

Editor's Page

This is the last issue of *Names* for which I sign as responsible editor. When I undertook the publication of the new journal in 1952, at the age of sixty-two, I fully realized that my editorship could be only a temporary one. As soon as the *ANS* could find a suitable successor, I would cheerfully resign. Since y younger philologist has now expressed his willingness to take the position, and since the journal is on a fairly sound basis, I believe I can retire without being suspected of deserting a ship which has not yet unfurled all her sails.

The four years as editor of *Names* have been a source of great pleasure. Although editing a journal is not exactly creative work in the literary sense, it nevertheless requires devoted and sustained application which brings the satisfaction that constructive labor always affords. I have been criticized by some for conducting *Names* too much as a scholarly publication, and by others for accepting too many popular articles. Such criticism was to be expected. *Names* can not be a strictly academic periodical because the science of onomastics is not a discipline which enjoys the professional support of members of a single department or subject of instruction in American universities. Furthermore, the study of the origin and meaning of names is widely spread among our fellow men who do not belong to academic circles. Hence the editorial policy has to navigate carefully between the Scylla of academic exactness and the Charybdis of popular appeal. If I have succeeded in creating a periodical which is scholarly without being dull and which is interesting without being amateurish I believe I have done my task. The praise and recognition of *Names*, which is far in excess of criticism and disapprobation, seems to allow this conclusion.

With December 31st, 1956, my tenure as executive secretary of the American Name Society has also come to an end. While I feel a certain regret in giving up the editorship of *Names*, I am happy to be released from my work as secretary of the organization. The American Name Society which sponsors the publication of *Names* is not a scholarly or literary society but a corporation with all the legalistic ballast of an organization which sells oil or promotes real estate developments. To be bound by the iron-clad corporation laws of the state of Illinois was one of the displeasures which accelerated my decision to leave the management of the *ANS* to younger members, who are, let us hope, less sensitive, or else more courageous in facing possible "conflicts with the law."

I believe that *Names* has been definitely established as a national and international periodical in our field of study and interest. I shall continue my efforts to enlarge its prestige and increase its influence to the best of my ability. Our well-trying officers, especially those elected to key positions in the governing board — George R. Stewart, the leading onomatologist in the United States, Fritz Kramer, a young and promising geographer, Madison S. Beeler, a well-known philologist, Elisabeth K. Gudde, a trained librarian and able editor — deserve the support of all members interested in the growth of the Society and its journal.

To all those who have contributed to make *Names* a success I wish to express my sincere appreciation.

Erwin G. Gudde

The copy of the original manuscript of the December issue was lost in the Christmas mail. Except for some delay in the publication of the issue no harm was done; but we were unable to compare the proof sheets with the manuscript of Mr. Dabbs' article. I hope that we have eliminated most of the typographical errors in his article, although the author would doubtless have eliminated some more. In view of the great interest and value of our contributor's essay I hope that our readers will enjoy it in spite of any editorial defections they might discover.

E. G. G.



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