

Place-names in Roman Britain

The most recent authoritative survey volume on this topic was published by A. L. F. Rivet and Colin Smith in 1979. In the 40 years which have passed since then, a substantial amount of new work has been done on the body of mainly British Celtic evidence which they assembled and analysed. In this lecture I offer an assessment of (1) the macrosociolinguistic situation envisaged in their work, (2) some newer wide-ranging possibilities with varying degrees of plausibility, and (3) some new interpretations of individual names, with some reflections on the survival of some such names into modern toponymy.