## OLD ENGLISH $\overline{E}O$ IN MIDDLE KENTISH PLACE-NAMES<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. MIDDLE KENTISH AND PLACE-NAME STUDIES

The Middle English period is characterised by its great dialectal diversity and has as one of its most peculiar varieties the dialect of Kent, Kentish, also called south-eastern variety. Those who have traditionally searched for the regional features reflected in anchor texts from Kent have regarded this variety as a Middle English dialect in which sound changes have an unconventional behaviour.

Complementary to these traditional textual analyses is the onomastic approach developed within the field of medieval dialectology during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Following this approach, names are regarded as true informants of phonological change, and place-names, in particular, as "the material which has so far proved most profitable for the investigation of OE and ME dialects" (Kristensson 1967: XII). The inherent condition of place-names as accurate locators of dialectal variants and their importance in providing sometimes the only evidence of specific sound developments has produced works such as Serjeantson (1922, 1924, 1927a, 1927b), Ekwall (1931), Smith (1956), and Ek (1972, 1975).

This onomastic approach to medieval dialectology received a further boost in the 1950s when Kristensson decided to embark on a survey of the Middle English dialects. So far, this project has given place to four volumes Kristensson (1967, 1987, 1995, 2001). This research project, still in progress, aims to investigate the dialects of Middle English through the formal study of place-names and surnames from c. 1290-1350 and has as its primary source the Lay Subsidy Rolls, the official documents that more faithfully seem to reflect the local uses. The last volume published by Kristensson (2001) has an obvious interest for those concerned with Kentish

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matters since it deals with vowels (except diphthongs) in the Southern counties (the dialect of Kent included).

The main intention behind this research paper is to participate of this onomastic perspective and contribute to Kristensson's investigation by doing a formal analysis of OE  $\bar{e}o$  (a diphthong that has traditionally been regarded as dialectally relevant in Middle Kentish) in medieval place-names of Kent. This analysis, for both the first (or unique), and the second constituent of a Kentish compound noun,<sup>1</sup> will be done by checking our early Middle English material against the data assembled for late Middle English, that is name-forms from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> cc. respectively.

With this time-span in mind, we cannot limit ourselves to take the above mentioned Subsidy Rolls as our single primary source, mainly because these Rolls date back only to the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> c., this being a period when they had not even been regularly and consistently established. On the other hand, there are authors who consider other documents to be equally valid to these as medieval dialectal sources. Arngart, for example, claims that the Assize Rolls have "a nearly equal right with the Subsidy Rolls of being described as local documents" (1949: 26-27).

Kentish registers from, among others, these two sources (the Subsidy Rolls and the Assize Rolls) also comprise Wallenberg's *The Place-Names of Kent* (1934) —henceforth *PNK*—, which is regarded up to now as the most important compilation to carry out research on the medieval place-names of Kent.<sup>2</sup> We will consequently take as a main source for the data gathering of this piece of research Wallenberg's *PNK*<sup>3</sup>, where the author, after scrutinising the most relevant English documents, shows the reader the written name-records of every single farm, village, parish and hundred of medieval Kent. These records, besides their corresponding source

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The intention behind this lies in checking whether the position of this OE sound in a stressed or in an unstressed syllable affects its ME development. Ek (1972: 66) claims that this fact does not affect the ME development of this OE variable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ek (1975) also uses, as a basis for his Kentish data, Wallenberg's *Place Names of Kent*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Apart from other secondary sources: Anderson (1934-1939), Cameron (1961), Reany (1964), Copley (1968) and Ekwall (1980).

references, include an etymological definition that served as a basis for the data gathering.

The authors of *A Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English* (McIntosh et al. 1986) —henceforth *LALME*— following an evidently geographical perspective but still adopting a new methodology (that of applying systematically a strict questionnaire of linguistic items to a heterogeneous selection of texts), get to draw a more approximate picture of the dialectal variation of late medieval English (c. 1350–1450). Although the intention behind the authors of this *Atlas* may have been different, the scarcity of medieval sources also allows us to profit from the formal diversity captured in the 14 Kentish Linguistic Profiles generated thanks to the fit-technique. *LALME* therefore will also constitute a potential frame, among others, with which to compare our 14<sup>th</sup> c. data.

#### 2. GENERAL DISTRIBUTION<sup>1</sup>

We centre upon the study of the evolution of OE  $\bar{e}o$  firstly because in Kentish "the long diphthongs underwent a separate development" (Hogg 1992: §5.210), and secondly because "it is only the long OE diphthong that is of interest. OE *eo* did not undergo any particularly Kentish development" (Ek 1972: 8).

The origin of OE  $\bar{e}o$  is the Germanic diphthong  $*\bar{e}u$ . This diphthong seems to have passed into primitive Old English preserving the second element *-u*, although it does appear as  $\bar{e}o$  already in early texts. During the Middle English period, we will see however how the historical evolution of  $\bar{e}o$ , at least in the dialect of Kent, is intimately connected with the development of another Germanic diphthong,  $*\bar{i}u$ . This long diphthong, in a first stage of Old English, also preserves the second element *-u*, but will soon develop into  $\bar{i}o$  (Luick 1914/1941: §191; Campbell 1959: §297; Jordan-Crook 1974: §§84-85; Hogg 1992: §5.160).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Variables and variants will be generally represented in italics. We only use "<>" or "[]" when spellings or sounds, respectively, are meant explicitly. In order to conform to this convention, some illustrative quotations had to be slightly modified, that is, adapting the original format to this one.

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The degree of interrelation between both diphthongs is such that Wyld (1921), Campbell (1959), Hogg (1992) or Ek (1972), among others, consider that, in Kentish, both of them (either long or short) are confused and, as regards the long one, io seems to be more common than io. In Kentish documents from, according to Campbell (1959: §297) and Hogg (1992: §§ 5.155-5.162), the 9<sup>th</sup> c. and, according to Ek (1972: 13), the 7<sup>th</sup> c., we notice a marked tendency to raise the point of articulation of the first element of the diphthongs *eo* and *eo* (although this tendency seems to be less evident in the second one). Besides, we can infer from the Kentish Glosses (KG) that the diphthongs  $\bar{e}o$  and  $\bar{i}o$  coalesced into one long diphthong  $\bar{i}o$  (or  $\bar{i}a$ ),<sup>1</sup> while short eo and io coalesced, on the other hand, into eo in West Saxon, Mercian and Kentish (Hogg 1992: §§5.155-5.160). These conclusions, based on the KG, are confirmed by the Middle English developments observed, for example, by Jordan-Crook (1974: §§84-85), or Luick (1914/1941: §§260-261) (for the latter, the change  $\bar{e}o > \bar{i}o$  is first registered in Kent in the 7<sup>th</sup> c. and finally generalised in the  $10^{\text{th}}$  c.).

Leaving Kent aside, it seems to be the case that already at the end of Old English the diphthong  $\bar{e}o$  is monophthongised to  $\bar{e}$  in Essex and Suffolk. This smoothing process that, at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> c. and the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> c., will affect the Southwest, the Central and West Midlands, the territory of London and its adjacent counties (except Kent), changes  $\bar{e}o$  into a rounded [ $\ddot{o}$ :]. This [ $\ddot{o}$ :] is generally unrounded during the 13<sup>th</sup> c., except in the Southwest and the West Midlands, and progressively changes to an  $\bar{e}$ , represented with either the typical spellings of the time, that is <e, ee, ei, ey><sup>2</sup>, or the Anglo-Norman spelling convention <ie>. As far as the West Midlands and the South-western counties are concerned, the process of unrounding does not take place until much later (14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> cc.), and therefore it is here where it will keep on being spelt with the original <eo><sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "It will be observed that the first element of *eo* tends to be raised in Kt., producing *io*, or, with unrounding of the second element, *ia*" (Campbell 1959: §280 (n. 3)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "ē is often written <ei, ey>, esp. in the South [...] This spelling is probably nothing but a graphic symbol for ē' (Thuresson 1950: 251; see also Kristensson 1967: 172.)" (Ek 1972: 95).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This distribution coincides with that offered by Jordan-Crook in the dialectal map adapted from Moore, Meech, and Whitehall (1935), in which we single out that "line F represents the eastern and northern limit for OE *ēo* retained as a front round vowel /ø:/ spelled <eo, o, oe, u, ue>" (1974: § 84 (Remark 5)).

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for a longer time. While preserving its roundness this sound may gradually raise to [y] and be represented with the Anglo-Norman spelling conventions <0, u, ue, ui, uy, oe, eu> (Wyld 1921: 129-34; 1927: §168-69; Mossé 1952: §30; Campbell 1959: §329 (2); Ek 1972: 12-13; and Jordan-Crook 1974: §84-85).

In South-eastern texts, particularly in Kentish, the old diphthong  $\bar{e}o$  is frequently spelt <ie, io, ye>. These digraphs are however inconsistent (Wyld 1927: §169) because we can occasionally find in Kentish spellings such as <ia, ee, oe, eo, e, i, y> (Wyld 1921: 12; Campbell 1959: §297; Jordan-Crook 1974: §85; Hogg 1992; §5.160). Campbell (1959: §329 (2)) and Jordan-Crook (1974: §85 (2)) have argued that <ie, ye>, typically Kentish digraphs, could represent a diphthongal pronunciation (with a rising diphthong) and suggest that in Kentish the monophthongisation process of OE  $\bar{e}o$  may not have existed. For Wyld (1927: §169) and Brook (1965: 70-71) this is extremely improbable since <ie> (and maybe also <ye> in Kentish) is an Anglo-Norman representation frequently used in Middle English as an expression for [e:].

For Ek (1972: 108 and 119-120), however, the traditional development *ie* evidenced in Kentish texts and place-names is not due to the Anglo-Norman orthographic influence but it merely represents a variant of a diphthongal development that might have been smoothed to *i* in a subsequent stage. He bases this inference on the following solid premises: (i.) the diphthongal character that forms with *ye* show; (ii.) the presence of forms with *ie* before 1350, when the Anglo-Norman convention was used only occasionally; (iii.) the possible ambiguity that could have been created with the *e*-development of OE *y* in this south-eastern side of the country; (iv.) the absence of forms with *ie* or *ye* in counties like Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire or Huntingdonshire (Ek 1972: 108 and 119-120).

#### 3. DISTRIBUTION OF OE $\overline{EO}$ IN TWELFTH-CENTURY KENT

**3.1. FIRST ELEMENT** 

20 Kentish localities from the  $12^{\text{th}}$  c. have a first or unique element that derives from OE  $\bar{e}o$ . These Middle Kentish developments alternate fundamentally between variants with *e* and alternatives with *i*.

As regards the *e*-variant only *Beckenham* and *Greatness* present in the  $12^{th}$  c. an exclusive *e*-development (see table 1). Other four localities present a predominant *e*-development alternating with diverse minor variants (see *Bensted*, *Greet*, *Chelsfield* and *Leaveland* in table 1). In five of them the development is mixed, either <e/i> (see *Ridley*, *Newchurch* and *Tudeley* in Table 1), <e/ea> (see *Grain* in table 1 below), or <e/io> (see *Lewisham* in table 1). Finally, in other four localities, *Newenden (Selbrittenden Hd.)*, *Newington (Milton Hd.)*, *Newnham* and *Preston* (see Table 1:  $12^{th}$  c. *Kentish place-name forms with e in the first or unique element*), the *e*-variant appears as a non-predominant development.

With respect to the *i*-variant *Ifield*, *Twinney Creek*, and *Newington* (Folkestone Hd.) (see Table 2:  $12^{th}$  c. Kentish place-name forms with *i* in the first or unique element) present exclusive developments. In *Newington* (Milton Hd.), Newnham and Newenden (Selbrittenden Hd.) <i> is the predominant development (see Table 2). As we saw earlier on, in Ridley, Newchurch and Tudeley the development is a mixed <e/i> (see table 2). Finally, in *Chelsfield* and *Leaveland* (see Table 2) <i> is in a non-predominant distribution.

We also have a relative high percentage of digraphs in the first element of these 12<sup>th</sup> c. place-names. These traditionally Kentish forms are <ea> in *Bensted* and *Grain* (see both of them in Table 1); <eo> in *Lydden* (*Folkestone Hd.*) (*Hleodaena c. 1100 Dom Mon*); <ie> in *Greet, Leaveland* (see both of them in table 1), *Lewsome* (*de Lieurechestune 1176 Facs*) and *Lydden* (*Folkestone Hd.*) (*Liedenne 1176 BM Facs*); and <io> in *Leaveland* (see table 1). In agreement with Ek, we can only admit those place-name forms with <ie> as standing for a real diphthongal pronunciation.<sup>1</sup>

Ek (1972) distinguishes in his analysis, as so do Jordan-Crook (1974: §109), among: (i.) a diphthong  $\bar{e}o + w$ ; (ii.) a diphthong  $\bar{e}o$  unaccompanied by *w*; and (iii.) a diphthong  $\bar{e}o$  before consonantal groups with a homorganic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See above Ek's considerations in this respect (Ek 1972: 108 and 119-120).

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voiced consonant causing lengthening. The first category applies to OE  $n\bar{e}owe$  and  $\bar{e}ow$  that appear as first constituents of our place-name forms in the 12<sup>th</sup> c. The rest of our constituents belong to the second category, whereas there are no candidates for the third one.

OE *n* $\bar{e}owe$  and  $\bar{e}ow$  are in this sense worth being analysed in detail because in both of them we have to consider the possible particular evolution of the diphthong  $\bar{e}o$  when in the vicinity of w. Ek reminds us that Jordan (1974: §109) and Luick (1914/1941: §399) claim that, as a consequence of the vocalisation of the semivowel,  $\bar{e}o + w$  will give place to a diphthong [eu] that will in turn become [iu], but "Luick also says that in spite of a development [eu] > [iu] the writing <ew> was still kept in most cases" (Ek 1972: 113). It is precisely this argument that Ek uses to highlight as special those forms with <i> in their orthography.

We registered five localities with the lexical term  $n\bar{e}owe$  as first constituent in twelfth-century Kent. In all of them, except *Newchurch*, where we have a mixed development <e/i>, the variant, exclusive in the case of *Newington (Folkestone Hd.)*, and predominant in the case of *Newington (Milton Hd.)*, *Newenden (Selbrittenden Hd.)* and *Newnham*, is <i> (see Table 2). We also registered one case with OE  $\bar{e}ow$  in *Ifield* (see Table 2) where the *i*-development is exclusive. Maybe these *i*-reflexes from the 12<sup>th</sup> c. are equally special to those analysed by Ek (1972) because in them  $\bar{e}o + w > \bar{i}w$  is the rule.

Discarding the place-name forms compounded in their first element by a first constituent in which  $\bar{e}o$  is combined with w,<sup>1</sup> what clearly predominates in our 12<sup>th</sup> c. material is the *e*-development, even though some *i*- and *ie*-forms are still around as possible witnesses of their original diphthongal nature.<sup>2</sup>

#### **3.2. SECOND ELEMENT**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This change also happens on one occasion in which *w* precedes the diphthong in question (cf. *Twineneia*, *Tuinenea*, *Tuinega*, *Tuinga* for the locality of *Twinney Creek*).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See section 2 for an explanation to the formal diversity of Old English  $\bar{e}o$  in Kentish.

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Only one Kentish locality, *Tollingtrough Green*, was registered for the 12<sup>th</sup> c. with a second element that derives from an Old English term with  $\bar{e}o$ , that is, OE  $tr\bar{e}ow$  'tree', a lexical element that corresponds with Ek's first category. This locality is in the North-western quarter of Kent and its behaviour is the predominant mixed development <e/o> that alternates with a rare <ui> (*Tolte(n)trui c. 1100 Dom Mon; Toltintro 1178-9 P; Totingetre 1187-8 P*).<sup>1</sup>

#### 4. DISTRIBUTION OF OE $\overline{EO}$ IN FOURTEENTH-CENTURY KENT

#### 4.1. FIRST ELEMENT

34 Kentish localities with OE  $\bar{e}o$  in the first element were registered for the 14<sup>th</sup> c. Out of them, 27 present an *e*-development: 22 exclusively; only *Tudeley* and *New Hythe* in a predominant way; and finally *†Redemeregge*, *Deerton St.* and *Lymbridge Green* with a non-predominant distribution (see Table 3: 14<sup>th</sup> c. Kentish place-name forms with *e* in the first or unique element).

The abundant realisations with  $\langle e \rangle$  (a variant that is even present in name-forms going back to OE  $n\bar{e}owe$ ) contrast with the behaviour observed in the first (or unique) constituent of other seven 14<sup>th</sup> c. localities showing an *i*-reflex. Five of these localities have an exclusive  $\langle i \rangle$  and only in *Lymbridge Green* and *New Hythe* is this development predominant or rare (see Table 4: 14<sup>th</sup> c. Kentish place-name forms with *i* in the first or unique element).

The presence of digraphs is as follows:  $\langle ay \rangle$  and  $\langle ey \rangle$  in *Deerton St.* (see table 3); and  $\langle ye \rangle$  in *Tudeley* (see table 3) and *Lydden* (*Folkestone Hd.*) (*Lyedene 1304 Ass; Lyeden' 1313 Ass.*). In my opinion again, we can only admit forms with  $\langle ye \rangle$  as standing for a real diphthongal pronunciation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We do not really know whether to attribute the variants ui and o for *Tollingtrough Green*, as Ek (1972: 95) and Jordan-Crook (1974: §109 (2)) do, to a "shifting of stress in OE", or to the fact that, according to Reany, they may be an evidence of a possible rounding of  $\bar{e}o$  in Kent (1925: 343ff.). In any case, the same criterion we use here must also be applied to the o- and u-reflexes of  $\dagger Redemeregge$  (see Table 3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See above Ek's considerations in this respect (Ek 1972: 108 and 119-120).

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With respect to OE  $n\bar{e}owe$ , we have 11 Kentish localities of the 14<sup>th</sup> c. compounded in their first (or unique) element by this Anglo-Saxon lexical constituent. As opposed to what happened in our place-name forms of the 12<sup>th</sup> c., and obviously coinciding with Luick's opinion,<sup>1</sup> the most frequent development in them is *e*. The only exceptions are *Nizel's Heath* and *New Hythe* with an exclusive and a rare *i*-development respectively (see Table 4).

The preponderance of the *e*-variant is therefore much more significant in the  $14^{\text{th}}$  c. than in the  $12^{\text{th}}$  c., even though we keep on having examples in this century where a certain number of *i*-forms show their definite reluctance to disappear, and some very sporadic digraphs (in particular the presumably diphthongal <ye>) are still present.

#### 4.2. SECOND ELEMENT

We only registered one Kentish locality, *Ebbsfleet*, for the 14<sup>th</sup> c. with a second constituent deriving from an Old English lexical element with  $\bar{e}o$  (OE *fleot* 'fleet'). Its behaviour is that of an exclusive digraph <eo> (*Hyppelesfleot 1308 Th*) for which we can not assure a diphthongal pronunciation.

#### 5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Generally, there exists a clear difference between the registers corresponding to early Middle English and those of the  $14^{\text{th}}$  c. when comparing our Kentish place-names with OE  $\bar{e}o$  in the first element. In agreement with Ek's statement about the *i*-forms being much more expected in the early material (1972: 114), we find that the frequency of *e* and *i* is similar for the  $12^{\text{th}}$  c., whereas for the  $14^{\text{th}}$  c., although some localities with *i* are still documented, the predominant development is *e*.

Besides, whereas in the 12<sup>th</sup> c. we register some varied alternatives (mainly digraphs) with a certain regularity, the end of the Middle English period is characterised only by their very sporadic presence. On the other

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>.See Ek's quotation on Luick cited above, where despite the development [eu] > [iu], Luick considers that <ew>was still kept in most cases (Ek 1972: 113).

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hand, the scarcity of registers (only one locality per century was registered) for the second constituent does not allow us to establish conclusive comparisons. This fact should not however underestimate the validity of our analysis since "the position in stressed or unstressed syllable of the word or word-element, containing the OE  $\bar{e}o$  does not affect the development of this sound." (Ek 1972: 66).

Likewise, with respect to the behaviour of OE  $\bar{e}o + w$  in our place-name forms, we observe here a similar tendency to the one observed in the general analysis, that is, a much more abundant presence of the *i*-development in the 12<sup>th</sup> c than in the 14<sup>th</sup> c. material.

Ek concludes his South-Eastern analysis claiming that in Kent " $\bar{e}o$  [...] became  $\bar{i}o$  [...]. This stage seems to have been reached at the latest in late OE. In very early ME the  $\bar{i}o$  developed into  $\bar{i}e$ ." (1972: 122). His general table (1972: 94) seems to contradict, however, this conclusion since of all the forms recorded in it only 15.7 % present an *i*-development. This inconsistency is stressed when we centre upon the registers corresponding to the period 1300-1500 where the percentage of *i*-forms only reaches 7%.

Our results do coincide with Ek's table, and therefore also contradict in part his own conclusion, since in our analysis the predominance the *e*-variants predominate over the *i*-variants. The only coincidence here lies in the fact that the *i*-variant appears with a higher frequency in the  $12^{\text{th}}$  c. than in the 14th c., a fact that is directly connected with the peculiar development observed for the place-name forms compounded by OE *n* $\bar{e}owe$ .

The material *LALME* offers for OE  $\bar{e}o$  is practically non-existent since, of all the items recorded in the corresponding Kentish Linguistic Profiles, only one, the Anglo-Saxon feminine pronoun  $h\bar{e}o$  corresponding to ModE *she*, contains in its etymology the diphthong in question. This pronominal item has traditionally been regarded as a controversial element among English historical linguists because of the lack of unanimity on ascertaining its true etymology.<sup>1</sup> This fact does not make of OE  $h\bar{e}o$  precisely the most adequate term with which to contrast the results provided by our analysis of  $\bar{e}o$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The hypotheses that at present try to explain the modern development of an initial palatal make reference to the nature of the original diphthong and to the peculiar developments that this could have undergone in the Northern territories,

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However, this paper is part of a dissertation in which other OE variables were analysed and their behaviour correspondingly contrasted with the formal diversity shown by those items of *LALME* that originally contained such a variable<sup>1</sup>. Consequently, it is coherent to analyse here also the evidence, although scanty in this case, for OE  $\bar{e}o$  in *LALME*'s items, that is, in SHE (< OE  $h\bar{e}o$ ).

Forms with an *i*-variant (i.e.,  $\langle i, y, ye \rangle$ )<sup>2</sup> in this *Atlas* (pre)dominate in LPs 5890, 5900, 5940, 5960, 6050 and 9380, that is, those located in the Northern and North-Eastern areas of the county. The LPs in which *e* (i.e.,  $\langle e, ee \rangle$ ) is exclusive are 5881, 5970, 5980, 5990 and 9470, that is, those that gather around the Central and Western areas of the county.<sup>3</sup> We have to pay heed to the fact that these registers correspond to a late Middle English stage and, yet, we still observe in them, with all the reservations its etymological origin may produce, a certain abundance of forms with *i* ( $\langle i, y, ye \rangle$ ). It is therefore evident that the results provided by this *Atlas* do not precisely coincide with those obtained here.

#### 6. CONCLUSION

The most outstanding fact that we can draw as a conclusion to this paper is that, as opposed to what we could expect, we do not seem to have among our place-name forms the digraphs and/or diphthongs <ie, io, ye> with the necessary frequency as to consider such realisations as characteristic of Middle English Kent. In other words, they are very infrequent in our sources and in this sense we can say that our corpus-data does not endorse the traditional view.

In fact, had it not been for the frequency, specially in the  $12^{\text{th}}$  c., of placename constituents with OE  $\bar{e}o + w$  (for which Jordan-Crook and Ek already

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is, in fact, my PhD dissertation, titled *Dialectología y Toponimia del Kéntico Bajomedieval* (Universidad de La Laguna, 1999; unpublished).

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  We interpret this digraph according to Ek (1972: 95).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> It is worth noticing the coincidence between forms with *e* and the palatal character of the previous consonant (i.e., *sche, schee, she*), and those in which the *i*-reflex combines with a previous aspirated *h* (i.e., *hi, hy, hie*). It is only occasionally that the form *he* appears (LPs 5900 and 5960).

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claim a special *i*-development), the predominance of a 'regular' *e*-variant would have been much more significant, relegating to a second place those digraphs/diphthongs that have traditionally been regarded as typically Kentish.

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# TABLE 1: 12<sup>TH</sup> C. KENTISH PLACE-NAME FORMSWITH *E* IN THE FIRST OR UNIQUE ELEMENT

OE * <i>bēoga</i> 'bent; Submissive'	BECKENHAM	Becceham c. 1100 Text Roff.
OE <b><i>bēonet</i></b> 'long and thick grass'	BENSTED	<b>Bedene</b> stede c. 1100 Dom Mon; Beantesteda c. 1100 Text Roff; de <b>Bente</b> sted' 1199 FineR.
OE *grēon 'grain'	GRAIN	Grean c. 1100 Text Roff; <b>Gren</b> 1189 Reg Roff
OE <i>grēot</i> 'sand, gravel'	GREATNESS	<b>Grete</b> nersce c. 1100 Text Roff (Arch C 44, 53)
	GREET	de <b>Grete</b> 1327, 1334, 1346, 1347,1348 Subs; Griete 1304 Ass.
OE <i>hrēod</i> 'reed'	RIDLEY	<b>Red</b> lege 11 DM; Riddelee 1198 FF.
OE <i>nēowe</i> 'new'	NEWCHURCH	Niwancirc 11 DM, <b>Newe</b> chirche 1198 FF.
	NEWENDEN	Niuuende, Niwendenne,
	(SELBRITTENDEN HD.)	Niuuendene c. 1100 Dom Mon; Newendenna 1157 StAug; Niwendeñ 1165-6 P; Niwedeñ 1166-7 P.
	NEWINGTON	Niwantun(e), Niuuentune c.
	(MILTON HD.)	1100 DomMon; <b>New</b> ton 1172-3 P; Niweton' 1175-6 P.
	NEWNHAM	<b>Newen</b> ham 1177 Reg Roff; Niwenham 1182-4 ib
OE <i>prēosta</i> 'priests'	PRESTON	<b>Preste</b> tune c. 1100 Dom Mon; P'stune, P'st' 1154-89 Subs.
OE * <i>þēof</i> 'thief'	TUDELEY	Tiuedele c. 1100 Dom Mon; <b>Theu</b> delei c. 1100 Text Roff.
OE <i>Cēol</i> Pers. N.	CHELSFIELD	Cilesfeld c. 1100 Text Roff; de <b>Chele</b> feld 1176-7 P; <b>Cheles</b> feld

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		1185-1214 Reg Roff; 1198 FF; <b>Chele</b> feld' 1194 Cur
OE <i>Lēofa</i> Pers. N.	LEAVELAND	Liofeland, Lieveland(e) c. 1100
		Dom Mon; Levelande c. 1175
		ArchC 4, 211; Leveland c. 1180
		ib., 215; de Liveland' 1199 Cur.
OE * <i>Lēowsa / Lēofsa</i>	LEWISHAM	Liofesham 11 DM; <b>Leuese</b> ham
Pers. N.		c. 1100 TextRoff

TABLE 2: 12 <sup>TH</sup> C. KENTISH PLACE-NAME FORMS WITH <i>I</i> IN THE FIRST		
OR UNIQUE ELEMENT		

OE betwēonum 'between'	TWINNEY CREEK	Twineneia 1166-7 P; Tuinenea 1190 P; Tuinega 1191, 1192 P; Tuinga 1194 P.
OE ēow 'yew-tree'	IFIELD	Iuelda c. 1100 Text Roff; Yfeld 1174-84, 1177 Reg Roff.
OE hreod 'reed'	RIDLEY	Redlege 11 DM; Riddelee 1198 FF.
OE nēowe 'new'	NEWCHURCH	Niwancirc 11 DM, Newechirche 1198 FF.
	NEWENDEN	Niuuende, Niwendenne, Niuuendene
	(SELBRITTENDEN HD.)	c. 1100 Dom Mon; Newendenna 1157 StAug; Niwendeñ 1165-6 P; Niwedeñ 1166-7 P.
	NEWINGTON	Niwan tune c. 1100 Dom Mon.
	(FOLKESTONE HD.)	
	NEWINGTON (MILTON HD.)	Niwantun(e), Niuuentune c. 1100 DomMon; Newton 1172-3 P; Niweton'1175-6 P.
	NEWNHAM	Newenham 1177 Reg Roff; Niwenham 1182-4 ib.
OE *peof 'thief'	TUDELEY	Tiuedele c. 1100 Dom Mon; Theudelei c. 1100 Text Roff.
OE Cēol Pers. N.	CHELSFIELD	Cilesfeld c. 1100 Text Roff; de Chelefeld 1176-7 P; Chelesfeld 1185- 1214 Reg Roff; 1198 FF; Chelefeld' 1194 Cur
OE Lēofa Pers. N.	LEAVELAND	Liofeland, Lieveland(e) c. 1100 Dom Mon; Levelande c. 1175 ArchC 4, 211; Leveland c. 1180 ib., 215; de Liveland' 1199 Cur.

# TABLE 3: 14<sup>TH</sup> C. KENTISH PLACE-NAME FORMS WITH *E* IN THE FIRST OR UNIQUE ELEMENT

OE <i>bēonet</i> 'long and thick grass'	BENSTED	<b>Bente</b> stede 1312 FF; <b>Bent</b> sted 1316 Ipm, etc.
and unck grass	BENTHAM HILL	de Benthame 1327 Subs; de Bent hamme 1332, 1338 Subs; de Benehamme 1334 Subs; Bentham (p.) 1348 Subs.
	BENCHILL FM	Cf. Phps. Will. de <b>Bente</b> leye 1301 FF.
IA <i>brēosa</i> 'horsefly'	BRISHING WD., B. COURT	Bresyng 1346 FA; Bresynge 1362 Cl; Bressing' 1368 Cl; Bressinge Ipm.
	BRISSENDEN	Bresindenn' 1346 Subs; Bresyndenne 1327, 1334 Subs; Bresynden' 1338, 1347 Subs; de Bresyndenn' 1346Subs; de Bresindene 1348 Subs.
OE <i>dēop</i> 'deep'	DEPTFORD	<b>Depe</b> ford' 1351 FF; <b>Dep</b> ford' 1313 FF; <b>Deppe</b> ford' 1314 FF; <b>Dep</b> ford 1334 Fine; <b>Depe</b> forde 1344 FF.
	DIBDEN	de <b>Depe</b> dene 1310 FF; 1332 Subs; de <b>Depe</b> den' 1315 FF; de <b>Depe</b> dene 1327 Subs; <b>Depe</b> denn' 1334 Subs; de <b>Depe</b> denne 1338 Subs; <b>Depin</b> den', <b>Depe(n)</b> den' (p.) 1348 Subs.
OE <i>dēor</i> 'deer'	DARGETS WD.	De <b>Der</b> gate (s. Horsted 116 E 2) 1313 Ass.
	DARGATE	De <b>Der</b> gate 1348 Subs.
	DEERTON ST.	de <b>Der</b> tone 1334 Subs; de Deyr-, Drayton' 1338 Subs; de Dy(e)r-, Draytone 1346 Subs; de Dyerr-, Drayton' 1347 Subs; de <b>Der</b> tone, Drayton' 1348 Subs.
OE <i>hlēo</i> 'shelter'	LYDDEN	Ledene 13 StAug.

	(RINGSLOW HD.)	
OE <i>hrēod</i> 'reed'	†REDEMEREGGE	Redmeregge1301Subs;Rodmeregge1323FF;1396Pat;1398Ipm;Rodmeresregg'1332Subs;Rude-merigge,Rodemerigge1343Cl;Rodmerugg1344Cl;Redmergge1369Cl;Rodemerigge1374FF;Red-marerugg1376Pat;Rodmerugge1379Rodmerugge1379Cl.KodmeruggeKodmerugge
OE <i>nēowe</i> 'new'	NEWBURY	Neuburgh 1342 Ipm; Newburgh' 1348 Subs; Newebourgh 1349 Ipm; Newburgh 1357, 1395 BM I.
	NEWCOURT WD.	<i>Newecourt</i> 1327 <i>Subs;</i> 1343-4 <i>Ass;</i> 1343-4 <i>Ass; de Neweco(u)rt</i> 1332, 1334, 1338 <i>Subs;</i> <i>Newecourt</i> 1346 <i>FA</i> .
	NEWENDEN	Neuyn-, Newyndenn' 1313 Ass; de Newyndenne 1332 Subs; de Newyndñ 1334 Subs, etc.
	NEW HYTHE	Niwehethe 1316 Cl; Newehethe 1320 FF; Neuheth 1323 Cl; Newehethe 1325 Inq.
	NEWLAND	de la Newland 1313-4 Seld 24,
	(CALEHILL HD.)	195; ate Newelonde 1327 Subs, etc.
	NEWLAND (PORT OF NEW ROMNEY)	Newelandeswall 1351Pat.
	NEWLANDS	Atte <b>Newe</b> londe 1327, 1332, 1334, 1347 Subs.
	NEWNHAM FM.	de Newenham 1332 Subs.
	NEWSOLE FM.	de <b>Newe</b> sole 1304 Ass; 1327, 1332, 1334 Subs, etc.
	NEWSTREET FM.	<i>Neustrete 1327 Subs; de Newestrete 1347 Subs.</i>
OE <i>prēosta</i> 'priests'	PRESTON FM., HILL	<b>Pres</b> ton' 1377 FF; <b>Pres</b> ton 1325 Cl; 1330 Ipm; de <b>Pres</b> tone 1332 Subs; de <b>Pres</b> ton' 1334 Subs; <b>Pre</b> ston 1346 FA; 1372 Cl.
	PRESTON FM.	de <b>Pres</b> ton' 1348.

## Old Elglish eo in Middle Kentish Place-names

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	PRIESTWOOD, P. GREEN	de <b>Prest</b> wode 1327, 1332, 1338 Subs.
OE * <b>þēof</b> 'thief	TUDELEY	<b>Teu</b> dele 1316, 1320 FF; 1324-5 BM I; 1324 Cl; 1327 Ipm; <b>Thew</b> dele 1313 Ass; <b>Tewe</b> dale 1316 FA; <b>Teu-</b> , Tyedele, Tyendale 1353 FF, etc.
OE <i>Lēofmær</i> Pers. N.	LYMBRIDGE GREEN	de Lymeryng' 1316-28 Ass; 1327 Subs; de <b>Lemeryng'</b> 1334 Subs.

TABLE 4: 14 <sup>TH</sup> C. KENTISH PLACE-NAME FORMS WITH <i>I</i> IN THE FIRST
OR UNIQUE ELEMENT

OE <i>hlēo</i> 'shelter'	LYDDEN VALLEY	Lhydene 1313 Ass.
OE <i>nēowe</i> 'new'	NEW HYTHE	Niwehethe 1316 Cl; Newehethe 1320 FF; Neuheth 1323 Cl; Newehethe 1325 Inq.
	NIZEL'S HEATH	Nigheselle 1327 Subs; Nys(h)ell' 1332 Subs; Nyselle 1346 Subs; Ny-, Niselle 1347 Subs; Niselle (p.) 1348 Subs; Nisell' 1380 FF.
OE Hēopwell Pers. N.	EBBSFLEET	Hyppelesfleot 1308 Th.
OE <i>Lēofwynn</i> Pers. N.	LYDDENDANE FM.	de <b>Lyuene</b> dane 1327 Subs; de <b>Lyuyn</b> dan' 1347, 1348 Subs.
OE <i>Lēofa/Lēofwine</i>	†LYMBOROUGH	de <b>Lym</b> b'gh' 1327, 1332,
Pers. N.	BOTTOM	1346 Subs; de <b>Lym</b> bergh' 1332 Subs; <b>Lim</b> berghe 1334 Subs, etc.
OE <i>Lēofmær</i> Pers. N.	LYMBRIDGE GREEN	de <b>Lymeryng'</b> 1316-28 Ass; 1327 Subs; de <b>Lemeryng'</b> 1334 Subs.

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