

found it a difficult but rewarding experience which I feel will be repeated by all those who are genuinely interested in the early history of Iceland.

Dr. Anthony Jackson.

Review: Gillian Fellows-Jensen: *Scandinavian Settlement Names in the North-West*. C.A. Reitzels Forlag, Copenhagen, 1985, 455p.

This is Dr. Fellows-Jensen's fourth volume in the *Navnestudier* series produced by the Institut for Navneforskning (Institute for Name Studies) in Copenhagen. Her latest offering, covering Scandinavian names in Cheshire, Lancashire, Westmorland, Cumberland and Dumfries-shire follows on from her *Scandinavian Settlement Names in the East Midlands* (No. 16, 1978), *Scandinavian Settlement Names in Yorkshire* (No. 11, 1972) and *Scandinavian Personal Names in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire* (No. 7, 1968). So she can safely be regarded as the foremost authority on the Scandinavian onomastics of England, and this present volume draws one of the Scottish counties under her critical scrutiny. Over the past few years, she has become a regular attendee at our annual conferences, at which she has contributed regular papers, including one recently published in *The Scandinavians in Cumbria* edited by John Baldwin and Ian Whyte, the proceedings of our successful Cumbria conference in 1981.

As is to be expected, the material dealt with in this volume has been arranged in much the same way as Dr. Fellows-Jensen's previous volumes in the series. The names treated are not only the purely Scandinavian but also hybrid names and English names which have been subjected to Scandinavian linguistic influence. All habitative names in this category are discussed, with a whole chapter devoted to place-names containing the important generic *-bý* (Canonbie, Denbie and Lockerbie are typical Dumfries-shire examples) as well as names that originated as topographical names. Further chapters are devoted to hybrid names containing the Old English generic *tūn*, and there is a discussion on the way in which the Vikings treated pre-existing British and English names. Finally, there are chapters on distribution and dating.

In each chapter, names are analysed individually in alphabetical order, although in some chapters, such as Ch. III where a large number of different generics are involved, there are subdivisions for names relating to churches and temples; hamlets, farms and enclosures; and shielings. Although this might lead to some initial confusion, the reader should very soon acquire the knack of using the material in a systematic way. Those familiar with the publication of the English Place-Name Society will find the format simple enough to handle.

One example will suffice to give an idea of a typical entry (Ch. VI, p. 255):

‘Torthorwald P, Df (NY0378). *Torthorald* 1214-18, 1215-45, *Thorthorald* 1215-45, *Torthorald* 1290, *Torthorald* 1291 (Williamson 323-24).

In this p.n. the elements are in Celtic word-order with the specific following the generic. The specific is the Scand. pers. n. *Thóraldr*. The generic is the Gaelic appellative *torr* ‘rounded hill’ (SPN III; Williamson 324).’

Here, two significant Scottish authorities are quoted – W.F.H. Nicolaisen’s *Scottish Place-Names* (Batsford, 1976) and May Williamson’s unpublished thesis *The Non-Celtic Place-Names of the Scottish Border Counties* (University of Edinburgh, 1942). Torthorwald is an example of a Gaelic-Norse hybrid, or, to be more precise, a Gaelic place-name containing an Old Norse personal-name, common enough in S.W. Scotland.

The book is illustrated by twenty-three distribution maps, each of which is explained in the text of Ch. VII. The key to map symbols is explained in the relevant sections of the text, and not on the maps themselves, which some may see as a shortcoming, although it is not inconvenient when reading through the chapter.

Dr. Fellows-Jensen’s writing style is concise and clear. In a subject which naturally attracts a proliferation of rather obscure terminology to the general reader, this is a pleasant feature, since non-specialists often find onomastic studies daunting in the extreme when it comes to

analysis at such a high level of scholarship.

For the professional onomastician, however, such a methodical and painstaking treatment of the material is, these days, a vital factor in the production of a regional volume on place-names such as this is. Dr. Fellows-Jensen, as a product of that brilliant and productive school of place-name scholars which sat at the feet of the late Prof. A.H. Smith, maintains the highest professional standards with this volume. If place-name studies at this level are to succeed, the methodology must be sound, the scholar's linguistic background must be based on a good knowledge of several languages (some of them dead) and there must be a clear perception of history. In other words, the onomastician must draw together several specialities, all of them complex and some extremely obscure. It is no surprise that the true scholar of onomastics is such a rare creature.

Ian A. Fraser.

***The Orkney Story*, Liv Kjörsvik Schei & Gunnie Moberg: Batsford, London (1985), 224 pp. Innumerable B. & W. illustrations and 13 colour plates. Price £12.50.**

***The Prehistory of Orkney, B.C. 4000-1000 A.D.* edited by Colin Renfrew; EUP (1985), 304 pp. Innumerable B. & W. illustrations and 25 colour plates. Price £20.00.**

***Earl, Saint, Bishop, Skald – and Music. (The Orkney Earldom of the Twelfth Century. A Musicological Study)*, Ingrid De Geer; Doctoral Dissertation of the Institute of Musicology, Uppsala University (1985), 333 pp. Line Drawings. Price ?**

These three books, each of them – as I know – the fruit of years of labour, show the continuing enormous appeal of the history, antiquities and culture of the Orkney Islands for outsiders. The Orcadians must be a little mazed, if not gratified to see more books about the prehistory and history of their islands pouring out of the publishing houses. The first two of course are commercial ventures, the last is not. All are very different and all, in their way, well worth