

## Editor's Page

The first two issues of *Names* have been received with general approval. Some readers thought that the article on Los Angeles in the March issue was too popular and that it showed little originality, and one commentator on the June issue thought the issue a little too academic. Otherwise the comments have been laudatory, an encouraging sign that the editorial policy of *Names* is considered sound.

The first article in the September issue is the first contribution of our vice president, Kemp Malone, and we hope there will be many more. His works in onomastics and other fields of philology again received public recognition when the University of Chicago conferred upon him in June, 1953, the degree of L.H.D.

With Jack Autrey Dabbs' article on names and name research in Latin American countries we enter upon a phase of onomatology which should be one of the chief interests of the American Name Society. Dabbs, of the renowned A. & M. College of Texas, not only shows what a rich field Latin-American names offer but reveals that our southern neighbors stress name research more than is generally assumed.

The following extract of the author's career may be of interest to his readers:

"My interest in names is of long standing, but it was especially aroused during my Army Service in Iran, 1942-1944. There, as native labor officer and as Finance Officer for an Army installation, I had to deal with huge employment records and payrolls with hundreds, even thousands of names of employees, Iranian, Arabic, Armenian, Etc., their signatures, and identifications. Later on, as officer in charge of a research office in Korea, 1945-1946, I had among other things the task of identifying names in the news, of registering political parties with lists of members, and sundry records, all made doubly difficult by my ignorance of the language and dependence on interpreters and translators. Then from 1946-

1948 I was a member of the Berlin Documents Center, U. S. Army, in charge of captured German official records and Nazi party files, for organization, checking, and furnishing information for the War Crimes Trials. A subsidiary was CROWCASS, the Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects, of which I was American representative, engaged in identifying and locating long lists of names wanted for various crimes. Since I returned to civilian life in 1948, I have turned that interest back to the Latin American field."

In 1918 I. W. D. Hackh published an article "The Romance of Chemical Elements." Sometime in the 1920's I encouraged him to write a similar article with the stress on the historical, etymological and folklore factors in the naming of the cosmic substances of our universe. He was at that time engaged in writing his famous *Chemical Dictionary*, which has since become the standard reference work of its kind throughout the world. His promise to write the article after completion of the *Dictionary* could not be fulfilled: he died at the early age of forty-eight shortly after completing his great work. Fred Ellis, Jr., now with the Shell Oil Development and Research Company, has written the article "The Naming of Chemical Elements," gratefully using the materials which Hackh had provided in part.

An interesting article on the names of chemical elements was published in May 1952 in the popular science fiction magazine, *Galaxy*.

Fritz L. Kramer, instructor of geography at Alleghany College, uses the name Andover to show that English place names, once established on American soil, wandered westward with the people and are therefore not direct transfer names from old England, as is often assumed.

For those who believe that only the last few generations have been conscious of the importance of remembering names as a social, political, and economic asset, it will be a surprise to read Eugene McCartney's article "On Remembering Names in Antiquity." Dr. McCartney was for many years editor of scholarly publications of the University of Michigan.

Everett V. Cunningham's article "Bleibtreu in Joyce's *Ulysses*" is the first contribution to *Names* in a much neglected field of study: how do authors, poets, and dramatists select the names of their characters? In our December issue we shall publish articles by two of the best known American writers on the names of their characters. Cunningham is instructor in German at the University of Nebraska.

The last article of this issue, a translation of a passage of one of Gottfried Keller's stories, may act as a stimulant to investigations in a neglected aspect of onomastic folklore: the nomenclature of business houses and residences, ancient and modern.

O. Paul Straubinger's article "Der wahre Jakob" in the June issue touches upon another aspect of name research: the use of names in proverbs and popular sayings. Straubinger is in charge of the organization of modern language instruction at the new Riverside campus of the University of California.

The article that has brought the most comment to date is the editor's own modest contribution "Names and Trains," which appeared in the March issue. Compared with the articles by Beeler, Ramsay, Stewart, McAtee, and others, it required little research. It is our fellow countrymen's interest in railroads that brought forth the many corrections, additions and suggestions.