



**MINUTES OF THE ICOS BOARD MEETING
DEBRECEN, 16 MAY 2017**

PRESENT:

Milan Harvalík (MH, chair), Alice Crook (AC), Staffan Nyström (SN), Paula Sjöblom (PS), Valéria Tóth (VT).

GUEST: Erzsébet Gyórfy (secretary of the organizing committee of the 2017 ICOS Congress).

PRESENT ON SKYPE: Lidia Becker (LB), Alina Bugheșiu (AB), Richard Coates (RC), Oliviu Felecan (OF), Nobuhle Hlongwa (NH), Unni-Päivä Leino (UPL, Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma*), Guy Puzey (GP).

APOLOGIES: Emilia Aldrin (EA).

1. WELCOME

The chair, Milan Harvalík, called the meeting to order on Tuesday, 16 May 2017, at 8:30 local time (6:30 GMT). The President welcomed everybody present in person or via Skype.

2. APOLOGIES

The chair made several announcements under this section. EA could not attend the meeting at all. LB, RC and UPL stated they would be present via Skype during the second part of the meeting. Thus, MH suggested that the items on the agenda be discussed depending on the presence of the attendees, rather than in their established order. All the members agreed.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

MH asked whether members wished to add other items to the agenda. As nothing new was added, the agenda was adopted.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PRAGUE, 14-15 JUNE 2016)

The minutes of the previous board meeting were prepared by AB. Helpful revisions were made by MH, LB, GP and SN. The minutes were sent to the Board and approved via e-mail. They can be accessed on the ICOS website (<http://icosweb.net/drupal/sites/default/files/2016-06%20Prague%20minutes.pdf>).

5. ICOS NEWSLETTER 25

Work on the 25th Newsletter was well under way. It was announced that the issue would be trilingual again and would be sent to ICOS members by the end of May.

6. MATTERS ARISING

No new matters were noted, so the meeting moved to the next point on the agenda.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President mentioned some of the scientific events in which he participated since the previous meeting of the Board in Prague in 2016. The events (listed below in chronological order) were connected with onomastics and they provided the opportunity to discuss various ICOS activities:

- 21-23 September 2016, Kraków: 20th International and Polish Conference on Onomastics, which also facilitated a meeting of the Commission for Slavonic Onomastics of the International Committee of Slavicists;
- October 2016 and November 2016, Bratislava: collaboration with ICOS Terminology Group;
- 6 December 2016, Prague: meeting of the Czech, Slovak and Polish authorities on the standardization of geographical names;
- 16-17 March 2017, Wrocław (Poland): the conference *Slavdom past and present – language, literature, culture III*;
- 6-7 April 2017, Prague: the 19th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms and the Working Group on Romanization Systems Meeting. Many members of ICOS participated in this meeting. On this occasion, MH also got together with Dr. Sungjae Choo, the guest editor of *Onoma*'s issue on *Asian Onomastics*, who provided news about the editing process of the volume in question (see item 15 below).

Since the previous meeting of the Board, the President discussed (during various conferences, as well as via Skype and e-mail) with colleagues from Poland (Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch, Urszula Bijak), Slovakia (Iveta Valentová, Juraj Hladký, Jaromír Krško) and the Czech Republic (Jiří Martinek) about the preparation of the bid for the organisation of the 27th ICOS Congress in Kraków in 2020.

As no questions or comments ensued, the Board meeting moved to the following item on the agenda.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT

In addition to news about the minutes of the previous Board meeting in Prague in 2016 (see item 4) and Newsletter 25 (see item 5), AB mentioned that there is nothing significant to point out from the secretary's point of view. However, AB highlighted a constant problem, namely the difficulty of having updated lists of contact details of ICOS members, because they do not notify us when changes occur in this respect. SN stated he faced the same difficulty and PS suggested contacting national societies associated with ICOS to see if they can help us.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

SN sent the following overview of ICOS finances (in euros) for the period 2014-2016:

	2014	2015	2016
AMOUNT PAID:			
Bank costs	192	242	248
Credit card costs	552	528	542

ICOS organizational costs	180	0	90
ONOMA Peeters	4256	0	0
ONOMA translation costs	155	14	0
Prizes	100	0	0
Travel bursaries	630	0	0
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	6065	784	880

AMOUNT RECEIVED:

ONOMA/Peeters	4856	526	3132
Membership fees	6679	3255	3442
Donations	0	0	185
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	11344	3883	6759

2014 2015 2016

STATUS OF BANK ACCOUNTS
(by December 31)

Account in SEK transf. to EUR	1066	1300	1219
Account in EUR	8734	11693	17601
Savings account	43194	44644	42836
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	52994	57637	61656

The data show that not much money was spent in 2015 and 2016, although the income in those years was high, mostly from membership. SN pointed out that this means ICOS is violating Swedish tax rules, according to which 80% of the income must be spent during a “rolling” five-year period. This year’s income is also expected to be significant, as there is a large input of money from memberships in congress years. Moreover, ICOS has spent nothing on *Onoma* since 2014. Nevertheless, as several volumes are almost completed (see item 15), this situation will hopefully change soon. MH underlined that it is compulsory to spend more on *Onoma* than in the previous three years.

Good ideas were shared regarding the ways to deal with the excess of money. VT reminded that the ICOS Board agreed to fund postgraduate students participating in the Congress in Debrecen with 40 euros. AC suggested that ICOS could also support postgraduate students by funding their research into certain topics or covering travel expenses to the Congress. This proposal was met with agreement from the participants in the Board meeting, but nothing was decided for the time being. At the same time, continuing the discussion from the previous meeting of the Board (Prague, 14-15 June 2016), the members accepted to support the Postgraduate Representative in attending Board meetings, owing to the difficulty in obtaining funding for this.

10. WEBMASTER’S REPORT

GP mentioned that, since the last meeting, the ICOS website had suffered some modifications in view of a tidier structure. The list of links was updated with a set of links referring to Hungary (kindly submitted by VT). GP concluded by reminding the members of the Board that any information (especially links) they wish to add on the ICOS website should be submitted to the Webmaster.

11. ICOS HOMEPAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

GP confirmed he had given access to the ICOS Facebook page to all the Board and regular members who wanted to post. Some have done it, but activity has not been outstanding. The widest reach was when we announced the launch of the Congress website (the post had more than 1,200 views). The second most popular item was the call for papers for the non-themed issue of *Onoma*, which may actually indicate the potential popularity of such *Onoma* volumes.

As regards Twitter, the situation is fairly similar, in the sense that it has not recorded much activity. AC stated that tweets are scheduled to go out every week or so, but activity will increase quite significantly before, during and after the Congress (for instance, Twitter activity was more marked during the congresses in Barcelona and Glasgow).

12. VISIBILITY AND INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY OF ICOS

In part, this topic was covered under items 9 and 10 above. However, an important aspect referred to the research undertaken by ICOS regarding members' interests. As this research began some years ago, GP suggested it would be a good idea to share information about it at the Congress. AC noted that the survey should also be filled in by new members, even during the Congress. AB confirmed she would send the survey to ICOS members who had not responded and would prepare a presentation of the data for the Congress.

Another issue discussed under this item was the collaboration with national organizations, which was also a subject of the report of the Terminology Group. GP highlighted that the list of affiliate organizations has been updated on the ICOS website. In the spreadsheet synthesizing the survey responses, there are organizations that are not affiliated with ICOS yet. It was proposed that we should investigate whether they want to associate with us.

PS suggested that *Onoma* should be dealt with in relation to the visibility and international credibility of ICOS as well. From this viewpoint, the fact that the journal does not appear in time is a significant shortcoming.

13. REPORT OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE GROUP

The chair of the Bibliographical Group presented the report below:

“Due to the well-known difficulties in using the existing IBOS platform, the Bibliography Group has turned to a more user-friendly alternative. At Lidia Becker's initiative, the ICOS Bibliography Group was created on Zotero (https://www.zotero.org/groups/icos_bibliography_group_onomastics) as an open bibliographical resource for everyone interested in the scientific study of names.

The ICOS Bibliography Group on Zotero has eight members (Lidia Becker, Alina Bugheşiu, Patricia Carvalhinhos, Oliviu Felecan, Milan Harvalík, Paula Sjöblom, Valéria Tóth, and Anna Tsepikova), all of whom are IBOS members. Although items can only be added by group members, they can be viewed by non-members as well, even without owning a Zotero account. The titles are associated with various tags (i.e., keywords, concepts that describe the topic of the publication), thus making it easier for users to search for resources dealing with certain subject matters. The new database already includes 63 entries. Nevertheless, there are about 1,700 entries on the former platform, and our priority is to move them on Zotero.

At the same time, the issue of linking IBOS to other national/international bibliography databases (such as NORNA) remains and we still need to figure out a solution for it.”

VT commented: “The new bibliographical database system on Zotero is much more user-friendly than the previous one was. However, I have faced some difficulties using the program, which I would like to indicate.

It is a bit confusing that there are so many fields and the majority of them will eventually remain blank.

Some fields are not obvious at first glance. For instance, when adding an item as a journal article it is not clear what the difference is between *Publication*, *Volume* and *Issue*. As for me, it was only a guess that I should fill in the field *Publication* when I want to write the title of the journal.

In the field *Author* there is a comma and I cannot decide whether it serves to separate two or more authors from one another or just to separate an author’s surname from his/her first name. It turned out that I myself was not consequent in this issue and sometimes I chose the former solution and at other times the latter.

We can add keywords describe the entries. If we add a keyword from the already existing ones, it seems that the field will be filled in automatically. However, it is not the case. As I experienced, the program will not write the whole word into the field, but only that part which I have already typed in (e.g. typing the word *Toponymy* I realized that it is an existing tag so I stopped typing after a few letters thinking that it would be enough if I just clicked on the word *Toponymy*. In this case the field contained only the first few letters that I had typed.) It is a bit embarrassing and can cause many mistakes. It would be better if we could click on the existing tag and the field would be filled in with the given word automatically.”

The question of importing in Zotero items recorded on the former platform was raised. OF replied this was impossible, as the data can only be introduced manually (by means of *copy – paste*). PS and MH underlined this was a disadvantage, because members do not have the time to move their entries.

While the employment of keywords was certainly considered a strong point by all the participants in the meeting, the Board generally agreed that Zotero might not be useful. The main concern of the Bibliography Group needs to be to find a way to link IBOS to national bibliographical resources, perhaps following the model of national organisations that have similar platforms. In this way, the time spent filling in bibliographical information can be reduced. Whereas the best idea seems to be to create a section of links to national onomastic resources on the ICOS website, AC noted that not all national platforms grant free access to non-members, especially if the platforms are connected with universities. Although nothing was decided, VT suggested that the overall task of IBOS should be reconsidered and redefined. The Board members concurred.

14. REPORT OF THE TERMINOLOGY GROUP

The ICOS List of Key Onomastic Terms is being developed in the several languages: Slovak (by Iveta Valentová; this version is complete), Macedonian (by Meri Iosifovska; minor corrections are needed, especially in terms of structure), Czech (by MH), and Hungarian (by Tamás Farkas, Andrea Bölcskei and Mariann Slíz). However, MH underlined that more national versions are needed before ICOS can test the international version.

Also in relation to the activity of the Terminology Group, MH stated that, together with Iveta Valentová, he was preparing a paper on onomastic terminology for the Debrecen congress.

MH received the following message from Tamás Farkas, Andrea Bölcskei and Mariann Slíz on 13 May 2017:

“... As we agreed in the Terminology Group meeting in Glasgow, we prepared the Hungarian version of the ICOS terminology list. We also decided to produce the UNGEGN glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names in Hungarian. At this stage, it seemed reasonable to attach two papers concerning terminological issues to these glossaries to make potential readers understand the relevance and context of the glossaries; and to explain some basic features of Hungarian onomastic terms to the readers. To provide wider access, we prepared these papers both in Hungarian and in English, for the national and international public. So now it seems we could edit a volume containing the two papers in both languages and the two glossaries in Hungarian (their original English versions are available for everyone on the Internet). We take the liberty to ask three things from you in connection with this volume:

1) Would you be so kind as to proofread and peer-review the volume for us (of course, especially the English texts, which are a close translation of the Hungarian texts)? We are planning to ask a Hungarian and an international expert to proofread and we would be really honoured if you agreed to check the volume for us as the international expert.

2) May we ask you as the President of ICOS to write a short Introduction (1.5-2 pages), especially about the work of the ICOS Terminology Group, the ICOS list of terms and the importance of terminology work in the field of Onomastics?

3) We are planning to publish the bilingual volume (in print and online) for the ICOS Congress in Debrecen to be able to present and distribute the printed version among the participants. Do you think it is a possibility – especially if you could check the volume – to publish the volume as a joint publication of ICOS and the Society of Hungarian Linguistics? If so, should we get a written confirmation from ICOS or can we simply indicate the collaboration on the book cover? Should we indicate the place of publication in this way: Uppsala – Budapest?

I am sending the chapters of the volume (the English papers and the Hungarian glossaries) as an attachment to make it possible for you to decide whether you could proofread and write the introduction to the volume. We know that you have lots of responsibilities, and we would be really grateful if you could spare some time and energy for this task as well. Please, let us know about your decision.

We are also eager to make everything ready for the symposia, as you know, and we do hope all the participants will find the programmes interesting and useful.”

MH fully supported the idea of having the volume on Hungarian and international onomastic terminology as a joint publication of ICOS and the Society of Hungarian Linguistics.

AC wondered whether all ICOS members would be sent a copy of the book. MH stated that the editors only plan to distribute the volume to members who will actually attend the congress in person.

With respect to the third question, RC and SN replied we should adopt whichever solution ensures maximum publicity and visibility for ICOS. SN also asked whether ICOS was expected to contribute financially to the publication of the aforementioned volume. However, PS rightly pointed out that ICOS finances *Onoma* and any funding for the publication of the book in question would lead to complications. In conclusion, the Board decided to support the joint publication on Hungarian and international onomastic terminology, but without financial assistance. The place of publication will appear as *Uppsala – Budapest*. The editors of the volume will receive a written letter from ICOS in this respect.

15. *ONOMA* EDITOR-IN-CHIEF’S REPORT

UPL provided the current status of the upcoming volumes of *Onoma*:

- *Onoma* 48 (2013), *Names and Religion*, guest editor Per Vikstrand: proofs were completed and returned to Peeters on 16 May 2017;
- *Onoma* 49 (2014), *Medieval Multiculturalism*, guest editors Sara Uckelman et al.: the Editor-in-Chief was still waiting for an introduction from the guest editors, but the volume was expected to go to Peeters before the Congress;
- *Onoma* 50 (2015), non-themed: 13 abstract submissions were received and they would be distributed to the members of the editorial board soon; UPL hoped to submit it to Peeters by the end of 2017;
- *Onoma* 51 (2016), *Asian Onomastics*, guest editor Sungjae Choo: work on the volume was well under way and there was a great chance for it to be published in 2018;
- *Onoma* volume on *Family Names*, guest editors Richard Coates et al.: funding for the project was pending and further information was expected by the summer of 2017. During the meeting, RC stated that the second possible source for funding had been unsuccessful and that he would keep ICOS updated about the project;
- Martina Pitz memorial issue of *Onoma*, guest editor Wolfgang Haubrichs: there was no news about it.

UPL noted that it was the time to get out a call for themes for *Onoma* volumes 52 – 54 (nominally 2016 – 2018). This aspect would be discussed with the editorial board.

RC (as the Chair of the Editorial Board) had been negotiating about moving *Onoma* from Peeters to another publisher. Taylor & Francis were keen in principle. However, they gave up because we were unable to provide any information about our contract with Peeters. For the time being, it would appear ICOS is stuck with this extremely unsatisfactory position, as no other publisher will accept collaborating with us due to the unclear nature of our relation with Peeters (apparently based on some “gentleman’s agreement” made by Willy Van Langendonck many years ago).

16. ICOS CONGRESS IN DEBRECEN, 2017

VT, as the coordinator of the organising committee, presented the following report, focusing on four aspects:

“1. Abstract submissions

Based on the abstract submissions and the evaluation processes, it seems that 248 papers will be presented at the congress (taking the most optimistic version into account). The papers will be delivered by 253 participants. We have made the preliminary programme taking these data into consideration.

43 different countries will be represented at the congress. Most of the participants (approx. 75% of them), however, come from Europe.

In terms of language, there is a strong dominance of English. This means that 215 papers will be given in English, whereas only 16 will be presented in French and 17 in German.

The deadline for the early-bird registration is 19 May, while the final registration deadline is 31 July. Approximately 100 people have registered for the congress so far.

2. Academic programme

Abstracts were reviewed according to their topics by the members of the scientific committee or the symposia conveners. After the reviewing process the participants were informed about the evaluation of their paper. Since the majority of the abstracts were of top quality, only very few of the submissions had to be rejected. Some of the abstracts were accepted with smaller or bigger objections. In these cases, however, we received corrected versions of the abstracts subsequently. After we made corrections and unifications in the titles, we were able to outline the preliminary programme of the congress as well. The preliminary programme and other important news can be found on the website.

However, we underline that changes might occur in the programme (e.g. we will have to talk to the chairs of the different paper sessions before finalizing the programme).

There is a further important task that has to be solved. We are going to have the abstracts reviewed linguistically. We consider it indispensable especially in the cases of those participants who are not native speakers in the given languages. We would like to make the abstracts available on the website only after linguistic proofreading.

[All the information available on the website has been checked by native speakers. AC proofread the English texts, the German versions were checked and corrected by Christian Zschieschang and the French versions by Pierre-Henri Billy.]

The planned papers display an excellent thematic range, reflecting precisely the diversity of onomastics.

The academic programme will be organised into 5 symposia and 7 or 8 parallel paper sessions. The symposia will be held in parallel on Tuesday and no paper sessions will take place at that time. The 7 or 8 parallel paper sessions will be held on Monday, Thursday and Friday. As for the paper sessions, we defined 14 different thematic sections.

1. General onomastics
2. Toponomastics 1: Theoretical issues
3. Toponomastics 2: Name-giving in old periods; Name changes
4. Toponomastics 3: Language contacts and name systems
5. Anthroponomastics 1: Theoretical issues
6. Anthroponomastics 2: Surnames
7. Anthroponomastics 3: First (given) names
8. Anthroponomastics 4: Name-giving in old periods
9. Other names
10. Names in literature
11. Socio-onomastics
12. Name policy, name planning
13. Applied onomastics
14. Digital name culture

There are also 3 invited plenary papers in the academic programme. All the keynote speakers discuss questions of outstanding significance both theoretically and pragmatically.

On Monday Grant W. Smith (Eastern Washington University) will speak about *The symbolic meanings of names*.

On Tuesday Staffan Nyström (Uppsala University) will speak about *Place-name policy in Scandinavia and elsewhere*.

On Thursday István Hoffmann and Valéria Tóth (University of Debrecen) will speak about *Theoretical issues of toponym typology*.

Further academic programmes:

- a) Meeting of ICOS Board on Sunday afternoon
- b) Meeting of the editorial board of *Onoma* on Monday morning before the opening ceremony
- c) Meeting of the ICOS Bibliography Group and ICOS Terminology Group. These meetings will be held on different days (the former on Monday in the late afternoon and the latter on Tuesday in the late afternoon) since there are participants who are members of both groups.
- d) Meeting of the ICOS Student Network on Monday afternoon – I have got some notes from Alice concerning this meeting.

According to Alice's plans, the meeting will consist of

- student introductions;
- discussion based on these introductions;
- discussion about ICOS and its role in helping students;

- discussion about the student network and potential ways to develop it.

So far there are only five students (from four countries) who are interested in the network. However, this number will certainly increase nearer the time of the conference. We have discussed that I would send Alice the e-mail addresses of all student participants of the congress at the end of July, so that Alice could write to them to let them know about this meeting and about the aforementioned plans. I believe this method can be productive.

- e) Meeting of editors of onomastic journals – I have received information about this meeting from Tamás Farkas.

He sent an e-mail to the editors of 30 onomastic journals at the beginning of the year and has received positive feedback from 13 journals so far. The editor or a member of the editorial board of these journals will attend the meeting. However, most journal representatives have not answered yet.

According to Tamás Farkas' plans, further steps will be made in June:

- He is going to prepare an outline suggesting the issues to be discussed in the meeting.
- He will try to get in touch with the editors of those journals that he has not been able to reach so far. (The scientific committee of the congress can also help him in this process.)
- It is also important to draw the editors' attention to the exhibition of books, in which we would like to set up a thematic section for onomastic journals.

All this means that there is a stable circle of participants to this meeting that should be extended if possible. The starting points of the discussion could be the ideas sent by Tamás Farkas for IBOS a year ago but other suggestions will be welcome as well.

- f) Presentation of books – its opening will be held on Monday and the exhibition will be on throughout the congress on the 3rd floor of the main building of the university, a frequented place of the congress. According to our plans, the book presentation will be a multilevel event with interactive digital materials. The presentation could be an important stimulus for scientific discussions even during breaks. We are waiting for the books to be exhibited by 15 August. (Further information about the exhibition can be found on the website.)
- g) ICOS General Assembly on Friday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. We believe 3 hours should be enough.

According to our plans, simultaneous interpretation from English to German and French will be provided on the opening and closing sessions (if our financial conditions enable us to do it).

3. Social programmes

- a) Receptions: the opening reception, sponsored by the rector of the university, will be held on Monday, the other one, sponsored by the mayor, on Tuesday evening and the banquet on Friday evening.
- b) Cultural programme on Thursday evening.
- c) Excursions: we offer four options for the one-day excursion (on Wednesday) and two options for the three-day excursion as active rest after the congress. As regards the three-day excursion, we changed our previous plans and offer only two destinations, both in Hungary.

4. Conference proceedings

In what concerns the congress proceedings, we have already laid down a few principles:

- a) In addition to the digital version we also consider the printed version of the congress proceedings important for many reasons (e.g. it ensures the given books higher prestige even nowadays, and it can also reach those onomasticians for whom the digital world is alien). Therefore, the only question that might still be considered is whether the whole congress proceedings should be published in printed format or only the papers of the symposia. We support the former solution for two reasons:
 - firstly because the latter would obviously cause tension;

– and secondly because the printing process would not imply relevant extra costs as the more time-consuming and labour-intensive editing and proofreading would have already been done for the preparation of the online version. Moreover, we have an excellent and reliable relationship with a press that produces high-standard books in a cost-effective way.

- b) We are planning thematic volumes, each of them approx. 200 to 250 pages. In our opinion books within these parameters can easily be published in a short time.
- c) We also think it is important that these books should be thematic volumes of a journal because our experience shows that conference papers are quoted to a higher extent and are better-known by academia if they are published in a journal as opposed to being published in independent conference proceedings. Moreover, this method could ensure the given journal significant material as well.
- d) As for the journal, two ideas have been raised. One of them is, naturally, *Onoma* and the other one is *Onomastica Uralica*, which was established in 2000 as a result of the cooperation between the University of Debrecen and the University of Helsinki. However, the latter would not be the best choice because it is dedicated specifically to onomastics in Uralic languages. (Due to financial difficulties the last volume of the journal was published in 2011.)
- e) Therefore, our suggestion is that we should publish the papers of the 5 symposia first because they are thematically coherent and their publication can be achieved within a relatively short time.

Each symposium includes 8 to 11 papers. Thus, it would be practical to publish the papers of two or three symposia in an independent volume of *Onoma*. It means that the papers of the 5 symposia would be published in two volumes of *Onoma*. The first volume would include symposia 1, 3 and 4 (altogether 28 papers + 3 prefaces), while the second volume would include symposia 2 and 5 (altogether 22 papers + 2 prefaces + the materials of a round-table discussion).

The editors of the volumes could be the conveners of the given symposia, whom we would ask to perform some editorial tasks even at this stage.

- f) If this suggestion were accepted, we would inform all the participants of the 5 symposia about this and ask them to prepare the final version of their papers by the congress. After the congress the editors (that is, the conveners) would get the papers and they would proofread the studies within 3 months. After the reviewing process the studies would also be edited within 3 months by the technical editors, all of whom will be colleagues from Debrecen. Within yet another 3 months the typographical preparation would also be ready.
- g) Thus, a volume of 200 to 250 pages could be published in 250 copies with 1800 euros including the postal service to Leuven. This solution would be beneficial to ICOS and *Onoma* since the journal activity would increase with new thematic volumes within a short period of time and in a cost-effective manner. The prestige of onomastics would also increase significantly due to these results, as it is not common in the humanities for issues of high quality to be published within such a short time. This system would be sustainable later on (in the next congresses) as well.”

Some comments were made by the participating Board members:

- SN noted that during the General Assembly it usually takes a long time for people to just get into the room, because it is a time-consuming process to check whether participants are members of ICOS or not. Perhaps it would be good to tell people to register to SN before the General Assembly.
- MH pointed out that the publication of thematic volumes of *Onoma* consisting of papers presented at the congress tallies perfectly with AL’s report regarding the launch for a call for *Onoma* themes. Therefore, this idea was considered very efficient by all the Board members and it was decided that it should be passed on to AL, so that it could be discussed by the editorial board.
- NH asked whether a mention about the blind peer-review process could be added on the front pages of the proceedings, as universities in South Africa require this information for subsidy

purposes. VT replied it would be possible. However, MH indicated a different solution would need to be adopted for papers from South Africa published in *Onoma*. No decision was made at this point, and the matter still needs to be discussed.

- EG inquired whether a separate Twitter platform should be set up for the Congress or the current ICOS one could be used. GP explained that while this was up to the organisers, it would be a good idea to use the existing one, as it also increases the visibility of ICOS. AC manages Twitter and mentioned she would help by adding members. As for Facebook, GP said VT was already an admin and he would also grant this status to EG, so that she could disseminate information via Facebook as well.

MH thanked VT, EG and all their team for the hard work and the meeting moved on the next point on the agenda.

17. BID FOR THE 27TH ICOS CONGRESS IN 2020 – KRAKÓW

MH stated that the only bid received for the 27th ICOS Congress was from Kraków. VT made some observations:

“1. The topic of the congress (*Onomastics in Interaction with Other Sciences*) is essential in onomastics. Since representatives of other disciplines (mainly historians) rely on the results of onomastics, the responsibility of onomastics towards other disciplines is enormous. Therefore, it is important and it is a common interest of all the disciplines mentioned in the bid that the results of onomastics be reliable. I am sure that this topic will be attractive for the representatives of many other disciplines.

2. I also approve of the organisers’ decision to adopt Russian as one of the official languages of the congress.

Luckily the participation of researchers from Eastern European countries has become increasingly active over the past years. However, this does not apply to representatives from the successor states of the former Soviet Union, despite the fact that these countries are distinguished by their highly intensive and valuable onomastic research.

In our first bid we also recommended that one of the official languages of the congress should be Russian but we eventually decided differently. I am not sure it was a good decision.

3. As for the draft programme of the congress, the proposed dates are 16-21 August 2020. It is a bit problematic, however, because another big congress will take place at that time, too. It is the 13th International Congress of Finno-Ugric Studies, which has already been announced. Since lots of onomasticians would certainly like to take part in both congresses, it would be practical to postpone the ICOS congress by a week.

4. Financial resources are covered in the bid, but there is no draft budget. A conference planning timeline and the timeline for the publication of proceedings are also missing. Based on my own experience, both can be supplied easily but the draft budget is not an easy task and it will change a lot during the three years until the congress in 2020. Therefore, I am not sure the Board should request the budget plan from the organisers to begin with.”

MH agreed with VT that the proposed dates must be reconsidered by the colleagues in Kraków and the ICOS Congress should be postponed a week or two so as not to overlap the 13th International Congress of Finno-Ugric Studies. At the same time, a timeline for the publication of the congress proceedings must be added and the media of publication (in print/online) needs to be established.

As regards the draft budget, MH noted that it was not submitted because changes are bound to occur on this level. He added that it is more important to know the conference fees (for members and non-

members) rather than the entire budget. RC and SN pointed out that some sort of financial outline is needed nonetheless, for ICOS to see what the organisers intend to do if everything goes according to plan, on the one hand, and if local funding is not granted, on the other.

MH replied he would be in contact with Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch and ask her about the three important matters emphasised (congress dates, proceedings, and draft budget).

18. ELECTIONS TO THE ICOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2017-2020)

The Secretary will send a message to ICOS members reminding them of the nomination process and deadline (30 June 2017). Following the model of Newsletter 22, Newsletter 25 will include job descriptions of the executive and non-executive positions. The Board will be informed of the nominations received in the run-up to the deadline. Nominations are open to all ICOS members. It was noted that it is not a requirement for nominees to be physically present at the General Assembly during the voting.

19. NEWSLETTERS

Another Newsletter (26) will be sent to ICOS members in July, with updates about the Debrecen congress, Kraków congress, list of nominees (which will also be sent separately), and any other important information.

20. NEXT MEETING

The last meeting of the current Board of Directors will be in Debrecen, on 27 August 2017, at 5 p.m., during the Congress. Members who will be unable to attend will have the possibility to join the meeting via Skype.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As there were no matters falling under this item, MH thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 12:15 local time (10:15 GMT) on Tuesday, 16 May 2017.

Alina Bugheşiu
Secretary
(May 2016)