

Svendborg in Denmark, whose first element is generally explained as *svīn* n. 'pig (tame or wild)' or 'porpoise' but which might just possibly be **svīn* n. 'land only under water at high-tide' (*Danmarks Stednavne* 13. 7).

It is sad that John Stewart did not live long enough to be able to take account of such recent treatments of Shetland names as A. Fenton's *The Various Names of Shetland* (Edinburgh, 1973), Lindsay Macgregor's prize-winning essay printed in *Northern Studies* 23, or Porhallur Vilmundarson's convincing illustrated demonstration (in *Grímnir* 2 (1983), 120-21) that the Icelandic Reyðarfjörður, a parallel formation to Reafirth (p. 87), must have been named after the mountain Reyður or Reyðarfjall, which is shaped just like a *reyður* or 'finback whale'.

We must be grateful to John Stewart for the zeal with which he collected the material, his painstaking marshalling of the assembled evidence, and his perceptive analysis of it. Our gratitude is also due to Brian Smith for preparing this difficult material so conscientiously for the press and to Brenda Laurenson for proof-reading so carefully. Some few errors have managed to creep in but in most cases they will cause no confusion. Students of the fauna of Shetland, however, should be warned against undue excitement at discovering apparent evidence for the presence there of bears (Gult Holm, p. 8) and of an otherwise unknown fish called *prestr* (Priesthoulland, p. 195). *göltr* means 'boar' not 'bear' and *prestr* 'priest' not 'fish'.

Gillian Fellows-Jensen

Alastair J. Durie: *George Washington Wilson in Edinburgh.*

John S. Smith: *George Washington Wilson in Orkney and Shetland.*

Aberdeen University 1986, 44 pp. each.

Those of us fortunate enough to have had access to some of George Washington Wilson's collection know what rich perspectives it provides on life in Victorian Scotland. It is good to see the University of Aberdeen committed to making a selection of the material available to a wider public by way of these "regional snapshots".

There could be little greater contrast between the evident splendour of Edinburgh over the period 1860-1905 and that of Orkney and Shetland, here restricted to the 1880s and 1890s; Edinburgh's heritage of architecture, old and new, set alongside the more humble but on occasion prosperous vernacular of the Northern Isles.

The native populations were as far removed in cultures and traditions as they were in distance, but in both communities there was also a real poverty – poverty that only incidentally emerges through the camera. For G.W.W. was essentially a commercial photographer, as keen to coin a livelihood based on tourism as a contemporary Colin Baxter. Today the over-riding theme may suggest romantic escapism; yesterday it was, rather, romantic realism linked to pride in inventive genius. Neither photographer sees much of a tourist potential in Edinburgh's slums!

So it is that the photographic record of G.W.W. cannot be seen as comprehensive, rather as a selective record of the time. In the Edinburgh volume Alastair Durie provides a valuable commentary on each of his plates, well-researched from the documentary record and betraying a close and humorous examination of the visual content.

Remarks on free access to Edinburgh Castle and the lounging potential of the Esplanade for local people ring sharply in these days of entry fees and talk of restricted access to the Esplanade.

He comments pungently on the amazing frequency and speed of mail deliveries c. 1880; and there are reminders that policemen had time to pose and smile for G.W.W.'s camera. It is with a certain wistfulness that we can see people ambling across Princes Street without fear or worry.

Architecturally we can regret the passing of the Princes Street houses and such earlier High Street buildings as West Bow House or the old County Buildings; we can still admire however the Dean Bridge, though with added parapet to discourage suicides. Elsewhere the fields around Fettes College, St. Leonard's House and Blackford Hill emphasise how relatively recent is Edinburgh's now considerable urban sprawl, and how restricted her green lungs have now become.

This is altogether an admirable presentation of considerable interest to enthusiast and visitor alike.

The weakness of 'Orkney and Shetland' lies in part in the fact that G.W.W. made only two field trips and visited but few locations. He was forever in Edinburgh, it would seem! But in part it lies in the treatment. The general introductions to the island groups provide a useful background for the uninitiated; the individual plates would have benefited from closer research.

It is a happy touch, however, the placing of contemporary photographs alongside G.W.W.'s of Stromness, Stenness and Rackwick for instance; and it is a particularly fine series for Rackwick. Additionally, there are many fascinating photographs of fishing and crofting, and of distinctive small boats at Fair Isle, Symbister and Lerwick (yoles and sixerns as opposed to the Scottish herring boats). An ethnological approach to the commentaries would have well-suited the distinctively Norse heritage of the islands which survived in so many ways well past G.W.W.'s day.

Both volumes provide a most valuable dissemination of some particularly fine photographic material. Let not any comments or commentaries detract from that! They are much to be welcomed.

John Baldwin

***Ouncelands and Pennylands*, L.J. Macgregor and B.E. Crawford, eds., University of St. Andrews, St. John's House Papers No. 3, 1987 (Price £3.75 + 25p. P&P)**

The above proceedings of the day conference held in St. Andrews in 1985 are now available and those who were present will remember with pleasure the day-long pursuit of the elusive answer to the question originally posed by Captain F.W.L. Thomas – 'What is a Pennyland?'

There are four contributors to this short volume and each of the four has a detailed knowledge of a particular part of Scotland which enables him/her to tackle the problem of land measurement/assessment authoritatively and, when all four papers have been digested, one has a