

ofer, *ōra*, both terms for distinctively-shaped slopes). Together, these indicate a degree of sophistication in the organisation of early medieval transport that might otherwise be underestimated. Indeed, one can think of other terms not studied by Cole which may offer further insight into Anglo-Saxon travel: what about military look-outs (e.g. *tōt-ærn*) charged with keeping watch over routeways, or terms associated with the long-distance salt trade and indicative of ‘saltways’ (e.g. *salt(ere)-ford*)?

These discussions culminate in two synthetic chapters (9 and 10: 76–92, 93–108) in which Cole uses the place-names to reconstruct a national early medieval routeway map (very poorly reproduced at the end of the book, although thankfully now also available to download from the publisher’s website). Nevertheless, one cannot help noticing the huge gaps on the map where evidence is either poor or lacking, as well as the tentative nature of the findings, as expressed in the frequent use of the word ‘possible’ in the map key. What this tells us is, firstly, that absence of place-name evidence does not necessarily indicate absence of a viable routeway on the ground, and, secondly, that place-names alone are not enough to usefully reconstruct the early medieval routeway network. Admittedly, Cole does make passing reference to pottery and coins in Chapter 10, but it is perhaps a shame that study of the place-names was not fully integrated with other forms of evidence, notably archaeology, from the outset. Nevertheless, the book does make a useful early contribution to a subject that has hitherto been neglected by scholars and certainly deserves future academic attention.

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Lars-Erik Edlund and Elsbjeta Strzelecka (eds), *Mellannorrland i centrum*, new edn (Umeå: Kungl. Skytteanska samfundet, 2017). ISBN 978 9 186438 58 6. Paperback, 371 pp. 150 SEK. [Swedish]

This extensive volume contains twenty-six articles about linguistic and historical matters, published as a *festschrift* dedicated to Eva Nyman, retiring professor in Scandinavian languages at Mittuniversitetet, Sweden. A thematic focus is conveyed through the title: *Mellannorrland* here refers loosely to a geographic area at the centre of Scandinavia where Nyman has both taught and conducted studies herself. As she is a keen onomast, it is no surprise that several contributions to this book deal with place-names.

Harald Bjorvand discusses the mountain name Hårteigen (27–31) and proposes a possible connection to Old Norse *hárr* ‘grey’ or ON *hór*, *hár* ‘high’ for the first element, obviously referring to the perceived colour or size of the mountain. He interprets the second element as ON *teign*, meaning ‘one that shows the way’. Another mountain name presented is Sonfjället in Härjedalen, Sweden (49–57). Svante Strandberg relates the first element to the root in ON *siódha* ‘to simmer’, and discusses how a verb usually found in hydronyms could have ended up in the mountains.

Both Bent Jørgensen and Lennart Elmevik respectively provide more theoretical texts, the former about plurality in Danish place-names (33–40) debating the relationship between a place-name’s grammatical plurality and the denoted area’s actual plurality. Elmevik makes a statement regarding place-name elements such as *-vin*, *-lösa*, *-staðir*, *-tomta* and *-ryd*, and their function as primarily denoting settlements (41–47).

Olof Holm and Per Vikstrand both contribute articles regarding specific names in the area of Jämtland. Holm rejects the previous interpretation of Andersön, the name of an island in the midst of a pre-Christian context with the seemingly anachronistic man’s name *Anders* as first element (59–68). Instead, he connects it to ON *undorn* ‘a time between midday and evening’, referring to the sun’s position over this island at that time. Vikstrand similarly rejects previous interpretations which gave Christian connections to the parish names Marby and Marieby (69–72), setting the Virgin Mary aside for ON *margr* ‘many’, which would provide a hint about the size of the original villages.

The four names Bygdeå, Lögdeå, Lögdö and Lidhult are scrutinised in the article by Staffan Fridell (73–82). All four are (wholly or partly) derived from old hydronyms: the first name could be connected to an Old Swedish **byghdha* ‘bend, curve’, and the three latter to an OSw **lyghdh(a)* ‘gloss, shine’.

Lennart Hagåsen suggests that the village name Trösten in Hälsingland previously denoted a large rock still present today (83–96), the first element possibly connected to OSw *þrotter* ‘tired’, or a man’s name *Protte* (corresponding to ON *þróttir* ‘power, strength’).

Ulf Lundström provides an article about the name element *stav* ‘cliff’, and how it is not to be confused with the element *stavar* ‘small spruces’ (97–116), while the theme of Lars-Erik Edlund’s piece is eponymised place-names and their application to new settlements (117–29). He dives into the historical background of a few examples – especially the name Tusculum. Finally, Daniel Andersson’s focus is on the visibility of place-

names in minority languages (131–42). His important text discusses the possible functions of place-names in complex linguistic landscapes.

A few other articles touch on closely-related subjects such as possible personal names on a runestone (M 10), names of ski clubs in Swedish history, or place-names in children's literature. All in all this is a very interesting read for an onomast.

Josefin Devine

Michael Hicks (ed.), *The Later Medieval Inquisitions Post Mortem: Mapping the medieval countryside and rural society* (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2016). ISBN 978 1 783270 79 8. Hardback, xiv + 226 pp., figures, maps, tables, index. £60.00.

This book is the latest in a series of initiatives intended to rehabilitate the inquisitions *post mortem* (IPMs) as a major medieval source that has included publication of new volumes of calendars of IPMs, an earlier collection of papers on the fifteenth-century IPMs and a website <<http://www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk>> which every place-name historian should add to their online reading list.

Three main classes of document were generated. IPMs were summaries and valuations, made at the instigation of the Crown and on the death of tenant-in-chiefs of the king, of the deceased's lands and other fixed assets, such as markets and mills, on each manor. Proofs of Age were statements as to the date of birth and age of the heirs that would determine whether they were old enough to take immediate possession of their inheritance or should become royal wards. Assignments of Dower were allocations to widows of a third interest in the lands of the deceased. IPMs are of particular interest to historians when accompanied by more detailed extents. For place-name historians, however, Assignments of Dower are the real gold mines. They delve in intimate detail into the names, locations and areas of fields. For a good example, look online for the assignment to Margaret widow of Thomas Ingaldesthorpe that can be found at <<http://www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk/view/inquisition/22-159/>>.

A key figure was the escheator, a royal official who served for just a year in a defined locality that was, by the fifteenth century, generally a county. His job was to seize the deceased's property, convene the inquisition and report back to chancery. Assuming that the heir was of age, the property would then pass to him or her. The sheriff in each county