

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

The Dictionary Society of North America was formed on May 30, 1975, in Terre Haute, Indiana, by participants in the Colloquium: Research on the History of English Dictionaries, held at Indiana State University.

The idea of forming a dictionary society had occurred to several people. When Edward Gates, Associate Professor of English at Indiana State University and co-director of the Colloquium, mentioned in letters to invited participants the possibility of forming a society for the study of the history of dictionaries, he received several favorable responses. One of them came from James L. Rosier, Professor of English Philology at the University of Pennsylvania. Before the evening meeting at which founding a dictionary society was to be proposed to the group, Rosier, Gates, and Paul S. Koda, then Head of the Department of Rare Books at the Cunningham Memorial Library of Indiana State University, and co-director of the Colloquium, met and discussed the proposal. Professor Rosier conducted the meeting and moved that "The Society for the Study of Dictionaries and Lexicography" (SSDL) be formed with the administrative base established at Indiana State University.

The motion was passed unanimously, with the understanding that a more satisfactory name would be found for the Society. The regular charter officers were chosen from one place so that they could readily confer in drafting the Constitution and By-Laws. Paul S. Koda, however, accepted a position as Curator of Rare Books at the Wilson Library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Edward Gates and Donald Hobar served as a Constitution Committee. In 1975, they sent out an inquiry to the twenty-five founding members regarding the name, scope, and frequency of meetings of the Society. No one name won majority favor, and the officers settled on "The Dictionary Society" as having elegant simplicity. "Of North America" was added to insure recognition as a proper rather than common name. The response to the inquiry determined that the Society would foster studies in the theory and practice of dictionary making as well as its history, and studies of dictionaries of any language, rather than of English dictionaries only. The vote also favored biennial meetings.

The proposed Constitution was sent out to the founding members for ratification in February, 1977. Provision was made for voting against particular sections. Attention was called in a cover letter to two provisions that some would wish to vote out: restriction of paper giving at meetings to members, and four-year (rather than longer) terms for officers. When the votes were tallied, no sections were voted out, but a significant number of members voted against the restriction on papers.

At the same time the Constitution was sent out for ratification by the founding members, invitations to join the Society were sent to about 150 other interested people in the making, use, collection, or history of dictionaries. This list was compiled chiefly from bibliographies of books and articles on dictionaries, and from inquiries resulting from the announcement of the formation of the Society in Indiana newspapers and in professional and scholarly news letters. By April, the Society had members representing the various interests in dictionaries.

The response suggests that many people, in North America and elsewhere, are interested in dictionaries and welcome the opportunity to get in touch with others sharing their interest. Increasing scholarly attention has been given lexicography in North America during the past fifteen years with an increasing number of articles in journals, several conferences, and the formation within the Present-Day English Section of the Modern Language Association of a Lexicography Committee, of which Professor Richard W. Bailey of the University of Michigan is the present chairman. The time is ripe for an organization enabling people interested in dictionaries to meet each other, share information and views, and work together to develop the discipline of lexicography.

CONSTITUTION OF THE DICTIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the Society shall be the DICTIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Society shall be to foster scholarly and professional activities relating to dictionaries. A dictionary is defined as a list of words or other vocabulary items, with information about their meaning or other linguistic properties.

Section 2. The Society shall carry out its stated purpose by promoting the exchange of information and ideas among members through meetings, research projects, publications (such as a newsletter, a journal, bibliographies, directories), and any other means it may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Society shall be open to any person interested in the purpose of the Society. Membership shall consist of those who have paid to the Treasurer of the Society the full current dues assigned to their category.

Section 2.

a. The categories of membership are regular, joint (husband-wife), student, retired, honorary, and institutional.

b. Student membership is open to any individual actively pursuing studies toward an academic degree. Applicants shall provide verification of student status.

c. Any member or person approved for membership who has retired from the regular exercise of his profession may become a retired member.

d. Any person noted for the study, making, or collection of dictionaries, and not a citizen or resident in North America may be elected an honorary member of the Society. Honorary members will be recommended by the Executive Board and elected by the membership. The number of honorary members shall not exceed twenty-five.

e. Persons of any nationality distinguished for the study, making, or collection of dictionaries may be elected by the membership as Fellows of the Dictionary Society of North America, upon recommendation of the Executive Board. The number of fellows shall not exceed fifteen.

Section 3. On or before February 1 of each year, each member shall pay to the Treasurer of the Society the annual dues that have been set for his or her category by the Executive Board. Failure to do so automatically terminates membership.

Section 4. Regular, joint, student, and retired members shall have the right to vote in elections of the Society. Honorary and institutional members shall not have the right to vote.

Section 5. All members shall receive the regular publications of the Society.

Section 6. Only members of the Society may offer papers to the Program Committee for presentation at the meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Officers

a. The society shall have three elected officers: President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

b. Each officer shall be elected for a term of two years. Officers are eligible for re-election but may serve no more than two terms in succession.

c. The President shall preside over the meetings of the Society and the Executive Board; appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, the Program Committee and such other non-elective committees as may be needed; present the biennial report to the Society; and exercise general leadership of the Society.

d. The Vice-President shall perform the functions of the President in the President's absence.

e. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep all the records of the Society; shall prepare and circulate such publications as are not in the province of an Editor, including agendas for the meetings of the Society and the biennial report; and shall collect the dues and generally administer the financial affairs of the society.

Section 2. Executive Board

a. There shall be an Executive Board composed of the three elected officers of the Society; the immediate Past President; and two other members of the Society elected by the membership, one each biennium, for a term of four years.

b. Each of the different interests of the Society, the history, collecting, and making of dictionaries, shall always be represented by at least one member of the Executive Board.

c. The Executive Board shall determine policy, direct the Treasurer, and generally administer the affairs of the Society.

Section 3. Nominating Committee

a. There shall be a Nominating Committee of four members, representative of the Society's different interests. Two members shall be elected each biennium for four years. The Committee shall elect its Chairperson.

b. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each elective vacancy.

c. A mail ballot shall be submitted to the members not less than three months prior to the biennial meeting of the Society.

Section 4. Program Committee

a. There shall be a Program Committee of four members representative of the Society's different interests and appointed by the President for a term of four years. Two members shall be appointed before each biennial meeting of the Society. The President shall name the Chairperson.

Section 5. Initial Term of Office

In the initial biennium, one member at large of the Executive Board, two members of the Nominating Committee, and two members of the Program Committee shall have a term of only two years.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be a biennial meeting of the Society at a place and time determined by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the Executive Board or on petition of one-third of the membership.

Section 3. Titles and descriptions of papers to be read before the Society must be submitted to the Program Committee prior to the meeting of the Society. All decisions of the Program Committee are final.

ARTICLE VI. PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. Proceedings

a. A selection of papers presented at the biennial meetings of the Society shall be published in a volume of proceedings at the discretion of the Executive Board.

b. An Editor shall be appointed by the Executive Board to be responsible for the editorial form and content of each volume.

c. Associate Editors may be appointed by the Editor, with the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Newsletter

a. A newsletter shall be published by the Society at least once a year.

b. The form and content of the Newsletter shall be the responsibility of an Editor appointed by the Executive Board or, if none is appointed, of the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. Other Publications

a. A journal and other publications furthering the purpose of the Society may be published at the discretion of the Executive Board.

b. Editors and/or Editorial Committees to administer such publications shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Amendments

a. Any proposed amendment to this Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer and signed by at least ten members of the Society.

b. The proposed amendment will be presented to the members on the ballot at the next regular election of officers.

c. An amendment must have the approval of two-thirds of the members who vote.

Section 2. Dissolution

a. Proposals to dissolve the Society shall be initiated and voted on in the same manner as amendments.

b. Assets remaining after outstanding obligations of the Society have been paid shall be disbursed according to a plan proposed by the Executive Board and approved by the membership.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The following names have been offered to stand as nominees for the position of President of the Society. In a ballot which will be forthcoming, the membership will be asked to vote for one person. The one receiving the most votes will become President; the one with the second most, Vice President; the third, Member at Large of the Executive Board for four years; and the fourth, Member at Large for two years. A Secretary-Treasurer will also be elected.

PRESIDENT

Richard W. Bailey is Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan and an editor of the *Michigan Early Modern English Materials* being assembled for the "Early Modern English Dictionary." He has several publications on lexicography, particularly on the use of computers. He is chairperson of the Modern Language Association's Committee on Lexicography.

WILLIAM J. CAMERON is Dean and Professor of Library and Information Science at the School of Library and Information Science of The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. The School is a repository for lexicographical archives and has a collection of rare books, particularly 17th and 18th century dictionaries and encyclopedias.

WARREN N. CORDELL is Vice President and Chief Statistical Officer of the A. C. Nielsen Company, a leading organization for marketing research. For many years a collector of dictionaries, Mr. Cordell has given more than two thousand works to Indiana State University, comprising the core of the Cordell Collection of Dictionaries, one of the most comprehensive collections of dictionaries in the world.

JAMES L. ROSIER is Professor of English Philology at the University of Pennsylvania. He contributed to the **Middle English Dictionary** and to the Second Supplement of the Bosworth-Toller **Anglo-Saxon Dictionary**, and has numerous publications on Old English and Renaissance texts, including several on glosses and dictionaries.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

DONALD HOBAR is an Associate Professor of English at Indiana State University with interests in Old and Middle English Language and Literature. He has collaborated on all the Conferences on Lexicography held at Indiana State University. In addition, he is an Assistant Director of Continuing Education in charge of a wide range of non-credit programs.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee will be selected at the Conference on the History and Making of Dictionaries to be held June 9-11, 1977, at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The DARE (Dictionary of American Regional English) Newsletter of October 1976 reports that four full-time and two half-time editors are now working on entries for the letters B through G. A unique tool being used is computer mapping of dialect words. From the data stored in the computer, an editor can request a printout of the geographical distribution of a word on a stylized map of the United States.
- A Seminar on Lexicography is planned for the meeting of the Modern Language Association in Chicago in December 1977. Organizer of the seminar is Professor Roger J. Steiner, Department of Languages and Literature, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711. In previous years, other seminars on lexicography have been organized by Professor Steiner, Professor James D. Anderson of the University of Louisville, and Professor Raven I. McDavid, Jr., of the University of Chicago. At these seminars, papers are distributed to members in advance and discussed but not read at the meetings.
- A Lexicography Workshop will be given as part of the 1977 Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America, to be held in Hawaii. The workshop will be given August 8 to 18 by Ladislav Zgusta of the University of Illinois, author of the **Manual of Lexicography**. Professor Zgusta also taught lexicography at the 1976 Institute and has conducted seminars in Mexico and India.
- A Historical Thesaurus of English is being made by the Department of English Language of the University of Glasgow. It is to include the total vocabulary of English from the Old English period to the present. Entries will be arranged conceptually to show what choices were available to express a given concept in a given period and the relation of each word to the overall patterns of the language. Under the major headings "The World," "Mind," and "Society," will be hierarchical subheadings followed by chronological lists of their synonyms with their dates of currency. The Historical Thesaurus of English will be an invaluable tool for the study of English language and literature and a contribution to the historical, componential, and psycholinguistic study of meaning.

Work began on the project in 1965. The compilation of information from the **Oxford English Dictionary** and the Anglo-Saxon dictionaries is now 70% complete. It is hoped that the project will be completed in 1982.

- Several papers on lexicography were presented at the conference "Approaches to the Lexicon" held at the University of Louisville on March 10-12, 1977. Co-Directors of the Conference were James D. Anderson and Frank H. Nuessel, Jr., of the University.
- A Lexicographical Society of India was founded in the summer of 1975 in Hyderabad, during a seminar on lexicography conducted by Professor Ladislav Zgusta of the University of Illinois, author of the **Manual of Lexicography**. The General Secretary of the Society is Dr. B. C. Balakrishnan of the Malayalam Lexicon Project, University of Kerala, Trivandrum, India.

CALL FOR NEWS

Items for inclusion in the DSNAL Newsletter should be sent to Professor Edward Gates, Department of English and Journalism, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

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6. Henry G. Burger Kansas City, Missouri
7. William J. Cameron London, Ontario
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60. Ronald A. Wells New London, Connecticut
61. Murray T. Wilton Victoria, British Columbia
62. Ladislav Zgusta Urbana, Illinois

DICTIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

INSTITUTION _____ DEPARTMENT _____

AREAS OF INTEREST _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY, 1977-78

Regular	(\$10)
Joint (Husband/Wife)	(\$15)
Student	(\$7)
Retired	(\$7)
Institutional	(\$15)

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