

BIRGIT EGGERT, BENTE HOLMBERG and BENT JØRGENSEN
(eds.):

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This volume is a report from a symposium on Bornholm under the auspices of NORNA, the Nordic Cooperative Committee for Onomastic Research, with the topic 'Nordic names' centrality and regionality', in other words, onomastic distribution patterns. There are 12 contributions printed in the report, 3 from Finland, 2 from Sweden, and 7 from Denmark, several of them focusing on Bornholm, unsurprisingly, since this was where the conference was held. Articles on place-names clearly dominate; only two-three papers deal more or less with personal names.

Terhi Ainiola is first up with a paper presenting an impressive place-name atlas which covers names in the Finnish language. Ainiola selects a few distribution maps and discusses possible explanations for the patterns observed. The subject areas he touches upon are many; linguistics, onomastic analogy, settlement history, and human and physical geography, and it serves as an initial reminder of how onomastics is a meeting place for many disciplines. Lisbeth Eilersgaard Christensen's ambitious multi-disciplinal task is to relate the 'central place' theory – which was developed in and has been mainly applied to central Sweden – to Denmark. Two thematically close projects are Peder Dam's and Johnny Gøgsig Jakobsen's on medieval Danish clearance settlements and Birgit Eggert's on the distribution on Danish names with the generic *-holt*.

Bente Holmberg shows how certain personal names, such as *Vævest* and *Ødbjørn*, are unique to Bornholm. She then surveys Bornholm's place-names to establish features that are different to names in the rest of Denmark. Unsurprisingly, the name material shows influences from Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany, as well as from Denmark. Bent Jørgensen discusses dissemination and the relationship between centre-periphery and high-low frequency of name elements. Exemplified with the elements *-lev-* and *-tun-* and with modern name material, he demonstrates how the

relationship is not necessarily so simple as previously thought. Antti Leino's article on Finnish lake and hill names discusses methods of computing large collections of names in search of regional variation. Michael Lerche Nielsen contributes to the quite intense Nordic-wide discussion on names with the generic *-torp*, normally associated with the Viking Age. Nielsen establishes that on Bornholm such named settlements are surprisingly late in time, and that we must widen the narrow definition of *-torp*-names that says that they are secondary to older and larger settlements.

Eva Nyman's article on the distribution pattern of four types of derivative place-names from Denmark, Norway and Sweden proves some striking variation. Names with *-s-* derivation show an almost wholly west Scandinavian distribution, *-str-* is almost absent in Denmark while *-n-* and *-und-* are quite evenly distributed. Nyman further reflects on what would have influenced the dissemination of derivative elements and indicates factors which are mostly geographical and historical in nature. Ola Svensson makes use of names in Scania indicating jurisdiction to establish the exact locations for local assemblies (*ting*) and execution (*galge* and *stegel*). Svensson's method is exemplary and his results are intriguing. Susanne Vogt, the last one out, shows how old and modern censuses are central to research on the dissemination and distribution of personal names, illustrated with the unusual female name *Alborg* and its narrow distribution to eastern Zealand.

Gunilla Harling-Kranck's article on cover-names on locations used for illicit distillation of alcohol and some names used in warfare is enjoyable, although the subject matter can hardly be said to fit in with the theme of the report. Nevertheless, the overall impression is an interesting, relevant and nicely produced volume.

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