

1988

Preface

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Repository Citation

Alvarez-Altman, Grace and Burelbach, Frederick (1988) "Preface," *Literary Onomastics Studies*: Vol. 15 , Article 2.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/los/vol15/iss1/2>

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Preface

JUN 28 1988

We go to gain a little patch of ground,
That hath in it no profit but the name.

(Shakespeare, Hamlet, IV, iv, 18-19)

ROCKPORT, NY 14420

Fortinbras' army may have seen little profit in names, but the scholars and critics who gathered in Rochester, New York, for the fifteenth anniversary meeting of the Literary Onomastics Conference on June 1-2, 1987, found great value in the literary names analyzed in the papers presented there. Not all of those papers were available for printing in this volume of **Literary Onomastics Studies**, but the dozen contained herein, revised for publication, represent the range of genres, national literatures, and approaches to onomastic analysis that delighted the conference attendees.

Although Secretary of Education Bennett may scoff at broadening the boundaries of learning to include cultures beyond the Western traditions, literary onomastics boldly reaches out to embrace all literature. From classical Japanese to contemporary American, from Renaissance English to modern French and Spanish, literary works of all eras, genres, and nations may be fruitfully engaged with the technique of onomastic study. The proof is in these pages. More extensive demonstration of the benefits of onomastic analysis is in **Names in Literature: Essays from Literary Onomastics Studies**, by Grace Alvarez-Altman and Frederick Burelbach, forthcoming this year from University Press of America. This collection of twenty-two essays, chosen from among the best published in the first ten volumes of **Literary Onomastics Studies**, provides ample evidence of the breadth and power of name study in literature.

As always, we have many people to thank, without whom neither the Conference nor the journal could be accomplished: the Conference speakers and guests; the academic leadership of the State University of New York College at Brockport, especially Robert Marcus, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Robert J. Gemmett, Dean of Letters and Sciences; Virginia Weis, Acting Chairperson, Department of English; and Victor Rojas, Chairperson, Department of Foreign Languages; and the staffs of the College Print Shop and General Support Services, especially Patricia Sauro, Linda Krieger, and Richard Black.

The Editors