

## Editor's Page

The response to the section "Your Name" has been quite uneven. Some correspondents maintain that singling out the names of contributors and members of the *ANS* would be all right for a fraternal or local publication but not for a scholarly periodical. Other readers are quite enthusiastic about the section and submitted pages filled with genealogical and historical accounts of their names. I believe that the objections by scholars are not quite justified. I know a number of journals, more academic than *Names*, which resort to personal and gossipy sections to make the publication more interesting. I know of at least one very scholarly journal which was seldom taken out of its wrapper until the editor added several pages of interesting general news. On the other hand "Your Name" should not become a column where members indulge in telling of their proud descentance from William the Conqueror—whom by the way, *all* Western Europeans can count among their ancestors. I believe a compromise is clearly indicated. As soon as our funds will be large enough to fulfill our original promise of publishing annually 350 to 400 pages, we should separate from the part strictly devoted to name research the pages given to *ANS* news etc., print these sections in smaller type and number them separately with Roman numerals. Further comments by our readers will be most welcome.

C. Grant Loomis' article opens a new, interesting field, the use of names in limericks (as well as in other rhyming) and its possible significance for the way names are pronounced. I wonder whether one of our greatest limericks could be classified with Loomis' examples:

There was once a man in Nantucket  
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.  
His daughter called Nan  
Ran away with a man  
And as to the bucket—Nantucket.

The second instalment of Dabbs' bibliography of Latin American literature about names includes the publications of 1953. However, older literature, not contained in the first instalment (*Names*, September, 1953) is also listed. For Mexico and Peru a supplementary bibliography will be published in a subsequent issue.

George Stewart's article on the name California shows how far the problem of the origin of the great name is still from being solved. Controversies have often been instrumental in solving an onomatological riddle. Let us hope that we shall some day publish in our journal the final word on the name.

The article by C. A. Weslager gives extensive documentary evidence

that Hoerenkil actually means what the Dutch intended it to mean. It definitely solves an early American place name puzzle. Mr. Weslager, one of our charter members, has written repeatedly on Atlantic Coast place names.

Mamie Meredith's contribution shows the development of a new group of names for something that was heretofore designated purely descriptively. It took place before our very eyes and shows the healthy, popular, slangy creativeness of our democratic psychology. Professor Meredith is a member of our sponsoring committee and our editorial board and will, I hope, continue her studies of the folkloristic aspect of American nomenclature.

W. L. McAtee is already well known to our readers. In the June, 1953, issue he published a lengthy article on the longevity of bird names.

The survey of the activity on the study of geographical names in our western states should have a healthy effect upon place name research in other sections. *Names* is ready to publish such state surveys as Professor Pearce's collaborators published in *Western Folklore*. The author, professor of English at the University of New Mexico, is one of our sponsors and charter members.



The attention of the members of the *ANS* and the readers of *Names* is called to the important announcement on page 184 of this issue. Since its publication in 1948, the *Bibliography of Place Name Literature*, compiled by our members Pauline Seeley and Richard B. Sealock, has become a standard reference book. In one of the early issues of *Names* in 1955, we intend to publish the second supplement to this bibliography covering the years 1952, 53, 54, and in a later issue the first supplement for the years 1948, 49, 50, 51. After that the project will be continued as an annual bibliography until the appropriate time for a new edition. I hope that our members and readers will help the project by supplying Mr. Sealock with items concerning place names in North America, especially such items which are published locally or regionally and therefore may escape even the eye of a diligent researcher.

At the same time our readers are urged to help to make our other bibliographies as complete as possible. Items in English concerning personal names should be sent to Elsdon C. Smith, 322 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Illinois, and items concerning Latin American toponymy to Jack A. Dabbs, 1011 Edgewood, Bryant, Texas.