

Editorial

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This editorial will report on developments that took place at the annual meeting of the American Name Society held at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel January 8–11, 2009. These meetings are most enjoyable because of the thought-provoking papers presented, the plenary session with an always interesting guest speaker (this year, Michael Adams, Indiana University, Bloomington, ‘*Onomasticum Fantasticum: Names as a Stylistic Element in the Novels of J. R. R. Tolkien, J. K. Rowling, and Philip Pullman*’), the annual balloting for Name of the Year, the opportunity to cultivate professional contacts, and to present one’s own research.

On January 9, 2009, The American Name Society held its annual ‘Name of the Year Discussion and Balloting’ in Union Square 6 of the San Francisco Hilton Hotel. It was chaired by Cleveland Kent Evans (Bellevue University, Nebraska). This very popular feature is open to the public and attendees have the opportunity to offer their commentary about the proposed names and they may introduce additional new names. For the first time this year, there were four categories instead of the usual one. They are: (1) personal names, (2) placenames, (3) trade names, and (4) fictional names. An article on the results of the balloting quickly appeared in the *Omaha World Herald* on January 13, 2009 (http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=1219&u_sid=10536108). Because of the publication schedule for *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*, it is not possible to include what will now be an annual feature of this journal, namely, a note on the results of the annual balloting. This specific event receives widespread coverage in the media. The feature “Name of the Year” will now appear annually in this journal. A complete account of the results of the meeting may be found Cleveland Kent Evans’ note in this journal (pp. 156–157).

At the annual business meeting of the American Name Society, the Editor of *Names* proposed that there be an annual award for the best article in *Names*. To this end, the Members-at-Large of the Executive Council will serve as jurors. The current members of the panel will be the following:

1. Bruce L. Brown (Brigham Young University, Chair 2009)
2. Dwan Shipley (Western Washington University, Chair 2010)
3. Iman Makeba Laversuch (University of Cologne, Germany, Chair 2011).

The *Names* Award Committee operates completely independently of the Editor. The triad of scholars will correspond via email once the final issue of the year has been received (December) to rank the articles (only articles are eligible for consideration for this award) that have appeared in the journal during the calendar year. The first award will be for the best article to appear in 2009. The criteria for the award

include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) quality of the article; and (2) the significance of the article to the science of onomastics. All articles will be considered and the jury will rank them. Once the members reach a decision (which is final), the Chair of the *Names* Award Committee will inform the Editor of *Names*. Only one award will be given per year. The winner of the Award will receive an attractive plaque that will read as follows:

The American Name Society
Recognizes
Name(s) of Author(s)
For the Best Article to Appear in
Names: A Journal of Onomastics
For the year 2009

The awardee will receive the plaque during the annual meeting. The first award will be made during the annual meeting of the American Name Society to be held in January 2011. Because the awardee for 2009 will not be known until after the meeting to be held in January 7–10, 2010 in Baltimore, Maryland (in conjunction with the annual Linguistic Society of America meeting), the recipient will be notified immediately. In addition, there will be an announcement made in the second issue of *Names* (58:2, 2010).

Another matter was approved by the Executive Council. Contributors whose submissions to *Names* have been accepted must join the American Name Society once the Editor informs the author that the article has been accepted. Anyone may still submit articles without being a member, however. Information on membership is available at the American Name Society's Website: <http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ans/>

Names is always looking for submissions that deal with some aspect of onomastics. We invite you to submit your onomastics article in accordance with the format requirements stated on the inside back cover of the journal or the *Names* Style Sheet located at the website of the American Name Society (<http://www.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ans/>), and at the Maney Publishing Company website (<http://maney.co.uk/index.php/journals/nam>).

On a final note, we remind readers that we are planning a special issue of *Names* on Names and War. The announcement is contained in the Call for Papers.