

## Opening Remarks and Welcome

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International Congress of Onomastic Sciences 23

First of all, I would like to introduce myself; I am Sheila Embleton, Vice President of ICOS, Vice President Academic and Provost, of York University, and Chair of the Organizing Committee of ICOS 23. You will hear from me in my capacity as Vice President at York University later this afternoon at the reception sponsored by York University.

I now would like to turn to offer my thanks to the various people who organized the Congress and the program.

Thank you to the Organizing Committee: Grant Smith, from Eastern Washington University, the first bidder for this North American Congress, but that venue unfortunately had to withdraw for economic reasons; André Lapierre, who is also our French translator, from whom you will hear later in this opening ceremony, and as the first plenary speaker this afternoon – I will introduce him more fully at that point; and especially Wolf Ahrens, also our German translator, from whom you will hear later in this opening session. He was the main worker for the Congress all along but especially in the last four weeks when I was on university business in South America. He is the face behind icos@yorku.ca and he has been the originator and recipient of a huge number of e-mails dealing with Congress matters; he tells me that is has been around 2000 or so that he sent out.

Thank you to the Scientific Committee, whose members you will find listed on page six in the program: Wolfgang Ahrens, Maria Giovanna Arcamone, Richard Coates, myself, Doreen Gerritzen, Milan Harvalík, Julia Kuhn, André Lapierre, Katharina Leibring, Peeter Päll, and Grant Smith. All of these people read the abstracts submitted and acted as a general sounding board on a variety of other matters associated with the Congress.

There is also a special thanks due to some people who worked behind the scenes on technical matters, proofreading and general office assistance: Lynn Horwood, Mark Spence, Anne Ahrens-Embleton and Tony Embleton.

I would also like to thank the various sponsors of this Congress whom you will find listed on page six of the program: The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada/Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada for their substantial grant; the Canadian Society for the Study of Names/Société canadienne d'onomastique for sponsoring a reception; the American Name Society and individual donors who are members of that society, for sponsoring another reception, and finally the Office of the Vice President Academic for sponsoring the opening reception and giving the Congress additional financial support. ICOS, that is, the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, itself should also be thanked for its support in granting funds to cover registration costs for students.

I would like to also thank all of you who agreed to serve as session chairs and I have a special request to ask of you .There will be time cards supplied for all rooms where papers are given. I would like to remind session chairs and also the presenters to keep strictly to the time allotted.

Finally I would like to thank you all for coming: you, the representatives from forty-three different countries, speakers, presenters of papers, participants. You will find papers given in

English, French and German; and for this Congress, we also invited papers in Spanish, of which there are now five or six, and Portuguese. The one Portuguese paper that was scheduled has unfortunately been withdrawn because of illness of the participant.

Now, I would like to turn to some logistical notes.

First, matters regarding the banquet: If you wish to order a kosher meal and you have not done so as yet, please contact us now.

If your banquet ticket says “Wednesday”, that is an error and that ticket is now a collector’s item. The banquet for everyone is on Thursday.

Wolf later will cover other logistical matters, such as Wednesday’s excursion and the eventual publication schedule for the Conference Proceedings.

If you have questions or concerns, please ask at the conference desk, or those of us that have a maple leaf on their name tags.

Now we turn to three further items on the program for this opening session. First we have Karina van Dalen-Oskam who will give some details on the bibliography information sessions scheduled during the Congress, and this will be followed by Opening Remarks from the President of ICOS, Maria Giovanna Arcamone.

Then to complete the opening ceremonial part of this session, we will have a sweetgrass ceremony, conducted by Shannon Thunderbird. She is a member of the Coast Tsimshian First Nation People from Northern British Columbia (on the West Coast of Canada). She is a singer, song-writer, story-teller, and strong advocate and guardian of her culture. She is a well-known educator and lecturer at schools and universities, and she also performs at conferences and festivals – you will see her again at our banquet together with other family members, and she is also giving a conference paper on naming practices of the Tsimshian people in our regular conference sessions.

Thank you all again for coming and welcome, bienvenue, willkommen, bienvenidos, bem-vindo – to York University, to Toronto, to Canada and, of course, to ICOS 23.

