

Preface

We present the reader with the proceedings of the 27th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences. The congress took place in Kraków on August 22–27, 2021. Its main initiator was the late Professor Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch, who had passed away in 2020. It was an undertaking of scientific institutions from three Slavic countries: the main organiser in Poland was the Institute of Polish Language of the Polish Academy of Sciences, especially the Department of Onomastics, and the Faculty of Polish Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the Committee of Linguistics of the Polish Academy of Sciences; in Slovakia – Ludovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, the Faculty of Arts of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, and Faculty of Education of the University of St. Cyril and St. Methodius in Trnava; in Czechia – the Czech Language Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

One-day outings and longer trips have always been an inseparable element of onomastic congresses. The scholarly programme of the meeting of onomasticians in Kraków was to be complemented by a tour of Lesser Poland, Czechia and Slovakia. Unfortunately, all the plans were thwarted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in 2020, took over the world and became the unwelcome backdrop to the preparations for the event. For that reason, the Kraków congress was organized with a one-year delay, and due to prolonged pandemic restrictions and travelling difficulties, it was held online.

The congress was attended by 250 people from 44 countries of the world, from all continents except Australia, and the participants were affiliated with over 140 research centres. The most strongly represented countries were the United Kingdom (20 people), Poland (19), Czechia (17), Hungary (17), Sweden (16), and Slovakia (15).

The programme included 206 presentations on the congress theme of *Onomastics in Interaction With Other Branches of Science* comprising 2 keynote lectures and 10 papers presenting the achievements of Polish, Czech and Slovak onomastics as part of the Slavic symposia. The remaining presentations were grouped into five thematic sections: theoretical issues – 15 papers, toponymy – 85, anthroponymy – 58, chrematonymy – 10, and literary onomastics – 26. Papers were delivered mostly in English, although the congress languages were also German, French, and Russian.

Each day, six parallel thematic sections were held. The largest number of papers concerned various problems of historical and synchronic toponomastics, using both the traditional and the interdisciplinary approach. The sessions became an opportunity to present dictionaries and toponymic databases, as well as the results of research on place names, field names, hydronyms, names of regions in particular countries of Europe and beyond, on language contacts in the light of toponymy, on trends in contemporary urbanonymy, on cultural heritage, the conceptualisation of space, the gender perspective, as well as on the use of metonymy and metaphor in the creation of toponyms.

Slightly fewer presentations concerned anthroponymy. In their presentations, researchers of personal names focused, among other topics, on the trends in name-giving in the 20th and 21st centuries (in China, Japan, Sweden, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Cameroon, Botswana), on dictionaries of given names and surnames from various historical periods, on surname typology, and on the analysis of surnames of foreign origin in the anthroponomastics of various countries. As in the case

of toponymy, various methodologies were employed, ranging from traditional philological and historical, through pragmalinguistic, sociolinguistic and cultural studies approaches, to quantitative ones.

A small number of papers were purely theoretical; among these, the definition of a proper name and the problems of onomastic terminology proved to be the main areas of interest. In the field of chrematonomastics, studies devoted to the motivation of various sets of commercial names were presented, with a particular focus on the interplay between the local and the global.

The representation of literary onomastics as measured by the number of papers was modest too. Here, the topics included the functions of proper names in fiction in general, or in the works of various writers. Several researchers also studied the functions of onyms in other cultural texts (e.g., in folklore, religion, epistolography, the press, advertising, or video games).

One day of the congress was devoted to organisational matters, with the meetings of the ICOS Terminology Group, the ICOS Bibliography Group, the ICOS PR Group, the ICOS Young Scholar Network, and of the editors of onomastic journals. At the ICOS General Assembly, members of the new ICOS Board were elected.

At the end of the congress there was a panel discussion, *Place Names as Open Data*, prepared and moderated by Peder Gammeltoft, with the participation of 6 researchers: Emily Lethbridge, Peder Dam, Alexandra Petrulevich, Elin Pihl, Kristina Neumüller, and Daniel Nyangweso. The panel discussion concerned the creation and harmonisation of place name resources based on the Linked Open Data concept.

The congress was accompanied by a virtual exhibition of onomastic books and journals published in the years 2018–2021. They are still available on the congress website (<https://icos2020.ijp.pan.pl/book-exhibition>), similarly to the presentations of the most important digital projects implemented by the Institute of Polish Language of the Polish Academy of Sciences (<https://icos2020.ijp.pan.pl/digital-projects-of-the-institute-of-polish-language-ijp-pan>). The abstracts of all the speeches, the recordings of the opening and closing ceremonies of the congress, and the recordings of two plenary papers can also be found there.

The 27th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences will go down in history as the first fully virtual meeting of onomasticians from all over the world. And although the online conference went smoothly, without technical problems, it is really a pity that we could not meet in person in Kraków.

Shortly after the end of the congress, we started work on the preparation of the post-congress publication. We received 104 submissions for publication in the congress proceedings, and after positive reviews, 93 of them were eventually published: 77 in English, 5 in French, 6 in German, and 5 in Russian.

Meanwhile, the papers presented at the Slavic symposia were published as the thematic issue *West Slavic Onomastics* in Volume 57/2022 of the journal *Onoma* (<https://onomajournal.org/vol-57/>).

The proceedings comprise three volumes, organized according to the themed sections of the congress itself. Papers by keynote speakers may be found at the beginning of Volume 1, which covers toponomastics; Volume 2 is devoted to anthroponomastics; Volume 3 deals with general and applied onomastics, chrematonomastics, and literary onomastics. The complete volumes, as well as individual articles, are available online.*

The organisation of any major event is a team effort, and this congress could not have taken place without the help and involvement of many people.

We therefore wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for support and assistance to the following:

- the ICOS President Paula Sjöblom and all the ICOS Board members, who advised and supervised the process throughout;
- the members of the Scientific Committee, including Maciej Eder (president), Milan Harvalík (vice-president), Terhi Ainiala, Maria Giovanna Arcamone, Elena Berezovich, Pierre-Henri Billy, Richard Coates, Sheila Embleton, Halszka Górný, Juraj Hladký, Adrian Koopman, Staffan Nyström, Mariusz Rutkowski, Joan Tort Donada, Valéria Tóth, Jana Marie Tušková, Jürgen Udolph;
- the reviewers of the abstracts of submissions, who helped to ensure the high academic standard of the congress;
- the keynote speakers Sheila Embleton and Peter Jordan, as well as the panellists, the chairpersons and all the paper presenters;
- Mayor Jacek Majchrowski and the city of Kraków;
- Rector of the Jagiellonian University Jacek Popiel and the staff of the Jagiellonian University Conference Office, who handled the online registration and all the matters arising in the process.

* Volume 1: <https://doi.org/10.4467/K7501.45/22.23.19012>

Volume 2: <https://doi.org/10.4467/K7446.46/22.23.19013>

Volume 3: <https://doi.org/10.4467/K7478.47/22.23.19014>

Our special thanks go to all the reviewers for their invaluable contribution in reviewing the manuscripts submitted for publication in our three-volume proceedings.

Full lists of reviewers can be found at the beginning of each volume.

We wish every success to the organisers of the 28th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Helsinki on 19–23 August 2024, and we hope that it will take place in calmer times, not marked by a pandemic or war.

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