Vocabulary Acquisition—English Place-Names: Britain, England and UK (1)

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要　旨

　各品詞に関する語彙研究（語彙変遷史を含む）は，かなりの高レベルで，且つかなりの速さでこれまで進められてきた。それに付随して，英語教育上，語彙習得のための学習方法や，その教材も開発されてきた。語彙研究，語彙習得の両面で，名詞に関してこれまで置き去りにされてきたのがPlace-Names（地名）である。これは，McKnight (1923) が指摘するところでもある。教える側の地名に関する情報不足（つまり研究不足）が原因なのかもしれないし，それ故に地名に関する教材があまり存在しないということになっているのかもしれない。しかし，近年本格的な地名研究が長きに亘ってなされ，その成果が次々と出版されている。その任に当たってきたのは English Place-Name Society であり，1923年に第 1 巻を出版して以来，私が知るところでは最新の第90巻は2014年に出版されている。今ではこの成果に基づいて地名研究が盛んになっている。本論考では，そのような深淵で，最新の成果を紹介しつつ，英国の国名，都市名などについて歴史的・社会的背景と関連付けて物語風に描くことによって，地名研究の醍醐味と地名教授法，教材の一例を提案するものである。本論は国名 Britain, England 及び UK について考究するものであるが，紙面の都合上，二分割して Britain と England について先ず論ずる。本稿の結論と教材の見本は，「言語と文化」第38号に投稿予定の，"The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" に関する論考の終わりの部分で合わせて記述する。

Introduction: A Brief Survey of Researches into Place-Names

As early as 1768 the first edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published and it includes accounts on countries, cities, and towns, but they are far from the results of detailed and meticulous researches into place-names. William Dwight Whitney compiled and published the *Century Dictionary* (1889), and its Volume 9 is entitled "Proper Names". It is highly probable that this is the first big dictionary that is concerned with proper names (personal names and place-names), and it must be stated that each account is encyclopedic as its subtitle, "an Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language", shows. However, this dictionary may be regarded as epoch-making, because, in most English dictionaries, as in the *Oxford English Dictionary* (1ˢᵗ ed. 1928), a place-name was not a matter of compilers' concern. *A Topographical Dictionary of England*, comprising five volumes, had been published by Samuel Lewis in 1881, and it includes descriptions of origin, etymology and historical summary as well as topographical matters of cities, boroughs, corporate towns and market towns.

Even after the establishment of the English Place-Names Society (EPNS hereafter) in 1923 and the publication of its first fruit as the county survey of Buckinghamshire in 1925, the study of place-names was considered to be behind those of other kinds of nouns and parts of speech. This can be illustrated by McKnight's statement that "the study of English place-names has lagged far behind that of other elements in the English vocabulary", which, in the chapter entitled "Place-Names", is followed by a comment that "indeed, the scientific study in this direction may be said to have begun only about twenty years ago".[1] On the other hand, the EPNS has made steady efforts, and its publication reached Volume 90 (Leicestershire Part VI) in 2014, its research still being on the way. It is stated in Mawer, et al. (1993, p. ii) that "the English Place-Name Society was founded in 1923 to carry out the survey of English place-names and to issue annual volumes to members who subscribe to the work of the Society". It is particularly

noticeable that Watson published the *Celtic Place-Names of Scotland* in 1926, and it was reprinted in 2011. Masta's *Abenaki Indian Legends, Grammar and Place Names* (first published in 1932, reprinted in 2008) is also noteworthy as a research in place-names apart from those of England. Accelerated by such a current trend in the study of place-names as the EPNS represents, Eilert Ekwall compiled and published *Street-Names of the City of London* (1954), and the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 4th edition (1960), which was followed by the publication of Kenneth Cameron, *English Place-Names* (1961).

In the twenty-first century, the place-name study has gained momentum, which has resulted in further publications on English place-names, such as Mills' *Dictionary of London Place-Names* (2004), Johnston's *The Place-Names of England and Wales* (2011), Taggart's *The Book of London Place Names* (2012), and Howorth's *A-Z of Lancaster: Places-People-History* (2017). Lee's *The Place Names of Cumbria* (1998) can be counted among the works exemplified above.

As works on Irish place-name studies, which will not be discussed in this article, may be introduced the following publications; Flanagan's *Irish Place Names* (2002), Toner's *Place-Names of Northern Ireland: Volume One, County Down I* (1992), and Mac Gabhan's *Place-Names of Northern Ireland: Volume 7, County Antrim II: Ballycastle and North-East Antrim* (1997).

Although Hawaiian place-names and those originating from American Indian languages are of very absorbing and academic interest, I would like to express my apologies for the omission of those place-names from the present discussion. In the near future I would like to treat them. A simplified list of illustration of those works is as follows; Pukui's *Place Names of Hawaii* (1874), Fitzpatrick's *Nebraska Place-Names* (1960), Harder's *Illustrated Dictionary of Place Names* (1985), Romig's *Michigan Place Names: The History of the Founding and the Naming of More Than Five Thousand Past and Present Michigan Communities*, Great Lakes Books Series (1986), Foscue's *Place Names in Alabama* (1988), Stewart's *Names on the Land: A Historical Account of Place-Naming in the United States*, New York Review Books Classics (2008), Ireland's *Place Names of the Jersey Shore: Why Did They Name It That?* (2010), Hayes' *Historical Atlas of Washington and Oregon* (2011), Callary's *Place Names of Wisconsin* (2016).

The aims of this research is firstly to introduce the works on English place-names at academically high level and carry out various procedures adopted in those works in order

to bring out etymological truth and semasiological development influenced by socio/ historical background. Secondly the fruit of the research is also aimed to contribute to teaching English place-names—each place-name within a given context will be shown as an example of teaching material of the place-name. A passage with teaching materials will be illustrated within a frame of dotted lines as a sample text for reading.

1.　Britain, England, and UK

The Japanese learners of English often fail to make a clear distinction among those three terms, "Britain", "England" and "UK". It is necessary for the learners to attain appropriate knowledge of those terms since misunderstanding in their employment may cause communications gap. This is the former part of an article treating "Britain", "England" and "UK". A conclusive remark and an example of teaching material of this account will be given at the end of the latter part, which will be contributed to *Language and Culture*, No. 38.

1.1.　The Definition and Etymology of 'Britain'

'Britain' is "the proper name of the whole island containing England, Wales, and Scotland, with their dependencies; more fully called Great Britain".[2] A story centering on the name is interesting from the semasiological point of view; the *OED* includes the following statement:[3]

> After the OE. period, *Britain* was used only as a historical term, until about the time of Henry VIII and Edward VI, when it came again into practical politics in connexion with the efforts made to unite England and Scotland; in 1604 James I was proclaimed 'King of Great Britain'; and this name was adopted for the United Kingdom, at the Union in 1707. After that event, *South Britain* and *North Britain* are frequent in Acts of Parl. for England and Scotland respectively: the latter is still in occasional (chiefly postal) use. (So *West Britain*, humorously or polemically for 'Ireland'.) Greater Britain is a modern rhetorical phrase for 'Great Britain and the colonies', 'the British Empire', brought into vogue in 1868.

The origin of this term is traced back to the Romans. The Romans called the

inhabitants of Britain 'Britto' (a native of Britain, Briton), and the land they inhabited was called 'Brit(t)annia'. The Britons were the Celtic people who moved from the Continent to the island from 600 B.C. through 100 B.C. by three stages. It is proposed that those early Britons "undoubtedly mixed with aborigines who spoke non-Indo-European language".[4] The majority of the Britons were probably Cymric, or Welsh, Celts, and the basic significance of the name 'Britto', as its Welsh variant 'Brython' apparently suggests, is "the tumultuous, hence warriors".[5] Britannia is also the name of a female figure symbolic of Britain used emblematically on coins and book covers, etc., usually shown sitting down wearing a helmet and holding a Shield and a trident, which is a long weapon with three points.

1.1.1.   Instances of the Latin Word 'Britannia'

As is always the procedure of academic arguments, illustrations should be quoted to prove the occurrence of the terms. The following passage is cited from *Gallic War* (58–50 B.C.) written by Julius Caesar (100–44 B.C.)—boldfaces are mine hereafter:[6]

> Exigua parte aestatis reliqua Caesar, etsi in his locis, quod omnis Gallia ad septentriones vergit, maturae sunt hiemes, tamen in **Britanniam** proficisci contendit, quod omnibus fere Gallicis bellis hostibus nostris inde sumministrata auxilia intellegebat …
>
> [Only a small part of the summer was left, and in these regions, as all Gaul has a northerly aspect, the winters are early; but for all this Caesar was intent upon starting for **Britain**. He understood that in almost all the Gallic campaigns succours had been furnished for our enemy from that quarter …]   (Book IV, Section 20)

In the above passage, the term "Britannia" occurs as 'Britanniam', the accusative singular form. Gildas (*c*. 516–570) was a British monk, historian and Saint, whose work entitled *De Excidio Britonum* (*a*. 547) is the oldest British history, which dealt with events that occurred from the invasion of the Romans until his own age. A passage quoted from the work reads as follows:[7]

> **Brittannia insula** in extremo ferme orbis limite circium occidentemque … quae arcuatis oceani sinibus ambiuntur, tenens, cuius diffusiore et, ut ita dicam, intransmeabili undique circulo absque meridianae freto plagae, quo ad Galliam

Belgicam navigatur, vallata, duorum ostiis nobilium fluminum Tamesis ac Sabrinae veluti brachiis, per quae eidem olim transmarinae deliciae ratibus vehebantur, aliorumque minorum meliorata, bis denis bisque quaternis civitatibus ac nonnullis castellis, murorum turrium serratarum portarum domorum, quarum culmina minaci proceritate porrecta in edito forti compage pangebantur, munitionibus non improbabiliter instructis decorata …

[**The island of Britain** lies virtually at the end of the world, towards the west and north-west…. It is fortified on all sides by a vast and more or less uncrossable ring of sea, apart from the straits on the south where one can cross to Belgic Gaul; but it has the benefit of the estuaries of a number of streams, and especially two splendid rivers, the Thames and the Severn, arms of the sea along which luxuries from overseas used to be brought by ship. It is ornamented with twenty eight cities and a number of castles, and well equipped with fortifications—walls, castellated towers, gates and houses, whose sturdily built roofs reared menacingly skyward….]

(Chapter 2)

Here the term occurs in the nominative form, 'Brittannia', and 'insula' (island) is employed appositionally with 'Brittannia'. Gildas provides a vivid topographical description of Britain. The paragraph is followed by an expression of the island of Britain compared to "a chosen bride arrayed in a variety of jewellery",[8] which indicates wide plains decorated with flowers of different hues and "agreeably set hills, excellent for vigorous agriculture, and mountains especially suited to varying the pasture for animals".[9] Another quotation from Latin authors will suffice to illustrate 'Brittannia', the Latin form of Britain. The Venerable Bede (672 or 673–735), the father of English history, must be referred to. He was an Anglo-Saxon monk, historian, and theologian. He is famous for his *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum* (The Ecclesiastical History of the English People, dat. 731), one paragraph of which is as follows:[10]

Haec in praesenti iuxta numerum Librorum quibus lex diuina scripta est, quinque gentium linguis … Anglorum uidelicet **Brettonum** Scottorum Pictorum et Latinorum, quae meditatione scripturarum ceteris omnibus est facta communis. In primis autem insula **Brettones** solum, a quibus nomen accepit, incolas habuit; qui de tractu Armoricano, ut fertur, **Brittaniam** aduecti australes sibi partes illius

uindicarunt.

[At the present time, there are five languages in Britain, just as the divine law is written in five books, … These are the English, **British**, Irish, Pictish, as well as the Latin languages; through the study of the scriptures, Latin is in general use among them all. To begin with, the inhabitants of the island were all **Britons**, from whom it receives its name; they sailed to Britain, so it is said, from the land of Armorica, and appropriated to themselves the southern part of it.]   (Book I, Chapter 1)

Here occur two forms or words in relation to Britain. One is 'Brettonum' and 'Brettones', the genitive plural masculine form and the nominative plural masculine form of 'Bretto', respectively, meaning "a native of Britain", but in those days its signification was limited to "a native of Wales". The other is 'Brittaniam', the accusative singular form of a feminine noun 'Brittania', which refers to "Britain" in a wider sense. Bede offers an etymological explanation that "Brittania", the name of the island, originated from 'Brettones', the (Welsh) natives of Britain. It should be noted that there is a difference in the stem vowel of these words, 'i' in 'Brittania', the name of the country, and 'e' in 'Bretto', the name of the natives of the country. Bede further remarks that the (Welsh) Britons sailed from Armorica, "a district lying along the north-west coast of Gaul from the Seine to the Loire", maybe a narrower corner of the country, modern Brittany.[11] According to the above passage, those Britons were the first to inhabit Britain, more accurately the southern part of the country. Hibernia or Scottia, meaning Ireland, was already inhabited by 'Scotti', the Irish people. The Britons were followed by 'Picti', the Picts, who occupied the northern part of Britain, and then by 'Scotti', the Irish, who won lands among the Picts, and their settlement was called the kingdom of 'Dalriada'.

1.1.2. Instances of the OE Words 'Britten', 'Brittisc', 'Brytt', 'weal(h)', and 'Wilsc'

The MSS D, E, F, and C of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* include an abridged Anglo-Saxon version of the first chapter of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, which begins with the following sentences:[12]

Brittene igland is ehta hund mila lang. 7 twa hund brad. 7 her sind on þis iglande fif ge þeode. Englisc. 7 **Brittisc**. 7 Wilsc.[13] 7 Scyttisc. 7 Pyhtisc. 7 Boc Leden.[14] Erest weron bugend þises landes **Brittes**. þa coman of Armenia. 7 ge sætan suðewearde

Bryttene ærost.

[The island of Britain is eight hundred miles long and two hundred miles broad: and here in this island are five tongues; English, **British**, Scottish, Pictish, and Latin. The first inhabitants of this land were **Britons**; they came from Armenia, and first settled in the south of **Britain**.]　　　　　　　　　　　　　(MS E, Preface)

Three kinds of words related to Britain are employed in the above sentences: they are 'Brittene' or 'Bryttene', genitive singular of a feminine noun 'Britten', meaning "Britain", 'Brittisc(-wilsc)', a noun meaning "British", that is to say, "Welsh", and 'Brittes', a variant of 'Bryttas', nominative plural of a masculine noun 'Brytt', meaning "a Briton". The noun 'Brytt' is usually used in plural. For Britons and British other expressions also occur:[15]

Her sendon **Brytwalas** ofer sæ to Rome. 7 heom fultumes bædon wið Peohtas. ac hi þær nefdon nænne. forþan ðe hi feordodan wið Ætlan Huna cininge. 7 þa sendon hi to Anglu*m*. 7 Angel cynnes æðelingas þes ilcan bædon.
[This year the **Britons** sent over sea to Rome, and begged for help against the Picts; but they had none, because they were themselves warring against Attila, king of the Huns. And then they sent to the Angles, and entreated the like of the ethelings of the Angles.]　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(MS E, 443)

Her Hengest 7 Æsc ge fuhton wið **Walas** neh Wippedes fleote. 7 ðær of slogon. xii. **Wilsce** ealdor men. 7 heora an þegn wearð þær of slegen. þam wæs nama Wipped.
[This year Hengist and Æsc fought against the **Welsh** near Wippidsfleet, [Ebbsfleet?] and there slew twelve **Welsh** ealdormen, and one of their own thanes was slain there, whose name was Wipped.]　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(MS E, 465)

'Brytwalas' is a compound made of 'Bryt-', meaning "British", or "Welsh", and 'walas', nominative plural of 'wal' or 'weal(h)', meaning "Briton", "Welshman", "foreigner" and even "slave". 'Walas' in MS E, 465, is the latter element of 'Brytwala', which has just been explained. 'Wilsce' is the nominative plural masculine form of the adjective 'Wilsc', meaning 'Welsh'. Its variants are 'Wielisc', 'Wælisc', 'Wealisc', and as the stem vowel 'ea' of the last variant form shows, this is a cognate with the noun 'Weal(h)' or 'Wal', which has been discussed above.

1.1.3. Instances of Middle English 'Breteyne' or 'Bretayne'

As quoted above from the *OED*, "Britain" was used in the ME period only as a historical term. Whereas the OE form 'Brit(t)en', with its variants 'Breoton', 'Breoten', 'Breten', points back to a West Germanic '*Brituna', the ME forms 'Bretayne', 'Breteyn(e)', 'Brutaune', 'Bretainge', and 'Brytayne' were reintroduced from Old French 'Bretaigne', which developed from Latin 'Brittannia' or 'Brittānia'.[16] The earliest instance of this word in the ME text is quoted in the *OED* from *Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle*, which is dated 1297:[17]

> And aftur Brut ys owne nome he clepede hit **Breteyne**.
> [And after Brut, his name, he called it **Britain**]
> <div align="right">(*Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle*, p. 22)</div>

> Constance was ys name, he conquerede of Spayne
> þe truage, and of Fraunce, & seþþe here of **Bretayne**.
> [Constance was his name; he acquired tributes from Spain, and from France, and then from **Britain**.]　　(*Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle*, p. 82)

'Breteyne' and 'Bretayne' in the above quotations are the representative forms of this word in the ME period. It is interesting that the author of the chronicle states that 'Britain', the name of the country, originates from 'Brut', the name of a legendary ancestor of the Britons.

1.1.4.　Early Modern English Variants of 'Britain', and the Earliest Instance of the Form 'Britain' (1547)

In the early Modern English period (the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) the forms 'Britan', 'Brytayn', 'Britayn(e)', 'Briteigne', 'Brittaine', 'Britaine', and 'Britain' occurred, but all the forms except 'Britain', a Modern English form, did not survive beyond the seventeenth century. The earliest instance of the form 'Britain' in the *OED* is quoted from Harryson's *An Exhortacion to the Scottes*, dated 1547:[18]

> Y^e names of both subiectes & realmes ceassing, & to be changed into ye name of **Britain** & Britons, as it was at first, & yet stil ought to be.
> [The names of both subjects and kingdoms should cease, and should be changed to

the name of **Britain** and Britons, as it was at first so, and yet still ought to be so.]

What is referred to in the above sentence is the effort made to unite England and Scotland under the name of Britain. The instance of 'Britain' in the *OED* is followed by those of accounts that mention the Metropolis of Great London (dated 1667), union of England and Scotland (dated 1707), North-Britain and South-Britain (dated 1718), Great Britain, that part of the United Kingdom called Great Britain and that part of the United Kingdom called Ireland (dated 1832), and Greater Britain (dated 1868).

1.2.　Movement of the Germanic Tribes, Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy, England

In the year 410, the whole Roman troops that had stationed in Britannia since A.D. 79, obeying the order from the Roman Empire, made a precipitate retreat from Britannia. They were recalled home from all over Europe, because Rome, the eternal city, was now in danger of a fierce attack of the Germanic tribes.

1.2.1.　Vortigern, King of the Britons, Inviting Hengist and Horsa, Chieftains of the Jutes

In the year 443, the Britons, who were troubled by frequent storms of the other tribes, especially the Picts, sent over sea to Rome, begging for help against the Picts, but they could not have any help from the Romans. Vortigern, the king of the Britons, summoned the British chieftains and discussed how to settle the problem with the Picts. Their final decision was to beg the Jutes, one of the Germanic tribes, to help them. In the year 449, Hengist and Horsa, the brotherly chieftains of the Jutes, was invited by Vortigern and landed in Britain. *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* includes the following passage concerning this event:[19]

> Her Mauricius 7 Ualentines onfengon rice. 7 ricsodon ・vii・ winter. 7 on hiera dagum **Hengest** 7 **Horsa** from **Wyrt georne** geleaþade Bretta kyninge gesohton Bretene on þam staþe þe is genemned Ypwines fleot. ærest Brettum to fultume, ac hie eft on hie fuhton: Se cing het hi feohtan agien **Pihtas**. 7 hi swa dydon, 7 sige hæfdon swa hwar swa hi comon. Hi ða sende to **Angle** 7 heton heom sendan mare fultum. 7 heom seggan Brytwalana nahtnesse. 7 ðæs landes cysta. Hy þa sendan heom mare fultum. Ða comon þa men of **þrim mægðum Germanie**. Of **Eald Seaxum**. of **Anglum**. of **Iotum**.

[This year Martianus and Valentinus succeeded to the empire, and reigned seven years. And in their days **Hengist** and **Horsa**, invited by **Vortigern** king of the Britons, landed in Britain on the shore which is called Wippidsfleet; at first in aid of the Britons, but afterwards they fought against them. King Vortigern gave them land in the south-east of this country, on condition that they should fight against the **Picts**. Then they fought against the Picts, and had the victory wheresoever they came. They then sent to the **Angles**; desired a larger force to be sent, and caused them to be told the worthlessness of the Britons, and the excellencies of the land. Then they soon sent thither a larger force in aid of the others. At that time there came men from **three tribes in Germany**; from the **Old-Saxons**, from the **Angles**, from the **Jutes**.] (MS Ā, 449)

'Ypwines fleot', or 'Heopwines fleot' in MS E,[20] at which Hengist and Horsa landed, is Ebbsfleet in Thanet, Kent.[21] At first Hengist and Horsa kept their promise with Vortigern, and they fought against the Picts, gaining battles. Vortigern gave them the land in the south-east of Britain, probably in Kent. Six years later, however, in the year 455 they were to fight against Vortigern. At the battle of that year Horsa was slain, and after that Hengist and Æsc obtained the kingdom of Kent.[22] According to Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* (pp. 48–51) and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (A. 449), a report of the slackness of the Britons and the fertility of their land reached the Germanic tribes in the Continent, which caused coming of large fleets of bands of warriors from three powerful Germanic tribes, the Saxons (*Seaxe*), the Angles (*Angle*), and the Jutes (*Iotas*).

1.2.2. Establishment of Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy and 'Æþelstan', the First King of England (927–939)

In the 5th and 6th centuries, those tribes settled themselves in Britain and established Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. There were seven main kingdoms, frequently referred to as Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy; the Saxons established kingdoms of Essex, Sussex, and Wessex, the Angles established Northumbria, Mercia, and East Anglia, and the Jutes established Kent. However, even after establishment of those kingdoms they repeated conflicts of arms until at last they were brought under one ruler in the first half of the tenth century. An account of the year 924 in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* reads as follows:[23]

Her Eadweard cyning gefor on Myrcum æt Farn dune. 7 Ælfweard his sunu swyþe

hraðe þæs gefor ymbe. xvi. dagas æt Oxan forda. 7 hyra lic lið æt Wintan ceastre. 7 **Æþelstan** wæs gecoren to cynge of Myrcum. 7 æt Cynges tune gehalgod. 7 he geaf his sweostor Ofsǽ Eald Seaxna cynges suna.

[This year king Edward died among the Mercians at Farndon; and very shortly, about sixteen days after this, Elward his son died at Oxford; and their bodies lie at Winchester. And **Athelstan** was chosen king by the Mercians, and consecrated at Kingston. And he gave his sister to Ofsæ [Otho], son of the king of the Old-Saxons.]

(MS D, 924)

Æthelstan is the grandson of Alfred, the king of Wessex, and the above passage tells us about his being chosen as the king of Mercia, one of the Anglian kingdoms, and about his sister given to Ofsæ, son of the Saxon king. Æthelstan now ruled the kingdoms of the Saxons and a part of the land of the Angles as King of the Anglo-Saxons (94–9927). Three years later, that is to say, in the year 927, Æthelstan obtained the rest of the land of the Angles, which is called Northumbria, as stated in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*:[24]

926. Her oð eowdon fyrena leoman on norð dæle þære lyfte. 7 Sihtric acwæl. 7 **Æþelstan cyning feng to Norð hymbra rice**. 7 **ealle þa cyngas þe on þyssum iglande wæron he ge wylde**. ærest Huwal West Wala cyning. 7 Cosstantin Scotta cyning. 7 Uwen Wenta cyning. 7 Ealdred Ealdulfing from Bebban byrig. 7 mid wedde 7 mid aþum fryþ gefæstnodon, on þære stowe þe genemned is æt Ea motum. on. iiii. idus Iulii. 7 ælc deofol geld to cwædon. 7 syþþam mid sibbe to cyrdon.

927. Her Æþelstan cyning fordraf Guðfrið cyng. 7 her Wulfelm aꝛcb for to Rom.

[A. 926. This year fiery lights appeared in the north part of the heavens. And Sihtric perished: and **king Athelstan obtained the kingdom of the North-humbrians. And he ruled all the kings who were in this island**: first, Howel king of the West-Welsh; and Constantine king of the Scots; and Owen king of the Monmouth people; and Aldred, son of Ealdulf, of Bambrough: and they confirmed the peace by pledge, and by oaths, at the place which is called Eamot, on the 4th before the Ides of July; and they renounced all idolatry, and after that submitted to him in peace.

A. 927. This year king Athelstan expelled king Guthfrith. And this year Archbishop Wulfhelm went to Rome.]

(MS D, 926, and MS E, 927)

The account for the year 926 is preserved in the MS D only, and that of the year 927 occurs in MSS E and F. These two accounts convey that Athelstan expelled Guthfrith, king of Northumbria, and subjugated all the other kings in Britain, ruling as the first king of the English (927–939). However, the Picts and most of Welsh kingdoms kept independence. Athelstan's kingdom of England was almost all the realms of the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy put together, that is to say, present-day England, a part of Great Britain except for Scotland and Wales.,

1.2.3. Etymological, Semasiological, and Phonological Discussion on 'England' and 'English'

The etymological, semasiological, and phonological explanations of the terms 'England' and 'English' are necessary for further understanding of these place-names. The earliest instance of the word 'England' in the *OED* is quoted from Miller's *The Old English Version of Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, dated c. 890. The article for the years 684 and 685 describes how Ecgfrith, king of Northumbria organized expeditions against the Scots and the Picts, how he was revenged and slain by the Scots, and how "the prospects and the power of the English realm began to ebb and fail".[25] Those events lead to the following account:[26]

> Þær betweoh monige **Ongelþeode**, þa ðe oðþe mid sweorde ofslægene wæron oððe þeodome betæhte, oðþe of Peohta londe onweg flugon, ond eac swylce se arwyrða Godes mon Trumwine, se ðe heora biscop wæs, gewat mid his geferum, þa ðe wæron in þæm mynstre Æbbercurni, þæt is geseted in **Engla londe** ac hwæðre neah þæm sǽ, þe **Engla lond** 7 Peohta tosceadaþ.
>
> [Then among many of **the English**, who were either slain with the sword, or brought into slavery, or fled away from the land of the Picts, also the venerable servant of the Lord, Trumwine, who was their bishop, departed with his clergy, who were in the monastery of Abercorn, which lies in **English territory**, but is however near the sea, which separates **the territory of the English** and the Picts.]
>
> (OE Version of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*, Book IV, Chapter 26)

'Ongelþeode' in the above passage is the OE compound for "the English people". This is the form of this word in MS T, and the form in MS B is 'angelþeode', the first element being 'angel-'. 'Engla', the first element of the compound 'Engla lond', meaning "the land

of the English" or "England", is a genitive plural form of 'Engle' or 'Angle', the English or the Angles. The second element 'lond' is a variant of 'land', which occurs in MSS B, O, and Ca. The equivalent phrases in the original Latin version of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* are 'plurimos gentis Anglorum' (many of the English), 'in regione Anglorum' (in English territory), and 'Anglorum terras' (the lands of the English). What can be concluded from those examples is that the OE 'Engla', 'Ongel-' or 'Angel-' are cognate with the Latin 'Anglus' (pl. 'Angli'), and that those words originate from 'Angul', a district in Schleswig, from which the Angles came.[27] 'Angul' is cognate with OE 'angel', meaning "angle", "hook", or "fish-hook". The place was called so from its shape, 'angle'. From the OE form 'Engla land' were developed the forms 'Engle land' in the twelfth century, 'Englene lond' and 'Engle lond' in the thirteenth century, 'Englelond(e)' in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, 'Enkelonde' in the thirteenth century, 'Engeland', 'Ingland', and 'Yng(e)lond' in the fourteenth century, 'Englonde' and 'Inglonde' in the fifteenth century, and finally '**England**' from the fourteenth century on.[28] The earliest example of the form 'England' is quoted from *Cursor Mundi* (*ante* 1300), an anonymous ME historical and religious poem originally written in northern England. *The OED* cites two other forms of this word from the same source—they are 'Ingland' and 'Ingelonde'. It may be conjectured from those instances that a vowel change from [e] to [i] occurred in the first syllable in the Northern dialect at the period of the author of *Cursor Mundi* or later scribes of the MSS, and the phonetic change exerted its influence on the spelling, thus bringing about the first syllable 'Ingl-'. On the other hand it seems that the form 'England', representing the traditional spelling, is used to reflect the variant form as it was used in those days. It is not certain which sound it represented, [e] or [i]; maybe [e]. Concerning the discrepancy between the spelling and the pronunciation, the *OED* comments as follows:[29]

> This word and its cognates, *English*, etc. are the only instances in which in mod. Standard English the letter e stands in an accented syllable for (ɪ). The change of an earlier (ɛŋ) into (ɪŋ) is strictly normal, and in all other examples the spelling has followed the pronunciation. Cf. *wing*, ME. *wenge; string*, OE *strẹnge; link*, OE. *hlẹnce.*

Incidentally, Bede records a very famous pun on the name Angles. His *Ecclesiastical*

History (Book II, Chapter 1) includes an account about some English boys who were among merchants in the market place of Rome. Pope Gregory, interested in their handsome faces and lovely hair, asked for the name of the race of the boys. The Pope was told that those children were called *Angli*, and then "'*Good*', he said, 'they have the face of angels, and such men should be fellow-heirs of the angels in heaven'".[30]

[To be concluded]

Notes

1) McKnight (1923), pp. 358–59.
2) *OED*, s.v. 'Britain'.
3) *Ibid*.
4) *The Encyclopædia Britannica*, Vol. 2, p. 533.
5) Partridge (1966), p. 60.
6) Page (1952), pp. 204–5.
7) Winterbottom (1978); Latin text, p. 89; trans. p. 16.
8) *Ibid*., pp. 16 and 17.
9) *Ibid*., p. 17.
10) Colgrave (1969), pp. 16 and 17.
11) *Ibid*., p. 16, note 2.
12) Earle and Plummer (1892), p. 3. Giles (1914), p. 1.
13) This is the reading in MS E; MS D reads 'Bryt-wylsc'.
14) 'Boc Leden' means 'book (learned) Latin (language)', i.e. 'Latin'.
15) Earle and Plummer (1892), pp. 13 and 15. Giles (1914), pp. 6 and 7.
16) *OED*, s.v. 'Britain'. Partridge (1966), p. 59.
17) Hearne (1724), pp. 22 and 82.
18) Harryson (1547), h vi (p. 234); *OED*, s.v. 'Britain'.
19) Earle and Plummer (1892), p. 13. Giles (1914), p. 7.
20) Ekwall (1936, p. 121) states that the meaning of OE *Heopwines fleot* is 'stream on whose banks hips or wild rosebushes grew'.
21) Earle and Plummer (1899), p. 10, note for 'Ypwines fleot'.
22) *Ibid*. pp. 12 and 13.
23) *Ibid*. p. 105. Giles (1914), p. 72.
24) *Ibid*. p. 107. Giles (1914), p. 73.
25) Miller (1891), p. 359.
26) *Ibid*. pp. 358 and 359.
27) Hall (1960), s.v. 'Angel'.

28) *OED*, s.v. 'England'.
29) *Ibid*. s.v. 'England'.
30) Colgrave (1969), pp. 133–35. 'Bene' inquit; 'nam et angelicam habent faciem, et tales angelorum in caelis decet esse coheredes'.

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