

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ONOMASTIC SCIENCES

This report, though appearing belatedly, may be of interest to many members of the American Name Society and readers of *Names*. The writer extends his thanks to Professor Karl Puchner for his kind help with relevant information.

The principal advantages of international congresses are (1) that they allow for personal contacts on a large scale among members from many countries of the world, and (2) the activity at the congresses and these personal contacts afford the mutual stimulation on the research level. It is well known that the United States is not a favorable site for international congresses, for their organization here would mean costly transportation and other high expenses for European scholars. It is, therefore, a pleasure to report that the next international congress of linguists will take place in the United States in 1962 and the 4th international congress of classical studies in 1964, both with subsidy provided for at least some of the participating scholars.

Onomatology has made great progress, especially since World War II, and international congresses of onomastic sciences have so far numbered six. It is probably interesting to the reader to have a few data about the two previous congresses as a basis for comparison. The first of these was held in Paris in 1938; it was there that it was decided to set up one congress every three years. The third one was held in Brussels, Belgium, in 1949. The fourth one was held at Uppsala, Sweden, August 18–21, 1952 (see A. Belden and J. G. Mutziger, *Names* 1 [1953], 52f.), and was attended by about 200 persons from 24 countries and by eight members of the *ANS*, including three Americans and one Canadian. In fifteen group sessions fifty papers were listed. The *Acta* were published in two volumes (1: the program, 52 pp., 2: Reports and lectures, 432 pp.), so that we learn that there were 43 lectures and topics. The fifth congress in Salamanca, Spain, April 12–15, 1955, attracted

more than 200 scholars from some 25 countries and 80 papers on a variety of subjects were given (see the announcements in *Names* 2 [1954], 285, and 3 [1955], 50 and the reports of L. Heck, *Names* 3 [1955], 123–34; M. F. Burrill, *ibid.*, 124f.). The seventh congress will convene in Florence, Italy, Easter 1961.

The sixth congress took place in Munich, Germany, August 24–28, 1958. Munich had been chosen for the second congress, scheduled for 1941, but not held because of the war. Presidents of the 1958 Congress were Professor A. Bach and Professor G. Rohlf. Presidents of the Scientific Committee were Professor A. Bach (Bonn) and G. Rohlf (Munich), Professor H. Krahe (Tübingen), Professor H. J. Van de Wijer (Louvain), and Professor E. Schwarz. The Committee consisted of 74 members, three of whom, unfortunately, died before the Congress convened: Albert Dauzat of Paris, Giandomenico Serra of Naples, and Petar Skok of Zagreb. The Secretary-General, Professor Karl Puchner (Munich), was in charge of the organizational details and is largely to be credited with the success of the congress.

The participating onomatologists represented 33 countries (more countries than in any earlier congress). The Russian onomatologist Boris Serebrennikov (Institute for Onomastics, Academy of Sciences in Moscow) had planned to come, but was unable to attend, and only a few came from countries behind the iron curtain (Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania). The printed program, *Vith International Congress of Onomastic Sciences* (Munich, 1958), 115 pages, was distributed along with other complimentary materials to the registered participants and is obtainable from Professor K. Puchner (Arcisstrasse 12, Munich 2). The first volume of the *Transactions and Memoirs*, containing the seven lectures delivered in plenary sessions has now appeared (May 1960), while the second and third volumes, containing the summaries of the papers read, will appear in 1961.

Four hundred seventy-six persons had announced their participation in the congress, but about 400 actually attended, many accompanied by their wives. The total number in attendance reached 500 or more. Out of 143 persons announced as active in the program there were 105 actual participants. All of these figures represent substantial increases compared with the preceding congresses.

Those attending from North America were: from the United States: Meredith F. Burrill (Washington, D.C.), T. Fotich (Catholic University of America), Demetrius J. Georgacas (Univ. of North Dakota), Ernst Pulgram (Univ. of Michigan), Carl Selmer (Hunter College), Alfred Senn (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Elsdon C. Smith and Mrs. Smith (Evanston, Ill.), Otto Springer (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Joshua Whatmough and Mrs. Whatmough (Harvard Univ.), Daniel Wogan (New Orleans); from Canada: Jaroslav B. Rudnyćkyj (Univ. of Manitoba).*

The activities of the congress in the program included seven lectures and 146 papers in ten sections (section 8 having a subdivision 8a); brief abstracts (except for five given in titles only) of the papers were offered in the printed program in book form (pp. 47—113), arranged in alphabetical order according to authors' names. The sections and number of papers in each were distributed as follows (*O.* means *Onomastics*):

1. General *O.* (Methodology and systematics): 14 papers
 2. River Names: 12 papers
 3. Germanic *O.*: 17 papers
 4. German *O.*: 18 papers
 5. Relations of Germanic and Romance *O.*: 8 papers
 6. Romance *O.*: 18 papers
 7. Slavic *O.*: 10 papers
 8. Indo-European and Pre-Indo-European *O.*: 17 papers
 - 8a. Greek *O.*: 9 papers
 9. Non-Indo-European *O.*: 18 papers
 10. International Standardization of Geographic Names: 5 papers.
- Some emphasis was laid on Germanic and German onomastics, as was to be expected, since the congress took place in Germany (sections 3—5 representing 43 papers).

The content and the importance of the papers read and discussed in the sessions cannot be given (and no one could possibly have attended all the sessions, since many were simultaneous). But the lectures delivered by prominent scholars of onomastics in plenary sessions may be listed here (*G.* means *in German*):

J. Corominas (Chicago), *Spanish Toponomastics* (in French)

* It might be interesting to note that Professor J. B. Rudnyćkyj, a past president of the American Name Society (1959), has attended all six international onomastic congresses.

- G. Rohlf's (Munich), *European River Names and their Historical Problems* (G.)
- J. Sahlgren (Uppsala), *Old Swedish River Names* (G.)
- E. Schwarz (Erlangen), *German-Slavic Name Relations from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic* (G.)
- M. Vasmer (Berlin), *The Russian Colonization in the Mirror of the Place Names* (G.)
- J. Whatmough (Harvard), *Onomastics and Linguistics* (in English)
- L. Weisgerber (Bonn), *The Linguistic Stratification of the Early Personal Names in the Rhine Area* (G.)

All of these lectures were significant; that of Prof. Weisgerber given in Augsburg (August 27) was spectacular for the originality of the work and striking and far-reaching conclusions.

Papers read by Americans and the one Canadian, all members of the American Name Society, are listed in the following (they will be published in abstracts in the awaited *Acta and Memoirs* vols. II and III):

- M. F. Burrill (Washington, D.C.), *Generic Terms in United States Hydronyms*.
- D. J. Georgacas (Grand Forks, N. Dak.), *The Post-Classical Names Designating the Peninsula of the Peloponnesus*
- E. Pulgram (Ann Arbor, Mich.), *Individual Name, Class Name, Common Noun*
- A. Senn (Philadelphia), *Today's State of the Investigation of Lithuanian Hydronymics and of Place Names Derived from Them* (in German)
- E. C. Smith (Evanston, Ill.), *Smith Compound Names*
- J. B. Rudnyékyj (Winnipeg), *Anthroponymic Changes in Canada and the United States of America*

On the lectures of Corominas and Whatmough see above.

The text of the seven lectures have appeared as the first volume of the *Acta and Memoirs* and the summaries of the papers are to appear in a second and third volume, as said above.

In the final session (Thursday, August 28), the Secretary General of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences, Professor H. J. Van de Wijer, spoke. Among the onomatologists who had died between the 5th and 6th congresses two Americans were mentioned, H. L. Mencken (1956) and Levette Jay Davidson (1957) (on the

latter cf. E. C. Smith in *Onoma* 7, 2, p. 361 f). He reported also that the onomastic bibliography of 40 countries in the journal ONOMA, started in 1951, will be continued. He announced the election of new representatives for some countries, among them D. J. Georgacas (United States) for Greek Onomastics. Professor Albert Carnoy (Louvain, Belgium) was elected honorary president. The 7th congress was set for Florence, Italy, 1961. Resolutions were unanimously passed and their text is given below.

Hospitality, entertainment, and many courtesies available to the participants made the occasion of the 6th congress a memorable one for all members who came from all over the world and gathered in Munich.

THE RESOLUTIONS

The twelve important resolutions prepared by the Committee and passed by the General Assembly of the Congress are printed here-with because American onomatologists may not have access to them otherwise. Copies of the original texts of these resolutions were, on my request, promptly sent to me by Prof. H. J. Van de Wijer, to whom I wish to express my thanks.

1. Proposed by Prof. G. Rohlfs (Munich).

The scholars gathered in the 6th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences present to the educational administrations of all countries the urgent request to provide in their academic instruction for a chair or lectureship of onomastics, a place that is due to it as an important discipline, especially in conjunction with linguistics, history, and study of the country (*Landeskunde*). [Translated from German.]

2. Proposed by Messrs. A. Pégurier (Paris) and A. Favarger (Bern).

Owing to the interest which a closer contact between cartographers and toponymists would offer, it appears to us necessary to provide in a future congress for the creation of a section of cartographic toponymy. [Transl. from French.]

3. Proposed by Prof. L. Steinberger (Munich) and Prof. K. Puchner (Munich).

The Congress expresses to the Bavarian State Government and to the University of Munich the request that an Institute for Onomastics be founded at the University of Munich. [Transl. from German.]

4. Proposed by Prof. G. Rohlfs (Munich), 2nd section (Hydronymy).

Considering the interest which the names of rivers and streams can have for solving the mystery of the periods long past in the history of mankind, the second section expresses the request that the universities and scholarly academies of each country favor the creation of dictionaries in which the names of the watercourses will be collected completely and treated with the greatest historical documentation possible. [Transl. from French.]

5. Proposed by the 3rd section (Germanic Onomastics).

In connection with the communication of Prof. Pressler, the 3rd section expresses the wish that the establishment of a permanent working Committee be considered for the investigation of names of countries and peoples on an international basis. The importance which is due to such names in the field of onomastics would seem to justify the proposed undertaking. [Transl. from German.]

6. Proposed by the 6th Section (Romance Onomastics)

Following the paper on the Names of fields in France, presented by Mr. André Pégorier, the 6th Section expresses the wish that catalogues of regional names given to the soil according to its agricultural qualities, supplying especially the dialectal forms, be made in all countries adhering to the International Centre of Onomastics. [Transl. from French.]

7. Proposed by Prof. E. Vetter (Vienna), 8th Section (Greek, Italic, and Balkan Onomastics).

The 8th Section proposes that the Congress request of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft financial assistance for the preparation of Indices to the existing volumes of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Etruscarum*, i.e. alphabetic lists of all inscriptively transmitted Etruscan proper names. [Transl. from German.]

8. Proposed by the 9th Section (Non-Indo-European Onomastics).

It is requested that, in future congresses, Turkish toponymy and anthroponymy be made into a separate section. [Summarized from the German original.]

9. Proposed by the 10th Section (International Standardization of Geographic Names).

The 6th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences underlines the urgency of Standardization and Unification of Geographic Names for international purposes.

A prerequisite for the solution of this problem is the existence of official authorities in each country for settling the national writing of names. The fixing of the national writing of names is declared the necessary first step for the international unification of the geographic writing of names.

It is recommended that the international writing of names rest on the national writing forms which the country concerned has itself accepted.

The diacritic signs that appear in the languages with Latin alphabets should, in the international name spelling, not be omitted on principle.

The national boards of all Latin writing countries should join in a commission to work out transcription and transliteration keys for the individual non-Latin-writing linguistic areas.

Where a transcription and transliteration system into the Latin writing is officially recognized and introduced by a non-Latin-writing country, this should be as much as possible taken into consideration by the other countries of the same writing area and, insofar as this system is acceptable for Latin writing systems, be recognized for the international writing of names.

The 6th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences has taken note of the "Draft Program for Achieving International Uniformity in the Writing of Geographic Names," submitted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations Organization and agrees with it. The 6th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences sees in it a practicable way and recommends that the International Centre of Onomastic Sciences cooperate with the Economic and Social Council of the U.N.O. as the appropriate central institution for the international standardization in the writing of geographic names. [Transl. from German.]

10. Proposed by the 10th Section (Subcommission for Africa south of the Sahara).

The Subcommission proposes that the International Centre of Onomastic Sciences take note of the Memorandum of the Subcommission for Africa south of the Sahara; agrees with the principles set out in it; notes that the draft program for international standardization circulated by ECOSOC envisages regional conferences; proposes that the Memorandum be brought to the attention of such standardization conferences as deal with Africa south of the Sahara; suggests that the governments and technical services responsible might be invited to elaborate a practical program within the framework of the principles of standardization defined in the Memorandum.

11. Proposed by the 10th Section (Cyrillic Subcommission).

The Subcommission considers a unification of the rendering of proper names, especially of geographic names, necessary. The Subcommission intercedes in favor of a transliteration (not transcription) of the Cyrillic orthography. Hereby the unified, linguistic transliteration should be taken as a basis. [Transl. from German.]

12. Proposed by J. B. Rudnyćkyj (Univ. of Manitoba).

The 6th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences recommends that overlapping or duplication of the titles of onomastic periodicals and journals be avoided.

Demetrius J. Georgacas