
**UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Working Paper

No. 3

Twenty-fourth Session
New York, 20 and 31 August 2007

Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Reports of liaison officers

ONOMA 39
The International Council of Onomastic Sciences terminology list

ONOMA 39

The International Council of Onomastic Sciences terminology list

ONOMA, Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences

The last published volume of ONOMA is no. 39 with the central theme:

Name Research and Teaching

The guest editor of this volume is Botolv Helleland who raised and discussed in an introductory chapter various approaches to this topic. The book contains 20 papers, amongst them are country reports on the status of their programmes in teaching toponymy, papers on theory and methods of onomastics, but also some papers with concrete examples.

The next volumes to be published are:

ONOMA 40: "Literary Onomastics". The guest editor is Friedhelm Debus and Grant Smith.

ONOMA 41: "Name Theory", the guest editor is Richard Coates.

The ICOS board decided on future themes for ONOMA volumes:

ONOMA 42: "Urban toponymy": A first call for papers has been sent out by Staffan Nyström (Stockholm).

ONOMA 43: "Commercial Names" (guest editor: Ludger Kremer, University of Antwerpen).

ONOMA 44: "African Onomastics" (guest editor: Adrian Koopman, University of Natal / Pietermaritzburg).

ICOS Terminology Group

The board members of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) installed the **Terminology Group** to start a discussion on the need of international consistent and accurate terms in onomastic sciences.

As a preliminary result a list of terms is to be seen on the web site of ICOS:

www.icosweb.net

The list contains the small number of 19 frequently-met terms on which the board members agreed on in their meeting in spring 2007. It shall be regarded as a first step and further work on this list is in progress. The plan is that a first draft of the terminology list will be presented to the General Assembly of ICOS at the 24th ICOS congress in Toronto 2008.

The web site also informs about the mode of the creation of the terms: the terms are based on the Greek language (in their English forms). The advantages of using the Greek language are that the terms can easily be adjusted in different languages. This list shall be regarded as a recommendation for onomasticians for international use.

On the web-site reference is also given to the UNGEGN "Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names", which has been elaborated by the Working Group on Terminology, chaired by Naftali Kadmon.