
Contributors

Thomas J. Gasque, Professor of English, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069, is in his third year as Editor of *Names*. He wants to take this opportunity to thank Donald Orth for agreeing to take on the task as guest editor of this special issue. Through several years of planning, soliciting, and editing and despite his own unusually busy schedule, Don has managed to put this journal back on schedule.

Harold E. Gulley, Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI 54901, has previously published articles in *The Geographical Magazine* and *Soviet Geography*. His research interests include placenames in the southeastern United States, Civil War cartography, and economic development in tsarist Russia.

Helen Kerfoot, 650-615 Booth Street, Ottawa K1A 0E9, Canada, is Executive Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. She is interested in various current aspects of Canadian toponymy, including naming by aboriginal peoples and uses of automated toponymic records. She also takes an active interest in the work of the American Name Society.

Edwin D. Lawson, Professor of Psychology, State University of New York College at Fredonia, Fredonia, NY 14063, is a member of the Board of Editors of *Names*. His 1987 book, *Personal Names and Naming: An Annotated Bibliography*, is still available from Greenwood Press for \$35 plus postage. Even so, he continues to gather new material for a second edition. His annotated bibliography of writings about nicknames will appear in the December issue of *Names*.

W. F. H. Nicolaisen, Distinguished Professor of English and Folklore, State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13901, is a former president of the American Name Society (1977) and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences. He has published extensively on onomastic matters, especially Scottish placenames and the theoretical aspects of names.

Donald J. Orth, Board on Geographic Names, U. S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092, has been Executive Secretary for Domestic Names since 1973. For over thirty-five years he has been involved with the practical use of geographic names as a cartographer/geographer with the U.S.G.S. He was president of the American Name Society in 1972 and is on the International Council of Onomastic Sciences and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Richard Randall, Board on Geographic Names, Defense Mapping Agency, 8613 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031, has been Executive Secretary of the Board on Geographic Names since 1973. He also serves as Executive Secretary for Foreign Names and Geographer of the Defense Mapping Agency. As president of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, he has designed and taught courses on names standardization in Latin America.

Alan Rayburn, 5 Solva Drive, Nepean, Ontario K2H 5R4, Canada, is the former Executive Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. He has a regular geographic names column in *Canadian Geographic*. His recent onomastic interests include the treatment of Quebec's official names of places and institutions in the English language press and the variety of terms in west coast water-feature names. He was president of the American Name Society in 1985.

Wilbur Zelinsky, Professor of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, has written extensively on the cultural significance of names and naming, as well as on many other aspects of cultural geography. His recent book, *Nation Into State: The Shifting Symbolic Foundations of American Nationalism*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press. He has been a member of the Board of Editors of *Names* since 1983.

US GEODATA...GEOGRAPHIC NAMES INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is an automated data system developed by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) to standardize and disseminate information on geographic names. GNIS provides primary information for all known places, features, and areas in the United States identified by a proper name. The information in the system can be manipulated to meet varied needs. Data from GNIS can be incorporated into other data bases for special applications.

GNIS is composed of three separate data bases, each of which provides different, but related, information for names in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the territories and outlying areas of the United States.

The National Geographic Names Data Base (NGNDB)

This data base contains computerized records on almost two million geographic feature names, from populated places, schools, reservoirs, and parks to streams, valleys, springs, and ridges.

The data base is organized into separately maintained files for each state or territory, the size of the file depending on the number of features and amount of information collected to date. Data compilation and augmentation is ongoing. For information on individual states, write to the GNIS Manager.

GNIS data are available on 8 1/2 by 11-inch bound paper listings, as magnetic tape files, and on microfiche. A formal publication derived from the data base, titled *The National Gazetteer of the United States of America*, is presently available for some states.

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