

Review Article.

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K.S.B. Keats-Rohan and David E. Thornton, *Domesday Names: An Index of Latin Personal and Place Names in Domesday Book* (Woodbridge, 1997). ISBN 0-85115-429-8.

Domesday Names is the first-fruit of the COEL project (Continental Origins of English Landowners 1066-1166), directed by Dr. Keats-Rohan. It 'comprises three indexes to Domesday Book; two Indices Personarum and one Index Locorum'. The first lists 'all references to persons' whether 'named individuals, or title-holders, or "institutions"'; the second 'all persons alphabetically under their surname'; the third 'all place-names in Domesday, except cases where the place is linked to an institution.' The Project is avowedly concerned with 'the non-English people named in Domesday Book', but these indices do in fact include English landholders, both pre- and post-Conquest. References are given to Abraham Farley's Record Commission text, which, since Farley followed the layout of the Domesday manuscript itself, means that Domesday Names can be used with the facsimile edition of 1986.¹ References are also provided to the individual county volumes published, with translations and notes, by Phillimore; since these references are to the actual entries (as opposed to the folio numbers), this makes for immediate access to the text itself.

Indexing Domesday Book is (as the present reviewer knows to her cost) a thankless task. The aim of the Domesday scribe was, as the late Cecily Clark showed, 'to Latinize as thoroughly as possible every item that could be Latinized'; the problem as usual, is that he did not Latinize consistently.² The same person may therefore appear in a number of different guises; to take one well-known landholder, as comes moriton, comes moritonie, comes moritoniensis, comes moritonii, comes de moritonio (and these instances omit abbreviated forms). If the king's half-brother received such disparate treatment, lesser men stood no chance.

Since this is an index to the Latin text of Domesday Book (including Little Domesday), such problems must be born in mind by all those wishing to use this book. Like most indices to the Latin text, the Index Personarum I is a list of names, not of individuals, and if one is searching for an individual, one must be aware of the different forms in which his or her name can occur. The same, of course, is true of the indices most often used heretofore, those in Sir Henry Ellis' *A general introduction to Domesday Book* of 1833. Though reprinted in 1971, Ellis' work is now difficult to obtain, and, while a remarkable achievement for its time, it is not exhaustive. One major difference between the two is that Ellis separated pre- from post-Conquest landholders, and post-Conquest undertenants from tenants-in-chief, whereas in Domesday Names all three categories are combined in a continuous sequence. This has the advantage that people who held lands both in 1066 and 1086, or as both under-tenants and tenants-chief, can be searched for in one rather than two (or three) places. Most students, however, will continue to use Ellis as well as Domesday Names, if only because Ellis includes the anonymous *liberi homines*, *taini* and other who are of little or not interest to the database from which Domesday Names is drawn. The same is true of the other guide long used by Domesday scholars, Olof von Feilitzen's Pre-

Conquest personal names of Domesday Book (Uppsala, 1937). This (like Ellis) is out of print and difficult of access, and has obviously a more limited range than Domesday Names; it also presents problems of its own, to which C.P. Lewis has recently drawn attention.³ Nevertheless, students of English Families will wish to use Domesday Names as well rather than instead of von Feilitzen.

As well as the main index, Domesday Names provides a separate list of surnames, which in Ellis are incorporated into the general sequences. It would perhaps be pedantic to object that the term 'surname' is premature at this date, but the index is in fact one of by-names, mostly toponymics, patronymics and nicknames. Some occupational names are also included, though it is difficult to see on what principle this is done. The omission of the most common ones (vivecomes, for example) is understandable, but it is difficult to see why (for instance) berchenist(r) (bur-cniht) is included but not camerarius, arcarius but not arbalistarius, pincerna and marescal but not dapifer, venator but not accipitrarius. Nevertheless the bringing together of (for instance) all those described as cild enables one to see at a glance the main concentrations of such names, without the labour of trawling through the Domesday text, or the cross-references in Ellis.

The final index, the place-names, is perhaps the most difficult. Domesday does not, of course, list actual settlements on the ground, and the place-names often refer to manors of villas rather than villages. No attempt is made here to identify the places named, though the use of the Phillimore references gives the relevant county, and hundred names are indicated in the text. If it is hard to identify individual people through the multiplicity of Domesday's name-forms, the same is true in spades of individual places, whether villas, manors or settlements. At the very least, the index provides an epitome of what Latin forms the Domesday scribe thought suitable for the indigenous place-names of England

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this book is as a taster for what is to come. The COEL project is eagerly awaited, both by those able to use its database on their computers, and those of us still stuck in the stone age of book-learning. Domesday Names, in its comprehensive coverage, clear layout, and ease of reference, is not only a worthy addition to the corpus of indices which help to make Domesday Book accessible but also bodes well for the prosopographical volumes which are to follow on the continental families who, in the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries, made England their home.

NOTES

¹ R.W.H. Erskine ed., *Great Domesday: A Facsimile Edition* (London, 1986).

² "Domesday Book – A Great Red Herring: Thoughts On Some Late-Eleventh-Century Orthographies", *England in the Eleventh Century*, ed. C. Hicks (Stamford, 1992), p. 320.

³ "Joining the Dots: A Methodology for Identifying the English in Domesday Book", *Family Trees And the Roots of Politics*, ed. K.S.B. Keats-Rohan (Woodbridge, 1997), pp. 69-88.