

The International Conference on Onomastics “Name and Naming”, Fourth Edition, Sacred and Profane in Onomastics, Baia Mare, Romania, September 5-7, 2017

A research center of the Faculty of Letters, the North University Center Baia Mare organized in the building of the “Petre Dulfu” County Library, in a modern setting, with adequate equipment, the international conference on onomastics *Name and naming*. This year’s theme focused on two philosophical and theological concepts alike: *sacred* and *profane*. The conference took place in three sections: anthroponymy, toponymy and names in the public space. As ever, Baia Mare was the host of an impressive event, attended by researchers, professors, specialists in onomastics and linguistics from Romania and from countries on several continents. The scientific committee of the prestigious conference brought together Romanian and foreign personalities, specialists in linguistics: Acad. Prof. Dr. Marius Sala, Acad. Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Chivu, Prof. Dr. Domnița Tomescu, Prof. Dr. Adriana Stoichițoiu Ichim, Prof. Dr. Hab. Oliviu Felecan, Prof. Dr. Alexandru Gafton (Romania), Prof. Dr. Emili Casanova (Spain), Prof. Dr. h.c. Peter Jordan (Austria), Prof. Dr. Ephraim Nissan (United Kingdom), Prof. Dr. Alda Rossebastiano (Italy), Prof. Dr. Willy Van Langendonck (Belgium), etc.

As an identity-focused research domain, onomastics is of interest everywhere, in monolingual areas and especially in bilingual or plurilingual spaces. In a time of globalization, the phenomenon of national identity is shaping the cultural and linguistic specificities of many countries or regions. The oral presentations were made in Romanian, English, French, Italian, German, Spanish, in agreement with the attendance of participants from different countries. After the official opening, plenary lectures were delivered by Gheorghe Chivu (*Nume de zei și de zeițe în cultura românească veche*), Grant W. Smith (*An elaboration on the symbolic meanings of names*), Alda Rossebastiano (*Nomi individuali profani e cognomi devoti e dotti nell’onomastica dei venturini tra Rivoluzione e Restaurazione*), Tamás Farkas (*Creating a national given name stock: a chapter from the history of the Hungarian personal name stock*), etc. During the two days of scientific presentations (September 5 and 6), interesting subjects in the field of linguistics were dealt with: sacred and profane in ancient Romanian anthroponymy, the 15th-17th centuries (Domnița Tomescu), hagionyms and hagiotoponyms in the old Friulan documents, the 4th-15th centuries (Federico Vicario), person names in the Register of Hațeg (Adrian Chircu), names of religious cults and their nicknames based on the material excerpted from dialectal surveys (Gabriela Violeta Adam, Veronica Ana Vlasin), toponymic materializations of Evil in the southern area of the country (Iustina Burci), the representation of the religious mentality in Romanian toponymy (Daniela Butnaru, Ana-Maria Prisăcaru), etc. Interesting remarks were made on anthroponyms, approached from a semantic, pragmatic and socio-cultural perspective (Lavinia Buda), on current anthroponyms and toponyms influencing the lexicon (Federico Vicario), on the denomination of sacred and profane origin in the case of some Romanian first names (Ioana Augusta Cosma), on the transposition of foreign anthroponyms into Romanian during the premodern period - 1780-1830 (Anamaria Gînsac, Mădălina Ungureanu), etc.

The congress was a meeting opportunity for onomastics specialists from several continents, for substantial discussions on current topics in the field. The event ended with a trip to Maramureș (September 7), in several localities impregnated with Romanian history and culture.