

Preface

It was a great pleasure to welcome 249 members of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences to Glasgow for the 25th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences from 25-29 August 2014. Delegates attended from a total of 43 countries, testifying to the vigorous state of name studies throughout the world. The programme included 182 presentations on the congress theme of 'Names and their Environment', comprising 3 keynote lectures, 170 session papers and 9 posters. Of these, 145 were in English, 22 in German and 12 in French. We are delighted that 115 have been written up for publication in the congress proceedings, while a further 59 are represented in the form of abstracts.

The proceedings comprise 5 volumes, organised according to the themed sections of the congress itself. Papers by keynote speakers appear at the beginning of Volume 1. Volumes 1 and 2 then cover Toponomastics; Volume 3 covers Anthroponomastics; Volume 4 covers Theory and Methodology as well as Socio-onomastics; and Volume 5 covers Literary Onomastics, Other Names and Commercial Names. The complete volumes are available as a series of 5 pdfs, but all submitted papers can also be accessed individually via the ICOS 2014 website.

The organisation of any major event is a team effort, and although the lead was taken by ourselves – Carole and Daria – the congress could not have taken place without the generous help and involvement of many other people. It is a pleasure to record our thanks to the following (with apologies to anyone who may inadvertently have been omitted):

- the ICOS Board members, who advised and steered the process throughout;
- the members of the local organising team / UK Scientific Committee, comprising Ellen Bramwell, Thomas Clancy, Richard Coates, Alison Grant, Guy Puzey, Margaret Scott and Simon Taylor;
- the members of the International Scientific Committee, comprising Terhi Ainiala, Elwys de Stefani, Kaisa Rautio Helander, Adrian Koopman, Laura Kostanski, Julia Kuhn, André Lapierre, Katharina Leibring and Staffan Nyström;
- the abstract reviewers, who helped to ensure the high academic standard of the congress;
- the Scottish Place-Name Society, which sponsored the opening reception in the Hunterian Art Gallery;
- the City of Glasgow, which provided the civic reception at Glasgow City Chambers;
- the staff of the University of Glasgow Conference and Visitor Services Office, who handled the online registration and accommodation bookings with great efficiency and good humour;
- the staff of the Hunterian Art Gallery, who provided such a great welcome at the opening reception;
- the staff of Glasgow University Union, who welcomed us to this historic building for the congress dinner;
- Brian Aitken, the website consultant;
- Simon Taylor, who organised all the excursions;

- the excursion leaders Thomas Clancy, Alice Crook, Stephen Driscoll, Peter Drummond, Leonie Dunlop, Sofia Evemalm, Peter McNiven, Simon Taylor, Alasdair Whyte and Eila Williamson
- the keynote speakers Richard Coates, Peder Gammeltoft and Simon Taylor;
- the chairs, speakers and poster presenters;
- the congress helpers Ellen Bramwell, Alison Burns, James Butler, Alice Crook, Rachael Hamilton, Francesca Mackay and Emma Osborne.

We wish every success to the organisers of the 26th congress in Debrecen from 27 August to 1 September 2017, and hope that they encounter such a wonderful group of delegates as we did.

Carole Hough and Daria Izdebska
June 2016