

## PREFACE

Who hath not owned, with rapture-smitten frame,  
The power of grace, the magic of a name?

Thomas Campbell

Pleasures of Hope

The power of Grace Alvarez-Altman to attract people to the magic of names was shown once again on June 6-7, 1983, when the Eleventh Annual Conference on Literary Onomastics drew scholars from as far away as Texas and Hawaii to Rochester, New York. Dr. Alvarez-Altman remarked on the number of new faces, first-time participants mingling easily with long-time enthusiasts of onomastic studies. It is heartening to see so many retaining their love for names, together with new growth and fresh perspectives.

Although not deliberately planned, the focus of the 1983 Conference seemed to be on women's names and women authors. Two papers on Virginia Woolf and papers on Norma Rosen, Natalie Babbitt, Gael Greene, Erica Jong, and (a paper in this volume not delivered at the 1983 Conference) Agatha Christie discuss unique contributions of women authors to literary naming. Awareness of onomastic dimensions is enhanced by our ability to compare these treatments of names in literature.

Thanks are due once again to those who support the Conference and journal: to the speakers, section leaders, and guests; to Laura Day and Margaret Ekstrom, Conference Executive Secretary and Associate Secretary; to Robert J. Gemmett, Dean of Letters and Science; David G. Hale, Chairperson of the Department of English, Victor Rojas, Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages; and Linda Krieger, Patricia Sauro, and Richard Black, Office of General Support and Printing Services, all of the State University of New York, College at Brockport.