

ONOMATOLOGY AND THE LOTTERY

Onomatology, while not indispensable to an understanding of Shirley Jackson's short story, "The Lottery," is helpful in getting at the theme, purpose, and application of the tale. Miss Jackson – so one gathers from the fact that when the townspeople's last names are called, the names ranging from *A* as in Allen and Andrews on down through the alphabet to Warner and Zanini – aims at universality. To reinforce this idea near the close of the story, she places Steve Adams in front with Mrs. Graves at his side. But she wants the irony of the situation to penetrate, and so names like Delacroix (of the cross) and Mrs. Hutchinson (originally the name of a Quaker filled with love of human beings and for God) figure prominently in the story. Davy Hutchinson's names have a double-barreled irony: like David of old he gathers pebbles for the stoning, and unlike the early bearer of his last name he would stone a defenceless soul. Mr. Graves, who symbolizes death, and Mr. Summers, who stands for life, appropriately handle registration and make up the slips of the lottery that can have only one end. Life, Miss Jackson is saying, while unfair and cruel, is the same for all of us and leads to only one end. Selfish, eager to throw off our blame onto a scapegoat, we all stone our neighbor to the death – if only symbolically.

Queens College

Arthur F. Beringause

AMERICAN NAME SOCIETY
ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

December 29 and 30, 1963

All meetings except the annual dinner were held in the Crystal Room of the Palmer House, Chicago, Illinois

Alfred Senn, President and Chairman of Program Committee
Elsdon C. Smith, Chairman, Committee on Local Arrangements

Sunday, December 29, 6:30 P.M.

Annual Dinner: Private Dining Room 4, Palmer House.

Elsdon C. Smith, presiding.

Speaker: Alfred Senn, University of Pennsylvania,
President of *ANS*: "Onomastic Chitchat."

Monday, December 30, 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.

J. B. Rudnyćkyj, University of Manitoba, presiding.

Augustin Maissen, Utica College of Syracuse University

“Swiss Names for Cows.”

Richard C. Clark, Kansas State University,

“German Place Names in Kansas.”

T. M. Pearce, University of New Mexico,

“Shakespeare’s Charactonyms.”

Monday, December 30, 10:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.

Margaret M. Bryant, Brooklyn College, presiding.

John P. Pauls, University of Cincinnati,

“Water Names of the Marshlands of Pinsk.”

Andrej Kodjak, University of Pennsylvania,

“Popular Religious Nicknames in Russian.”

Maurice A. Mook, Pennsylvania State University,

“Personal Names Among the Hutterian Brethern of the U.S.
and Canada.”

Monday, December 30, 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Alfred Senn, University of Pennsylvania, presiding.

Business Meeting

Reports of the Executive Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor,
the President.

Announcement of the election of officers for 1964.

Other Business.

Monday, December, 30, 1:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Ignace J. Gelb, University of Chicago, presiding.

Margaret M. Bryant, Brooklyn College,

“Some Indian and Dutch Names Reflecting the Early History
of Brooklyn.”

J. B. Rudnyćkyj, University of Manitoba,

“*Samo* – The Name of the First Slavic Ruler.”

Anthony Salys, University of Pennsylvania,

“The Name *John* among the Slavs and the Balts.”