



Minutes of the ICOS General Assembly Glasgow, 28 August 2014

Present Board members:

Carole Hough (CH, chair), Terhi Ainiola (TA), Lidia Becker (LB), Richard Coates (RC), Milan Harvalík (MH), Antti Leino (AL), Staffan Nyström (SN), Guy Puzey (GP, secretary), Kaisa Rautio Helander (KRH).

Apologies from Board members:

Ian Clark (IC), Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch (BCK), Laura Kostanski (LK).

1. Welcome

The chair, Carole Hough, called the meeting to order on Thursday 28 August 2014 at 15:36 local time (14:36 GMT).

2. Confirmation of the agenda

The agenda was agreed.

3. Minutes of the previous General Assembly (Barcelona, 8 September 2013)

RC proposed that the minutes of the previous General Assembly be approved as a true record. Adrian Koopman seconded and the other members present agreed.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. President's report

CH expressed her thanks to the members of the Board for their work over the past three years and to the members of the previous Board for handing over ICOS in such good order. Particular thanks were due to the previous President, Sheila Embleton.

For their work in making the Glasgow Congress a reality, CH thanked all members of the Congress organising committee and scientific committee, as well as the Scottish Place-Name Society / Comann Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba for its generous sponsorship, the University of Glasgow Conference and Visitor Services Office for their hard work, and Ryan Aitken for providing advice on the website design. Special thanks were due to Daria Izdebska for her extensive work, and to Simon Taylor for organising the excursions as well as delivering one of the three keynote lectures. Thanks were also expressed to RC and to Peder Gammeltoft, as the other keynote speakers. Importantly, CH thanked all Congress delegates for taking part in such an engaged manner. The work of session chairs and speakers was particularly appreciated in keeping to schedule, and it was good to see such vigorous, informed and exciting discussion after the papers.

On behalf of the Board, CH thanked AL for assuming the role of Editor-in-Chief of *Onoma* and executing that role so well. Tribute was also paid to the Bibliographical Database Group and Terminology Group for all their work.

Congratulations were conveyed to the editors of the Barcelona Congress proceedings for releasing these in such a timely manner.

A major priority for the current Board has been finding ways of raising the profile of ICOS as an umbrella organisation and as a means of enhancing the international profile of other names societies as well as ICOS itself. In this vein, the Board has instituted a new standing agenda item on the visibility and international recognition of ICOS. We have succeeded in attracting a good number of new members and additional affiliated organisations. A key component of making the most of this will be the compilation of a register of members' interests. The old register (compiled by RC) is still found to be very useful by many current members, but an up-to-date comprehensive register would be an advantage to all members. It will only work, however, if members actually let ICOS know what they are working on, and responses to the survey seeking to gather the necessary data for this register have been slow so far. CH called on members to fill out this survey.

Another priority of the ICOS Board has been to develop and support initiatives to attract more young scholars to the discipline of onomastics. A first international workshop for students of onomastics was held at the University of Glasgow in 2013, organised by students of onomastics. This workshop directly preceded the annual conference of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland (SNSBI), and the workshop has now been adopted by SNSBI as an annual event preceding their conference. Joint training courses for students of onomastics are also now being organised by the University of Glasgow and the University of Copenhagen, with the first held in June 2014. A follow-on three-day course will be held in Glasgow in October 2014. A key initiative in this area has been to establish a Postgraduate Representative position on the ICOS Board.

ICOS is currently in the fortunate position of having a very strong cohort of postgraduate students and early-career researchers among its members. The Postgraduate Representative will be able to represent their interests and feed in their views to inform the present and future of ICOS. One of the six non-executive member positions on the Board is now to be ring-fenced as a Postgraduate Representative. The candidate must be a postgraduate student at the time of the General Assembly. This means most candidates will probably turn into early-career researchers during the three-year term of the Board, which

also brings a useful perspective to the work of the Board. This new arrangement does not prevent postgraduate members from applying for any other Board position, but it does ensure postgraduate involvement in the work of the Board.

6. Secretary's report

Members paid their respects with a moment of silence to the following members of the onomastic community who have died since the last Congress: Vincent Blanár, Ernst Eichler, Sarah Leroy, Aleksandra Vasilyevna Superanskaya, and Gudrun Utterström.

GP reported that 3 Newsletters and 15 mass information e-mails have been sent to all members over the past three years. In response to concerns raised at the previous General Assembly, and in line with the multilingual ethos of ICOS, it was decided that the Newsletters would once again be trilingual, but would no longer include the full Minutes of Board meetings. The final approved minutes of Board meetings are instead to be uploaded to the ICOS website directly. The trilingual format of the Newsletters has, as a matter of course, made the production of the Newsletters time-consuming, but the Secretary has received a number of e-mails from members expressing their gratitude for reinstating the French and German versions of the Newsletter.

GP expressed his deep thanks to those who have generously assisted with the French and German editions of the Newsletter, in particular ICOS member Pierre-Henri Billy, ICOS Board member Lidia Becker, and non-ICOS members Ľurđica Hruřkar and Emmanuel Quirié.

All mass e-mails sent by the Secretary have also been trilingual, and when members have requested information from the Secretary, he has endeavoured to reply in English, French or German as appropriate.

The Board has sought to explore what the best future for the Newsletter might be, so would like to know how many members read it, and furthermore whether members consider it to be of continued utility. Would members prefer shorter updates on the website or through social media instead, or in addition to a Newsletter collecting news from previous months?

If the Newsletter is to continue, GP reminded members to send the incoming Secretary any brief items they wish to highlight, including conference announcements, calls for papers and news about successfully awarded funding for onomastic research projects.

GP recently launched a survey of all members to update the list of members' interests that was last compiled in 2008, with the intention of eventually publishing these details on the ICOS website. To date 34 responses have been received through the English version, 4 through the French version and 6 through the German version of the survey. Members were asked whether they thought such a list would be a useful feature for the website. ICOS would like to receive more responses before launching the online list, and members were kindly asked to respond to the survey as soon as possible. The addresses for the three versions of the survey are available in the previous Newsletter:

<https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/icos-en>

<https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/icos-fr>

<https://www.survey.ed.ac.uk/icos-de>

A secondary purpose of the survey is to update members' contact details. Members were kindly reminded to send any changes of details preferably to the Secretary and the Treasurer.

7. Treasurer's report

SN thanked his predecessor, Katharina Leibring, for her advice and assistance over the past three years and presented his report:

This report is a summary of what has been presented to the Board and in the Newsletters as an economic report for each year.

Financial overview:

PAID ITEMS (euros)	2011	2012	2013
Bank costs	205	125	248
Credit card costs	903	719	534
ICOS organizational costs	75	75	0
ICOS flyer	0	760	0
Printing and transl. of <i>Onoma</i>	4024	0	4613
Student support	540	0	0

TOTAL **5746** **1679** **5395**

RECEIVED ITEMS	2011	2012	2013
Interest	3	36	217
Membership fees	5294	3398	4837
Donations	91	50	95
Sold <i>Onoma</i> copies	3821	0	3077

TOTAL **9209** **3484** **8226**

ICOS has healthy finances. Larger costs are primarily related to the printing of *Onoma*, but these costs have been lower than expected during the period 2011–2013 because of the lagging behind of *Onoma* issues. As a consequence, two or three volumes are now well under way, meaning that a substantial sum of money must be devoted to printing during 2014 and 2015.

The treasurer's office was moved to Uppsala, Sweden, and has been located there during the whole period. Bank and credit card services are now functioning very well although they do cause ICOS substantial but unavoidable costs.

ICOS has its permanent seat in Sweden, and is registered as an 'idealistic organization', which in taxation terms means that we should spend at least 80% of our earnings during a moving five-year-period. For a long time we have managed to do that but as can be seen from the figure below, showing the latest five-year taxation cycle 2009–2013, we now have to – and we will – spend some more money during the coming years, e.g. by printing *Onoma* and supporting students. 80% of €36,842 is €29,473, which is more than we actually did spend (€27,959) during the period.

Year	Paid	Received	(in euros)
2009	4923	7370	
2010	10216	8553	
2011	5746	9209	
2012	1679	3484	
2013	5395	8226	
Total	27959	36842	

The income of ICOS consists of membership fees, donations, and profit from Peeters' selling of *Onoma* issues to people and institutions that are not members of ICOS. The income from membership fees varies greatly and is always highest during Congress years when many people join.

The exact number of ICOS members is a bit hard to count over the years. People can still become members in retrospect in order to receive issues of not yet printed *Onoma* volumes. Last Friday, the number of paid-up members was 291, which is a significant increase from the previous Congress.

Status of the ICOS bank accounts at the end of 2013

As Sweden is outside the Eurozone, we must keep accounts in both SEK and in EUR. The earlier accounts in the Netherlands have been closed down. The account where 'working' money in SEK and in EUR is going in and out gives no interest, so we also have a savings account.

Account in SEK	11,162 SEK = 1,251 EUR
Account in EUR (Euro-pocket)	23,193 EUR
Savings account	25,850 EUR

During 2014 more money will be transferred to the savings account.

The Board appointed two Swedish members of ICOS, Leif Nilsson (Uppsala) and Mats Wahlberg (Uppsala), to audit the accounts.

Staffan Nyström, Treasurer

8. Webmaster's report

AL reported that the current website has now been in place since January 2009. It uses a Finnish webhosting service and is mostly updated in a timely fashion. The content management system is now getting a little old, so this will be something for the new Web Officer to tackle.

The ICOS website will continue into the future, perhaps with an overhaul, but the website has now been augmented by a presence on Facebook and LinkedIn.

The website has seen between 10,000 and 20,000 page views per month over the previous two years, equating to between 1,000 and 2,000 unique visitors per month. There has been a significant peak this summer due to the Congress.

The website had 1,832 unique visitors in July 2014. The Facebook page currently has 100 followers (about one third of current membership), while the LinkedIn group only has 25 members at present.

There might perhaps be more emphasis on social media in future? Social media is good for news, but not so much for static information. Facebook is, for example, still gaining in popularity. Social media is one potential way to keep in touch with ICOS members and what they feel at various points in time. The next Web Officer should keep in touch with future developments with social media, as the popularity of Facebook may have peaked.

Some members reported that they did not know about the Facebook and LinkedIn presence of ICOS, but more began following ICOS through these platforms during the course of the GA meeting. Some members also queried the potential for Twitter, which will be considered further in the future.

A future feature for the website would be the register of members' research interests based on the currently ongoing survey of members.

On behalf of the other Board members, AL thanked CH for her work leading the current Board.

9. Report on *Onoma*

AL reported that there have been some unexpected changes to the organisation of the ICOS journal, *Onoma*. Elwys De Stefani had to step down quite suddenly early last year, so there has not been a proper handover between editors. *Onoma* remains slightly behind schedule, but the Editorial Board expect to get back on track next year.

Articles in *Onoma* are mostly in the themed sections, which attract a good number of submissions. The non-themed section suffers from the publishing schedule.

The current Editorial Board is composed as follows:

Richard Coates (England, chair)
Dunja Brozović-Rončević (Croatia)
Milan Harvalík (Czech Republic)
Carole Hough (Scotland)
Adrian Koopman (South Africa)
Julia Kuhn (Germany)
Grant Smith (United States of America)
Mats Wahlberg (Sweden)

Three volumes have come out since the last Congress:

- 44 (2009), on 'African Onomastics', edited by Adrian Koopman;
- 45 (2010), on 'History and Significance of Onomastics in Diachrony and Synchrony', edited by Maria Giovanna Arcamone and Martina Pitz;
- 46 (2011), with the section on 'Names and Minorities' edited by Dunja Brozović-Rončević, and the section on 'Toponomastics and Linguistic Landscapes' edited by Guy Puzey.

Four volumes are currently in preparation:

- 47 (2012), on 'Contact and Interference Phenomena in Onomastics', edited by Wolfgang Haubrichs and Max Pfister, expected in late 2014 (currently in technical editing);
- 48 (2013), on 'Names and Law', edited by Katharina Leibring and Andreas Teutsch, expected in 2014 (currently in technical editing);
- 49 (2014), on 'Names and Religion', edited by Per Vikstrand, expected in 2015 (articles still coming in, peer review expected later this year);
- 50 (2015), on 'Medieval Multiculturalism: The Evidence from Names', edited by Sara Uckelman, Jennifer McGowan, Genora Grim and Nina Shiel (call for papers just released and currently expected for publication in late 2015).

Suggested themes for *Onoma* 51 (2016) and 52 (2017) are welcome and can be sent to the Editor-in-Chief: <onoma@icosweb.net>.

At their meeting yesterday, the Editorial Board decided to create a new post for *Onoma* deputy editor, whose role will be to assist the Editor-in-Chief and to take over in the case of any future emergencies. Any applications for this role can be sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above.

Some members suggested a radical change to make *Onoma* entirely digital journal. Others also suggested the possibility of publishing *Onoma* twice a year. Both these points were also discussed by the Editorial Board in yesterday's meeting.

RC informed members that the *Onoma* Editorial Board agreed at their meeting yesterday to review every aspect of *Onoma* and to set up a working group to determine this. If any members have individual views, RC invited them to write these to him by email: <richard.coates@uwe.ac.uk>.

Grant Smith repeated the request from RC for suggestions from members. He also highlighted that it is important to consider the fact that some universities do not consider journals that are only published once a year to constitute journals, seeing them instead as annual collections. This is a key consideration for the future of *Onoma*, as it is important to raise the ranking of *Onoma*.

Oliviú Felecan and MH both reiterated the point that it is important for indexing purposes that *Onoma* is published regularly and on time.

10. Report of the Bibliographical Database Group

Katharina Leibring presented the following report on behalf of BCK:

The group currently consists of 17 people:

Maria Giovanna Arcamone (Italy)

Grasiėlda Blažiene (Lithuania)

Leendert Brouwer (Netherlands)

Dunja Brozović-Rončević (Croatia)

Richard Coates (England)

Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch (Poland, chair)

Karina van Dalen-Oskam (Netherlands, liaison with the group working on Digital Reference Works)

Doreen Gerritzen (Netherlands, secretary)

Milan Harvalík (Czech Republic)
Irena Kałużyńska (Poland)
Els Kloek (Netherlands, responsible for collaboration with the Huygens Instituut)
Katharina Leibring (Sweden)
Yolanda G. Lopez Franco (Mexico)
Peeter Päll (Estonia)
Yaroslav Redkva (Ukraine)
Valéria Tóth (Hungary)

It is not easy to be a member of the bibliographical group. Unfortunately not all the members are active. At the end of 2013 the Board of Directors suggested that to enliven the group's activity, the members of the group should prepare a list of key texts on onomastics in their own countries. Of the 17 members, only 7 have made such lists or prepared the information:

China: 20 books and articles;

Czech Republic: 88 books;

Italy: 50 books and articles;

Hungary: information about online bibliography;

Mexico: information about online bibliography;

Poland: 227 books and articles;

Sweden: 8 digital sources, 12 books, 12 publications in English or German in journals, 4 periodical publications on Scandinavian onomastics.

Most of this information is already in our database.

Currently (as of 30 July 2014), in our database we have:

448 entries for books

58 entries for journal or series

8 entries for special issues of journal

2 entries for CDs/DVDs

15 entries for websites

134 entries for book chapters

381 entries for journal articles

0 entries for website articles

23 entries for reviews

As it was seen that not all keywords were appropriate, the members of the group tried to compile a list of such keywords. Only two people responded to this call. Those lists were sent to the chair of the Terminology Group and they should be a starting point for work on the keywords by both groups.

As it is the end of my two terms on the Board of Directors and because I could not come to Glasgow, I would like to thank all of you for eight years of common work. I wish all the best to the next Board of Directors and the future chair of the Bibliographical Group.

Barbara Czopek-Kopciuch

On behalf of the group, Katharina Leibring expressed thanks to BCK for all her work. The Bibliographical Database Group had a short meeting in Glasgow on Monday 25 August 2014, chaired by MH, in BCK's absence. It was agreed at that meeting that some changes will be needed to the database. The workload for making entries is currently too heavy, and all the work is done by volunteers. A suggestion was made and supported by the members present to create a portal to online resources instead.

11. Report of the Terminology Group

MH reported that a lot of work has been done by the Terminology Group since the last report to the General Assembly in Barcelona. The Group was created in 2004 with 12 members and has 20 members now. Members represent a variety of onomastic schools, countries and languages. The Group is open to all members who are interested in working with onomastic terminology. The Terminology Group held a meeting in Glasgow this week and decided that it might need a change in its structure, with a suggestion to create some sub-groups connected to a basic core group, with the goal of creating further lists related to terminology.

Terminology lists are currently available in English, French and German, so one suggestion has been to create further lists in other languages. The Group has set a deadline of the end of 2014 to prepare these. Once these new lists have been discussed, they will be uploaded to the ICOS website. It was also suggested to make these lists similar to Wikipedia in format so that users can easily browse between languages.

Topic sub-groups may also be established on e.g. toponomastic terminology, anthroponomastic terminology or the terminology of literary onomastics.

Members asked which other languages will be included in this project. MH explained that as many languages as possible will be included.

12. Election of the new ICOS Board (2014-2017)

The President explained the method of voting. After presentations from the candidates, a paper ballot was held, and ballots were counted by TA and KRH. The following members were declared elected to serve in the indicated roles:

President: Milan Harvalík (102 votes)
Vice-President: Lidia Becker (110 votes)
Vice-President: Richard Coates (108 votes)
Secretary: Carol Léonard (103 votes)
Treasurer: Staffan Nyström (115 votes)
Assistant Secretary and Web Officer: Guy Puzey (115 votes)

As a result of the vote, Staffan Nyström was duly re-elected as Treasurer in charge of economic matters and transactions concerning ICOS business until the next General Assembly in 2017. He will have full authority to use the ICOS bank accounts and the right to sign documents on behalf of ICOS, including postal documents.

Non-executive members:

- Alice Crook (Postgraduate Representative) (109 votes)
- Valéria Tóth (104 votes)
- Emilia Aldrin (103 votes)
- Paula Sjöblom (101 votes)
- Oliviu Felecan (97 votes)
- Nobuhle Hlongwa (85 votes)

The following candidate was not elected:

- Artur Gałkowski (55 votes)

13. Election of the 2017 Congress venue

Valéria Tóth and Erzsébet Győrffy presented the candidature of the University of Debrecen to host the 26th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in 2017. A number of members had left the room after submitting their votes for the members of the new Board, but a show of hands was held and 81 members supported the bid, a considerable majority of those in the room.

14. Any other business

CH wished to raise the matter of the proceedings of the Glasgow Congress. One of the most time-consuming factors is the translation of abstracts to ensure that all three ICOS languages are covered. CH believes the proceedings could be published sooner if papers are published in the languages in which they were given, with abstracts in the same language.

There was a brief show of hands: 18 members felt it is essential to include abstracts in all three languages, while 36 prefer proceedings to be published more quickly without translations.

A number of other solutions were suggested. Authors could be required to submit three abstracts, thereby solving the problem, with abstracts only needing to be corrected instead of fully translated. Abstracts could alternatively be required to be in two languages instead of three. If translations are needed, perhaps ICOS could put funding towards this.

Another alternative could be that those authors who wish to present their abstract in three languages might be required to provide the translations themselves, with abstracts otherwise published only in one language.

LB stressed that the ICOS language policy sends out an important message from ICOS as a multilingual organisation, which also supports minority languages.

These points will be considered by the editors of the proceedings.

CH closed the meeting at 17:53 local time on Thursday 28 August.

Guy Puzey
Secretary
28 August 2014