

# News, Comments, Queries

## FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ONOMASTIC SCIENCES (Toponymy and Anthroponymy)

Salamanca, April 12th-15th, 1955.

At the Brussels congress in 1949 it was decided that the international congresses should in future be held every third year and at the fourth congress, which took place in August 1952 in Uppsala, Salamanca has been chosen as seat for the fifth congress in 1955.

The Organizing Committee has the privilege of collaborating with the International Centre of Onomastics at Louvain, founded by decision of the Brussels congress and with its director M. H. J. van de Wijer, professor at Louvain University and Secretary-General of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences.

The proceedings of the congress will be conducted both in general meetings and in special sections, the number and scope of which will be decided later.

Papers should deal with problems of more general interest and should not take more than twenty minutes each; any not fulfilling these conditions may be rejected. Papers submitted by persons not attending the congress will not be included in the programme.

Wishes have been expressed that the following general subjects should be treated:

1. The tasks, methods and terminology of Onomastics.
2. Pre-Indo-European, pre-Roman and Basque Onomastics.
3. Indo-European Onomastics.
4. Romance Onomastics.
5. Hispanic Onomastics (including Latin-America).
6. Germanic Onomastics.
7. Slavic Onomastics.
8. African Onomastics.
9. Ancient and Modern Oriental Onomastics.
10. Onomastics and connected sciences.

11. International normalisation of the orthography of geographic names.
12. Onomastic inquiry on a world scale.

We are anxious to ask the future members of the Fifth International Congress to communicate to us their suggestions with a view to setting down the problems which will be treated in the different sections.

The Organizing Committee request all speakers to advise us in due time and to send in short synopses, *not exceeding twenty lines*, of their papers.

The languages recommended for use at the congress are English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Members of the congress not speaking in English or French are required to add a short synopsis of their speeches either in English or in French.

To enable the proceedings to run according to programme the Organizing Committee reserves the right—should it be necessary—to limit the number of papers.

The Membership Fee will be 300 Ptas. to be paid to Mr. Manuel García Blanco, University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain.

All persons having paid the Membership Fee will be regarded as members of the Fifth International Congress.

The Organizing Committee is convinced that members of the Fifth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences will have ample opportunities for free and informal exchange of ideas and experiences in an atmosphere of sincere brotherhood and hearty goodwill.

*Sinology and Onomastics.*—In the April–June issue, 1954, of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* appears an article by Wolfram Eberhard, entitled “Preliminary Note on Place Names in Medieval China.” In spite of its modest title and although decidedly limited in scope the article shows clearly what a wealth of material a sociological as well as a political historian can gain from the study of geographical names. Mr. Eberhard makes this significant statement: “Practically no use has so far been made of the tremendous amount of data concerning Chinese place names.” Let us hope the orientalists among our members will hear the call. Next to American nomenclature, *Names* and the *ANS* should be interested in oriental nomenclature, an area sadly neglected by our European fellow onomatologists.

*Canadian Linguistic Association.*—During its organizational meeting at the University of Manitoba on May 27th, an exhibition of recent linguistic literature was organized by J. B. Rudnyćkyj, with a separate section on onomastic literature. American onomastics was represented by *Names*: all 5 issues were exhibited and an informative prospectus on ANS was distributed among those present.

*California Names.*—In the issue of *Western Folklore* for October, 1954, pp. 268–277, there appeared an article called “Sonoma-Carquinez-Umunhum-Colma: Some Disputed California Names,” by M. S. Beeler. The existing literature on these four place names of the San Francisco Bay Area is discussed, and new etymologies are proposed for each.

*Sibs and Sibling.*—Though every-day English has no equivalent for the German *Geschwister*, (*Names*, September 1954, p. 194), geneticists use the term sibs and anthropologists the term sibling to express the same idea.

*Nathan D. Perlman Place.*—By action of the City Council of New York, Livingston Place was changed to Nathan D. Perlman Place. Livingston Place was named shortly after the death of Edward Livingston, one-time mayor of New York City. It seems incredible that the city fathers of New York would abolish without any apparent reason a name which had existed for 128 years. While the *ANS* recognizes the privilege of any city government to change the names of their streets and places, it also agrees with the U. S. Board on Geographical Names that a time-honored name should not be wiped out except for urgent reasons.

*The Name Jippen.*—One of our members would like to know the meaning of the name Jippen (or Ippen, Gippe, Gibbe). The name occurs as a family name in Prague in Czecho-Slovakia: Göbel Jippen (1702), Zacharias Samuel Jippen (1702), Amsel Hirschel Jippen (1724), Hirschel Amsel Jippen (1746).

*Donawali in Ripley County, Missouri.*—This name was misspelled Bonawali in *Names*, December, 1953, p. 266.