Journal* moved from London to Nottingham when Kenneth Cameron took over as editor from volume 5. By volume 7 we had the first analyses of individual names (Disley and *Hafdic*, by Gillis Kristensson and A. E. B. Owen respectively); and in volume 8, alas, the first obituary, that of the former Treasurer of the Society, Bernard Lucas. Addenda as a separate entity had now become sporadic, the last being by John Insley in volume 10. Or rather, it was the last until Denise Kenyon's enormous addition to Eilert Ekwall's (non-Survey) *Place-Names of Lancashire* in volume 17. The bibliography, duplicating to some extent that in *Nomina*, had become flexible in its timing, and was absent from volumes 9 and 10, though a catch-up was presented in 11. By now, the familiar mix was quite well established, and a number of articles of lasting value and significance had appeared, notably (if I may be permitted a personal florilegium), by Barrie Cox, the two Marys (Higham and Atkin) and Alexander Rumble.

The *Journal* was published from the outset by the Society itself and printed by Titus Wilson of Kendal. Volume 9 was printed, for the first time,

by Nottingham University's own printing unit, and Professor Cameron, in his editorial to volume 10, says that 'the new format ... has been well received by members in spite of the fact that it is no doubt less pleasing in its appearance than the original one. The saving in money has been considerable ...' He seems to have been referring to volume 9, but it is not quite clear whether he was referring to volume 10 itself, which was noticeably inferior to 9 aesthetically. Volume 12 was the first *Journal* produced in-house as camera-ready on an IBM 'golf-ball' typewriter thanks to the adaptability and rapid learning of the Society's secretary, Esmé Pattison. Despite the horrid spindly sans-serif font (which persisted till volume 17), the writer views volume 12 fondly for having welcomed the first amateur piece by a junior lecturer trained as a specialist in the formalisms of phonological theory, whose life changed as a result. John Field's first index, for volumes 1–12, followed in short order.

Volumes 9–16 came with an extraordinary profusion of cover designs, with the cover restrained over staples by a dodgy green binding strip resembling duct tape with aspirations, some of which have not survived the rigours of (my) consultations. Volume 13 was the last to contain an editorial as such, but the late-appearing volume 15 has a Preface. In the Preface, Cameron attributes its lateness to the Society's acquisition of a Word Processor, a ferocious beast that required the saintly Mrs Pattison to re-type the sixty-three-page *Journal* three times before everyone was satisfied that it could produce camera-ready copy. *Journal* 18 was outsourced: it was typeset by TeipSet of Aberystwyth at Oxford University Computing Service, and printed by Magnum Offset at Oakham. This resulted in a substantial improvement in appearance and a stapled binding whose staples have not yet rusted after thirty-two years. Volume 21 came back in-house for typesetting by Mrs Pattison on donated equipment, without significant loss of appearance, and this new acceptable style was continued by Janet Rudkin from volume 25 onwards. The editor of the *Journal* did not choose to mark its silver jubilee except in the guise of a tangential reference to 'universal acclaim' for six Survey volumes produced locally on sponsored equipment. He may have regarded the anniversary as a pyrrhic victory, since his Director's Reports make frequent references to manoeuvres which saved money, to the Society's shoestring existence, and to the remarkable loyalty of the staff.

With no *Journal*-istic fanfare, Cameron and Pattison both retired in 1993, and Victor Watts took over the Hon. Directorship and the *Journal* editorship which had gone along with it for twenty years. Watts's early *Journals*, starting with 26, require an effort to establish his responsibility. Volume 26 is completely anonymous. Volumes 27 and 28 are attributed to

Watts and to John Field within a batch of undifferentiated text on the inside of the back cover, and to Watts alone for 29. The existence of an editorial board (including Mr Field, who had produced a further index for volumes 13–26) is acknowledged for the first time in volume 29, the first to appear perfect-bound, which it remains for volume 50. The editorial team migrated unostentatiously to the inside of the front cover for volume 30. Such modesty was unnecessary. The *Journal* was steadily inflating in the direction of 100 pages per issue, and to 150 pages for volume 33, with anywhere between five and twelve substantive articles annually. This was testimony to several things, notably Dodgson’s correct gauging of the level of interest in current research, the level of actual research activity in the subject, and perhaps also the first stirrings of increased sensitivity among academic leaders to the need for the fruit of publicly-funded research to be harvested as soon as possible. The usual reports continued to appear, but the bibliography bobbed in and out of the *Journal* like a drowning person, being absent from volumes 13 and 15–19, requiring a further substantial catch-up in 20, since when, thanks mainly to Carole Hough, it has become a stable feature. Reviews in this period were fewer and further between, being completely absent from 19–24.

The rest of the *Journal*’s history—which is probably not quite history yet—can be told briefly, though it deserves to be emphasized. It fell to the present writer to become Editor on taking over as Hon. Director when Victor Watts died suddenly at the end of 2002. Since Watts was based in Durham, much of the editorial work was already being done at the Society’s headquarters in Nottingham, and that state of affairs continued with me in Brighton, and then Bristol, for the next ten years. Paul Cavill especially was a tower of strength. He had shared typesetting duties with Janet Rudkin from volume 30, and done it alone from 32. I was and am hugely grateful for his additional editorial input. Eleanor Quinton was Production Editor for volumes 39 (which included digital images for the first time, if I am not mistaken) and 40, Cavill and Quinton for 41, and Cavill alone for 42 till he took on the full editorial mantle for 43 before sharing it with Rebecca Gregory from 48 onwards. The history of the *Journal*, for the best part of its fifty years, is the history of the Society’s relations with the University of Nottingham: with Ken Cameron, the patient and devoted staff of the Society, and the practical and academic input of Paul Cavill and his collaborators.

To call this event a milestone might imply a known destination. The *Journal*, now a fully-established, respected and good-looking publication, with a settled format and an up-to-date online index maintained by Keith Briggs at <http://keithbriggs.info/JEPNS_contents.html>, must have

optimistic prospects for the road ahead wherever it leads, including into an eventually digital future.

Richard Coates

University of the West of England, Bristol

November 2018

Trivia

How many people have noticed that the front cover of the *Journal* has been adorned with three different logos? One from volume 1–8 and 10–13, with an antiquarian font for the Society's name; the second on volume 9, the first printed in Nottingham (what happened thereafter?) and 14–26, with a more fashionable font; and the third since 27, with a modern sans-serif font for the Society's name? The second and third logos bow to the national symbols of St George's Cross and the Tudor Rose; the first has a curious four-petalled object rather resembling Lady's Smock superimposed on the Cross.