

*In Memoriam*

ROBERT LEE RAMSAY

DR. ROBERT LEE RAMSAY, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Missouri, one of the founders of the American Name Society and a member of the Board of Managers, died at his home in Columbia on his seventy-third birthday, December 14, 1953. Dr. Ramsay came to the University from Johns Hopkins University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1907, and had been there since that time except for two years spent at Johns Hopkins as a research scholar and summers spent teaching in Columbia, Wisconsin, Virginia, Johns Hopkins, and Chicago Universities.

Dr. Ramsay was widely known for his scholarship and research in various fields of the English language, particularly place-names and Americanisms. Since his retirement he had worked continuously to put into final shape the results of his monumental study of Missouri place-names, a project which he had carried on for over twenty-five years with the assistance of numerous graduate students. The projected dictionary would have contained over 35,000 items. At the time of his death this work had not been completed, but much of the spade work has been done and it is to be hoped that another Missouri scholar will take over where Ramsay left off.

In the field of place-name study, he published, in collaboration with Allen Walker Read and one of his graduate students, Gladys Leech, in 1934 *Introduction to a Survey of Missouri Place-Names*, and, in 1953 *Our Storehouse of Missouri Place-Names*, a kind of preview of his dictionary with an interesting sampling of Missouri names and a description of the methods of research employed in the study. The latter as well as his monographs on the place names in Boone and Jefferson counties were reviewed in recent issues of *Names*.



Since it is one of the aims of the *ANS* to make the American people conscious of the interest and importance of names it should be noted that Dr. Ramsay has been outstanding in this respect also. In 1946 and 1947 he wrote a column on Missouri place names in the Sunday edition of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, and he contributed for years articles on names to local newspapers. Thanks to him, people-at-large of Missouri are probably more conscious of the interest and importance of their names than those of any other state in the Union.

In the field of Americanisms, the most considerable work that Dr. Ramsay published was *A Mark Twain Lexicon*, a study of Americanisms found in the works of the noted Missouri author, done in collaboration with one of his students, Dr. Frances G. Emberson.

Other publications were as follows: *The West Saxon Psalms*, 1908, *Principles of Modern Punctuation*, 1910, *Short Stories of America*, 1921, and *Poems by Missouri Students*, a compilation, 1935. There were, of course, many additional articles in learned journals throughout the entire course of his long and industrious life. Dr. Ramsay was a long-time member of the American Dialect Society and the Modern Language Association.

Scholars who knew Dr. Ramsay, as well as his graduate students, revered him for his subtle and sly sense of humor, his unflagging industry, his insistence on exactness of detail in research, his devotion to the highest ideals of scholarship, and his warm and generous attitude toward his colleagues in the field of his endeavors. Kemp Malone thought that the most notable thing Robert Ramsay achieved was to inspire and stimulate research.

He died like a scholar. Death took the pen from his hand while he was sitting at his desk, surrounded by his notes, manuscripts, and books.

E. H. CRISWELL

## ANNUAL MEETING OF A.N.S.

The annual meeting of members of the American Name Society was held in Room 8 of the Palmer House on December 29, 1953 from 3:45 to 5:15 P.M., pursuant to due notice mailed to all members in accordance with the provisions in the Bylaws, copy of which is inserted in the minute book immediately preceding these minutes.

The following papers were read:

"The Spanish Crown and Early American Names," by Jack A. Dabbs, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

"Arabic Names in Old Spanish Chronicles," by Florence Steiner, Northwestern University.

"Names of Greek and Roman Deities," by Demetrius J. Georgacas, University of North Dakota.

"Slavic Names in Chicago," by John P. Sydoruk.

"Street-name Patterns in Denver and other Cities," by Levette J. Davidson, University of Denver.

The Treasurer's report was read by Kemp Malone in the absence of the Treasurer, and, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was approved and ordered filed. The results of the mail ballot were read. The following were elected:

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| President              | Elsdon C. Smith        |
| First Vice-president   | Vilhjalmur Stefansson  |
| Second Vice-president  | Meredith F. Burrill    |
| Third Vice-president   | Kemp Malone            |
| Executive Secretary    | Erwin G. Gudde         |
| Treasurer              | Henry Karpenstein      |
| Board of Managers      |                        |
| Louise Pound           | Robert L. Ramsay       |
| Editorial Board        |                        |
| Madison S. Beeler      | Mamie Meredith         |
| Margaret M. Bryant     | Elsdon C. Smith        |
| Demetrius J. Georgacas | George R. Stewart      |
|                        | Erwin G. Gudde, Editor |

The President made a brief report on the progress of the Society and read a paragraph from a letter from Robert L. Ramsay.

Through the courtesy of Mr. J. B. Rudnyćkyj and the president of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, copies of *Onomastica* No. 7 containing Watson Kirkconnell's *Canadian Toponymy and the Cultural Stratification of Canada* were presented to those present.

There being no further or other business to come before the meeting the same was adjourned.

At the dinner meeting held at 6:30 in Room 9 of the Palmer House Erwin G. Gudde's address, "California the Name," was read by C. Grant Loomis, to the great interest of all those present.

### MEETING OF BOARD OF MANAGERS AND BOARD OF EDITORS

Pursuant to due notice in writing to all members of the Board of Managers and Board of Editors, a joint meeting was held in the Georgian Room of the Palmer House at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, December 29, 1953.

The general business of the Society was discussed. It was announced that, because of the absence of Mr. Gudde, Mr. Loomis had been asked to read his speech to the dinner meeting. It was the expressed and unanimous opinion of all present that the editor, Erwin G. Gudde, had done exceptionally fine work in getting out the first three issues of *Names*. The fourth issue, it was stated, would be out soon.

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Society were discussed. Numerous suggestions as to changes and simplification, made in a letter from Mr. Gudde, were thoroughly discussed and Mr. Gudde's reasons were read. The present provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws with respect to each of these suggestions were also read to the meeting.

Among other things suggested by Mr. Gudde and considered by the meeting were elimination of the power of the annual meeting to make decisions and the right to elect foreign scholars to honorary membership, the change from twenty-five to three members necessary to nominate officers in opposition to the nominating committee, the elimination of the power of the Board of Managers to determine from time to time the duties of the Board of Editors,

and to delete entirely various portions of the constitution and bylaws. After thorough and separate discussion of each of these items those present voted unanimously not to change the Constitution and Bylaws in these respects.

Mr. Gudde suggested that the terms of office of all officers, managers and editors be for three years and that elections thus be held only every three years. Mr. Gudde's reason for this suggested change was that it was an inexcusable waste of society funds to have an annual election by mail. After a thorough discussion of this proposal it was rejected, everyone present being in favor of an election by mail every year as presently provided in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Mr. Gudde further suggested that the regular membership or subscription price for *Names* be increased to \$6.00 for those libraries and institutions who subscribed through an agency that was entitled to a commission or that required a notarized certificate to be attached to the invoice. There was a discussion of the matter. Mr. Malone and others present were of the opinion that a net amount of five dollars should be collected. Section 1. of Article I of the Bylaws was therupon amended by adding the word "net" after the word "dollars" by unanimous vote of those present.

In a letter Mr. Bryant suggested that the 1954 meetings in New York be set a day before or after the regular MLA meetings. Some were afraid that members could not come ahead of time or be able to stay another day. No action was taken on this proposal.

In a letter Mr. Beeler suggested that consideration be given to the question of whether the Society's Journal, *Names*, should be of a more popular nature or whether the emphasis should be upon a more professional type of scholarship. After a brief discussion it was ascertained that the opinion of those present was that the policy of *Names* should be to steer a middle course. It was pointed out that the Journal would have to contain much of popular interest in order to attract enough members to become self-supporting.

The Treasurer's report was examined and approved. The report on the mail ballot was presented.

There being no further or other business to come before the meeting, it was, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, adjourned.

D. J. GEORGACAS  
*Secretary pro tem.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1953

### INCOME

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Balance carried forward from 1952 .....                 | \$ 875.15  |
| Dues collected in 1953 .....                            | 1,194.00   |
| Income from sale of copies of <i>Names</i> .....        | 34.35      |
| Income from sale of reprints from <i>Names</i> .....    | 35.80      |
| Income from sale of "Ads" in <i>Names</i> .....         | 110.00     |
| Gifts received during 1953 .....                        | 70.00      |
| Credit from Bank of America for overcharge in S C. .... | .15        |
| Total .....   | \$2,319.45 |

### EXPENDITURES

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| For Stationery, Mimeographing, Typing, Postage, Wrapping, Stencils, Insigne and Radio transcripts ..... | \$ 502.07  |
| For printing of 3 issues of <i>Names</i> .....  | 1,628.57   |
| Bank of America Service Charges .....   | 1.10       |
| For copyrights for 3 issues of <i>Names</i> .....   | 12.00      |
| Total .....   | \$2,143.74 |
| Income .....  | \$2,319.45 |
| Expenditures .....  | \$2,143.74 |
| Balance on hand .....   | \$ 175.71  |

The Regents' of the University of California subsidy of \$1,000 is not included in the above items of income since it was deducted from the University Press bills for the printing of the issues of *Names* during the year 1953.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY KARPENSTEIN, *Treasurer*

December 22, 1953

MARILYN E. MACGREGOR

C. DOUGLAS CHRÉTIEN

*Auditing Committee*

December 22, 1953

## NEW MEMBERS

Bryn Mawr College  
University of California, Riverside  
Cleveland Public Library  
R. T. Cochran, Kirkwood, Missouri  
Dartmouth College, Baker Library  
Robert N. DeArmond, Juneau, Alaska  
University of Detroit  
University of Denver Library  
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore  
E. E. Ericson, Gustavus Adolphus College  
Florida State University Libraries, East Campus  
Gösta Franzen, University of Chicago  
Gumperts Aktie Bolag, Göteborg, Sweden  
James D. Hart, University of California, Berkeley  
Humanistika Biblioteket, Stockholm, Sweden  
Kansas City Public Library  
John T. McCutcheon, Chicago Tribune  
University of Maryland  
University of New Mexico  
Municipal Reference Library, New York  
Oakland (California) Public Library  
Department of Public Printing, Ottawa, Canada  
Pennsylvania State Library  
San Jose Public Library  
Southern Illinois University  
Noel C. Stevenson, Yuba City, California  
Edward Taube, University of Wisconsin  
University of Washington  
Marie Waugh, Verona, New Jersey