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# DSNA

NEWSLETTER

## Morton Benson 1924 - 1998



*Morton Benson, member of the DSNA executive board, died 21 July 1998. The following obituary was contributed by Arthur Bronstein.*

Morton Benson's professional life reads like a series of events that encompass what the ideal academic career can be: a highly published author, an eminent professor in his discipline, a frequent recipient of research grants, a Fulbright Scholar, and even the possessor of a "special merit certificate" presented by the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace! His special fields of interest were concentrated in the linguistics of the Russian and SerboCroatian languages as well as in the lexicography of both the Slavic and English languages.

Morton was educated at New York University, Grenoble University, and the University of Pennsylvania. He served as chair of the Department of Slavic Languages at the University of Pennsylvania from 1966 to 1980 and again from 1990 to 1995. His professional activities included heading the East European section of the MLA Bibliography, the Advisory Board of *American Speech*, president of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, consultant to the U.S. Office of Education and to the National Endowment for the Humanities, and chair of the nominating committee of the DSNA.

It is Morton's publication list that staggers the imagination — the query being how can anyone busy with the task of full-time teaching, chairing a department, and being a devoted husband, father, and grandfather find the time

and energy to publish such a long and impressive list of dictionaries, articles in journals like *American Speech*, *Word*, *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Modern Language Journal*, *Names*, *Review of Applied Linguistics*, *Dictionaries*, *International Journal of Lexicography*, and more! (I counted 42 such published essays, written from 1955 to 1995 — which means at least one every year!) In addition, our shelves, if we're lucky, bulge with eight of his books of special interest to those of us who try to function in the lexicographic field. These include his *SerboCroatian-English Dictionary* (1971 and 1990), his *Dictionary of Russian Personal Names* (1975), his co-authored, with Evelyn Benson and Robert Ilson, *BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English* (second edition 1997), the accompanying *Using the BBI*, and his co-authorship with Evelyn Benson of the *Russian-English Dictionary of Verbal Collocations* (1993).

Of special interest to all of us in lexicography was his research, with Evelyn Benson and Robert Ilson, on "combinability," for which they were awarded a Certificate of Merit by the English Speaking Union of the Commonwealth in November, 1987. Morton's academic interests bridged the grammar and lexicon of Russian, SerboCroatian, and English; the teaching of foreign languages; language learning; and lexicography. He shared some of that expertise not only at the University of Pennsylvania where his academic career was based, but also, as an invited lecturer, at such institutions as Fordham University, Zagreb University, Haifa University, Moscow State University, and Sofia University, and as a visiting professor at both Princeton and Columbia universities.

All of us in the DSNA (and the many other societies of which he was an active member) will miss the presence of this exceptional colleague — especially his insightful comments at our meetings as well as his pleasant, friendly presence. We are all so much "bigger" people for having known Morton as a colleague, fellow DSNA member, and friend!

*Sidney Landau of Cambridge University Press, Morton Benson's most recent publisher, adds his tribute:*

In 1989 I learned that Cambridge University Press had the opportunity to acquire the North American and European publishing rights to Morton Benson's two-volume *SerboCroatian-English Dictionary*, and knowing how excellent the dictionaries were, I was immediately interested. I did succeed in acquiring the rights, and that began my association with Morton, whom I had known only by name before then.

*Continued on page 3*

## DSNA XIIIth Biennial Meeting May 27 - 29, 1999

The host committee planning the May 1999 meeting of the DSNA requests that those who are planning to attend keep in mind certain deadlines and other information:

**Preregistration:** \$50 (single) or \$75 (joint/couple) must be received before Feb. 1, 1999. Thereafter, the fee is \$75 per person. Make out checks (in \$U.S.) to U.C. Regents, marked DSNA 1999, and mail to the address below.

**Dinner-Excursion on the Bay:** evening of May 28th; \$65 per person. The committee can accept reservations any time before February 1, 1999, on a first-come, space-assured basis. The fee includes bus travel from the conference site and back again, dinner aboard (California cuisine), music of the jazz era for listening and dancing to, and sightseeing from the Bay. Checks to the U.C. Regents, marked DSNA 1999.

**Special Program Notes:** In addition to presented and poster papers on each of the three days of the conference, there will be special events: **a)** A session on computerized lexicography research projects at UC-Berkeley, dealing with the Bantu, Sino-Tibetan, Turkish, and American Indian languages, Thursday, May 27. **b)** An open-to-the-public panel discussion, "Why Dictionary Editors Make the Decisions They Do!" with an invited panel of lexicographers, on Saturday, May 29th. **c)** A reception on Thursday, May 27th, providing an opportunity to meet old friends and hear greetings from our DSNA president and from some University of California deans who have helped support the conference. **d)** A publishers' display. **e)** A pre-conference event, "How a National Corpus Will Help Dictionary Makers," on Wednesday, May 26th, at the International Computer Sciences Institute at 1947 Center Street (about three blocks from campus). This event is sponsored and hosted by Framenet, a research project at the university. It will be chaired by Charles Fillmore and Beryl Atkins. DSNA members are welcome.

**Hotel and Travel Information:** The official conference hotel is the Durant Hotel, 2600 Durant Avenue, Berkeley,

CA 94704. It is located two blocks from the conference site. For reservations, call (800) 2 Durant or (510) 845-8981 or write to the above address or e-mail: [durant@sfo.com](mailto:durant@sfo.com). The rates (note the change) are \$87 single, \$97 double, including a continental breakfast. Mention the DSNA conference to receive these discounted rates.

Pleasant accommodations are also available at the Faculty Club, on campus (\$77 single, \$84 double; continental breakfast included). Phone: (510) 642-1993. E-mail: [TheClub@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:TheClub@uclink.berkeley.edu) Also convenient, the Shattuck Hotel, 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley 94704. Phone: (510) 845-7300. The hotel is three blocks from the Sather Gate entrance to the campus.

Both the Oakland and San Francisco airports are international airports; the Oakland airport is closer to Berkeley and more convenient. Travel from either airport is normally under an hour. Shuttle service (Bayporter Express) or taxi will deliver you door to door for approximately \$20.

**Miscellaneous Notes:** All events/meetings (except for the excursion and lunches and dinners on your own) will take place in the Lipman room on the 8th floor of Barrows Hall on campus, near the Sather Gate entrance. Daily programs will begin promptly at 8:30 am.

Registration folders and pertinent material can be picked up from 3 pm on Wednesday, May 26th, at the Hotel Durant, and on conference days, Thursday to Saturday, at the Lipman Room, Barrows Hall.

Mornings and evenings in the Bay area can be cool enough for a warm jacket or sweater.

The DSNA 1999 host committee: Arthur J. Bronstein and Charles Fillmore (co-chairs), Julie Lewis, John B. Lowe, Rima McKinzey, John Ohala, Richard Rhodes, and Rungpat Roengpitya.

— Arthur Bronstein

**Address:** DSNA 1999, Dept of Linguistics, Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-6050. E-mail: [DSNA@trill.berkeley.edu](mailto:DSNA@trill.berkeley.edu) □

## DSNA Elections: Candidates for Office

Below is a short introduction to each candidate nominated for election in 1999. The ballot is enclosed.

**Richard Bailey** (for vice-president and president-elect): professor of English, University of Michigan; editor of the *Early Modern English Dictionary* project (which has been suspended); author or editor of several works in lexicology and lexicography; charter member of DSNA; editor of its journal 1979-89; and executive board member 1991-95.

**Anatoly Liberman** (for member at large): professor of Germanic Philology, University of Minnesota; co-editor of a dictionary of English etymology, in progress.

**Erin McKean** (for member at large): an editorial manager at Thorndike-Barnhart Dictionaries (Scott Foresman Addison Wesley), in Glenview, Illinois; new editor of the periodical *Verbatim*.

As president-elect, Joan Hall (*DARE*, Madison) suc-

ceeds to the presidency. The term of Luanne von Schneidmeyer (*DARE*, Madison) as secretary-treasurer continues till 2001. □

## Creswell Memorial Gifts

Beverly Creswell suggests that gifts in Tom Creswell's memory may be made to the *Dictionary of American Regional English*, c/o Joan Hall, Associate Editor, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706 □

## Dictionary Use in Schools: New Task Force

DSNA President Edward Gates is forming a task force to consider how our Society might foster effective use of dictionaries in schools. Anyone interested in taking part should contact him: Edward Gates, 28 Beach Road, Ware MA 01082-9383 or [edwardgates@juno.com](mailto:edwardgates@juno.com). □

Benson *Continued from page 1*

The last of Morton's books Cambridge published was an abridgment of this dictionary, called the *Standard English-SerboCroatian, SerboCroatian-English Dictionary* (1998). This important one-volume dictionary had been originally published in Yugoslavia in 1982 but had never been published outside that country. To this day it remains the best one-volume, two-way treatment of these two languages, a judgment attested to by a number of Slavic language scholars. Copies of the book came available July 10th. Morton got his copy two weeks before he died.

Morton was, quite simply, a wonderfully warm and humble man in spite of his eminence. You do not encounter authors like him very often. In my 35 years in publishing, I had never met another like him. He was always human and understanding, friendly without being pushy or officious. I liked him, I respected him, and it was a personal and professional honor to me to publish his books. □

## News of Members

**Sidney Landau** gave the keynote address at the Third International Conference of Afrilex (African Association for Lexicography) at Potchefstroom, near Johannesburg, on June 29, 1998. Landau also reports that he has retired from Cambridge University Press, as of September 30 this year. He was editorial director of the US office in New York city. He says he intends to remain active in lexicography.

**Anatoly Liberman** of the University of Minnesota has a web site that features two sample entries from the *Encyclopedic Dictionary of English Etymology* which he is writing with Lawrence Mitchell (Texas A&M University). The two entries, *doxy* and *strumpet*, are both of long-disputed etymology and hence are given extended treatment. You can find the page at:

<http://engserver.tamu.edu/pers/fac/mitchell/strumpet.html>

**Don R. McCreary** of the Dept of English, University of Georgia, is the compiler of an annotated bibliography, *Pedagogical Lexicography Today*, which is forthcoming from a German publisher. He is the editor of two bilingual dictionaries: *The Japanese-English Science and Engineering Dictionary* and *The English-Japanese Science and Engineering Dictionary*.

**Richard Weiner** was guest writer of William Safire's "On Language" column in *The New York Times* for the September 13, 1998 column. Weiner, author of *Webster's New World Dictionary of Media and Communications*, devoted his column to a discussion of theatre terms, including such notable ones as *juicer* (electrician), *gaffer* (foreman of a stage crew), and *inky dink* (a small incandescent lamp for stage lighting). □

## How Prescriptivists Differ: Two New Usage Books

In recent weeks, two new books on American usage have been published that invite comparison because of their differing approaches to prescriptivism. The first to appear was a new edition of *Modern American Usage* by Wilson Follett and others, published in October by Hill Wang (362

pages). Originally issued in 1966, it has been revised by Erik Wensberg, a New York editor and writer.

The new edition appears faithful to the original in coverage and in its strongly prescriptive point of view. Follett's "Introductory," which set the confrontational tone for the 1966 edition with an attack on linguists and lexicographers, has been revised and moved to an appendix where it conveys the same message with less bombast. The entries are clearly written in an easily accessible style.

The second book is *A dictionary of Modern American Usage*, Oxford (723 pages), by Bryan A. Garner. Garner calls his work "prescriptive," but his view of prescriptivism, though primarily traditional, is also innovative and distinctive, drawing heavily on citations of current usage. As he notes in his Preface, "the prescriptive approach here is leavened by a thorough canvassing of actual usage in modern prose."

Garner's judgments are based on some 5600 illustrative quotations from his own data bank of newspapers and magazines, compiled in the 1990s. These are supplemented by examples taken from two online data banks, Nexis and Westlaw. The book is more than twice as long as Follett-Wensberg, with wider coverage of currently troubling usage problems. Whether it succeeds in integrating descriptive and prescriptive approaches, or in narrowing the gap between them, remains to be determined, but it is a laudable and promising effort.

For usage buffs, there is an appendix providing a time line of 350 usage books since Horne Tooke's work of 1786.

Garner is also author of the *Dictionary of Modern legal Usage* (1987), which he discussed at a DSNAs meeting when the work was in progress.

— Herbert Morton

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DSNA President Edward Gates is forming a task force to consider how our Society might foster effective use of dictionaries in schools. Anyone interested in taking part should contact him:

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e-mail: edwardgates@juno.com □

## Japanese Teachers Learn Dictionary Use

The Asialex Newsletter reports teacher training on dictionary use in Japan. The Japan Association of College English Teachers Study Group on English Lexicography held two dictionary workshops in December, 1997, one at Kyoto with 160 participants and 40 presentations, and another at Waseda University, which looked particularly at dictionaries for learners of English. The study group also held a symposium on "Learners' Dictionaries and Examples" at the association's convention in Okayama in September. □

## The Cordell Corner

By David Vancil

After negotiating for two years for an incunable linguistic work, I finally succumbed to temptation and recently purchased *Vocabularius de partibus indeclinabilibus*, a medieval Latin textbook for lower school, published anonymously in 1499 in Speyer, Germany by the master printer Conrad Hist. The bookseller's catalogue states that the work contains 2000 alphabetical entries ranging from a few words to page-long discussions, with frequent examples from classical and scholastic authors, and notes on pronunciation, use, and sources. Thus the work, while serving in some ways as a dictionary, has the main aim of improving the student's use of Latin. In fact, the great bibliographer of German and Dutch lexicography, F. Claes, does not include it among his dictionaries, so I have listed it in the appendix to my bibliography of 15th-century dictionaries rather than in the main body. Yet I count myself lucky to have gotten this early lexical work no matter how limited its lexicographical nature.

The book had been offered by Bruce McKittrick Rare Books for at least two years, but priced higher than I felt the Cordell Collection could afford to pay for a work that was not "purely" lexicographical. Using another bookseller, Robert Rulon-Miller, as my agent, I was able to secure the book at some savings, but that this is the only incunable lexical work I have been able to acquire in 12 years with the Cordell Collection points out the scarcity of such material from this period. While they may have been printed in large numbers, they received hard use. Not many of them survived in sufficient numbers of show up in late 20th-century antiquarian booksellers' catalogues. For example, with

the acquisition of this work, which was published but six times in the 15th century and never thereafter, the Cordell Collection contains only 22 linguistic or lexicographical works published before the 16th century, including a 1493 edition of Nicollo Perotti's *Rudimenta grammaticales*, which in 1986 became Indiana State University Library's one-millionth catalogued book.

As one would expect, most 15th-century word books, particularly dictionaries, are held by European and major American research libraries. While the Cordell Collection came late to the game in terms of collecting these early works, it has managed to gather a number of later editions of these earliest word books, as well as some of the infrequent facsimiles of the 15th-century titles that have been printed. For example, the collection contains not only a facsimile of Giovanni Balbi's ca. 1460 *Catholicon* but two 16th-century printings of it.

Twenty of the 15th-century titles held in the collection were acquired during Warren Cordell's lifetime. They have been described in a catalogue compiled by Anton C. Masin and published by the Friends of the Cunningham Memorial Library. Some copies of this catalogue, entitled *Fifteenth-Century Linguistic and Lexicographical Works in the Cordell Collection*, remain. Please call or write for a copy, if interested. With these 22 works, plus facsimile reprints of 15th-century titles and later editions of early books, the Cordell Collection is building a basis for the study not only of early lexicography but the means to grasp truths about medieval pedagogy and other realms of knowledge. □



Two-page spread with title page on right; unusual prefatory material on left; size of book is 4to (219 x 140 mm); Gothic type; large initial letters in red or blue; capital letters in text are stroked in red.

David Vancil, Cunningham Memorial Library, Indiana State U., Terre Haute, IN 47809. E-mail: libvanc@cml.indstate.edu  
Tel: (812)237-2611  
Questions, comments, ideas are welcome. The Cordell Collection on the web (list updated every summer):  
<http://cml.indstate.edu/rare/rare.html#Cordell>

## Actions of the DSNA Executive Board

The Executive Board of the DSNA, composed of President Edward Gates, Vice President Joan Hall, Secretary-Treasurer Luanne von Schneidemesser, Past President John Algeo, and Members-at-Large Morton Benson (died April 27, 1998), David Jost, Herbert Morton, and Terry Pratt, has dealt with Society business each month, usually by e-mail. Among its actions, the board:

- ◆ appointed Michael Adams (Albright College, Reading, PA), who is now the book review editor, as editor of the society's journal *Dictionaries*. He will succeed William S. Chisholm, who has served since 1990 and will retire from the editorship with the completion of the 1999 volume.
- ◆ disallowed the use of the DSNA membership list by other organizations, but it may make exceptions (e.g. when the use will be to advertise a member's publication). Members are invited to send opinions to the secretary-treasurer.
- ◆ accepted an invitation from the University of Michigan to have our biennial meeting there in 2001.
- ◆ accepted the secretary-treasurer's recommendations for simplifying the dues schedule. (See the new renewal and information form, enclosed.)

—Edward Gates

## New Word Reference Books

- Ammer, Christine. 1997. *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*. Houghton Mifflin.
- Benson, Morton. 1998. *Standard English-SerboCroatian, SerboCroatian-English Dictionary*. Cambridge University Press.
- Benson, M., E. Benson, and R. Ilson. 1997. *The BBI Dictionary of English Word Combinations*. Rev. ed. John Benjamins Publishing Co.
- Cambridge International Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs*. 1998. Cambridge University Press.
- Cambridge International Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs Anglais-Français*. 1998. Cambridge University Press.
- Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms and Phrases*. 1998. Cambridge University Press.
- Doniach & Kahane. 1998. *The Oxford English-Hebrew Dictionary*. Paperback ed. Oxford University Press.
- Hartmann, R.R.K., and Gregory James. 1998. *Dictionary of Lexicography*. Routledge.
- Headley, Robert K., Jr., Rath Chim, & OK Soeum. 1998. *Modern Cambodian Dictionary*. Dunwoody Press.
- Longman Dictionary of American English*. 1997. 2d ed. Longman.
- McArthur, Tom & Ilan Kernerman, eds. 1998. *Lexicography in Asia: selected papers from the Dictionaries in Asia Conference, Hongkong, 1997 and other papers*. Password Publishers Ltd.
- Nash, Rose. 1997. *NTC's Dictionary of Spanish Cognates Thematically Organized*. NTC/Contemporary Publishing Co.
- Proffitt, M., ed. 1997. *Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series, Vol. 3*. Oxford University Press.

Paikeday, Thomas. 1997 *The User's Webster Dictionary*. Lexicography, Inc.

Poirier, Claude, et al. 1998. *Dictionnaire historique du français Québécois*. Les Presses de l'Université Laval.

Puhvel, Jaan. 1997. *Hittite Etymological Dictionary. Vol. 4: Words Beginning with K*. De Gruyter.

Rodriguez Gonzalez, Felix, and Antonio Lillo Buades. 1997. *Nuevo diccionario de anglicismos*. Madrid: Gredos.

Urdang, L., ed. 1997. *The Oxford Thesaurus*. 2d ed. Clarendon Press. □

## Death of Author of First Dictionary of Australian "Strine"

Alastair Morrison, who gained fame as the scholarly Professor Afferbeck Lauder, "Professor of Strine Studies at the University of Sinny," died in Fremantle, Australia, in April this year, at the age of 86. As the Professor, Morrison showed Australians that the language they spoke was not English, but "Strine." His 1965 bestseller, *Let Stalk Strine*, was the first annotated lexicon of Strine usage. A few examples of entries:

**Baked necks** a popular breakfast dish. Others include **emma necks**; **scremblex**; and **fright shops**.

**Dimension** the usual response to "Thank you" or "Thank, smite".

**Semmitch** two slices of bread with a filling between, e.g. M-semmitch; semmon semmitch; chee semmitch.

[Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 Apr 98, p. 41; via Ross Chambers, Sydney, Australia] □

## "World English" Dictionary

Microsoft and St. Martin's Press in the U.S., Bloomsbury Publishing in Britain, and Pan Macmillan Australia are jointly producing a dictionary of "world English," scheduled for publication in August 1999, simultaneously in electronic and print forms. The press release prepared by St. Martin's states that it will be "the world's first English dictionary to be derived from a single database of world English." The press release also states that the dictionary will contain 100,000 headwords and over 300,000 "references," and will have over 3000 items illustrated. The project, begun three years ago, has involved 250 lexicographers and advisors working in ten countries. General editor for the U.S. is Anne Soukhanov, who served as executive editor of the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition*. Other members of the advisory board include DSNA members Robert Barnhart, William Kretzschmar, Tom McArthur, and Laurence Urdang.

The international participation, the publishers say, reflects the role of English as the language of the world and "the one in which over 80 percent of the world's computer-based communication takes place." The dictionary is also technologically innovative, created "by using computer and database technology in a ground-breaking way for compilation, editing, research, and communication."

The title of the new work, *Encarta World English Dictionary*, incorporates the Encarta brand name used by Microsoft for its CD-ROMs. □

## South Africa Trains Lexicographers for Nine New Dictionaries

South African lexicographers are being trained to create dictionaries for the nine languages which became official languages of South Africa under the new constitution, alongside Afrikaans and English. The training is in the form of three national courses, offered under the auspices of the African Association for Lexicography (Afrilex) and the government Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

The first was a two-week course held at Rhodes University in Grahamstown in September, 1997. It was organized by Penny Silva of the Dictionary Unit for South African English and conducted by British lexicographers Sue Atkins, Michael Rundell, and Edmund Weiner. The second course was organized by Prof. Daan Prinsloo of the University of Pretoria and taught by Atkins and Rundell at that university this past September.

In this year's course, the first week of instruction covered bilingual lexicography and computational issues (such as corpus design and collection and onscreen compilation systems). The second week's instruction went into issues specific to the lexicography of southern African languages, in particular those arising from their use of tone and their complex morphology. (For example, in some of these languages, inflectional morphemes occur as prefixes, often with alteration of the base, so that it is unclear what the headword form of a given word should be). Fundamental to all the dictionary projects are their corpora, and all nine are already being built.

More information about the South African lexicography course (SALEX) can be found at its web site: <http://www.up.ac.za/academic/libarts/afri-lang/salex98.html>

[Sources: the Euralex Newsletter and Michael Rundell.]

—Edward Gates

## Lurline Hughes Coltharp 1913 - 1998

Lurline Coltharp, long active in the American Dialect Society and the American Name Society, and well known to many DSNA members, died August 1st at the age of 85. A native of Texas, she spent her entire career there, beginning with teaching public school, and later, after earning her doctorate, teaching at the University of Texas, El Paso. She became a full professor there in 1970, one of the first women in the state to be granted that title. Lurline retired in 1981, but remained active in academic, as well as cultural and civic affairs. In 1992 she was elected to the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame.

In the obituary he wrote for the September issue of the *Newsletter of the American Dialect Society*, Grant Smith, ANS vice-president, describes her as a person who "had a tough-minded, empirical approach to issues," but who will be "most remembered for her positive, encouraging, generous, and supportive personality." He also quotes DSNA member Donald Lance: "[Lurline] was a very dear person and serious scholar. It was an honor to know her and be influenced by her positive approach to everything." □

## Web Sites of Lexicographic Interest

American Dialect Society:

<http://www.jerry.net.com/ads/index.htm>

*Dictionary of American Regional English*:

<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dare/dare.html>

American Council of Learned Societies:

<http://www.acls.org/jshome.htm>

European Association for Lexicography (Euralex):

<http://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/euralex/>

African Association for Lexicography (Afrilex):

<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/libarts/afri-lang/homelex.html>

Australasian Association for Lexicography (Australlex):

<http://www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/alex/>

Asian Association for Lexicography (Asialex) is within the Australlex web site:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/alex/asialex.html>

*International Journal of Lexicography*:

<http://www.oup.co.uk/jnlis/list/lexico/>

The OED Newsletter: <http://www1.oup.co.uk/reference/>

□

## Word War in Britain

Three giants of British publishing rushed out new dictionaries over a three-week period during August and September in an atmosphere of intense competitiveness and hype. According to reports in the British press, Oxford surprised and annoyed its competitors, Chambers and Collins, by suddenly moving up its publication date. Its *New Oxford Dictionary of English* (NODE) came out first. Chambers responded by advancing its release date, but Collins, which had planned a champagne gala to launch its new *Millennium English Dictionary* September 7, was caught without copies on hand.

In a hype war, Chambers claimed to have the best-selling and biggest dictionary (515,000 references and definitions); Oxford touted NODE as a revolutionary landmark and the most important new dictionary in 100 years; Collins emphasized its 18,000 encyclopedic entries and sought to capitalize on its record as the fastest growing dictionary publisher of the past decade.

Oxford's emphasis on new words, a new look at grammar and usage, and guides to political correctness drew fire from purists who viewed the new work as an anything-goes dictionary. But according to *The Economist's* commentator on language, the pseudonymous *Johnson*, critics were responding not to what the dictionary said, but to what others thought it said. He noted that the dictionary does not say "infinitives should be split," but rather says that doing so is "broadly accepted as being normal and useful." It does not ban *Eskimo* and *spinster*, but notes that the former has "come to be regarded as offensive" and the latter "in modern everyday English is a derogatory term." But the "hypermarketeers" at OUP didn't get the facts right and critics over-reacted.

Oh, what a lovely war!

—Herbert Morton

## Eighth Euralex Congress

The European Association for Lexicography held its eighth biennial congress at the University of Liège, Belgium, August 4-8, 1998. Over 200 participants from 33 countries attended. The United States had 22 representatives -- more than any other country except England, which also had 22. Canada had 13; no one came from Mexico or the Caribbean. Four plenary talks and over 50 presentations (in three parallel sessions) were given, as well as two tutorials, two panel discussions, and one workshop.

Dominant topics were computer databases, computational lexicography and lexicology, and dictionaries for language learners. Several dictionary projects

were presented in an exhibit of posters, and there were demonstrations of six software programs, including Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* on CD ROM by Cambridge University Press. A number of publishers mounted exhibits of books and periodicals, and DSNA and Asialex had exhibits. On the social side were musical interludes by the East Belgian Brass Quartet in the opening session, a reception, a guided walking tour of the old city, and a dinner. The next congress will be held at the University of Stuttgart in the year 2000.

### Euralex Elects New Officers

At the Euralex biennial business meeting, the following officers and board members for 1998-2000 were elected:



Marion and Ed Gates at the DSNA display table

President, Ole Norling-Christensen (Gyldendall Publishing, Copenhagen); Vice-President, Krista Varantola (University of Tampere, Finland); Secretary-Treasurer, Thierry Fontenelle (European Commission, Luxembourg); Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Ulrich Heid (University of Stuttgart); Board Members, Frantisek Cermak (Charles University, Prague), Marie-Helene Correard (Xerox Research Center Europe, France), and Martin Gellerstam (Göteborg University, Sweden). Also on the Board ex-officio are ex-president Henri Bejoint (University Lumière-Lyon, France) and newsletter editors Carla Marello (University of Torino, Italy) and Rosamund Moon (COBUILD & University of Birmingham, England).



Views of Liège

— Edward Gates

## Computational Lexicography Conference: Call for Papers

The fifth Conference on Computational Lexicography and Text Research will be held in Pécs, Hungary, June 16-19, 1999. Papers are invited, especially on the following topics: lexical databases and electronic dictionaries; corpora and corpus-based research; critical review of SGML tools; and lexicons and software tools for machine translation. Send five copies of a detailed abstract, not exceeding five double-spaced pages (not electronic format), by December 31, 1998 to Julia Pajzs, Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, PO Box 19, H-1250 Hungary. Conference registration will cost 500 DM. For information and pre-registration write to Ms. Pajzs. □

## New Development Specialist for DARE

The *Dictionary of American Regional English* at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has recently hired development specialist David Simon to take over the task of finding funding for this great project. His position is being funded by a three-year grant provided by the Dean of the

College of Letters and Science at the University.

The *DARE* staff is currently working on volume IV, which will include P, Q, R, and the first half of S. Because their financial situation last year necessitated a reduction in staff, the projected completion date — if they can find sufficient resources to maintain the current (bare-bones) staff level — is now the end of 2002. □

## First Asialex Regional Symposium

The Asian Association for Lexicography, founded in 1997, will hold its first symposium at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (where lexicography is a specialty) in the People's Republic of China Jan. 14-16, 1999.

Speakers include Anthony Cowie, editor of the *International Journal of Lexicography*, and Cao Xianzhu, President of the Chinese Association for Lexicography. Abstracts for papers were due September 15, 1998. Queries may be directed to Zhang Yihua, Organizing Committee of the First Asialex Regional Symposium, Institute of International Languages and Cultures, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Huangshi road, Guangzhou 510421, PR China. (Fax: (8620) 8662 7367) □



## DSNA Newsletter

Postal Return Address:  
Luanne von Schneidemesser, Secretary-Treasurer  
Dictionary Society of North America  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
6131 Helen C. White Hall  
600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706

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## New DSNA Web Site - News Wanted

<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dsna/index.html>

Secretary-Treasurer Luanne von Schneidemesser has moved the DSNA Web Site from Cleveland to Madison and is updating and expanding it. In place or planned are information about the society, announcement of the DSNA-Urdang Award, announcement of the 1999 biennial meeting, and links to other lexicographic organizations. Members are asked to send news of their new publications, meetings of interest, etc.

## DSNA 2001

The DSNA executive committee has accepted the invitation of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to hold the 2001 meeting there. The date has not yet been set. □

*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. News of members and general items of interest to our readers are welcome. Write to:*

Victoria Neufeldt, DSNA Newsletter  
30 Churchill Street  
Springfield, MA 01108-2019

Tel: (413) 734-3134 ext. 124

(work #; messages may be left at any time)

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Send DSNA business correspondence to Luanne von Schneidemesser, Secretary-Treasurer, DSNA, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 6131 Helen C. White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, WI 53706. Fax: (603) 263-3817.  
E-mail: lvonschn@facstaff.wisc.edu

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