

The Roman Place-Names of Derbyshire.

By W. F. GOSLING.

THE few known Roman place-names of Derbyshire have always presented difficulties, and little has been done to elucidate them.¹ Since the publication of the *Ravennas Anonymus* in 1688, in which the names known to us appear, many conjectures have appeared, which, sharing the fate of conjectures, have for the most part been classified as wild and uncritical guesses. It is our intention to add to the conjectures, but we hope to escape the ruthless damnation of wildly and uncritically guessing.

The names under discussion are the following:—ANAVIO (NAVIO), ARNEMEZA, ZEDROTALIA (which we think preferable to ZERDOTALIA), LUTUDARUM, and DERVENTIO, with MELANDRA as a troublesome and unsympathetic appendage. We start with the rooted conviction that these names (with the possible exception of Melandra) are Pre-Roman (i.e. Celtic), and that the Romans merely Romanised them.

The Celtic language has been shewn (see e.g. Hubert, *The Rise of the Celts*) to be a member of the Indo-European

¹ Students will find the Roman place-names of Derbyshire discussed in the following publications:—

Anderson, W. B. Roman place-names of Derbyshire. In *D.A.J.*, Vol. XXIX, 1906, supplement pp. 15-21.

Haverfield, F. On the Romano-British name of Brough. In *D.A.J.*, XXVI, 1904, pp. 197-202.

Romano-British Derbyshire. In *Victoria County History of Derbyshire*, Vol. I, 1905, pp. 191-263.

Holland, W. R. Melandra Castle; origin of the name. In *D.A.J.*, Vol. XXXIV, 1912, pp. 158-160.

McClure, Edmund. British place-names in their historical setting. 1910.

family: a convenient diagram of the various branches of the family will be found in Hubert. Consequently, if we can trace analogies to the names under discussion in the place-names and names of other branches of the Indo-European family, if we can establish connections with root-words which were the source (under changing forms) of names scattered up and down the continent and beyond it, we shall have done much to shew that we are near the truth in our assumption of Celtic origins.

In *D.A.J.*, Vol. XXIX, 1907, in the offprint devoted to the excavations at Melandra Castle, page 17, are the words:—“Ravennas mentions in succession two rivers named ANAUA and DORUANTIUM. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that DORUANTIUM is the modern Derwent and ANAUA the modern Noe (Now) . . . ANAVIO would then be derived from the name of the stream.”

Here the contention is that the Roman station was ANAVIO and not NAVIO. We think the contention is right. The name ANAV-A > ANAB-A > ANAP-A > ANAPH-A repays a study. It will be found that it is sprinkled over the map of the ancient world. Livy (XXIV.36.2) tells us that ANAPUS (Anapis) was the name of a river in Acarnania of Greece. Anapus, too, was a river of Sicily. ANABUS (C.I.L., VIII, 8992) was a Roman cognomen. *Αναφη* was the name of a small island in the Aegean, in the neighbourhood of Thera. *Αναφας* was a masculine name in Cappadocia, *Αναφης* appears in Herodotus VII, 62, and *Αναβους* is found in North Africa. This accumulative evidence suggests an Indo-European $\sqrt{\text{anap}}$, $\sqrt{\text{anav}}$. (There might be some connection with the Sanscrit *anāp-*). However that may be, there is a case for supposing that the river in question was the ANAVA (and as a consequence the Roman fort was ANAVIO) and that ANAVA is Celtic in origin.¹

¹ There is a curious parallel to ANAVIO, ANAUA, and the modern r. Noe in ANAUNI (appearing in inscript. as ANAUNENSIS) and the modern Val di Non. (see *Pre-Italic Dialects of Italy*, Vol. I, p. 445).

Our next name is ARNEMEZA, which we will cut, ARNE-MEZA. This name appears in RAVENNAS next to AQUIS, which has been identified with Buxton. On page 18 of the article quoted we read:—"If one may claim the antiquarian's privilege of making rash guesses it might be suggested that ARNEMEZA, a name about which nothing is known, did not designate another place, but was separated from AQUIS by a natural and common mistake. We should read AQUIS ARNE-MEZAE. ARNEMEZA may represent the name of a deity associated with the springs or with the district."

In this connection it may be well worth remembering that the wells of Buxton are to this day devoted to St. Anne and that tradition dies hard. If then the writer of the article is right in his suggestion, ARNEMEZA must mean "god" or more likely "goddess of the springs."

In ARNE-, the first part of our supposed compound, we are at once on corroborative ground; the ancient world, in its nomenclature, throws much light on the subject. "Αρνη in Arcadia was the name of a spring, "Αρνη near Lepreum in Elis another spring. Αρνων was a river of Palestine, Arnus the principal river of Etruria in Italy (ARNAL, ARNIE CIE 96 are met with in Etruscan nomenclature, a sure sign of very old antecedents: cf. too *Pre-Italic Dialects of Italy*, Vol. III, Index I under arnisses), ARNUM a river of Iberia.¹ In addition many place-names could be quoted (e.g. "Αρνη in Boeotia, in Thrace, in Mesopotamia) which may or may not have some connection with water. But the fact remains that $\sqrt{\text{arne}}$, $\sqrt{\text{arno}}$, $\sqrt{\text{arna}}$ is a very ancient root word meaning "spring."

So much for the first half of the compound. With MEZA we are confronted with difficulties. Etruscan

¹ We are aware that Etruscan is not counted among the Indo-European languages, but it will be remembered that here we are dealing with nomenclature, and it is of course quite possible for place-names, etc., to be passed on irrespective of language family-groups.

has MESI C.I.L. XII, 2005, Latin MESSENIUS, while such names as Μεσσηνη, Μεσολα, Μεσση and Μεσσοα are scattered over the ancient map. As a result Autran (*Introduction à l'étude critique du nom propre grec*, p. 337) has posited $\sqrt{\text{mese}}$. It may be that here lies the origin of our MEZA, but beyond that suggestion we cannot go. However, on this reasoning, there is a case for supposing ARNEMEZA to mean "goddess of the spring," and that AQUAE ARNEMEZAE differentiated Buxton from other places of the same name.¹

Ravennas concludes his list with ZEDROTALIA (ZEDRO-T-ALIA). Examples such as AQUILEIA, AEGALIA, THESSALIA, CASTALIA, PETALIA, PHIGALIA will show that the ending -ALIA is common enough in ancient place names. For the rest we can again only suggest. The *Corpus of Etruscan Inscriptions* yields SETRI (C.I.E. 1526, 2726, 2735) (cf. the modern name SEDRIAGO): from SETRI came such Latin names as SETRIUS, SETERIUS. This is meagre fare enough, but so far as it goes it is evidence for supposing a Celtic origin.

In LUTUDARUM we have a little more to offer. The ending ARO is a common feature of ancient place-names (cf. Autran o.c., p. 456). LUTEUS for LUTEVUS is a Celtic name C.I.L. 5292 (cp *Schultze Zur Geschichte Lateinischer Eigennamen*, p. 23) LUTONIUS is Gallic. LUTONIUS > LAUTONIUS > LAVITONIUS brings us again into the presence of Etruscan nomenclature (LAUTI C.I.E. 3205). We must also compare lutou (*The Pre-Italic Dialects of Italy*, Vol. III, Index I). LUTU-D-ARUM, then, seems a reasonable conjecture,

¹ In ARNEMEZA there is another possibility which must not be overlooked. The existence of a Gallic (Celtic) word 'NEMETUM' is vouched for by the names of a number of towns of Gaul (e.g. AUGUSTO-NEMETUM, NEMETO-CENNA) containing the word. Consequently ARNEMEZA may be AR-NEMET-.

implying as it does some connection with the Celtic name (Romanised) LUTEUS.¹

DERVENTIO we are willing to leave in the capable hands of Ekwall (*English River-Names*, p. 123). There he says, speaking of the various Derwents of England:—“The etymology is clear. The British form is seen in the place-name DERVENTIONE (*Itinerarium Antonini Augusti*) and DERVENTIO (DERBENTIO) in Ravennas The name is derived from British *DERUA ‘oak’ (W. DERW, M Bret. DERUEM, Bret. DERW, DERV, DERF, Cornish DEROW). I see no reason to suppose that DERVENTIO meant anything else than ‘oak-river,’ ‘river where oaks grow abundantly.’ This is corroborated by the fact that oaks are abundant in the valleys of the Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and Cumberland Derwents.”

MELANDRA causes difficulties almost insuperable. It has been suggested, from its Greek appearance, that it is the creation of a pedant; and it is true that records of the name do not go further back than 1772. One would have expected, however, MELANDRIA rather than MELANDRA, if such a theory is correct.

In connection with the name the following points are probably worth remembering. In the region of Ravenna in Italy there exist such names as MELANDRI

¹ In *Lutudarum* we must not overlook the possibility of connection with the Brit. *luta* ‘mud’. In *Place-Names Beds. and Hunts.*, p. 257, under the entry Lattenbury Hill, Ekwall is quoted as follows:—

The O.E. *Lodona* looks like a genitive plural and it might be a tribal or folk-name. But as in this charter O.E. *lacu* appears twice in the dative as *laca*, it is admissible to take *Lodona* to be the genitive of a *Lodon* which would normally have been *Lodone* (cp. river-names, *Loddon* (Berks.), *Loddon* (Nf.) and *Lothian* (Sc.). All, no doubt, belong to the Brit. **luta*, ‘mud’.

Again in *English River-Names*, p. 258, under *Loddon*, Ekwall says:—

‘*Loddon* is probably an old river-name. The base may be Brit. *luta*, mud corresponding to O.Gr. *loth* and probably found in Gaulish river-names such as *Luteva* (now *Lodève*) and *Lutosa* (*Loze*). The *o* of *Loddon* is best explained if we start with a base **Lutna*, which would give a later form *Lodña*. Such a base seems warranted by the Gaelic *lon* ‘marsh,’ ‘mud,’ ‘meadow-water’ derived by McBain from a base **lutno*.

In *Lutudarum*, then, we may have an old British river-name Romanised, and a possible connection with the Latin *luteus*.

MELANDRO, while MELA was a Roman cognomen. Μελας again could be found in various forms scattered up and down the map of the Near East, and there is thus a possibility of *MELAN-, *MELA which would not necessarily be the same word as the Greek μελας = black. Beyond that we dare not go.

It is more than probable, then, that these Roman names of Derbyshire are old Celtic names which the Romans adopted and Romanised. Knowing the power of adaptibility which was the secret of much of Rome's success, we can with some surety feel confidence in such a theory.