

From the Editor

With this issue I become the ninth editor in the forty year history of *Names*. It is a position I accept with great humility and even greater trepidation.

As is customary during a time of simultaneous ending and beginning, I would like to thank several of the people who have made this editorship possible and to briefly share with the membership some of my thoughts on the future of *Names*.

The first person I would like to thank is someone to whom the entire membership of the Society, past, present, and future, is indebted, Kelsie B. Harder. Kelsie is the soul and sinew of the American Name Society. He is also the Grover Cleveland of *Names* editors, having served in 1966-68 and again in 1982-87. Kelsie has been an unending source of inspiration and encouragement for me, always lavish in his praise and support, always available for counsel and comment, always willing to give of his time and talents. His unqualified and undemanding acceptance has been an important part of my intellectual life and knowing that I could draw upon his years of scholarly accomplishments and social and professional wisdom were determining factors in my accepting this position. I first met Kelsie a decade or so ago; one of my deepest professional regrets is that I did not meet him twenty years earlier.

And, of course, I thank my most immediate predecessor and Heartland neighbor, Tom Gasque, who has edited *Names* superbly for the past five years. During that time the journal has risen to a position of prominence and has become one of the world's most respected onomastic publications. Tom has left me in the enviable position of assuming the editorship of an established journal, one with an international following and a reputation for distinguished publication. Among his many contributions to the smooth change of editors, I especially appreciate Tom's efforts to clear the

2 Names 41.1 (March 1993)

calendar at the end of his editorship, leaving me with a relatively clean slate, upon which I now begin to write my own fortunes.

I see no major changes for *Names*; the format and policies established and maintained by Kelsie Harder, Tom Gasque, and the editors which preceded them have served the Society well for nearly half a century. Any contributions I might make to the further success of *Names* should be seen as a continuation of their work.

Upon his assuming editorship in 1988, Tom Gasque remarked "The journal has offered a balance of articles studying various kinds of names, especially placenames, literary names, and personal names...." Judging from the manuscripts which have arrived in the past six months, these areas continue to be the butter and bread of name research in the United States; for this reason alone, they will continue to be featured prominently in *Names*.

Editorial policies will continue essentially unchanged. Each manuscript will be read by at least two qualified scholars, who will recommend that the manuscript be published or not, with revisions or not. If these readers disagree, the manuscript will be sent to a third person. All refereeing is double blind: readers do not know the identities of the authors and authors do not know the identities of the readers. Anonymity is an especially important aspect of peer review since I ask all readers for permission to send copies of their evaluations to the authors. Only in this way, by the unencumbered sharing of information in such a way as to maximize professionalism and common concerns, can we continue to improve the quality of the articles which appear in *Names* and that of onomastic research in general.

Formally, manuscripts and reviews must conform to MLA style, including internal documentation and "Works Cited."

The only substantive changes in editing *Names* which I can see are those resulting from the electronic revolution. The next several years will surely see wide-ranging and profound changes which will affect most areas of scholarly publishing, due largely to the increasing accessibility and sophistication of e-mail, desktop publishing, and the ever-growing power of personal computers. The day will come, and it will almost certainly be within the careers of most of us, when the editor will load the current issue of *Names*

onto a server, announce its availability to the membership through the Internet, and members will download the issue onto their disk drives, read it, and make hard copies of articles which interest them.

That day, more to be welcomed than feared, is lurking just over the publishing horizon. Although it is not yet with us, its harbingers are already influencing the ways in which *Names* is conceived, edited, printed and distributed. Now, when I accept a manuscript, I ask the authors to send a corrected copy on disk; it is this digital version which is used to typeset and print the article.

This number of *Names* offers a sample of the publishing marvels which lie ahead. One article in this issue was submitted, read, returned, proof-read by the author, and re-submitted, all by Internet, without a single piece of paper changing hands; the only hard copy is the one you now hold.

While this is currently an exception, to be sure, there is every reason to believe that the scholarly enterprise will be recognizable but radically altered by today's technology and changed in ways we can only imagine by tomorrow's.

I am sure that my ultimate concerns and expectations for *Names* are those of all previous editors: I hope that I can build upon the accomplishments of my predecessors and insure that *Names* will continue to be one of the world's premiere onomastic journals, one which brings to the scholarly community quality articles on significant topics – perceptive, scholarly, and intelligently-written – articles which extend our knowledge of names and the reasons for naming, and which provoke us to consider larger issues of descriptive and theoretical importance. Here we have common cause.

Edward Callary
Northern Illinois University

Early Notice

ICOS XIX

The International Congress of Onomastic Sciences is scheduled for 4-11 August, 1996, at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Arrangements are being handled by Professor W. F. H. Nicolaisen. The first circular will be sent in September, 1994. For information before then, contact Professor Nicolaisen directly at the Department of English, King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland AB9 2UB. Telephone: 011-44-224-272625. Fax: 011-44-224-272624.

Special Issue of *Names*

The December 1993 issue of *Names* will be a Festschrift honoring Leonard R. N. Ashley for his years of service to the American Name Society and his many contributions to the study of names and naming. The issue will be delayed until early in 1994; however, contributors should send completed or nearly completed papers to the Editor by 30 December 1993. In keeping with the eclectic nature of Leonard Ashley's onomastic mind, papers on any or all aspects of names and naming would be appropriate. All manuscripts will undergo the normal *Names* review process. Send manuscripts or requests for further information to:

Edward Callary
Editor, *Names*
English Department
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115