

# Report

## THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ONOMASTIC SCIENCES

The international congresses of onomastic sciences have been set up to be held usually in August every three years but the eighth congress was purposely set to be held, two years after the 7th in Florence (see *Names* 9 [1961] 188–191), to coincide with the 25th anniversary of these congresses, the first having been held in Paris in 1938, organized by the great French onomatologist Albert Dauzat. The ninth is to be held in London in 1966 with Professor Albert Hugh Smith, Director of the English Place-Name Society, in charge. The eighth congress took place in Amsterdam, August 27 to 31, 1963; the Organizing Committee comprised Mr. S. J. Fockema Andreae and Dr. P. J. Meertens, Presidents, Dr. D. P. Blok, Secretary, and Prof. K. Fokkema, Treasurer.

The congress at Amsterdam was attended by 251 members, while 34 listed were finally unable to attend and those who in fact attended represented 28 countries (314 congressists were listed in the program from 31 countries.) (East German representatives were prevented from coming.)

Ten individuals in attendance represented North America, the United States and Canada, five of them accompanied by their spouses, as follows (asterisked are the names of those who read papers):

- \*Demetrius J. Georgacas, Grand Forks, North Dakota
- R. N. Hall and Mrs. Hall, Bethesda, Maryland
- H. A. Hatzfeld and Mrs. Hatzfeld, Washington, D.C.
- \*E. Wallace McMullen and Mrs. McMullen, Madison, New Jersey
- Donald J. Orth, Washington, D.C.
- \*J. P. Pauls and Mrs. Pauls, Cincinnati, Ohio
- \*J. B. Rudnyčkyj, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- Y. Slavutych, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- \*Elsdon C. Smith and Mrs. Smith, Evanston, Illinois
- \*O. Starchuk, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

*Papers.* – Of 98 papers listed those actually read at the meetings amounted to 75, while some 15 papers announced were, to be sure,

not read but will appear in the *Acta* to be published. The synopses published in the program were only 40, and 3 were added in mimeographed form. The papers listed in the program, according to each of the nine sections (I–IX), were distributed as follows (though, as said above, only 75 out of the 98 were actually read):

Section	Papers
I. General Onomastics (Methodology, Systematics, Reports):	11
II. Indo-European O. (including 8 papers in Celtology):	19
III. Germanic O.:	18
IV. Romance O.:	13
V. Slavonic and Baltic O.:	10
VI. Non-Indo-European O.:	7
VII. Turkish O.:	6
VIII. Social O.:	11
IX. Standardization of Geographic Names:	3

The authors were recently requested to send in to Dr. D. B. Blok before December 31, 1963, the papers which will be printed in the *Acta*.<sup>1</sup>

Besides, three lectures were given at plenary sessions: C. E. Thors, "The Baltic as a separating and a unifying factor in the formation of place-names"; E. de Felice, "La Sardaigne dans la Méditerranée d'après la toponymie de ses côtes"; and A. H. Smith, "Water-features and their names in England."

*Statutory meeting of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences, Saturday, August 31, 1963, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., Mr. H. J. van de Wijer, Secretary General of ICOS, presiding.*

<sup>1</sup> In the meantime the *Acta* of both previous congresses have appeared:

VI<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, *Reports of Congress. Vol. I: Chief Reports*, ed. Gerhard Rohlfs (Munich, 1960), 157 pp. *Vols. II and III: Report of Congress and Section Meetings*, ed. Karl Puchner (Munich, 1961), pp. (for vols. II and III) 843.

VII Congresso internazionale di scienze onomastiche. *Atti del congresso e Memorie della sezione toponomastica. Vol. I: Toponomastica, parte prima* (Firenze, 1962), pp. 550; *Vol. II: Toponomastica, parte seconda* (1963), pp. 474; vols. III (550 pp.) and IV (200 pp.), published in 1963. [I shall review these publications in *Names*.]

The following representatives were present:

P. J. Nienaber (South Africa)  
 E. Kranzmayer (Austria)  
 H. Draye and J. Herbillon (Belgium)  
 V. Georgiev (Bulgaria)  
 J. B. Rudnyćkyj (Canada and Ukraine)  
 Mgr. A. Griera (Spain)  
 Elsdon C. Smith (U.S.A.)  
 V. Nissilä and C. E. Thors (Finland)  
 J. Meyers (Grand Duchy of Luxemburg)  
 A. H. Smith (Great Britain)  
 N. Andriotis (Greece)  
 D. J. Georgacas (Greek onomastics, U.S.A.)  
 G. Alessio, C. Battisti, and G. B. Pellegrini (Italy)  
 P. Hovda (Norway)  
 S. J. Fockema Andreae (Netherlands)  
 J. Iordan (Rumania)  
 A. Caferoğlu (Turkey)  
 J. Pokorný and P. Zinsli (Switzerland)  
 L. Lörincze, substitute representing L. Gáldi (Hungary)

There were 16 representatives from 12 countries absent. Messrs. H. Draye, associate Secretary General of ICOS, and D. P. Blok, Secretary of the 8th International Congress, were in charge of making the report on the above statutory meeting, a copy of which was made available to me.

Chairman van de Wijer paid homage to the memory of five members of ICOS deceased since the congress in Florence (1961): *M. Vasmer*, representing Slavic onomastics; *G. P. Lestrade* and *H. S. van der Walt*, representatives of South Africa; *M. Olsen*, representing Norway up to 1958 and subsequently honorary member of ICOS; *A. Vincent*, honorary member.

Mr. van de Wijer presented the publications of *Onoma* No. 3 of vol. 9 and No. 3 of vol. 10 of the provisional edition and discussed matters of the work at the International Center in Louvain.

New members of the ICOS were unanimously elected:

Slavic onomastics: Prof. Peter Arumaa (Bromma)  
 Iceland: Lorentz Eldjörn  
 Latvia: A. Gāters

Esthonia: M. Mägiste

South Africa: Prof. du Plessis P. Scholtz

Prospective members for four other countries were discussed and, in addition, the Secretary General was authorized to nominate three representatives for onomastics, one each for the USSR, Ethiopia, and Lithuania. As honorary members of ICOS there were nominated Sigfússon (Iceland) and P. J. Meertens (Netherlands). These candidacies were unanimously approved.

The assembly of ICOS discussed the various sectional proposals which would be submitted by the Secretary General to the general Assembly for approval.

The matter of the 9th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in London in 1966 was also discussed and approved. Vienna was tentatively set as the site of the 10th Congress in 1969.

Each member of the ICOS attending the Statutory Meeting received an allowance of one hundred guilders toward his expenses from a subsidy granted by the International Council for Philology and Humanistic Sciences, UNESCO.

### *Resolutions Approved*

The following resolutions, which had earlier been presented to the meeting of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences, passed at the General Assembly on Saturday, August 31.

#### *I. A wish proposed by the 1st section, "General Onomastics":*

The Congress expresses its wish that a manual explaining summarily the principal toponyms contained in school atlases be composed with the possible contributions of various specialists. Egli's *Geographisches Namenbuch*, simplified and brought up to date, could serve as a model. [Translated from French.]

#### *II. A wish proposed by Mr. V. Georgiev (Sofia):*

Given that the study of hydronymy bears great importance on the problems posed in linguistics, proto-history and history, archeology and ethnology; given that the studies on European hydronymy are already very advanced; the undersigned proposes the creation at the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences of an international subcommission with the goal of preparing and editing an "Etymological dictionary of the European hydronyms." This commission ought to be constituted by representatives, preferably members of the ICOS, of the various European

countries with the aim of collecting all hydronyms of their various countries. In the dictionary the hydronyms ought to be arranged in alphabetical order according to their earliest forms (if these are available) and according to their reconstructed forms (if the reconstruction is certain or very probable). It is desirable that the journal *Onoma* and the other onomastic journals publish proposals and projects for the disposition of the material collected. [Translated from French.]

III. *Resolution submitted by E. Wallace McMullen, Donald Jos Orth, John P. Pauls, J. B. Rudnycky, Richard N. Hall, Elsdon C. Smith, and Y. Slavutych:*

*Whereas* the United States Office of Education initiated in 1960 a project for the publication of a comprehensive and scholarly *Greek-English Dictionary* for the use of scholars, students, and government offices; and *whereas*, Demetrius J. Georgacas has worked more than three years in Greece and in the United States on the compilation of said Greek-English dictionary, but has been forced to suspend the operation due to the discharge of funds; and *whereas*, the projected Greek-English Dictionary as an international reference work is to include also names and thus to constitute an important contribution to Greek onomastics and world-wide understanding thereof; *Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, that the Eighth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences recommend that the early completion of said Greek-English Dictionary be financially supported by American Foundations and other Financial institutions.

IV. *Resolution submitted by the United States and Canadian Delegation of the American Name Society:*<sup>2</sup>

The United States and Canadian Delegation of the American Name Society wishes to place before the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences the following proposal:

*Whereas* in the past the customary practice of naming geographical areas (that is, solely according to the preference of the person claiming to be the discoverer, or by the direction of his government) has frequently been productive of confusing claims and international disputes, some of which are not yet settled; and *whereas* there still is time to establish a practical international onomastic system for the naming of areas yet to be discovered or explored in outer space; and *whereas* such cooperation between nations will be an act of international agreement and good will;

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved* that the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences take steps to institute an official committee to study the problem and present their conclusions to the United Nations and the governments of the nations.

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<sup>2</sup> It was presented by Dr. E. Wallace McMullen in the morning of the same day in Section I: General Onomastics and supported by him also before the Statutory Meeting of the ICOS.

The printed *Program* (58 pages), in the three major languages – English, French, and German – provided all information necessary and (pp. 37–58) gave the synopses of forty papers. The registration ran very smoothly and a portfolio with program, literature, a map, etc., was, according to tradition, given to each member. A Ladies Committee provided entertainment for attending wives and other ladies, sight-seeing of the town by motorcoach, and a trip to Edam.

On Monday, August 26, at 8 p.m., the opportunity of meeting the congressists before the congress was offered at the International Cultural Center. On the same day, at 4:00 p.m. the exhibition of old nautical charts was inaugurated at the *Rijksmuseum*, which proved quite a success and, as I am informed, drew more than 2300 visitors in the three weeks thereafter. A full day was devoted to an excursion for members and associates to Friesland, a gratifying experience, with a warm reception by the Provincial Government of Friesland in the town hall in Leeuwarden. The congressists also had the chance to see the beautiful city of Amsterdam at night during a boat trip on the canals and harbors offered free by the municipality.

Details of the Congress were handled promptly and smoothly, owing to the successful planning by the Organizing Committee, whose members did an excellent job. The thanks of all participants in the congress go especially to Dr. D. P. Blok, who as Secretary was in charge of most details. Dr. Blok, director of the Institute for Toponymy and Anthroponymy (Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences), was appointed as *docent* in *Settlement History and Toponymics*, which is in line with the wishes expressed by the Sixth Congress in Munich calling for the establishment of university chairs in onomatology.

In conclusion, the 8th congress, if compared with the ones in Munich (1958) and in Florence (1961), was smaller but was a good one within the now long and fine tradition established since 1938.

For valuable help in providing information requested I am indebted to Dr. D. P. Blok and Professor H. J. van de Wijer.

Demetrius J. Georgacas