



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING  
BAIA MARE, 2 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**PRESENT:**

Milan Harvalík (MH, chair), Alina Bugheşiu (AB, newly appointed secretary), Staffan Nyström (SN), Nobuhle Hlongwa (NH), Oliviu Felecan (OF), Valéria Tóth (VT)

**PRESENT ON SKYPE:** Lidia Becker (LB), Guy Puzey (GP), Alice Crook (AC)

**GUEST:** Iveta Valentová (IV)

**APOLOGIES:**

Richard Coates (RC), Carol Léonard (CL, former secretary), Emilia Aldrin (EA), Paula Sjöblom (PS), Antti Leino (AL, editor of Onoma).

**1. WELCOME**

The chair, Milan Harvalík, called the meeting to order on Wednesday 2 September 2015, at 16:00 local time (14:00 GMT). The President welcomed everybody present and introduced IV, who attended the meeting as his guest (see item 10).

**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA**

MH asked whether members wished to add other items to the agenda. As no new item was added, the agenda was adopted.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (HANOVER, 6 MARCH 2015)**

CL prepared the minutes of the previous board meeting. MH has done some corrections and forwarded the minutes to GP for further corrections. The updated version was not circulated in the meeting and it was decided that it will be e-mailed to the members for approval.

**4. ICOS NEWSLETTER 24**

As with the Hanover minutes, a draft of the Newsletter was prepared by CL. MH checked this version and sent it to GP for revision. Preliminary drafts in French and German have also been confirmed. The Newsletter will be circulated to all the Board members after correction.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

The Secretary, CL, has submitted a resignation letter due to health reasons. MH stated that a solution needed to be found in this respect and that, according to Article 9 of the ICOS Statutes, in the case of the loss of members of the Board of Directors through death, illness, continuous unavailability or resignation, the Board of Directors may appoint substitutes, who must be members of ICOS. Two names were forwarded, and the President requested members to comment. It was suggested that ICOS needs a secretary who speaks at least two languages, e.g., German and English. Several suggestions were made, and after some discussion it was agreed that Alina Bugheşiu (AB) would be appointed the new Secretary of ICOS.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President announced a few conferences, for which he had received invitations: Internationale germanistische Tagung Mehrnamigkeit (April 2016, Zadar, Croatia); 20th International and Polish Onomastic Conference (September 2016, Kraków, Poland); 20th Slovak Onomastic Conference (probably in June 2017, in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia). The 19th Slovak Onomastic Conference was held on 28-30 April 2014, with Iveta Valentová as the main organizer. The event was dedicated to the 80th birthday of Milan Majtán, a prominent Slovak onomastician, and the proceedings were published in 2015, just a few days before the Baia Mare conference. MH had news that other onomastic conferences will be held in 2016 and notifications about them will be included in Newsletter 24.

## **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

SN mentioned that ICOS needs to spend some money in order to follow Swedish government tax rules and avoid paying charges. Unfortunately, ICOS had not spent anything until the meeting in Baia Mare. The Treasurer hopes that another issue of *Onoma* may solve the problem.

As regards membership fees, SN pointed out that not all the members have paid yet, but he is following up on the members who have not renewed their membership. GP raised the issue of life membership, a practice common in other similar organisations. SN suggested that we investigate this possibility and discuss it in the next meeting. It was proposed that a questionnaire be drawn up to find out about members' views on this suggestion.

## **8. WEBMASTER'S REPORT, ICOS HOMEPAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

GP has a list of things to do in terms of updating the ICOS website. He promised to make the updates soon. MH alluded to the fact that the home page needs to be updated with the names of the new Board members. A list of update suggestions and corrections will be compiled and sent to the webmaster.

## **9. REPORT OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE GROUP**

The report of the chair of the bibliographical group was presented, as follows:

“Since I was chosen head of the ICOS Bibliography Group (at the last ICOS Board Meeting in Hannover, Germany), I have tried to establish a new team, with the help of the former chair, Prof. Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch. I co-opted the active members of the previous team and worked to attract new members from countries and continents that had not been represented before in this ICOS group: Finland, France, Germany, Russia, Spain (Europe), Brazil, Mexico, USA (the Americas), Jordan (Asia), and South Africa. Thus, the current IBOS group consists of the following 21 members:

## ICOS Bibliography Group

- **Chair:** Oliviu Felecan
- Maria Giovanna Arcamone, Italy
- Lidia Becker, Germany
- Pierre-Henri Billy, France
- Alina Bugheşiu, Romania
- Enzo Caffarelli, Italy
- Patricia Carvalhinhos, Brazil
- Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch, Poland
- Tamás Farkas, Hungary
- Milan Harvalík, Czech Republic
- Juraj Hladký, Slovakia
- Nobuhle Hlongwa, South Africa
- Irena Kałużyńska, Poland
- Katharina Leibring, Sweden
- Yolanda López Franco, Mexico
- Frank Nuessel, USA
- Peeter Päll, Estonia
- Paula Sjöblom, Finland
- Joan Tort Donada, Spain
- Valéria Tóth, Hungary
- Anna Tsepkova, Russia

After the new team was established, a communication breakdown occurred. I contacted Karina van Dalen-Oskam to facilitate our connection to the IBOS Database. However, she changed her job and, as she was unable to look after IBOS, she gave me Sebastiaan Derks's e-mail address ([sebastiaan.derks@huygens.knaw.nl](mailto:sebastiaan.derks@huygens.knaw.nl)), but I have never received any feedback from him. As a consequence, the ICOS Bibliography Group website could not be updated (see [http://www.icosweb.net/index.php/icos-boards/articles/bibliography\\_group.html](http://www.icosweb.net/index.php/icos-boards/articles/bibliography_group.html)) and the activity of the group came to a standstill, as the members did not know how to use the platform and add new titles. As soon as we understand how to work on the ICOS website (<http://www.icosbibliography.net/cob/>), we hope to recover the time lost by updating the information regarding books, studies and databases on onomastics.”

MH appreciated that it was very good for the ICOS Bibliography Group to include so many members, 21 with the Chair. OF mentioned that he would approach Wafa Abu Hatab, a colleague from Jordan and participant in the Baia Mare conference, to represent Arabic onomastics on the IBOS.

Further on, VT expanded on certain aspects that she had also mentioned during the Hanover meeting. Thus, according to VT, the main problem with IBOS is that researchers are expected to perform a repetitive task, as they already have to introduce personal bibliographical data in their own countries. Copying from one database to another is impossible, because the databases are not compatible. In this context, it would be more practical if we could import entries from national scientific databases onto the IBOS platform. In this case, we would only have to supply a certain record with keywords and the English translation of the title of the publications. Technical changes have to be made to the website, but it would make it more useful and efficient. ICOS relies on Sebastiaan Derks as regards updating the IBOS platform.

VT moreover suggested that the bibliographical database be made available for everyone even in its present form. She emphasised that onomasticians will find the database useful and important if they see that it is used widely. This could encourage them to have a significantly more prolific activity on the platform.

The Board members agreed to tackle the matters pointed out by OF and VT step by step, in order to produce quality work.

## **10. REPORT OF THE TERMINOLOGY GROUP**

The chair has made several visits to Bratislava, on the occasion of which he was introduced to the database of Slovak onomastic terms. IV, a new member of the Terminology Group, is involved in this project and she presented it during the Board meeting. An important feature of this database is that it provides foreign counterparts for the key onomastic terms included, along with examples. It was suggested that this database could be used as a model for ICOS.

The List of Key Onomastic Terms is available in several language versions (see the ICOS website). MH and IV are translating the list of terms in Czech and Slovak, making some small corrections and additions (e.g., including examples that are typical for Czech/Slovak).

## **11. ONOMA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT**

The following report was sent electronically by RC, the chair of the editorial board of *Onoma*:

“At the Glasgow Congress (August 2014) I was tasked with reviewing the current status of ONOMA and its potential futures.

Some dissatisfaction had been expressed with the current publication arrangements involving Peeters, and it was noted that Maney (the publisher of *Names*) had approached ICOS with an offer to negotiate a possible alternative deal. I approached Maney with a view to setting up discussions. However, Maney are in the middle of being taken over by Taylor and Francis. My former contact in Maney assures me that my request for discussions has been passed on to Taylor and Francis. I shall report when there is any progress.

The parameters of any future discussion include:

- Costs (presently between 4000-4600 euros per volume)
- Practical support for the publication process
- Number of issues per subscription year
- Online vs. print publication and the issue of a paywall

My own personal preference for the future is for two issues per year (one thematic and one general), provided that sufficiently strong practical support can be given by the publisher. It would be too much for the General Editor to deal with alone. I am encouraged by the fact that *Names* is able to produce

four slim issues per year! But I will enter discussions with Taylor and Francis with an open mind and report back on a range of possibilities.

Richard Coates  
Chair, Editorial Board  
August 2015”

The proposal of one issue per year was supported, so long as the publication of delayed volumes is brought up to date as soon as possible. It was agreed that a number be assigned to each thematic volume towards the end of the editing process, according to which issue is ready for publication sooner.

The guest editor of *Onoma* 51 has been approached. Dr. Sungjae Choo has accepted to take on this responsibility.

## **12. ICOS HOMEPAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

This item was discussed together with item 8. GP is endeavouring to link the social media presence more visibly to the ICOS website. GP suggested that other Board members could be given the administrative rights to post on, for example, the Facebook page, which would allow for a greater range of news items to be published and on a more regular basis. If anybody is interested in this, they should contact GP.

## **13. VISIBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY OF ICOS**

The Board agreed to the proposal to run the survey about members’ interests again.

The importance to encourage affiliations from various countries was reemphasised. It was agreed for the Slovak Onomastic Commission to affiliate with ICOS.

## **14. ICOS CONGRESS IN DEBRECEN, 2017**

In the last Board meeting VT introduced the Board the plans and ideas concerning the ICOS congress in 2017. The members of ICOS Board evaluated them and also made some comments and suggestions to certain parts of the plans. After discussions in Debrecen regarding the decisions of the Board, the plans for the 2017 Congress have been modified accordingly.

The main changes of the plans are the following:

1. Conference planning timeline — not changed.
2. Topic of the congress — not changed.
3. Structure of the scientific programme of the congress  
Meeting of editors of the onomastic journals has been inserted to the programme on Thursday afternoon (parallel with the planned programme “Presentation of the Committee on Hungarian Linguistics, Section of Onomastic Sciences”).
4. Structure of the scientific committee — not changed.
5. Financial resources  
The application for financial support can only be made in 2016.  
Registration fees (excursions are not included, banquet and receptions are included): the registration fees for participants who are not ICOS members was raised as it was suggested in

Hannover (namely that bigger differences need to be made between the fees for ICOS members and for other congress participants).

Thus, the fees for ICOS members have not changed: € 100 (early registration), € 120 (standard registration); but the fees for other congress participants have been raised a bit: € 140 (early registration), € 160 (standard registration); for students: € 60; for accompanying persons: € 50 (corresponding with preliminary plans).

6. Novelties of the congress

6.1. Symposia — this idea was accepted by the members of the Board in Hannover.

6.2. Family-friendly congress — this idea was also accepted by the Board.

6.3. Banquet — the banquet is going to be organised on Friday evening, so that it could be the real closing event of the congress. The reasons for this modification of the ICOS tradition were also accepted in Hannover, although a couple of potential problems arose as well.

On balance, it was felt best to close the congress on Friday afternoon with the ICOS General Assembly (providing enough time for the election procedures) and the closing session, as well as the banquet in the evening.

7. Excursions: Wednesday would be the excursion day as usual, although three-day excursions would also be organised for the participants after the congress. The locations of some of them are beyond the borders of contemporary Hungary: in these cases the formal and official name forms of the settlements and other places are going to be used (instead of their Hungarian names that were used in the bid). Naturally, the organisers do not want to hurt anybody's sensibilities in this respect, therefore they are going to avoid the previous Hungarian name forms of these places.

The president was happy about the report. OF suggested that ICONN 4 could be held immediately after ICOS, so that members could attend both events. The websites of the two meetings could be linked.

## 15. NEWSLETTERS

The president requested that no additional newsletter be issued. Thus, the following newsletter will be the one first drafted by CL. It will inform members of the resignation of CL and the appointment of a new secretary, AB.

## 16. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that in 2016 the Board needs to meet once. It was proposed that we meet in Prague if MH could host the gathering, probably in June or July.

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was announced that the Proceedings of the Glasgow Congress will include about 200 papers.

MH thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 18:00 local time (16:00 GMT) on Wednesday 2 September 2015.

Nobuhle Hlongwa  
September 2015

Alina Bugheșiu  
Secretary  
(revised version May 2016)