

DICTIONARY
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AMERICA

DSNA

N E W S L E T T E R

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Eleventh Biennial Meeting of the Society

Madison, Wisconsin, May 29 - 31, 1997

Our eleventh biennial meeting was hosted by the Dictionary of American Regional English, and the Department of English in the College of Letters and Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Co-chairs of the local committee were Joan Hall and Luanne von Schneidemesser.

Thirty-one papers were presented over the three days of the meeting. Attendance was about 100. See page 6 for a list of the papers presented.

A reception was held Thursday evening, in the UW Memorial Library, Department of Special Collections, and featured an exhibit especially prepared for the conference: "Dictionaries: English and American Lexicography to 1900." (Every registrant had been presented, on signing in, with a very handsome poster created by the local committee to commemorate the exhibit, featuring the engraving of Sir Joshua Reynolds' famous portrait of Samuel Johnson.)

The highlight of the second day, Friday, was the picnic, a "Wisconsin Fish Boil." The picnic lived up to all expectations: the rain had stopped and the weather was extremely pleasant, even idyllic; there was music, supplied by a local Irish-music group, and the food was truly memorable.

Report of the Executive Board

The Executive Board held meetings on May 28 and 29. The meetings were chaired by John Algeo,



Drama at the Fish Boil - it's *supposed* to do this!
Photo: G. Hall

President of the Society. Present were Louis Milic, Secretary-Treasurer; Edward Gates, Vice-President and President-Elect; Sidney Landau, PAST PRESIDENT; and Members-at-Large Frank Abate, Joan Hall, and Herbert Morton.

The secretary-treasurer, Louis Milic, reported that as of May, 292 members had paid their dues for 1997. Dues collected in 1996 totaled \$10,508. Expenses in 1996 were \$1,676 in excess of income, largely because of increased costs in printing the journal.



Participants of DSNA XI, Madison, Wisconsin (Copies of this photo (8 x 10, b&w) available for \$5 each from DARE, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706; attention Joan Hall.) photo by G. Hall

The Executive Board took several actions at the meetings. One was the appointment of Donald M. Lance, Professor of English at the University of Missouri, and Allan A. Metcalf, Professor of English at McMurray College and Executive Secretary of the American Dialect Society, as new members of the Nominating Committee. Continuing members of the committee are Michael Agnes, Executive Editor, Webster's New World Dictionaries, and Jesse Sheidlower, Editor, Random House Reference Department. Appointments are for four years. The Committee has elected Donald Lance as Chair.

The Board also approved the request of William Chisholm to appoint an unpaid assistant for the journal, *Dictionaries*. Other business included (1) separating the work of newsletter editor from that of the secretary-treasurer; (2) changing the name of the DSNA-Verbatim Award to DSNA-Urdang Award; and (3) accepting the invitation of the University of California, Berkeley, to hold our 1999 biennial meeting there.

New DSNA Officers

Officers of the DSNA for 1997-99 are:

- President, Edward Gates
- Vice-President and President-Elect, Joan H. Hall
- Secretary-Treasurer, Louis T. Milic (term ends June 30, 1998)

Other members of the Executive Board are Past President John Algeo and Members-at-Large Morton Benson, David A. Jost, Herbert C. Morton, and Terry K. Pratt.

Edward Gates, Professor of English Emeritus,

Indiana State University, was one of the founders of the DSNA and served as secretary-treasurer or associate secretary-treasurer and newsletter editor from 1977 to 1989.

Joan Hall is Associate Editor of the Dictionary of American Regional English.

Louis T. Milic is Professor of English, Emeritus, Cleveland State University.

John Algeo is Professor of English, Emeritus, University of Georgia.

Morton Benson is Professor of Slavics, Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania.

David A. Jost is Director of Electronic Publishing, Trade and Reference, at Houghton Mifflin.

Herbert C. Morton was Director of the Office of Scholarly Communication and Technology of the American Council of Learned Societies before his retirement.

Terry K. Pratt is Professor of English at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown.

Business Meeting

The 1997 Biennial Business Meeting of the Society was held in Lowell Hall at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on May 31. President Algeo opened the meeting with announcements, reporting on actions taken by the Executive Board. He reported that the Verbatim Award, which has been given to lexicographic projects by Lawrence Urdang

through the DSNA for the past two years, will continue to be given, but under a new name. Because Urdang will no longer publish *Verbatim*, the name has been changed to "The DSNA-Urdang Award." The President also announced that the 1999 biennial meeting of the society will be held at the University of California, Berkeley. Chair of the Organizing Committee is Arthur Bronstein.

President Algeo then called on Arthur Bronstein, who expressed the Society's appreciation for the arduous and excellent preparations for the meeting made by Joan Hall and Luanne von Schneidmesser. They worked daily for two years

amid the press of completing volume III of DARE. The Society gave them a standing ovation.

Richard Bailey called attention to the publication of Volume II of Jonathan Lighter's *Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang* and asked the President to write Lighter a letter of commendation.

President Algeo then turned the presidency over to Edward Gates, who accepted the office, noting that the Society began its constitutional existence twenty years ago and has made a difference in the world of dictionary affairs.



DSNA XI: Arthur Bronstein at the lectern. Seated, from left, Luanne von Schneidmesser and Joan Hall. photo: D. Lance



DSNA XI: The exhibit in the Memorial Library. photo: D. Lance



EURALEX

We are planning to feature a regular section in the Newsletter devoted to news of EURALEX, beginning with the next issue, in spring of 1998.

New Editor of DSNA Newsletter

In consequence of having separated the functions of Newsletter editor and Secretary-Treasurer, the DSNA Executive Board has named Victoria Neufeldt as editor, beginning with the Fall 1997 issue.



DSNA XI: A Restaurant somewhere in Madison. photo: R. McKinzy

DSNA President's Address

by Edward Gates

Reflections on the DSNA after Two Decades

Our Society this year observes the twentieth anniversary of its establishment under the name "Dictionary Society of North America." It grew out of interest in dictionaries and their history and has made a difference in the dictionary world.

The Society was founded in May 1975 as "The Society for the Study of Dictionaries and Lexicography." This took place at a conference on the history of dictionaries held at Indiana State University to bring attention to the new Cordell Collection of Dictionaries there. The collection was given in 1970 by an alumnus, Warren N. Cordell, who was elected the Society's first president. In association with the Collection, a program of lexicographic studies was to be established, and I was called to develop that. We held a series of conferences on lexicography. When in 1975 I reported plans for the fourth conference to the Linguistics Committee, one of my colleagues asked whether we planned to establish a lexicography society. That sounded like a good idea, and I mentioned it to people who expressed interest in coming. One of them, James Rosier of the University of Pennsylvania, wrote that he had been thinking there should be such an organization. At the conference, he, Paul Koda (the Rare Books Librarian at ISU), and I drew up a motion to establish a society, and Jim made it a special session attended by 25 people.

The membership of the Society, as we saw it, would include people interested in the history, collection, description, and critique of dictionaries, dictionary makers, and people interested in dictionaries as a pastime. The purpose of the Society as stated in the original Constitution was: "to foster scholarly and professional activities relating to dictionaries."

This was to be carried out through the exchange of information and ideas in meetings, research projects,

publications, and other means. We have implemented this in biennial meetings, one special meeting, proceedings (in the early years), an annual journal, a special publication (*Johnson's Dictionary: A Bibliographical Survey, 1746-1984*), and a newsletter issued at least twice a year. We set up a committee on Lexicographic Terminology to look at the proliferation of terminology and the possibility of agreement on a limited number of terms. However, people in the language sciences proved largely resistant to anything that looked like regulation. In 1985, at the urging of Jim Rosier, we set up a Committee on School Dictionaries, but that too failed to get much support. At the suggestion of Robert Ilson of EURALEX I contacted the president of the AILA about cooperation on a workshop, and recruited DSNA members willing to help, but that never worked out. In 1996, while he was President, Sidney Landau drafted guidelines for crediting the work of lexicographers, with better success.

Our meetings and our journal *have* contributed to the establishment of lexicography as a legitimate area of scholarly pursuit. The DSNA is now represented in the American Council of Learned Societies. Our existence has influenced the establishment of other lexicographic societies, particularly the European Association for Lexicography (EURALEX).

In our first two decades we have made a good beginning in achieving our purpose. As we enter our third decade, let us give thought and effort to ways we can do even more to foster the study of dictionary history, the making of better dictionaries, the training of lexicographers, and the more effective use of dictionaries.

DSNA 1999

The XIIth Biennial Meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America will be held May 27-29, 1999 at the University of California at Berkeley. Hosted by the Linguistics Department, the program will include, in addition to the presentation of conference papers, four special events:

- A pre-conference presentation and demonstration, "Corpus-based Lexicography and the Need for an American National Corpus," will be held on Wednesday, May 26th at the International Computer Sciences Institute. The presentation will be chaired by principal investigators Charles Fillmore and Beryl Atkins.
- On Thursday, May 27th, there will be a special session describing certain computerized lexicography research projects at UCB dealing with the Bantu, Sino-Tibetan, American Indian, and Turkish languages.
- On Friday, May 28th, there will be an evening dinner cruise on the Bay, overlooking Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco.
- On Saturday, May 29th, the conference will

host an "Open-to-the-Public" session where the university audience will be invited to address questions to the members of the DSNA on "Why and How Dictionary Editors Make the Decisions They Do!"

Members of the host committee are: Arthur Bronstein, Charles Fillmore, John B. Lowe, Rima McKinzey, Ramona Michaelis, John Ohala, Richard Rhodes, and Rungpat Roenpitya.

Members planning to attend DSNA 1999 are asked by the host committee to complete and send in the form enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter. This notice is important for the planners because it will give them some idea of how many people to expect, for booking of conference rooms, etc. Those who send in the form will receive a mailing that will contain a pre-registration form, excursion reservation form, information on accommodations and on transportation from the Oakland and San Francisco airports, and more.

This form also includes a call for papers. Anyone who is planning to submit an abstract for a conference paper is asked to so indicate on the form. Deadline for submission of abstracts is November 1st, 1998. Abstracts should be approximately 150 words long.



DSNA XI: Fred Cassidy and Joan Hall at picnic. photo: D. Lance



DSNA XI: The music was so inspiring. photo: D. Lance

Who's Who in Lexicography

The DSNA has received a letter from Reinhard Hartmann, director of the Dictionary Research Centre at Exeter, concerning the *Who's Who in Lexicography* published by the Centre in 1996. This work includes members of EURALEX. Dr. Hartmann would like to expand this Who's Who and asked the DSNA to invite its members to contact the Dictionary Centre as to "(a) whether they would like to be listed, and (b) whether and in what way they would make use of such a publication, and (c) what other kinds of information they feel should be included."



DSNA XI: Charlotte and Allen Walker Read. photo: D. Lance

Papers presented at DSNA 1997

Clifford ABBOTT Making an Oneida Dictionary

Michael ADAMS Credit Where It's Due: Authority and Recognition at the Dictionary of American Regional English

John ALGEO Labeling, Omission, and Other Signals of National Status

Yiwola AWOYALE The Making of a Dictionary of a Verb-Serializing Language

Anne-Marie ANDREASSON *SAOB* and *OED*: A Comparison of Their Macrostructure

Richard W. BAILEY The Labels in Johnson's *Dictionary*

Morton BENSON Revising a Combinatory Dictionary

Forum

Watch This Space!

Several members have expressed interest in seeing a regular column of discussion by members of current issues in lexicography and dictionary publishing. In order to determine the general response to such a feature for the Newsletter, the editor would welcome input from members, whether suggestions of topics or just an indication that the idea is of interest.



Thomas Creswell - with two drinks. photo: V. McDavid

Ronald R. BUTTERS Why Won't Dictionaries Deal Adequately with *Redskins*?

Thomas J. CRESWELL Stalking the Wild Shibboleth: Developing Trends in Usage

Donna M.T.Cr. FARINA Pictorial Illustrations in Dictionaries for Learners of English

Harold FARWELL The Language of Smoky Mountain Loggers

Michael HANCHER Definition, Pictorial Illustration, and Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Norman HUBBARD What's the Matter with Dictionaries: Locating Collocations within Linguistic Theory and Lexicographic Practice

Douglas A. KIBBEE The Dictionary in the Service of the State: The French *Dictionnaire des termes officiels* and Its Virtual Successors

Stanislav KIM The Development of Principles for Compiling a Bilingual Dictionary of American Usage for Uzbek Learners

Elizabeth M. KNOWLES Questions of Organization and Presentation in Quotations Dictionaries

Anatoly LIBERMAN An Ideal Etymological Dictionary

Virginia McDAVID The Label "Nonstandard" in Four American College Dictionaries



DSNA XI: The picnic. photo: G. Hall

Joseph PICKETT The Making of the *American Heritage Book of English Usage*

Richard A. RHODES On the Definition of *Break*

Pius Ten Hacken Word Formation in Electronic Dictionaries

David L. VANDER MEULEN Lexicography, Bibliography, and Textual Criticism

Robert S. WACHAL Taboo or Not Taboo: That Is the Question



DSNA XI: The picnic. photo: G. Hall

Erin McKEAN People, People Who Need People: Choosing Biographical Entries for School Dictionaries

Ardith J. MEIER The Translation of "Foreign Words" across Dictionaries

Allan A. METCALF New Word Sedimentation

Michael B. MONGOMERY The *Dictionary of Smoky Mountain English: An Exercise in Regional Lexicography*

Herbert C. MORTON Burchfield's Fowler and Its Critics: Getting to Know the *New Modern English Usage*

Andrea NAGY Were the First English Dictionaries Authentic?

Victoria NEUFELDT Defining Informal Language

Mamadou NIANG Addressing Challenges to the Root System Format Approach in African Language Dictionary Making



DSNA XI: Out for dinner on the town.

Obituary

David Murison, 1913-1997

Notice of Murison's death appeared in the Spring issue of the Newsletter. The following is condensed from an obituary written by A. J. Aitken, Edinburgh, Scotland.

David Murison, who, as Editor of The Scottish

National Dictionary, worked within the University of Edinburgh from 1954 to 1976, died On 17 February, 1997, aged 83. In its ten volumes containing 4676 pages of word-list, detailing the histories of something over 50,000 words and compounds, SND is without question the greatest single resource for the study of modern Scots ever. Though in various ways many people, including Murison's able and hard-working assistants, contributed to this achievement, it was brought about above all by the lexicographical skill, erudition, and unflagging assiduity of Murison himself. Precocious as a schoolboy – "Laddie, ye'll burst your brains," his classics teacher is said to have told him on one occasion – Murison went on from Aberdeen Grammar School to Aberdeen University at the age of sixteen, graduating with First Class Honours in Classics at twenty in 1933, then at Cambridge in 1936. In 1946 he succeeded William Grant as Editor of the SND, carrying it from the letter C to its triumphant conclusion in under thirty years – a record of speed for a task of that magnitude. His combination of pawky humor, learning, and patient attentiveness made him a first-rate teacher, who is remembered with reverence and affection by many former students and auditors. For all his social abilities, Murison was self-effacing to a sometimes annoying degree, refusing academic honors, including the formal presentation of his Festschrift, and even absenting himself from the celebration of the completion of his own Dictionary.

As a dictionary maker he ranks with the two other Scottish giants of lexicography. Sir James Murray and Sir William Craigie. As a Scot his service to his native tongue is surpassingly great.

Advertising Rates

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS: in the Newsletter and *Dictionaries*, limited to offers of dictionaries and related reference works or of publications, services, etc. relating to reference books and lexicography, are available at the following rates:

1 Insertion: full page \$200; half \$110; quarter \$60
3 insertions: full page \$500; half \$300; quarter \$150

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Available only to members: 10 words free once per year in the Newsletter; additional words 30 cents each.

All copy is subject to approval. Display rates apply to camera-ready copy. Extra charge for typesetting. Flyers may be inserted in the Newsletter. Ask for rates.

DEADLINES: March 31 for the Spring Newsletter; August 31 for the Fall Newsletter; April 30 for *Dictionaries*.

The Newsletter of the DSNA appears twice a year (Spring and Fall) The editor is Victoria Neufeldt, to whom all correspondence and publications should be sent. Write to:

Victoria Neufeldt, Editor, DSNA Newsletter
30 Churchill Street
Springfield, MA 01108-2019
Tel: (413) 734-3134 ext. 124
(work #; messages may be left at any time)