

Editorial

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The first issue of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics* for 2008 (vol. 56, no. 1) was a special issue edited by Alleen Pace Nilsen and Don L. F. Nilsen on the topic of Names and Ethnicity. For this reason, the present issue of *Names* is the first one with which I am directly involved. The contents of this issue are the result of efforts initiated in July 2007 when I started my pre-editorial duties. My official appointment began on 1 January 2008.

As readers of this journal are now aware, Maney Publishing (<http://www.maney.co.uk>) is the new publisher of *Names*. Maney and its representatives have been very helpful and cooperative. Everyone associated with this transition has been very pleased with their help and dedication to this endeavor.

A few words are in order concerning how submissions are processed and the procedures that the Editor of *Names* follows. When an article reaches my email address, I enter the following information into a login file: (1) author's name; (2) author's email address; (3) the title of the article; (4) the identification number (date received and sequential number for the year received); (5) names of the two anonymous reviewers and the deadline by which they must submit their evaluation. When necessary, the Editor consults with scholars who are not on the Editorial Board to ensure an appropriate evaluation of a given submission. The Editor is involved at every stage of the evaluation process. Finally, if it is only possible to secure the opinion of one outside reviewer, the Editor will provide the second review. This system of anonymous reviews guarantees that we only publish refereed articles, and it thus guarantees consistent and high standards for every article that appears in *Names*. It is the goal of this journal to publish approved submissions in a timely fashion.

A few suggestions to contributors are in order at this point. First, submissions should follow the *Names* style sheet available at the American Name Society website: <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ans/>. Second, it is very helpful to ask one or two colleagues to read your submission carefully and critically prior to sending it to the Editor of *Names* so that any issues of grammar and content may be addressed prior to submission. Third, all submissions must be submitted electronically by sending them to my email address (fh Nuesel@louisville.edu) together with an explanatory email. Fourth, once contributors receive the external evaluators' comments, it is important that they address all of the points raised in their revisions in order to facilitate the process. Failure to address the points raised by the external reviewers will result in substantial delays, and possible rejection. Finally, any revisions should be addressed in a timely fashion, i.e., within four weeks.

Names has been in continuous publication for more than fifty years. During that time period, the journal has published some truly groundbreaking articles in the field of onomastics. As a result, there have been numerous requests for back issues in which these articles have appeared. Some of these back issues are difficult to locate and access. For this reason, we have decided to add an occasional feature that we will call 'A Look Back at the American Name Society,' which will feature some of the truly classic articles in the field.

An annual feature will be the report on the 'Name of the Year.' This is an important event that takes place at the yearly meeting, and one that arouses a great deal of public interest. It involves voting on the name of the year during a special session of the American Name Society.

There will also be an occasional 'News and Notes' section. It will consist of materials gathered by the Editor from his own sources and from readers. Any items published must contain complete bibliographic references. It will include only serious onomastic content with no frivolous or otherwise unsuitable items. At this juncture, I ask that readers be very judicious in what they submit. It will not be possible to acknowledge submissions. Moreover, not all items will be published because of time and space limitations.

There will also be an occasional 'Research Report' section to address items that do not fit into the articles and the book review sections of the journal. Submissions for the Research Reports will be treated as articles, and they will undergo external review. Items for this section of the journal may not exceed ten double-spaced pages, including references.

This issue and all future issues would not have been possible without the generous contribution of time and effort on the part of the members of the Editorial Board whose names are located elsewhere in the journal. All of these individuals have been very kind and very understanding in providing their evaluations in a timely fashion. I have, in fact, overburdened several with my demanding deadlines. All members of the American Name Society owe them a debt of gratitude for their unselfish work and effort. A further note of thanks is due Chris De Vinne who serves as Book Review Editor and as a member of the Editorial Board. If you have a book that you think should be reviewed in *Names*, you should send it directly to her at the following address: Dr Chris De Vinne, School of Arts and Sciences, Ursuline College, 2550 Lander Road, Cleveland, OH 44124, USA.

On a personal note, my first memory of *Names* was as an undergraduate student at Indiana University, Bloomington, where I used to peruse journals related to linguistics in a building now known as the 'Old Main Library.' It was there that I came upon an early issue of this journal, and I was totally enthralled. Subsequently, I became interested in the field of onomastics, and I have published a book and numerous articles on the topic. I received my PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and ultimately became a Professor at the University of Louisville where I have been for most of my academic career.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Council of the American Names Society for their help in making my experience with the editorial duties of *Names* a positive one.

I hope that you enjoy this and subsequent issues of *Names*.