

unfortunately, they depart from their usual cautious stance in their interpretation of the name Mousa as 'bird island' and in other attempts at explaining the meaning of place-names.

The section of the book which refers to the period of Norse settlement is limited, as the writers point out at the beginning, by the existence of a separate publication on the Norse site at Jarlshof. It is unfortunate that such a significant period in Shetland's history should not have received more extensive coverage and there is a general sense of imbalance in the volume, resulting from the artificial limitations imposed upon the writers by their remit. The latter part of the book, however, seems to gel more effectively and visitors to Munes and Scalloway Castles will certainly find the book a useful guide. The section dealing with Fort Charlotte in Lerwick is also accurate and informative.

The book ends with some atmospheric photography and with suggestions for further reading which the visitor who wishes to find out more about the islands should enjoy.

Doreen Waugh

NORNA-RAPPORTER 45: *Analogi I Navngivning*, eds. Gordon Alboge, Eva Villarsen Meldgaard and Lis Weise (Uppsala, 1991), 244 pp.

(NORNA-forlaget, St Johannesgatan 11, S-752 21 Uppsala, Sweden.)

The papers in NORNA-RAPPORTER 45 were presented at the 10th Nordic Congress of Onomastics which was organised by The Institute for Name Research in Copenhagen. The theme of the Congress was 'Analogy in Naming' and the volume contains papers on a variety of names in several different countries. Of particular interest to the Scottish reader is the paper by Gillian Fellows-Jensen entitled '*Nordiske spor i det skotske lavland?*' (Traces of Scandinavian Settlement in the Central Lowlands of Scotland?) and the paper by W.F.H. Nicolaisen entitled 'Scottish Analogues of Scandinavian Place-Names'. Fellows-Jensen considers the numerous parallels between Scandinavian names in the Central Lowlands of Scotland and those in the English Danelaw and this theme of parallels of naming recurs throughout the volume, as one might expect. Nicolaisen, in fact, defines the term 'analogy' as 'Partial resemblance created through the imitation of models or patterns' and he goes on to establish the main principles which he believes to be at work in the naming of places in *Scotia Scandinavica*, when, as he says, 'viewed under the aspect of analogy'. His theories, as always, give plenty of food for thought and analogies spring to mind from every nook and cranny of the country or the map, supporting his belief that 'analogy is the driving force which powers naming, name and what is named'.

The above articles are largely concerned with place-names but personal names also feature. The article by Gulbrand Alhaug, who analyses nineteenth- and twentieth-century Norwegian feminine names and compares new women's names ending in -y with similar names in Old Norse and English, highlights the significance of 'fashion' in the creation of personal names and the same is, of course, true of Scottish naming. Our national newspapers periodically publish lists of personal names which are in vogue and the force of analogy is often clearly visible in these lists. Personal names in literature are similarly subject to the influence of analogy and, as Karen Thuesen points out in her article entitled '*Folkevisens kvindenavnne: Forbilleder og former*' (Feminine names in the Danish Ballads: models and forms), the 'poetic' names which are found in the medieval Danish ballads seem to suggest German influence. Another article which points to the literary or metaphorical quality in naming is an interesting study, by Rob Rentenaar, entitled '*Navnemønstre I Nordvesteuropas litorale toponymi*' (Name-patterns in the littoral toponymy of North-West Europe).

Many of the remaining articles consider the effect of analogy on the form of place-names and are of particular interest to place-name scholars but readers from other academic disciplines would also find translation rewarding. There are summaries at the end of each article in either English or, less frequently, German, to assist the reader. The volume, and the series of which it is a part, is to be warmly recommended.

Doreen Waugh

***A Salmon for the Schoolhouse – A Nairnshire Parish in the Nineteenth Century*, edited by John Love and Brenda McMullen, Canongate Press (Edinburgh, 1994), 151 pp., 13 b/w plates, £8.99 pbk.**

This book is No. 3 in *Sources of Local History*, a series of studies sponsored by the *European Ethnological Research Centre* and is the edited nineteenth-century diaries of Robert and Elsie Thomson.

Robert seems to have kept a diary from his early days, but Elsie only started hers in 1882 and this complements her husband's account of school, kirk and family life in the rural hinterland of Nairn. Ardclach parish was certainly rural, but it was no backwater, and was neither isolated from nor ignorant of happenings in the wider world.

Some years before Robert Thomson was appointed as dominie at Ardclach, the clear pure voice of Jenny Lind, the Swedish nightingale, had been heard in the little kirk, accompanying the precentor as he led the congregation in their Sabbath praise. There were visitors from Canada and Australia and the local newspapers then carried national and international news.

Robert came from Aberdeen and taught at Cawdor before being appointed to the state or public school at Ardclach in 1874. Rural depopulation, as evident then as now, led to the closure of Ardclach and Robert and Elsie moved 1km across the Findhorn to Ferness. There they remained until 1900. Elsie died in 1901 and Robert in 1923. Robert was predeceased by his son, a distinguished doctor, who died in 1915. Father, mother and son all lie together in Uddingston, far from the Findhorn they all knew and loved.

Robert was a keen and competent naturalist and was the author of *The Natural History of a Highland Parish*, a book still used as a reference. His diary is filled with descriptions of animals, insects and flowers, but Elsie's entries are perhaps more interesting, as she was a shrewd observer of humanity, but was not judgemental in her comments.

Elsie notes how on 20 May 1890 at 10 p.m. a rough-looking stranger came to the door looking for accommodation. After some hesitation 'we gave him our best bedroom'. The stranger tells how he gifted eight sovereigns to the poor of the Free Kirk but was refused shelter. He then gave the established minister a like sum but was again refused accommodation. Over supper the stranger revealed that he was a graduate of King's College, Aberdeen and now a successful Australian bushman. He left a couple of gold sovereigns to give the local bairns a treat. Elsie merely comments 'I was glad that I gave the poor man a bed.'

In addition to the diaries of Robert and Elsie the editors have added an *Essay on the County of Nairn*, submitted by Robert to the Fine Arts and Industrial Exhibition at Nairn in 1884 where it was 'Highly Commended'. The style and content are that of the *New Statistical Account* and is a valuable update on the publication of fifty years earlier.

Also included is the *Arctic Lecture* by Robert Thomson, junior; delivered to the Nairn Literary Institute on 13 October 1886, being an account of Robert's voyage as a ship's surgeon to the Greenland whale fishing on the *Resolute* of Dundee. The *Resolute* was a technologically