

PREFACE

There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. And some there be, which have no memorial....

Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.

Apocrypha, Ecclesiasticus 44: 8-14

The Conference on Literary Onomastics and its organ for publication, Literary Onomastics Studies, are dedicated to helping names to live for evermore, and more than live, to perform numerous benefits for readers of all forms of literature. This volume of Literary Onomastics Studies, published upon the fifteenth anniversary of the Conference, contains the papers, revised and expanded, that were presented at the fourteenth annual Conference, plus a few bonuses.

In these papers we find names discussed as signs and symbols, as keys to satire and parody, and as measurements of changing relationships among characters and concepts. Names show the writer's philosophical stance, creative ambition, and even some personal secrets. One can discuss names in all seriousness or have a bit of fun with them.

Of special interest in celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Conference is the forthcoming publication of Names in Literature: Essays from Literary Onomastics Studies by the editors of LOS. This collection, now in press at the University Press of America, is due out this fall, containing twenty-one stellar examples of literary onomastics research. For some, the volume will evoke reminiscences of past Conferences; for others it may become a handy reference or instructional tool. Literary Onomastics has clearly come of age!

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