'The Hum of Mighty Workings': Publication Needs and Plans in Literary Onomastics and Onomastic Science in General

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"THE HUM OF MIGHTY WORKINGS":

PUBLICATION NEEDS AND PLANS IN LITERARY
ONOMASTICS AND ONOMASTIC SCIENCE IN GENERAL

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O. Henry once wrote that the "well-known and popular sentiment of love" is "not properly a matter for publication," but here out of love for the increasingly popular and well-known field of literary onomastics, and in response to repeated calls both within and outside The American Name Society for the establishment of all branches of onomastics on a firmer and more scientific basis, I want to outline a number of projects and possible publications which I believe would both stimulate and assist the study of names in all aspects and would clarify and confirm onomastic science as an academic subject and a scholarly pursuit.

At the meeting of The Modern Language Association and The American Name Society later this year (1981) myself and others will be discussing how to get onomastics the recognition and the regulation it needs. Here I wish to concentrate on publication questions.

Some of these publications may be many years from materializing, but it is not too early to determine what publications are needed and to plan the direction and form they might take. As ANS approaches its thirtieth year of service to names scholars at home and around the world (many of which scholars will be in the United States for the first time to attend the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences this year), it is time to consolidate and to commemorate
certain achievements and to lay the groundwork for future accomplishments. Our thirtieth year should be marked with a milestone to show how far the study of names has come in America since the foundation of ANS and also with a guidepost to new avenues for investigation.

If we may start with the easiest things to achieve right away, consider surveys of the history of onomastic study in America and in ANS. On the pattern of annual surveys of scholarship which have long appeared in learned journals, The Study of Names in America should be written, probably under the direction of a general editor and with chapters on patronyms, given names, toponyms, names in literature, trade names, and indeed all important aspects of names, each by a qualified expert in one branch of the subject. That history ought to evaluate as well as describe the American contributions to the subject. It ought probably to be published by a university press. At the same time a publication called The American Name Society: The First Thirty Years should appear to mark our anniversary, expanding the survey of our first quarter century published by Professor Margaret M. Bryant in Names, including the reminiscences of and about the society's founders and most active members, and presented as a booklet of less than 100 pages, distributed by ANS to its members, libraries, and all interested scholars.

A larger project would be Onomastics: An Annotated Bibliography. That ideally would cover all aspects of name study from Aristhenes to the present and be thereafter periodically updated. Work already done by Professor Elizabeth Rajec on literary onomastics, Professor
E. C. Ehrensperger on place-names, and others (including Elsdon C. Smith, the dean of American personal-name study) can be built on for this project. Each publication listed should receive at least a sentence of description and evaluation; important works might well be listed with reference to significant reviews; foreign titles should be fully translated; indexes would greatly increase the usefulness of the volume(s). Under the aegis of The International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, perhaps, ANS could accept responsibility for all work published in America, The Canadian Society for The Study of Names responsibility for all work published in Canada (or perhaps in or concerning Canada), and other nations could prepare relevant sections or volumes. The work might proceed most swiftly if organized on a national basis; on the other hand, it might be convenient to have each aspect of name study in a single volume, a Committee for the Bibliography of Literary Onomastics (for instance) meeting at the next ICOS to coordinate that aspect internationally.

Names should then update the onomastics bibliography annually or concentrate on one aspect (such as toponymics) while other journals annually update other aspects of name study. This bibliographical material should appear in addition to an annual survey in one journal evaluating progress along the lines of The Year's Work in English Studies or survey articles in Onoma. LOS has already begun to take notice of each year's activities in the field of literary onomastics, but sound scholarship requires systematic and complete coverage, reliability, regularity, and predictability about precisely
where and when research guides can be consulted. We all need to expand our efforts at the same time that we organize to avoid duplication.

A committee should be formed to ensure that all onomastic items that are relevant find their way into PMLA and other important bibliographies.

Another bibliographical tool should honor and record in An Index to American Place-Name Studies all relevant scholarship, including the yeoman efforts of local and county historians. This should probably be arranged by states; in Canada, CSSN should publish a similar guide covering provinces and territories. For publications of this sort, government grants or foundation funds may be found. If no such funds are forthcoming in what I predict will be a time of scholarly belt-tightening in the USA, ANS ought to publish the index as one of the earliest monographs in an ANS series of important reference books and studies.

Other ANS monographs might be:

Fashions in American Given Names 1900-1980.

Scholars and the general public (always interested in "what to name the baby") should be able to obtain solid information from ANS in an inexpensive format. Every few years, as reprints are required, the booklet should be updated.

American Surnames. A brief survey of the subject, not a dictionary but an analysis and
more or less popular discussion for the general reader.

*How to Change Your Name*, with reliable information on the laws of all the states, an essay on the pros and cons of name changing, and a brief history of the changing of surnames in the US. *Names that Sell*, a practical handbook for the creators of trade names, translating principles of name coining and impact into useful guidelines for manufacturers and advertisers, with some advice on legal as well as linguistic matters and some helpful history on the rise of brand names, the vicissitudes of company names, trade name regulation, etc.

*The Names of [State]*, a booklet on each state’s names along the lines, perhaps, of Professor Fred Tarpley’s popular works on the place-names of Texas, with a page or two listing suggestions for further reading. Alternatively, booklets could be offered on larger areas of the country: *Names of The Pacific Northwest*, *Names of The South*, *Names of New England*, *Names of The Sun Belt*, and so on. If the market warrants it, all the booklets could also be offered in one
hardcovered volume for libraries (not competing with the volume I planned entitled Place Names, USA because more detailed).

Street Naming in the United States, a booklet offering a history, analysis, and guide. To the naming of streets might also be added information of interest to those naming housing developments, shopping centers, malls, etc. Practical advice for modern namers can range from the legal and psychological factors to patterns and procedures, names versus numbers, systems of naming, etc.

Strange Facts about Names, a booklet on odd, amusing and amazing names through the ages, with some attention to the folklore of names, the magic of names, the curious beliefs and practices related to personal and place naming, even the naming of objects (swords, etc.), pets, and so on.

These are only some of the items of general interest that ANS might issue in monograph series or pamphlet form, useful in replying to name questions raised by the public.

In addition, an ANS monograph series ought to publish scholarly articles that do not easily fit, because of length or other considerations, in the journal, Names. Scholarly monographs might range all the way from topics of general interest (such as The Names of the
Principal Cities of the United States or The Names of the Countries and Capitals of the World) to the most arcane subjects. One might hope that besides the many monographs on place-names and names in literature there might be new emphasis on names in science, computer-assisted onomastic study, the psychological impact of names, etc. This monograph series ought not to substitute for special issues of Names.

While some might be content with a booklet on "what to name the baby," my own experience (when being interviewed for popular magazines and newspapers and appearing on radio programs especially) suggests that a full-length book is viable in an avid market. I propose soon to attempt one for a commercial publisher in which I shall try to contain all the common sense and statistical detail in Leslie A. Dunkling's First Names First and to improve upon George R. Stewart's American Given Names and other US books in which the etymologies of forenames are featured and the psychological implications and cultural contexts are largely ignored. Folklore aspects, fads, the use of initials, Junior, etc., need also to be included. A book that goes beyond saying that Leonard = "lionhearted" and George = "farmer", Amy = "beloved or friend" and Ester = "star or queen" can offer authoritative guidance to those choosing forenames and can analyze trends in naming in various periods, ethnic groups, and areas.

For several years I have been offering to compile for ANS, the profits to go towards financing some monograph publication, The Best of the ANS BULLETIN. Many people regard this material as trivial but
properly selected and grouped under convenient headings it will have even more appeal than the Bulletin snippets have had over the years.

In three-score issues of ANS' most popular publication there are many things worth making more accessible and more permanent. I hope now that someone else will volunteer to contribute the time to compile this little anthology and that ANS will finally act to support its publication and thereby raise a little money to underwrite more serious work. I feel certain that a great many people would give several dollars a copy for such an entertaining little book—and not just the fairly large number of people who would rejoice to see their names as "Contributors" of clippings and comments.

Some of my other publication ideas have met with more success. Thanks to Professor Tarpley and The University of Texas Press, my suggestion for a collection of essays (one on each state's toponyms) is well underway and we can expect to see Place Names, USA pretty soon. It will serve as a useful reference book and a convenient introduction to American place-names until, "far down the road," The Place-Name Survey of The United States (which ought to be ever more energetically pursued, for it is one of the major scholarly monuments which ANS can hope to build) finally appears. Meanwhile, Place Names, USA can stand proudly on the shelves beside Names on the Land and other classics. My ideas for a pedagogical guide to name study and for textbooks in onomastics seem farther from realization, for a variety of reasons.

As President of ANS (1979) I wrote to numerous teachers and to
journals of education in the hope of getting reports from teachers with what educationese calls "hands-on experience" in using names study in primary and secondary classrooms and college and university curricula. Instead of the expected flood of offers to write little essays for the anthology I was hoping to edit under the title of Names in the Classroom, with practical suggestions, tested lesson plans and syllabi, and so forth, I received urgent requests to supply such things myself. Primary and secondary teachers especially were eager to have such information; few offered reports of experience.

It was clear that Names in the Classroom would sell well, if reasonably priced, once it appeared, but it was not so clear how actual, tested names study projects could be collected. I would have had an eager readership for plans to use names in teaching literature, social studies, and other subjects had I been willing to make up assignments myself. This could easily be done, especially in terms of teaching students to take an interest in their own forenames and surnames, in introducing projects of interest into composition courses at all levels and certain introductory stages of linguistics and library research, but I think it best to wait until tested plans and teacher cooperation is built "in the field." While I might easily collect the syllabi and reading lists of the few onomastics courses per se now offered in American colleges, and intelligently respond to requests for information on how to go about conducting research in onomastics to produce masters' theses and doctoral dissertations, I felt more ready to learn from pre-college teachers
than to dictate to them. Like most university professors, I have never had the courses in pedagogy required of those who function in the pre-college system.

My experience as a student in American schools consists of several years at each end of the educational system: the first few years of grade-school classes (in a Massachusetts elementary school) and the last few years of graduate study (a second master's degree and a doctorate at Princeton University). I was never a high-schooler or an undergraduate in an American institution: I completed grade school and went through a private secondary school and took two degrees at McGill University, all in Canada. While this has never prevented me from expressing my views on elementary education in the United States (as in my article on "The Shape of Things to Come" in National Elementary Principal) or high-school and college English (as in "Teaching Freshman English as a Foreign Language" in The Teaching of English in the Two-Year College) or even on bilingual education (lecturing at Teachers College of Columbia University at a conference on Applied Linguistics or publishing in Geolinguistics and elsewhere), I do think I should leave it to American teachers to say how names can be used in the American classroom. If they continue to lack initiative or imagination, someone will have to step in. Meanwhile, we wait. Someone must put together Names in the Classroom, with projects and exercises and lesson plans and all the rest, and if teachers cannot or will not report experience then I, or someone else, will eventually step in and do their planning for them. Perhaps elementary and secondary personnel
are so very busy with established curricula (or just keeping some semblance of order in the classrooms) that they cannot be expected to try anything innovative unless it is all worked out for them.

One way or another, in the fullness of time, Names in the Classroom will be made available to elementary and secondary school teachers. For college courses, a textbook and readings are required.

It seems reasonable to ask the few college teachers who have actually offered courses in onomastics—these are just now being tried on an experimental basis in some progressive institutions and are getting established as regular courses in a few places—to collaborate on a textbook pooling their knowledge. The Study of Names should contain a brief description of the history and nature of the subject in all its aspects, with exercises and projects for research and writing, typical term papers and reports, bibliography, etc. I should like to see as well texts with guides and lesson plans worked out for primary schools (Games with Names) and high schools (What's In a Name?), and a Guide to Graduate Research in Onomastics could easily be prepared, even if it adds (as I recommend) to the traditional researches in place-names some interdisciplinary study involving folklore and history and, with personal names, psychology, literature, etc. But an informal survey of the several publishers whom I regularly serve as a consultant on new textbooks shows that these books will be up against the chicken-and-egg problem, as I have come to call it.

Let me explain the publisher's way of thinking. Preparing my anthology of Nineteenth-Century British Drama, for instance, taught
me that offering a publisher a textbook in a field where none exists inevitably raises suspicions (why has no one else published such a book?) and cautions (why publish the book before courses are offered in the field?). The answers are not far to seek: because no one previously had the idea or the enterprise; courses will come when the book from which they can be taught is available. Today there are even courses in Victorian drama and textbooks which followed mine. But I am told it is still too early to offer a textbook in onomastics. Those who wish to create such a book, at whatever educational level, will find that educating publishers comes before educating students. At the moment, I should say that it might take six months to put such a college text together, but it might take three or four years to convince a publisher that the book, once in print, would create courses (and have all the advantages of being first in the field).

Sometimes publishers remind me of my opera-buff friends who never wish to hear any opera for the first time.

When textbooks come some collections of readings on onomastics can follow, and those will have some market among linguists in general also. I have several suggestions:

1. The Best of NAMES, selections illustrative of the areas, approaches, and applications of onomastic study drawn from articles (and parts of articles) in the first 30 years of ANS's journal.

2. Onomastic Studies: An Anthology, a distinguished and representative collection of essays (and per-
haps selections from standard books) on all aspects of name study from the earliest times to the present, documenting changing perspectives and emphases in the science. This could be a university-press book and any one of a number of us could put together its table of contents without much trouble, the big problem being not what to put in but what to leave out, for the field is rich and varied.

An Onomastics Reader, a paperback collection of varied names studies for undergraduate classes, containing a general introduction, an introduction to each major branch of names study, selections, questions for class discussion and topics for writing, and suggestions for further reading. The essays and pieces included should be carefully selected and designed for use not only in courses specifically in onomastics but also as supplementary reading in courses in linguistics, geography, folklore, literary criticism, etc.

There may be considerable difficulty in getting workable textbooks and sound anthologies (which must be far more than mere scissors-and-paste jobs) into print, but until such time as they are in print and in use courses in onomastics will not spread much and there will never be in Academe proper respect for our study as a science and a legitimate concern of scholars. Moreover, our own
names activities and publications will never be regarded by administra-
tors as completely serious and legitimate until they are more close-
ly tied to what can be taught. Deans yearn to see an ever closer con-
nection between what we do for a living (teach classes) and what we
do as scholars (research, publication, reading papers at conventions,
etc.). Nearly half of the scientific subjects now considered perfectly
respectable in college catalogues were unheard of when I was an under-
graduate. It is true that McGill in my day was rather conservative. It
had earlier let go such faculty members as Sir William Osler (who asked
for a raise), Lord Rutherford (because he claimed he had discovered
cosmic rays, which he had), Harold Laski (too "advanced") and Stephen
Leacock ("too old"), and by the 1940's was not entirely sure that
such subjects as the theatre (which the knighting of Sir Henry Irving
had "elevated"—actually he had, as one wit said, not so much elevated
the stage as depressed the audience) and modern literature (which pre-
sumably anyone could read without critical apparatus) were altogether
respectable. Today we welcome into the fold accountants, computer ex-
perts, theorists on sub-standard dialects, football coaches....

I predict that if these people do not edge out linguistics altogeth-
er onomastics will get into the catalogue of at least the more far-
seeing colleges and universities.

While we are waiting and working for that, trying to publish
textbooks and establish courses, first experimentally and then on a
regular basis, there are other things we can do.

Right after the Index to Names covering volumes XVI - XXX, to
be expected soon, ANS (in my opinion) should assist in publishing or publish itself a book to give American names study a boost. In my opinion, it is in the study of names in literature that the most distinctly American progress has been made and it is this aspect of names study here that I am most frequently asked about by foreign scholars. (In 1981 I am going to make a distinct effort to report in some European forum our notable advances in this specialty and I confidently expect that at the ICOS meeting in Ann Arbor this year we Americans will impress foreign visitors with our energy and achievements in this field.) To give literary onomastics an important direction, I suggest A Guide to Literary Onomastics.

A Guide to Literary Onomastics ought to outline the history and methodology of onomastics and firmly fix its terminology. It ought to offer examples from British, American, European and other literatures and all genres and reach out to "interface" (as the new jargon has it) with folklore and other disciplines. It ought to make the terminology of literary onomastics as precise and as simple as possible. (I have noticed in some literary onomastic circles that there is an unfortunate tendency to attempt to make the study more impressively scientific by proliferating polysyllabic terminology; some of these terms are necessary and actually in common use, but others are indefensibly cumbersome, and pedantry and obfuscation cannot benefit those already in the field or attract the best new scholars to the field. I strongly recommend that we develop simple and straightforward language and not, as it were, join the nymbiciles in seeking
to build a difficult terminology on Greek and Latin roots. **Punning names** is preferable to **paranomastic onomastics**, for example. Where difficult terms are already established, we must use them as rhetoricians are compelled to do, but we ought to make new terms as easy to understand, not as impressive and obscure, as possible.

**A Guide to Literary Onomastics** ought to show a beginning student how to examine a poem, play, song, novel, or any other work of literature, whatever its period or national origin, and analyze (not merely identify) onomastic devices. It should offer at least one excellent model critical essay for each **genre** and explain why it is a good model to follow, at the same time emphasizing that different works require different approaches, just as different **genres** do. There should be some discussion about how literary devices are used in different ways and with different intentions in different times and places. Most of all, the **Guide** should explain exactly how literary onomastic studies can contribute to our appreciation of literary art and our understanding of the nature and effect of literary works.

In time we may have **A Handbook of Literary Onomastics**, perhaps even one for American literature, one for British literature, one for classical literature, one for Continental literature, and so on, more or less on the pattern of the Oxford Companions to Literature or the **New Century Handbook of English Literature**, **A Reader's Encyclopedia of World Drama**, **The Reader's Encyclopedia**, etc. Somewhere a student ought to be able to find concise and authoritative articles on such topics as "Biblical Names," "Names in Twentieth-Century American Short Fiction,"
"Place-Names in Poetry," "Names as they Function in Plot," etc., as well as comments on the names of major characters (Dido, Ishmael, Prufrock, Njorthr, Mr. Zero, etc.), technical terms, etc. Eventually we may see something comparable to the multivolume encyclopedias on which I have been privileged to work in recent years (most recently a comprehensive encyclopedia on the short story) or big works on single authors (I am now writing about names for The Spenser Encyclopedia).

Over the centuries a mass of scholarship and criticism has accumulated on names in literature and students always want to know more about the names in fiction.

Such volumes will have to be large professional projects but they can pull together both amateur and professional writing about names in literature, organizing it in terms of a scientific terminology and methodology (the creation of which ought to have been one of the very first projects of this Conference).

A Guide to Literary Onomastics must probably be directed towards the needs of undergraduate and graduate students but it will also interest scholars in our own field and in related disciplines, giving everyone solid information, a common critical language, and well-defined goals for future research in traditional fields and in the burgeoning new areas of popular culture, film criticism, and so on.

Meanwhile, we need to establish the terminology of our studies in the lexicon of criticism. I do not see "Names" in my Enlarged Edition of Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics or in handbooks to other kinds of literature. I cannot find many terms of literary
onomastics study in dictionaries of literary terms, nor is the subject included in guides to or histories of criticism. One of the recent handbooks to Freshman English did, in fact, include a term paper based on names study as a sample, but for the most part other literary students and critics are ignoring our interests. When they do indulge in name analysis in literature or comparative literature, they do so without reference to guidelines we supposed experts ought to have laid down.

Why is Names not in the index to books such as Hazard Adams' Critical Theory Since Plato or W. K. Wimsatt, Jr. and Cleanth Brooks' Literary Criticism: A Short History or L. S. Hall's Grammar of Literary Criticism or, perhaps more important, in textbooks which alert students to the various techniques of literary criticism they can employ in their reading and writing? Terms of names study are missing from glossaries of literary terms: I recently attempted to add some to the list of terms that Harper & Row (with whom I consult on some textbooks in my fields) proposes to define in a forthcoming book by a distinguished team of literary experts who ought to have included them but clearly did not find them in the books they consulted in planning their own.

We must establish our subject and its terminology in the minds of students and the compilers and authors of the reference books and textbooks they use. We must persuade publishers who are issuing a series which includes Irony, Melodrama, Comedy, Tragedy, Satire, Metaphor, and such to include a unit on Names. It's not as if critics were not already taking the function of names in literature into account!

And yet when David Lodge presents a reader on 20th Century Literary
Criticism the study of names is not included. When W. J. Handy and Max Westbook, among others, present "the major statements" of Twentieth Century Criticism, none deal with onomastics. When Wilfred Guerin et al. in a Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature cover the traditional, formalistic, psychological, mythological and archetypal, exponential, and other approaches (Aristotelian, feminist, genre, history of ideas, phenomenological, rhetorical, sociological including Marxist, source study, structuralist, stylistic, and linguistic) even in the linguistic discussion (where they aver that a study of dialects is useful) they do not mention the word onomastics.

Onomastics does turn up in Harry Shaw's Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms (though not in such dictionaries even less concise); this is all we find:

onomastics
A Study of the origin and history of proper names.

From the Greek term meaning "names," onomastics is concerned with the folklore of names, their current application, spellings, pronunciations, and meanings.

An example of onomastics is George Stewart's Names on the Land (1945, 1957), a historical account of place naming in the United States.

An odd example for a dictionary of literary terms; it should have dealt with literary onomastics.

E. J. Gordon's Writing about Imaginative Literature and similar, subsequent books never suggest that the students consider how names
function in literature, and Names in the index to Sylvan Barnet's Short Guide to Writing about Literature leads one only to "a note on authors' names and other troublesome matters," the latter involving merely "e.g." when you mean "i.e." and not the use of names in fiction.

Clearly we have to educate the compliers of dictionaries of literary terms and critics in general. The next time you see such a dictionary which omits onomastics (which is predictable, since these works copy outrageously from each other), write to the authors and publishers to complain that it is ignorantly incomplete. Ask why the literary onomastic approach is not listed among possible ways of studying literature when it is so germane (as I am trying to get the Spenser Encyclopedia editors to see) and extensive (as I write a friend of mine is proofreading a long monograph on the names in Dostoevsky).

To extend the study of names and to gain it proper recognition we need to achieve notice in all relevant reference books, surveys, anthologies, etc., as well as to encourage works in our own field.

I have interested Irvington Publishers in New York in the reissue of rare and out-of-print classics of name study and will be the general editor of their forthcoming International Library of Names. To those who scoff at the feasibility of such an extensive project, I point to the fact that I have had occasion to review recently for Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance (Geneva), for example, two series on Renaissance iconography (more than 50 volumes in the first
series), an equally vast reprint series on the English Stage, some 30 volumes on English landscape gardening, and so on, to mention just the outpourings of a single New York reprint publisher (Garland). I have also reviewed the same publisher's bibliographies on Renaissance rhetoric ($60), Shakespeare's world ($60), and many other expensive volumes, for all of which there seems to be an eager market. I contend that if the public or libraries will pay $100 for a concordance to the Chester Mystery Plays and stiff prices for three volumes of literary reviews in British periodicals 1789 - 1826 or three on the Victorian art of fiction 1830 - 1900 they will also welcome with sufficient enthusiasm reprints of important milestones in names study, from toponymics to literary onomastics.

In addition, The International Library of Names will include new anthologies of onomastic material. My plans include 1982 publications on names on the American landscape, names and human behavior, names in British fiction and fact, Amerindian names, names and word games, names and literature, and other subjects, and I am glad to say that I have been able to recruit editors and editorial committees from highly qualified ANS members who are as concerned as I am that wider distribution be provided for the scattered treasures of names study already in print but not conveniently accessible to scholars and readers. In time the series will branch out to include Continental and other reprints and collections. I hope to provide, in time, precisely what the series title promises: an international library of names studies, even including new works which fill in gaps in our knowledge.
This material will assemble what is now known and stimulate graduate students and others to pursue promising research in the principles of scientific nomenclature, the psychology of names, the relation between toponymics and studies of the spread and interaction of cultures, between names and history and folklore, etc.

Meanwhile, ANS ought to take the lead in seeking research grants from institutions in which its members teach and from foundations and similar sources. It ought to approach university presses, city, county, state, and federal authorities, and commercial publishers with well thought out plans for relevant new publications. Ethnic groups and interested endowments ought to be approached about co-sponsoring with ANS the publication of a Heritage Series to include Scandinavian Names in America, Irish Names in America, Afro-American Naming Practices, and so on. Historical and genealogical societies (allies whom we have sadly neglected) ought to be helped to publish the onomastic materials they have collected. Commercial publishers ought to be asked to issue the best papers delivered at each year's ANS annual meeting, and probably the regional institutes ought to be encouraged to center each year's meeting around a specific topic, for that appeals to publishers. None of this is "blue-sky" thinking. Last year, for instance, I read two papers (one on names in James Fenimore Cooper's novels, one on the image of Italy on the English Renaissance Stage) outside of ANS that were also for publication. The Cooper Conference held annually at SUNY Oneonta has already published the first in a collection modestly supported by that
college; the collected papers of Adelphi University's symposium on Renaissance Venice will achieve hardcover publication by AMS Press (New York) in the fullness of time. At colleges or with reprint houses or other commercial publishers, why cannot ANS find ways to get useful materials on onomastics into print?

As you know, when president of ANS I made the encouragement of publications a high priority. Our conferences often have comparatively few attendees--there are some much appreciated regulars who are the core of many of them--and yet quite often the papers delivered deserve permanent preservation and a wider circulation. Indeed, I have often observed that the promise or even possibility of publication (which, justifiably or not, impresses deans and other arbiters of professional performance) goes a long way toward raising the standards of scholarly meetings, just as the existence of conferences stimulates research. This Conference on Literary Onomastics owes much to the wise decision of Professors Alvarez-Altman and Bowman at its very inception to publish annual proceedings. Literary Onomastic Studies has grown in distribution and in quality ever since and was an inspiration to those valued participants in this and other names institutes whom I was able to persuade to collect papers which have already appeared as Pubs, Place Names and Patronymics (with a second volume of Names Institute papers already underway under the editorship of E. Wallace McMullen) and Connecticut Onomastic Studies I (with a second volume now near publication under the editorship of Arthur Berliner and others). While it can be said that this Confer-
ence was inspired by the success of The Names Institute, it in turn has inspired others (such as the North East Names Institute under the direction of Murray Heller and the earlier South Central Names Institute under the direction of Fred Tarpley) to issue annual proceedings. I am pleased to say that the newest institute, the North Central Names Institute which I encouraged Laurence E. Seits to commence in Illinois, has already published the papers of its first annual meeting. I hope that the names institutes I should like to see established in the North West and the South will soon appear and publish each year.

It is especially important to get all ANS publications reliably indexed annually so as to bring them to the attention of scholars everywhere. All ANS members who publish on onomastic topics here or abroad must make certain scholarly indexers receive full information (offprints, if possible) and this is especially important in the case of articles whose titles might not convey to bibliographers the names information contained in the articles. The Renaissance scholar, for instance, requires to be told that an article on Roman anthroponyms in *Names* discusses both Shakespeare's and Jonson's handling of Roman names, just as surely as it is essential to let people know that an article entitled "Pod vymyslenymi imenami" deals with Russian literary onomastics or that one headed "Avant-Garde Theatre in France" mentions Jean Vautier's *Le Capitaine Bada*. Bibliographers should also direct onomasticians to relevant information they might otherwise miss in journals of comparative literature, popular culture, psychology, sociology, history, geography, and so on.
The indexers can bring names scholarship to us and to our colleagues and we need to bring the gospel of onomastics to others in the many scholarly organizations besides ANS to which we typically belong. We must read papers on names topics not only at annual and regional meetings of ANS but also at annual and regional meetings of The Modern language Association, The National Council of Teachers of English, The International Linguistic Association, The Linguistic Society of America, and meetings of scholars in all disciplines. We have much to teach them and much to learn from not always preaching to the converted. I am sorry that my efforts to arrange onomastics panels at The Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association meetings have not been continued, glad to see that this year ANS members at Saranac Lake in September will meet with members of The New York Folklore Society, hopeful that in future we shall be able to repair our relations with The North East Modern Language Association and resume panels on literary onomastics. I believe a paper on the names in medieval works gains something from being presented before The Medieval Society of America, one on (say) Juan Ruiz de Alarcón y Mendoza from a jury of Hispanicists, one on (say) Ursula Le Guin from the comments from assembled experts on science fiction, one on the psychological impact of given names from the scrutiny of a convention of psychiatrists. Publication in journals other than those specializing in the onomastic approach and speaking before scholars who are not already interested in names both tests the validity of our work and broadens the scope and reputation of
our brands of science and criticism. Others must become more aware of what we as specialists are doing and how we relate to their interests. Each of us should strive to deliver a paper outside of ANS whenever possible and, while urging others to come to this and other ANS conferences, ask ourselves whether a paper on (say) Chaucer would do the most good here or in the Chaucer section of MLA.

Too many people think literary onomastics, for instance, is unrelated to the literature of history and such disciplines; too many think our onomastic work is just a sideline, a hobby for academics who are more accurately categorized as "in English" or in other fields. If we are to stress onomastic science as a full-fledged academic pursuit, we must show its widest applications, submit to the judgments of the experts in various fields, and show the uninformed and the doubting precisely what it does and what it can accomplish.

Moreover, we must police our own ranks and make sure papers delivered in ANS meetings would meet with the approval of experts in relevant fields all the way from philology to history and criticism. We must set for ourselves the highest academic standards, especially in going beyond the mere collection of names to making sense of them. We need to assess what has already been accomplished, question where we are now, and find ever better methods and ever more significant avenues of investigation to explore ever more scientifically. We must improve and redefine our own science as we move ahead and continually relate it to other scientific scholarship.

Publishing the best of what has already been done can clarify
and inspire and assist in what we have yet to do. My planned International Library of Names will make available out-of-print classics on many aspects of literary names, personal names, place-names (for Amerind names works by, for example, William A. Read, Nellie van de Grift, Silas T. Rand, Usher Parsons, and Fannie H. Eckstrom), etc. I invite you all to suggest other books scholars would welcome in the series. Some ANS members have volunteered to create authoritative anthologies of shorter pieces now scattered in libraries and virtually unavailable and I am asking the directors of this Conference to organize an anthology of the best of Literary Onomastic Studies to date. Others may wish to offer anthologies of names studies in the fields of various foreign languages, classic or modern drama, etc. In time we hope for a volume of translations of (say) Names Studies in Russian and Slavic and other materials which are, as the poet says, "locked up, not lost." Who will edit for us Names in Italian Literature: An Anthology of Onomastic Excerpts and Articles or Onomastic Comments by Classical Authors or one of the very many other volumes that could grace this series? Who will compile American Authors on the Names of Their Characters or a collection of articles (with translations if necessary) on names in the work of the French dramatists of The School of Paris (Beckett, Ionesco, Genet, et al.) or Eighteenth-Century English Comedy or some other such promising topic? Who has other ideas for reprints and anthologies or, for that matter, original books for the series? Who knows of relevant dissertations deserving print (such as the one on "Don
Quixote's Ambiguous Names")? We need A Companion to Names Studies, classics, collections, dictionaries of literary (and other) names, etc. We need to reprint the best articles from foreign publications such as Viz, Anthroponymica, Onomastica, Onomasticon, Onomata, and so on. We can have exactly what the series title promises: an international library of names.

In this age of reprints—and new collections on unusual approaches from transactional theory to visual literature—all this is feasible. Names in Literature, from this Conference, ought to be in the very first batch and soon I should like to see a new book on the methodology of literary onomastics. In 1895 Sigmund Freud attempted (unsuccessfully) to launch a "Prospect for a Scientific Psychology." In 1985 (or 1995, if it takes that long) we hope for a "Prospect for Onomastic Science."

If in no other way this article (to be followed by a paper at The Modern Language Association in December 1981 on "Publishing Possibilities in the Field of Onomastics" as part of a panel numbered 399) is extraordinary in its lack of footnotes and bibliography. I hope to have inspired and in some small way facilitated onomastic publication so that in the not too distant future we shall see some of the ripened harvest, as Keats would say, garnered in "charactry," and those works shall be my footnotes and bibliography. Meanwhile,

Hear ye not the hum
Of mighty workings?

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