

*The December, 1955, issue* contained about as great a variety of contributions to our field of study as we can expect to have between the covers of one number. The article on Amerigo Vespucci added nothing new to the name of our continent but to the knowledge of the person in whose honor it was named. German Arcienigas, who gave the subject wide publicity in *Life*, October 11, 1954, and more recently published a new biography of Vespucci, does not seem to add anything of importance to what has been said previously by Tibón, Beeler, Pohl, and others. Leonard B. Loeb, captain, U.S. Army, retired and now professor of Physics in the University of California, is the author of the above mentioned article.

The articles by Kelsie B. Harder, of Youngstown College and William C. Childers, professor of English, University of Florida, show again what a wealth of interesting information can be gleaned from names in literature.—George T. Flom was for many years professor of English and Scandinavian philology at the University of Illinois, and editor of the *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*.—A. R. Dunlap is on the faculty of the University of Delaware, Ivan H. Walton of the College of Engineering, University of Michigan, and Donald T. Clark a librarian at the Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University.—The other contributors to the last issue are known to our readers from previous contributions to *Names*.

*This issue.* In the world of scholarship controversies are not only unavoidable but desirable. Research in all branches of learning would become unnecessary if scholars would be able to give the definite and final answer to all problems confronting them. The etymology, origin, and application of American Indian names is one of the most fruitful fields for research—and for controversies. In Europe such controversies are sometimes still carried on in the spirit of animosity and jealousy (see *Names*, December, 1955, pp. 260f.); in America we prefer to do it in the spirit of chivalry and tolerance. In the June, 1955, issue Edward Taube, a geographer, wrote an essay on Algonquian tribal names; in the present issue, Hamill Kenny, a philologist, challenges a number of Mr. Taube's points. Both contributors are charter members of the *ANS*, and both are nationally known in their fields.

It is not the editor's duty to interfere with a contributor's opinion or with his style. Neither is it his duty to join in controversies—unless he has something important to add. I believe that I am entitled to a note with reference to the first paragraph of Mr. Kenny's article. Knowing little about Eastern Indian languages I can neither confirm nor contradict his statements. However, I am fairly well acquainted with the evolution of Indian names in California and can say with a degree of certainty that all Indian river names were named after the tribes or villages that dwelled on their shores. If in some rare cases, tribes or villages *were* named after a stream, it was because the stream had previously been named after a tribe with which the white people had come in contact first.

Jack A. Dabbs' third instalment, dealing mainly with the nomenclature of Mexico and Peru, completes the bibliography of nomenclature in Latin America to 1953. The bibliography for 1954 and 1955 will be published in the June issue.

William E. Mockler's article is the text part of a dictionary of the surnames of Trans-Allegheny Virginia, completed as a doctoral thesis under the direction of Francis L. Utley. The monograph was submitted in competition for the Mary Glide Goethe Prize.

P. W. F. Brown and W. L. McAtee are known to our readers from previous contributions. E. D. Johnson is director of the Stephens Memorial Library of the Southwestern Louisiana Institute.

*Personal Message.*—For the past three years the University of California Press has published *Names* for the American Name Society. With this issue our journal will be printed by a commercial printer and bear the imprint of our Society alone. Since it was at my request that the officers of the Society authorized me to make this change, I consider it my duty to explain to our members the reasons for this request.

When, in 1951, Elsdon Smith proposed the founding of an American Society devoted to the study of names, I realized that the best method of stimulating and maintaining interest would be the publication of a journal devoted to onomastics. As a member of the faculty of the University of California, I naturally thought of the University of California Press as the proper agency to undertake the publication of the journal for the new Society. The University was supporting a number of other journals, one to the extent of more than fifty per cent of its cost of production. I was further encouraged by the statements of the President of the University and the Editorial Committee that the editing of a scholarly journal is considered an important part of the duties of a member of the Faculty and should entitle him to a reduction of his teaching load.

After extended negotiations the University granted the sum of one thousand dollars for three years with the stipulation that the University Press print the journal. The arrangement seemed expedient, but, experience proved otherwise. The annual \$1000 University subsidy, in effect, served only to cover the difference between the high cost of printing by the University Press and the sum we would have had to pay a commercial press. When the matter of renewing the subsidy was brought up, the whole financial arrangement, together with the slow-moving, bureaucratic action of the committees and boards in charge, induced me to request the *ANS* officers to grant me the authority to have the journal printed by a commercial printer. I felt even more justified to make this request for another reason. Despite the general policy of granting a reduction in the teaching load of a professor who edits a scholarly journal, the head of my department, no scholar himself and unaware of what the editing of a journal entails, found it neither "justified" nor "possible" to reduce my teaching load. As was to be expected, the president of the University, the chancellor, and the "appropriate officers" concurred with this decision. Under these circumstances I feel under no obligation to the University of California with respect to the publishing of *Names*. I am pleased that the American Name Society is able to publish the journal solely under its own imprint.

Erwin G. Gudde