

How to Pronounce Boca Raton

From “Boca de Ratones,” a quaint Spanish name,
Came “Boca Ratone” when the settlers came.
The “e” was discarded, and then it became
Just “Boca Raton.” Now who can we blame?
The sound of “raton” has not quite been the same.

“I’ve heard it with short “o” said Councilman Mac, [Mac Conahan]
“It grates on my ear and it throws me off track.
There must be a means for us to fight back.
Proclaim the Right Way and counterattack!”

Now banned is short “o” as in con or baton,
Or Parthenon, Rubicon, Johnny, or Ron.
The “o” in Raton’s not like “a” in pecan.
We’ll condone only “o” as in valedictorian.

And shunned is the “o” like a “u” in son,
Or Washington, Arlington, London or none.
We want a long “o”. In fact two, for fun;
Put one in each half of the name and we’re done.

Hereafter, forever, let’s let it be known
To tourists and purists: “If you should intone
The name of the City of Boca Raton,
Please give it long “o” as in Old San Antone,
Or pinecone, or cornpone, postpone and rezone!!

M.A. Galbraith city attorney 1970s