

## FOREWORD

A hundred years after the publication of Rudolf Otto's book (*Das Heilige/The Idea of the Holy*, 1917), the *sacred* continues to fascinate people and, in view of a more thorough understanding, it has been analysed in relation to the profane. In fact, the twentieth century is marked by the names of many historians of religions, philosophers, sociologists and psychologists who wrote on this topic (among others, see Émile Durkheim – *Les formes élémentaires de la vie religieuse/The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, 1912 –, Roger Caillois – *L'Homme et le Sacré/Man and the Sacred*, 1939 –, and Mircea Eliade – *Le sacré et le profane/The Sacred and the Profane*, 1956).

The onomastic perspective on the sacred and the profane has received attention from Antiquity (Plato, *Cratylus*; Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite, *Divine Names. Mystical Theology – De Coelesti Hierarchia*) until today, in works that appeared in various spaces and cultures: for instance, the book by Monica Broșteanu, *Numele lui Dumnezeu în Coran și în Biblie* [The name of God in the Quran and the Bible] (2005), or issue 48/2013 of *Onoma*, on *Names in Religion*. Given the fact that specialists' interest in the sacred/profane dimension in anthroponymy, toponymy, ergonymy etc. has been constant, we decided that the overarching theme of the Fourth International Conference on Onomastics "Name and Naming" (ICONN 4) be *Sacred and Profane in Onomastics*.

The concern manifested by researchers throughout the world for the topic in question is quantifiable in the great number of participants (more than 130). The countries represented at ICONN 4 are as follows: Albania (Edlira Abdurahmani Troplini), Austria (Fiorenza Fischer, Peter Handler, Peter Jordan, Martina Ritter-Catany, Brigitte Seidler-Lunzer, Holger Wochele), Belarus (Anastasia Putilina, Alena Rudenka), Belgium (Giacomo Luigi Morando, Willy Van Langendonck), Brazil (Patricia Carvalhinhos, Maria Célia Lima-Hernandes, Adriana Lima), Bulgaria (Vanya Ivanova, Gergana Petkova), France (Marcienne Martin, Michel A. Rateau), Germany (Sofia Belioti), Ghana (Yaw Sekyi-Baidoo), Greece (Eleni Karantzola, Asimakis Fliatouras, Penny Bekakou), Hungary (M. János Bárh, Andrea Bölcskei, Tamás Farkas, János N. Fodor, Erzsébet Gyórfy, Anna Hajdú, András Lukács, Mariann Slíz, Ágnes Tamás), Italy (Davide Astori, Daniela Cacia, Luisa Caiazzo, Angela Castiglione, Alessandra Cattani, Alfonso Germani, Giacomo Giuntoli, Elena Papa, Nicola Reggiani, Marie A. Rieger, Alda Rossebastiano, Elisabetta Rossi, Silvia Corino Rovano, Giorgio Sale, Federico Vicario), Japan (Leo Loveday), Mexico (Yolanda Guillermina López Franco), the Netherlands (Arthur Tegelaar), Nigeria (Susan Akinkurolere), Poland (Henryk Duszyński-Karabasz, Ewa Majewska, Anna Oczko, Justyna B. Walkowiak), Romania (Gabriela-Violeta Adam, Florina-Maria Băcilă, Cosmina-Maria Berindei, Lavinia Buda, Alina Bugheșiu, Iustina Burci, Daniela Ștefania Butnaru, Gheorghe Calcan, Veronica

Câmpian, Adrian Chircu, Gheorghe Chivu, Rozalia Colciar, Ioana Augusta Cosma, Dana Covaci, Codruța Cozma, Angela Corina Cristoreanu, Ramona Demarcsek, Luminița Drugă, Anamaria Fălăuș, Daiana Felecan, Nicolae Felecan, Oliviu Felecan, Vali Nastasia Ganea, Anamaria Gînsac, Gheorghe Glodeanu, Simona Goicu-Cealmof, Maria-Mara Ignat, Alexandra Sorina Iliescu, Silvia Iluț, Denisa-Alexandra Ionescu, George Dan Istrate, Mariana Istrate, Margareta Manu Magda, Valerian Marian, Anamaria Paula Mădăras, Adelina Emilia Mihali, Călin-Teodor Morariu, Nadia-Nicoleta Morărașu, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman, Veronica Oneț, Flavia-Elena Oșan, Marcela-Cristina Oțoiu, Roxana Pașca, Silvia Pitiriciu, Mădălina Florina Pop, Ana-Maria Prisacaru, Delia-Anamaria Răchișan, Sabina-Nicoleta Rotenștein, Alexandra Săcui, Sabin Siserman, Adriana Stoichițoiu Ichim, Armanda Ramona Stroia, Delia Suiogan, Camelia Mădălina Ștefan, Luminița Todea, Emilia-Domnița Tomescu, Ligia Tomoiagă, Rodica-Cristina Țurcanu, Mădălina Ungureanu, Daniela-Elena Vladu, Veronica Ana Vlasin, Elena-Camelia Zăbavă), Russia (Marina Golomidova, Sergey Goryaev, Elena Gudeleva, Olga Khotskina, Olga Olshvang, Nonna Smirnova, Tatiana Sokolova, Anna Tsepkova, Ekaterina Sudarkina, Raisa Zhamsaranova), Spain (Silvia-Maria Chireac, Anna Devis, Antonio Lillo), Ukraine (Halyna Matsyuk, Yaroslav Redkva), the United Kingdom (Becki Maddock, Ephraim Nissan), the United States of America (Grant W. Smith) and Zimbabwe (Sambulo Ndlovu).

As a result of blind peer review, most of the papers presented during the conference sessions were accepted for publication. They are reunited in the present book in five large chapters: *Onomastic Theory*, *Sacred and Profane in Anthroponymy*, *Sacred and Profane in Toponymy*, *Sacred and Profane in Names in Public Space*, *Literary Onomastics*. Within each section, the papers (47 in Romanian, 29 in English, 9 in Italian, 9 in German, 4 in French and 2 in Spanish) are organised alphabetically, according to authors' names.

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Baia Mare

Oliviu Felecan

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Last but not least, we express our gratitude towards our colleagues, Mihaela Munteanu Siserman and Alina Bugheșiu, for their promptness in providing solutions to translation and technical matters underlying the publication of this book, only a few months after the conference was held.