

News, Comments, Queries

The International Congress at Salamanca

The fifth meeting of the International Congress of the Onomastic Sciences, held at the University of Salamanca on April 12–15, was most successful. More than 200 delegates from some 25 countries were in attendance. The organizing committee, consisting chiefly of members of the faculty of the University, deserves much credit for a task well done. In the absence of its students on Easter vacation, all the facilities of the University were placed at the disposal of the delegates, who deeply appreciated the many courtesies extended to them.

Working sessions of the various sections were held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with a final plenary session on Friday morning. More than 80 papers on a wide variety of subjects were presented to the Congress. Of noteworthy interest was the increased attention to the practical everyday use of names on maps, exemplified by the establishment of a section (No. VI), not originally planned for, that is devoted to the consideration of the international standardization of geographic names.

Entertainment provided for the delegates included an opening reception by the rector of the University, Dr. Tovar, on Monday evening, and a noon reception by the provincial governor and staff on Tuesday, with folk dances by both men and women in the striking local costumes, among the most elaborate in all Spain. On Wednesday there was a most enjoyable "fraternity luncheon," with a concert in the evening. Late Thursday afternoon the entire Congress was taken by bus for a picnic party at a large farm about 35 miles southwest of Salamanca, where bulls are raised for some of the principal arenas in Spain. On Friday afternoon there was a colorful ceremony for the conferring of an honorary degree on our charter member, H. J. van de Wijer of Belgium, general secretary of CISO, and for the decoration of ten members of the Congress with the Grand Cross of the Order of Alfonso X, "El Sabio," the early Spanish ruler who did most to start the University on its

long and successful career when he endowed twelve lectureships in 1254, the date from which the 700th anniversary of the University was celebrated in 1954. Our president, Meredith F. Burrill was one of the recipients of this decoration, the others being from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Turkey.

The exhibit of works dealing with onomastic and linguistic subjects was most complete, and merited much more time than could be devoted to it. At future congresses our Society should endeavor to present a larger and more representative contribution to this sort of exhibit.

It was not until March that the Department of State decided to send an official delegation to the Congress, consisting of Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, Executive Secretary of the Board on Geographic Names and President of the ANS, and Lewis Heck, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the latter having previously been named to represent the Society before any designation of official delegates. The principal American contribution to the success of the Congress was the sustained effort by Dr. Burrill to bring about the realization of the aims set forth in the resolution presented by the American delegates at Uppsala, Sweden, in 1952 (see page 52 of Vol. I, No. 1 of *Names*, March, 1953). He presented a paper on "Some Considerations in International Standardization of Geographic Names," and with the cooperation of British, Canadian, and French representatives secured the final adoption by the Congress of a resolution calling for an international commission, with subcommittees as may be necessary and possible, to study this whole field and to present a report on its activities at the next Congress, to be held at München, Germany, in 1958.

LEWIS HECK

The fifth International Congress on Onomastic Sciences in Salamanca was a notable one, as will be evident from the report of our Society's official delegate, Lewis Heck. The setting at one of the oldest universities in Europe, whose intellectual up-to-dateness was immediately apparent, was most appropriate for a congress that looks to both past and present. The organization of the affairs of the Congress was superb. The schedule for each day was distributed during the preceding afternoon, listing all sessions, speakers, those

presiding, place of meeting and special events. The schedules were followed with seldom any hitch or confusion. The hospitality was delightful, the special events being in excellent taste and of a sort to foster the feeling of fellowship that permeated the entire meeting. We could not have had more gracious, thoughtful hosts. The Rector, Dr. Tovar, not only set the *muy simpatico* tone but also participated actively in the Congress. The climax of the Congress was the investiture of Professor van de Wijer with the regalia of Doctor honoris causa. The University of Salamanca thus extended recognition to an able and beloved scholar and, implicitly, to the field of onomastics and all who have searched for truth in it. It was also gratifying to note that the American Name Society is widely known and highly regarded abroad. *Names* has already acquired an enviable reputation.

MEREDITH F. BURRILL

Garden Philosopher.—This is the title of the most recent writing of our charter member, Charles M. Goethe. In his charming style, spiced with sly humor, he reveals a phase of his rich and productive life, namely his enjoyment in the gardens of the world from the luxurious Wisteria–Lotus–Iris complex in Japan to the modest window boxes with geraniums and nasturiums in the Hans Sachs house in Nurnberg. We should not say “his” enjoyment—Mr. Goethe speaks throughout of “We-two” including his departed life partner, Mary Glide Goethe, whose name is commemorated in one of the most beautiful stands of redwoods in California.

A “garden philosopher,” it must be understood, is not a man who philosophizes in gardens or about gardening. With a keen eye Goethe observes everything connected with nature, and trees, eugenics and biology, genetics and soils. His knowledge of the ways of this world and his compass of interest is truly astonishing. Naturally, his interest also includes names, in this case especially botanical names. He fits the names of the Bougainvillea, the Begonia, the Fuchsia, the Eschscholtzia into their historical settings. He explains why the yucca is called the century plant and tells us that the Chinese call the Gingko “duck’s foot-leaf tree,” as clumsy a name as our “maiden-hair fern tree” but certainly much more descriptive. A passage is devoted to “Mimetic Bird Names in Gardens.”

All in all a delightful book, showing the unimpaired intellectual capacity of an octogenarian.

Louise Pound honored.—Our sponsor and charter member Professor Louise Pound is the president for 1955 of the Modern Language Association—the first time in the many years of existence of the Association that a woman was elected to the high office.

In Honor of H. J. van de Wijer.—The thirtieth volume of *Mededelingen* published by the Vereniging voor Naamkunde to Leuven and the Commissie voor Naamkunde to Amsterdam, is a *Feestnummer* in honor of H. J. van de Wijer, secretary general of the international committee on onomastics and a charter member of the A.N.S. The volume opens with an article, *Tien jaar naamkunde te Leuven* by H. Draye and K. Roelandts, an account of Mr. van de Wijer's activities as a pioneer in the field of name research. It is followed by a list of publications from 1944 to 1954, continuing the bibliography which was contained in the *Feestbundel*, published in van de Wijer's honor at the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his connection with the University of Leuven. Among the other interesting articles in the volume we note several of a universal nature: K. Roelandts and M. Schönfeld, *Naamkundige terminologie*, and J. de Wilde, *Toponymie en literatuurgeschiedenis*.

Names in American Limericks.—Anent C. Grant Loomis' article in the December issue. Albuquerque: I cannot recall anything but a four-syllable pronunciation.—Chicago. The pronunciation to rhyme with *paw go* was in my recollection, going back to 1900, the ordinary one, but natives fifty years ago were inclined toward *shee-kah-gah*, rhyming with *bah*. This is, I think, the original Indian pronunciation. One heard all kinds of variant pronunciations of the city name. I have even heard *Chick-a-gó* from Easterners.—Dubuque. I never heard anything but *iu*, rhyming with *cuke*. I imagine the took-shook rhymes came from the man who called Houston St. in New York City, Howston.—Ottawa, Kansas. I never heard called Ottaway. I don't know about the other two.—Passaic. Mrs. Starck's grandmother Todd, born in Newark in 1840, always

said: *à-ic*. In this case, the cake-limerick may be from a Westerner.—Terre Haute. The name in my memory was always pronounced to rhyme with caught.—Butte. I never heard it, even by natives pronounced other than *iú*, to rhyme with cute, so shoot is an instance of approximation.

TAYLOR STARCK

“Bull” Durham or Bull Durham?—I was probably mistaken in my parenthetical remark associating the brand name “Bull” Durham with the breed of cattle, which appeared in my comment “Cattle Nomenclature” (*Names*, March, 1955). I do not know anything about the naming of “Bull” Durham. I was just misled by the extensive use of the representation of a bull in advertising the tobacco a generation or so ago. According to the label the product is simply “Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco,” although the tag is inscribed “Bull Durham.” It seems likely that Durham, North Carolina, where the tobacco was originally processed, was the inspiration for the brand name.

Who has factual information about the naming of “Bull” Durham?

R. D. ROBERTS

Acteon's Dogs.—My reading of D. T. Starnes' “Acteon's Dogs” (*Names*, III, 19–25) coincided with my page-turning of a seventeenth-century Latin-English Dictionary (*Thomae Thomasi Dictionarium*, etc. . . . decima quarta editio, ex officina Johannis Legati, 1644. Actually, this work is an enlargement of Philemon Holland's compilation, 1614; 2nd ed., 1630). The Junius-Higgins *Nomenclator* (1585) seems to have been incorporated into this dictionary with only slight variations. Usually the same references appear with the notation, *nomen canis*. All names find record except *Oribasus* and *Pterelas*. Variants in translation are: *Hylactor* & *Hylax*: Ring instead of Ringer; *Melaneus* & *Melancetes*: the last added from Ovid's list; *Nephrobonus* appears as *Nebrophonus* (Cf. Ovid); *Podargus* is translated as Swift foot; while *Poemini* (Ovid, *Poemenis*) translates as Shepherds dogge. Under *Tigris* (Ovid), in addition to the meaning, tiger adds: also flight, but does not note *nomen canis*.

C. GRANT LOOMIS