

## Editor's Page

Upon assuming the duties of Editor of *Names* for this year, the undersigned wishes to pay tribute to Dr. Erwin G. Gudde, who started the journal, established a tradition, and served it faithfully for five years, and to Dr. Madison S. Beeler, who continued it for three years and is also responsible for the present issue upon my suggestion.

Change of editorship does not involve any basic changes in editorial policy for at least several years to come. The only possible changes have to be for improvement and these must be approved by the Editorial Board and, if necessary, by the Board of Managers of the American Name Society. The changes in the editorial machinery the present writer has suggested are two: (a) the appointment of a member of the Society, officer or other, as Associate Editor who would help in the editorial work and, in case of emergency, take over the duties of the elected Editor, and (b) the designation of a member as Book Review Editor. The Editorial Board, upon the Editor's suggestion, designated Mr. Elsdon C. Smith, one of its own members in the latter capacity. As soon as the Associate Editor is found, his appointment will be announced in the journal.

An editorial policy at present will be formulated as to the kinds of contributions that are acceptable; likewise an explicit statement of book review policy will be offered. Not only members of the Editorial Board and of the Board of Managers but also all members of the Society are invited to send to the Editor a note of comment on each issue and their constructive suggestions. The policy for publications of *Names* at this time may be summarized, it seems to me, as follows:

A. Although the *A.N.S.* is a society for the study of names in general, theoretical and specific, names of the Western Hemisphere claim a certain priority and this is particularly imposed by the limitations of space (ca. 256—270 pages in the annual volume) and the majority of the membership. However, worthy onomastic contributions in other fields are welcomed since a large number of the membership specialize in these other fields and promote the Society's scholarly cause.

B. Quality of the publications in the journal and certain sound basic principles that lead to scholarly excellence, though approaches and methods in investigating names may vary, are imperative elements that mark higher standards.

C. The broader circle of readers, who also are or may become members of the Society, has to find some attractive popular material in the journal, yet not to the disadvantage of standards. Beside solid scholarly papers, lighter material should be included, at least in some of the issues in each volume, designed for the information of the reader at large.

Quality is to remain our foremost concern, for this will raise the standards of the journal, attract serious scholars to contribute, and uphold the reputation of the periodical at the international competitive level of onomastic scholarship. A fine organ with hundreds of onomastic contributions deposited in the journal's volumes will be a permanent achievement; even the popular material, needed for the general educated reader, must be of superior quality. We have to work toward that goal.

Demetrius J. Georgacas