

Thinking of the American Name Society

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My association with ANS began with my membership in 1952 and that has been the major part of my professional experience outside of the classroom. Kelsie Harder and his wife Louise accompanied me through a major portion of my early career and even enlivened what otherwise was a very pleasant experience. I was assistant editor of *Names* for two years (1960-61) and editor for four years (1962-65).

Back in 1960 Demetrius Georgacas edited the journal, but decided to live in Greece the following year and he depended on me entirely to publish the four 1961 issues. As an old lexicographer myself I understood his inhuman commitment to the Greek Dictionary (which he did eventually publish). I grinned and bore it because, after all, the printer in Heidelberg had been doing such beautiful work, I thought, that we should be able to manage.

My three subsequent years as editor appeared to be ok, but in 1963, with an ACLS grant and still another from my own institution, Fairleigh Dickinson University, I journeyed to the Amsterdam meeting of the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences and on the way stopped by to say hello to our printer who was accustomed to “instant” printing; that is, without ever sending me copy to proof. For a while that seemed to work since I had the impression that somebody at the printer’s was fluent in English (probably the boss) and responsible for reliable printing of whatever copy I shipped over. Imagine my surprise that by then (1963) there had been a change, a very important change.

In Heidelberg I was introduced to the person then assigned to the final printing of *Names* and I discovered that he knew absolutely no English. I prayed for divine help and with profound doubts found my way back to New Jersey. The upshot was that the president of Fairleigh

Dickenson wanted an excuse to subsidize only one journal and ended up cutting out *Names*. I learned that his own proofreader had indeed found a current copy of *Names* full of typos and other mistakes. As I have said, I knew nothing of the condition of the unproofed issue in question before it was printed.

Fortunately for the journal, Kelsie Harder took over as editor (while continuing as ANS Secretary-Treasurer) and found a reliable American printer. (Kelsie always did the work of three people, I thought.)

As president of the American Name Society in 1976, I gave the banquet address in New York on "Family Names of Morris County, New Jersey in the Year 1853." I also attended several other regional meetings (including the Connecticut symposium run by the Berliners) and I continued with the Names Institute at Fairleigh Dickenson. I founded the Names Institute in the spring of 1962, and directed it for 25 years. The final year for the Institute at Fairleigh Dickenson, 1986, Alan Rayburn (then president of ANS) called for the business meeting of ANS to be held at FDU in May instead of at the MLA the following December. That indeed was done the first day of the 1986 meeting. The next two days were devoted to a double program of Institute papers. Many of the administrative details of the entire 25th meeting were carried out by Wayne Finke and Leonard Ashley. The following year the Names Institute moved permanently to New York City, where Marcia Yarmus hosted the meeting the first year; after that the Institute met at Baruch College (1988-2001). The 2001 convention assumed a new title, "The Fortieth Annual International Institute" and this time ran for three days, with the Keynote Address by Wilhelm F. H. Nicolaisen of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Wayne Finke and Leonard Ashley deserve special commendation for continuing the Names Institute, and in particular for a magnificent 40th program.

My personal and professional association with ANS has been most enriching and fascinating, both in subject matter, which is much, much broader than I realized at first, and also for getting to know so many inspiring people. I would have to write at great length to do justice to all of them. My sincerest thanks to one and all.