

A REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF OUTER SPACE ONOMASTICS

to Professor H. J. van de Wijer
Secretary-General, ICOS

from Professor D. J. Georgacas
Chairman, ICOSO

on the organization of the International Committee of Outer Space Onomastics

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to report to you and the Statutory Meeting that, in implementing Resolution IV adopted by the Statute Meeting of ICOS and the Plenary Session of the 8th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences at Amsterdam on August 31, 1963, the Organizing Committee formed in June 1965, and consisting of Messrs. D. J. Georgacas, Chairman, J. B. Rudnyćkyj, Vice-Chairman, and E. W. McMullen, Executive Secretary, recruited fourteen onomatologists to constitute the International Committee of Outer Space Onomastics. This Committee had its first meeting at University College, London, on the 4th of July, 1966, at which time the temporary Chairman and Vice-Chairman as well as Dr. M. Burrill spoke on the organization of the Committee and the task set before it. The Chairman, after consultation with the other Committee members, appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Professor J. Aquilina, Chairman, and Mr. C. L. Barnhart, who together were given the responsibility of drawing up a slate of five committee members who would serve as the Executive Officers of the group for the period of the next three years (1966-1969). The Chairman also fixed the 6th of July, 1966, as the date of this election and the final meeting of this year. The temporary Organizing Committee, having completed its task, resigned with the request that the Nominating Committee should conduct the July 6 meeting and the election of the officers as directed.

At the 6 July 1966 meeting of ICOSO the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of fellow members:

Demetrius J. Georgacas, Chairman
Jaroslav B. Rudnyćkyj, Vice-Chairman
A. J. Van Windekens, Vice-Chairman
E. Wallace McMullen, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
John S. Ryan, Assistant Secretary

The majority of those present voted for the proposed list by a show of hands. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee announced the results, and the elected Executive Committee immediately assumed its duties.

The other members of ICOSO are as follows:

Joseph Aquilina
Clarence L. Barnhart
Meredith F. Burrill
Yves Edouard Boeglin
Henri Draye
Oronzo Parlangèli
Yar Slavutych
John Thomopoulos
H. J. van de Wijer, Ex-Officio

The Committee as a whole intends to plan its work for the future and will devise relevant procedures and principles.

We wish to tell you, Mr. Secretary, that the Committee plans (1) to enlarge the membership of the Committee to twenty-one members in order to insure a broader representation; (2) to come into contact with the competent authorities of the United Nations; and (3) to present plans to these authorities as a committee offering its services, if these are needed and invited. The Committee will not interfere with the initiative of the individual governments, but will limit its functions to an advisory service whenever such service is requested. To expedite its work the Committee may appoint, from time to time, subcommittees of specialists to make recommendations on matters of specific onomastic problems.

Respectfully submitted,
Demetrius J. Georgacas

REPORT
TO THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
ON THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
ONOMASTIC SCIENCES

Attending the Congress from the United States were C. L. Barnhart, Meredith Burrill, J. Corominas, D. J. Georgacas, E. Hamp, E. W. McMullen, J. G. Mutziger, J. P. Pauls, Elsdon C. Smith, A. Tovar, F. L. Utley, and W. T. Zyla. This gave us only one less officially attending than the whole of the United Kingdom, with 12, though of course there were a good many others present from the Islands. But the sixteen from Sweden and nineteen from Denmark show clearly where European onomastics is massed in strength.

The structure of the Congress, which met in London, England, from Sunday the fourth of July, 1966 to Friday, the eighth, followed the usual pattern of a judicious combination of plenary sessions, sectional meetings, and social affairs and excursions. The stars of the plenary papers were A. H. Smith, organizer of the Congress and master of Yorkshire names; E. Kranzmayer of Austria, whose kindly wit augurs well for the 1970 meeting in Vienna; A. Tovar, now visiting in the United States, as an expert on stratification of placenames in Latin America; and H. J. van de Wijer, Secretary-General of ICOS and its benevolent leader.

The Congress was organized with great skill by A. H. Smith and by his colleagues J. McNeal Dodgson and A. D. Mills, who showed brilliant adaptation to daily alterations of schedule, natural to Congresses where last-minute absences or presences are inevitable, and to Universities which harbor more than one major meeting at once.

The basic theme of the Congress was Placename Stratification, with its major historical contributions. There were several sections, including geographical world divisions like England and its derivatives, the Celtic group, Romance, Eastern Europe and Asia, and anthroponymy to balance all this wealth of toponymy. A special device in sections was to make each paper a unit, with its separate chairman. This greatly encouraged discussion, even when some of the chairman defaulted in attendance. But above all it made the members of the Congress free of captivity – the common phenomenon of the excessively lengthy paper, which steals time from the two or three papers which follows in a section, was completely avoided.

An hour was allotted to each paper and its discussion, and this was ample. One may single out for special mention papers by B. Ejder on "Modern field-name research," I. Lutterer on "The Chronological value of suffixes in Czech placenames," I. Jordan on "Les rapports entre la toponymie et l'anthroponymie," H. Steger, "Mittelalterliche Namensreibungen als Quelle der historischen Dialektgeographie," S. Uteseny, "Wert der Ortsnamen für die Datierung mundartlicher Entwicklung," W. T. Zyla, "The name Dnieper," J. Piel, "Probleme der hispanischen Ortsnamen-Geographie," J. B. Rudnykyj, "Chronological stratification in Canadian toponymy," M. Richards, "Early Welsh habitation names," W. F. H. Nicolaisen, "Some problems of chronology in southern Scotland," and V. I. Georgiev, "La stratification principale des toponymes en Grèce ancienne." Unfortunately B. Serebrennikov was unable to attend, with his very promising paper on the historical stratification of hydronyms in the northern part of the Soviet Union. But present as observers and valued discussants were two young scholars from Russia, Mrs. Belenkaya and Mrs. Superankaja, both of Moscow.

Your reporter was pleased by the attendance at his own paper on the newly planned "Survey of American placenames." There was a lively discussion, which was taped for future planning, some wise counsel against over optimism by Meredith Burrill, skilled chairing by Randolph Quirk, and enthusiasm in general for the project. Especially pleasing was the response of Mrs. Belenkaya to the roll of "emotional names" which included the Shenandoah, the Mississippi, the Russian River, Hell's Gulch, and the Alamo.

The excursions to Oxford, Cambridge, and Canterbury-Hye were simultaneous, and one had expert guidance of a kind rarely encountered. John Dodgson led the Canterbury expedition, and provided a running account of great onomastic brilliance and wit, though his major ambition, to take the group around the Anglo-Saxon charter boundaries of one traditional section, was impossible. We only saw "the pollarded oak" from a distance. A visit to the Ordnance Survey was another highlight, with special archaeological and cartographical revelation.

There is no question that onomastics is growing up; its proceedings are now a major publication and the exchange between specialists in various languages and areas is now of the highest value in establishing the methodology of the onomastic sciences.

England, with its major accomplishments in such sciences, was an ideal center for such a Congress, though one might have wished for the attendance of more Englishmen. Most congresses have an overplus of local papers, from younger students whom one will never encounter at the succeeding sessions. This one didn't have enough. But this is a small cavil, since it was a spacious, hospitable, earnest meeting of high personal value to your reporter.

Perhaps the greatest blessing was a minimum of flowery speeches and routine compliments; these were severely held down by A. H. Smith's iron rule. The major pair of formal speeches, made at the opening session by Sir Ifor Evans, Provost of University College, and the Minister of State for Education and Science, made by the Rt. Hon. Goronwy Roberts, were welcome diversions. These two Welshmen had not only a magnificent joking relationship with one another; they both talked to the point about the responsibility of University and Nation to the humanities. Their speeches should be widely disseminated in our own Government circles, which is learning the hard way.

Francis Lee Uteley

There will be a Special Issue on

INDIAN NAMES

for September, 1967 (Vol. 15, No. 3)

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Please send in your manuscripts

before June 1

to Hamill Kenny

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Maryland

CORRECTION

In my review of Kane and Alexander, *Nicknames of Cities and States of the U. S.* (Names, March, 1966), the following errors which developed in the process of publication should be corrected as indicated:

“sic” (p. 62), should have been enclosed in square brackets.

“Cinema Land” (p. 63), should have been “Sinema Land.”

“Shak-rag” (p. 64), should have been “Shake-rag.”

Virgil J. Vogel

SHORT NOTICES

[A notice here does not preclude later review]

1. Members of the Society may be interested in the following books by Mr. T. W. Reynolds, Highlands, North Carolina, 28741, a long-time member:

The Southern Appalachian Region, 2 vols., Ill., indexed. \$3.25 each.

Cherokee and Creek. \$2.50

High Lands \$3.50.

Born of the Mountain \$3.50

Mountain Area Maps, Highlands and Western North Carolina, set of 3, \$1.25 per set.

High Lands and *Born of the Mountains* were recently reviewed in *Names*. In these books, Mr. Reynolds has presented a large amount of material on place names. In addition, he has included much regional material of historical value, all pleasingly written.

2. For those who are interested in railway car names, Robert J. Wayner has edited *Car Names and Consists*. This one (and other publications on railway names) can be obtained from Wayner Publications, Box 871, Ansonia Station, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Kelsie B. Harder

The State University College at Potsdam, New York.