_____

The quotation of name-forms in Anglo-Saxon charters

A. R. Rumble (pp. 3–5)

_____

This article is from the *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, an annual peer-reviewed journal issued free to members of the Society. The *Journal* welcomes contributions of articles and notes on subjects of relevance to English place-names.

The English Place-Name Society (EPNS) was established in 1923 to conduct a county-by-county survey of the place-names of England. To date, the Survey has produced more than 90 volumes. Almost all English counties have been surveyed, at least in part, and work to complete the Survey is ongoing. The Survey is used by researchers, academics, and those interested in the origins, meaning, and significance of English place-names.

The research work and the publication of the Survey are financed by the annual subscriptions of members of the Society, with the help of grants from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy. Since the progress and success of the Survey depend largely upon the strength of the membership, the Society always welcomes new members, both personal and institutional.

In return for the annual subscription, members receive free of charge the current issue of the *Journal* as well as the volume of the Survey allocated to that year's subscription. They are entitled to order, in addition, any available volume of the Survey at a concessionary price. Associate Members pay a reduced subscription, for which they receive the *Journal*.

Annual subscription prices (correct as of August 2022):

Within the UK	**Outside the UK**	
£40 (full)	£45 (full)*	
£15 (associate)	£18 (associate*	*increased prices reflect increased postage cost.

For further details or to join the Society, please contact:

Mrs Christine Hickling
English Place-Name Society
School of English
The University of Nottingham
NG7 2RD

Tel: 0115 951 5919
Email: name-studies@nottingham.ac.uk

ABBREVIATIONS OF COUNTIES AND EPNS COUNTY SURVEYS

Co	Cornwall
Ha	Hampshire
He	Herefordshire
K	Kent
La	Lancashire
Nb	Northumberland
Sf	Suffolk
So	Somerset
Wt	Isle of Wight

CPNE	*Cornish Place-Name Elements*.
EPNE	*English Place-Name Elements*, Parts **1** and **2**.
PN BdHu	*The Place-Names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire*.
PN Brk	*The Place-Names of Berkshire*, Parts **1**, **2** and **3**.
PN Bu	*The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire*.
PN Ca	*The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely*.
PN Ch	*The Place-Names of Cheshire*, Parts **1**–**5**.
PN Cu	*The Place-Names of Cumberland*, Parts **1**, **2** and **3**.
PN D	*The Place-Names of Devon*, Parts **1** and **2**.
PN Db	*The Place-Names of Derbyshire*, Parts **1**, **2** and **3**.
PN Do	*The Place-Names of Dorset*, Parts **1**–**4**.
PN Du	*The Place-Names of County Durham*, Part **1**.
PN Ess	*The Place-Names of Essex*.
PN ERY	*The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York*.
PN Gl	*The Place-Names of Gloucestershire*, Parts **1**–**4**.
PN Hrt	*The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*.
PN Le	*The Place-Names of Leicestershire*, Parts **1**–**7**.
PN Li	*The Place-Names of Lincolnshire*, Parts **1**–**7**.
PN Mx	*The Place-Names of Middlesex* (apart from the *City of London*).
PN Nf	*The Place-Names of Norfolk*, Parts **1**–**3**.
PN Nt	*The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire*.
PN NRY	*The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire*.
PN Nth	*The Place-Names of Northamptonshire*.
PN O	*The Place-Names of Oxfordshire*, Parts **1** and **2**.
PN R	*The Place-Names of Rutland*.
PN Sa	*The Place-Names of Shropshire*, Parts **1**–**9**.
PN Sr	*The Place-Names of Surrey*.
PN St	*The Place-Names of Staffordshire*, Part **1**.
PN Sx	*The Place-Names of Sussex*, Parts **1** and **2**.
PN W	*The Place-Names of Wiltshire*.
PN Wa	*The Place-Names of Warwickshire*.
PN We	*The Place-Names of Westmorland*, Parts **1** and **2**.
PN Wo	*The Place-Names of Worcestershire*.
PN WRY	*The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire*, Parts **1**–**8**.

THE QUOTATION OF NAME-FORMS IN ANGLO-SAXON CHARTERS

The recent publication of P. H. Sawyer, *Anglo-Saxon Charters, an annotated list and bibliography*[1] has provided researchers with a unique and comprehensive guide to the location and bibliography of the surviving pre-Conquest administrative texts broadly termed 'Anglo-Saxon charters' and indirectly has caused an increased awareness amongst their users of the many inaccuracies to be found in the standard editions of such documents. Since accuracy of textual quotation and accuracy of reference to such quotation are two of the cornerstones of scholarship any aid to such virtues is to be welcomed and made use of. An attempt has therefore been made below, drawing on Sawyer *op. cit.*, to devise a new and more accurate system of usage for such sources for quotation in future E.P-N.S. volumes.

The traditional system of reference used in E.P-N.S. volumes:

Hitherto the editors of E.P-N.S. volumes have referred to the printed (and sometimes manuscript) texts of charters by the use of BCS and KCD numbers[2], and have employed the simple references ASWills, ASWrits, ASCharters and EHD (without numbers) for wills writs and other vernacular documents[3] when citing the source of spellings found in such texts. These references were the best available before the publication of Sawyer's list but now remain legitimate *only so long as they mean that the spellings quoted are to be found in the printed edition so cited* (as in 1 and 2 below) Whenever the relevant manuscript behind the printed edition has been consulted and has been found to contain a different reading to that given in the printed text then this system of reference has been found to break down - for were the correct spelling, as found in the manuscript, to be given in the E.P-N.S. volume accompanied by a reference to the printed edition (BCS etc.) this would be both inaccurate and confusing since that spelling does not actually occur in the edition cited.

1. *Royal Historical Society, Guide No. 8* (London 1968).
2. Respectively, W.de G. Birch, *Cartularium Saxonicum* (3 vols. and index London 1885-99) and J. M. Kemble, *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici* (6 vols., London 1839-48).
3. D. Whitelock, *Anglo-Saxon Wills* (Cambridge 1930), F. E. Harmer, *Anglo-Saxon Writs* (Manchester 1952), A. J. Robertson, *Anglo-Saxon Charters* (2nd. ed. Cambridge 1952) and Harmer, *Select English Historical Documents of the Ninth and Tenth Centuries* (Cambridge 1914).

It is hoped that inaccuracies such as the above can now be minimised by the use of a more comprehensive reference system which makes it clear which edition or which manuscript of a particular document is the source of the name-form being quoted. At the same time it has been thought advisable for the sake of greater textual accuracy to stop using all but the best of the printed editions of Anglo-Saxon charters as a source of name-forms and to work in most cases from the manuscripts themselves.

The new system of quotation[4]:

1. Since BCS and KCD have been found not to be sufficiently accurate editions to use as the regular source of place-name spellings from Anglo-Saxon charters it is necessary *wherever possible* to use the manuscripts of such documents at first hand (or at least facsimilies of them) in preference to these editions. *BCS and KCD reference numbers on their own should thus be reserved for the rare occasions where for some reason these editions have been used in place of the actual manuscripts.* This practice will limit the use of the abbreviations BCS and KCD to their proper function as references denoting printed sources.

2. The only printed editions of Anglo-Saxon charters accurate enough to be used *per se* (until the new edition being prepared for the British Academy is completed) are ASWills, ASWrits, ASCharters and EHD. With these the usage will be as at present, e.g.

    Mersetham 1042-1066(11) ASCharters

3. Where spellings are quoted direct from a manuscript then the latter will be referred to by its own source abbreviation (*Cott.* etc.) followed by the S (Sawyer) number in brackets (including also the Sawyer manuscript-number where more than one manuscript of the charter exists), e.g:

    æt Mearsætham 947 *Cott.* (S 528(1))

    Mestham 967(13) *ChertseyB* (S 752)

These detailed references allow the detection of characteristic

---

4. To be employed in volumes of the Survey beginning with *The Place-Names of Dorset* ed. A. D. Mills.

4

cartulary spelling-changes, as well as the identification of the actual transaction which caused the name to be recorded (summarised in Sawyer).

If the BCS or KCD edition has come to give a particular transaction a reputation then it also may be added to the above, but in a subordinate position, e.g.

æt *Mearsætham* 947 *Cott.* (S 528(1), BCS 820)

4. Where a spelling is quoted from a facsimile then usage will be as in (3) above with the facsimile reference replacing the manuscript source-abbreviation, e.g.

æt *Mearsætham* 947 BMFacs (S 528(1))

5. Where a transaction recorded by charter, will, writ etc. is referred to in a prose context (for example in the *Introduction* to a volume) it will be given its S (Sawyer) number with the actual text consulted put in brackets following, e.g.

S 528 (ex MS 1) *or* S 528 (ex BCS 820) *or*

S 1047 (ex ASCharters 95)

A. R. RUMBLE