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DSNA

NEWSLETTER

The weekend of October 8 - 10 this year was an eventful one for Frederic G. Cassidy, Chief Editor of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (known as *DARE*).

On Friday the 8th, he was honored with the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Humanities Scholarship, given by the Wisconsin Humanities Council. At right, he stands with former Wisconsin Governor Lee Dreyfus at the presentation ceremony.

Fred's Weekend



The following day, the *DARE* staff and the Department of English jointly sponsored a party to recognize Fred's SIXTY YEARS (120 semesters) of service to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Then on Sunday, the 10th, he celebrated his 92nd birthday with members of his family.

WOW!



Now: there's a sheet cake!



Joan Hall, Associate Editor, introduces Fred to the gathering at the *DARE* party

Below, some *DARE* staff members at the party. From the left, Beth Gardner, Quinn Gorman, Joan Hall, Fred, Cathy Attig, Luanne von Schneidmesser. At right, a poster displayed at the event. It shows the names of 120-semester contributors around a 1949 photo of Fred Cassidy, who is holding up a map of Wisconsin English Language Survey locations. This was his first field work, done by mail.



News of Members

S. Mostafa Assi of Tehran, Iran, works on specialized Farsi dictionaries and has developed a Farsi linguistic database in the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies in Tehran, where he is associate professor and head of the linguistics dept.

Sue Atkins & Michael Rundell offer a training program in dictionary making for commercial, academic, or research settings. They have conducted the program at various sites in Europe and elsewhere, including South Africa. For more information see their web site:

<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/town/lane/ae345/>

William Chisholm has retired not only as editor of *Dictionaries*, but also as professor of English at Cleveland State University. Since then, he has been occupied in writing a book and volunteering in local literacy programs.

Don R. McCreary has co-authored (with Fredric T. Dolezal) *Pedagogical Lexicography Today: a Critical Bibliography on Learners' Dictionaries with Special Emphasis on Language Learners and Dictionary Users*. Lexicographica. Series Maior. Band 96. 1999.

Nguyen Dinh-Hoa has published a memoir of his life in Vietnam, entitled *From the City inside the Red River: A Cultural Memoir of Mid-Century Vietnam*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland. 1999.

Jesse Sheidlower has recently experienced two very important changes in his life: first, he and his wife, Elizabeth Bogner, became parents when their daughter, Maisie Frances, was born on Sept 14; second, he has left his position as a senior editor at Random House to take the position of principal editor of the newly established North American office of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. (See OED story on p. 3.)

Robert Wachal recently published a book, *Abbreviations Dictionary: A Practical Compilation of Today's Acronyms and Abbreviations*, Houghton Mifflin, 1999. DSNA members have had a foretaste of the work in the form of papers he has given at our biennial meetings. We also wish him well in his recovery from a recent heart bypass operation. □

Exeter Lexicography Course

The thirteenth annual International Lexicography Course was given at the University of Exeter from April 19 to 23, 1999. Lecturers this year were Tom McArthur, Reinhard Hartmann, Michael Rundell, and Edmund Weiner (Oxford University Press). A special lecture was given on "New Oxford Dictionary of English" by Angus Stevenson of OUP. Afternoons were given to practical seminars, with sharing of experience by course members with diverse backgrounds.

The next course will be held at Exeter from April 10 to 14, 2000. Information can be obtained by writing to Dr. R.R.K. Hartmann, School of English, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QH, UK; or <http://www.ex.ac.uk/drc/> □

President's Report

At its meeting last May in Berkeley, the board combined the functions of the existing editorial advisory board and the publications committee into a single standing committee, under the name of the editorial advisory board. The new members, serving for the next two years, have been confirmed. They are Arthur Bronstein, Donna Farina, Ward Gilman, Michael Hancher, Michael Montgomery, Herbert Morton, and Philip Rideout. Their expertise and judgment will be invaluable to *Dictionaries* editor Michael Adams and *Newsletter* editor Victoria Neufeldt. But because no small group of advisors will be conversant with the full range of topics covered by potential contributors to our journal, *Dictionaries*, editor Michael Adams urges all DSNA members to specify their interests and expertise on their membership forms so that he can call on individual members for assistance as necessary.

I want to thank those who have served most recently as members of the publications committee (Victoria Neufeldt, David Jost, and Sidney Landau) and the editorial advisory board (Enid Pearsons, William Frawley, and Sidney Landau).

DSNA is finally "legal" in Wisconsin. With the help of member David Frantz, who teaches at Ohio State, we got the paperwork from Ohio to satisfy Wisconsin's requirements for organizations having their primary office here.

—Joan Houston Hall

Urdang Award

The deadline for the 2000 Laurence Urdang-DSNA Award has passed (it was December 1st). The winner or winners will be announced in January and a report will be included in the Spring 2000 issue of this newsletter. Interested members are encouraged to apply for the next award. For information, contact President Joan Hall at the DSNA address (U. of Wisconsin) given on the back page. □

News from Australia

The Auslan Dictionary (Australian Sign Language Dictionary) by Trevor Johnson is now available on CD ROM, under the title "Signs of Australia." It includes about 4000 Auslan signs, presented by deaf native signers. Information: Renwick College, Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, Private Bag 29, Paramatta, NSW, 2124, Australia. E-mail: renwick@cc.newcastle.edu.au

The basic Australian vocabulary of the *Macquarie Dictionary* can be searched free on the Internet at MacquarieNet (full use of which costs \$49.95/yr., Australian). The web site address is <http://www.dict.mq.edu.au>. A web site with specifically Australian words is found at <http://www.anu.edu.au/ANDC/Austwords/>.

The Australasian Association for Lexicography held a one-day conference at the Australian National University in Canberra on October 30, 1999. The next biennial meeting of the Association will be held at the University of Melbourne on July 10, 2000, in conjunction with the meeting of the Australian Linguistics Institute. See the Association's web site at www.anu.edu.au/linguistics/alex □

DSNA 2001

The next biennial meeting of the DSNA will be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, May 6 - 9, 2001. We will help the university celebrate the completion of the *Middle English Dictionary*. Richard Bailey, chair of the host committee, says that events planned so far include a visit to the birthplace of Noah Webster in Greenfield Village, a museum consisting of historic buildings in Dearborn, MI. □

OED in North America

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is opening an editorial office in North America for the first time in its history. John Simpson, the chief editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, has named DSNA member Jesse Sheidlower as principal editor of the new unit. Jesse was a senior editor at Random House and the in-house editor of the *Historical Dictionary of American Slang*. The office has been established to research the history of North American English from colonial times and Jesse's responsibility will be to oversee the OED's North American reading program and to contribute new and revised material to the current full-scale revision of the dictionary.

The new OED unit will be in Old Saybrook, CT, and is expected to become operational in the spring of 2000.

Oxford University Press has had dictionary offices in Old Saybrook for several years, housing their U.S. dictionaries program. Frank Abate is editor in chief of the program, responsible for Oxford's American dictionaries, published by OUP USA and (in mass-market paperback) by Berkley.

The new OED unit will have offices in the same building as those of the U.S. dictionaries program, allowing the two units to share general office and library resources. □

Review: Webster's New World College Dictionary, 4th edition

Webster's New World Dictionary has evolved into *Webster's New World College Dictionary*, Fourth Edition 1999 (WNWCD4) with a photograph from space of a blue earth occupying the *o* in *World* on the jacket and cover. This volume, edited by Mike Agnes, Andy Sparks, and others, continues a fine tradition begun in 1953 under the editorship of David B. Guralnik and Joseph Friend. Then, for the first time, *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language* and the *American College Dictionary* brought descriptivism to "college" dictionaries. About a decade later, when the naysayers caught on to what was going on, they aimed their criticism at the principal offender (*Webster's Third*) and lamented the loss of everything from linguistic standards to morality: the new books were irresponsible. Thankfully, the world has changed since then.

WNWCD4 presents a lackluster front matter, following recent trends. It consists of the Madison Avenue or governmental gambit of a string of interrogatives ("How can I find out about Nursing Homes?"), e.g. "How are the entries in the dictionary arranged?" However, Sidney I. Landau's essay, "Dictionaries of English," is a concise, graceful intro-

duction to the topic. Still, one regrets that more copious essays like Charlton Laird's "Language and the Dictionary" and William Umbach's "Etymology" (WNWD, 1953) have disappeared. The "Guide to Pronunciation" is routine and gives no hint of the kind of informative essay that John Kenyon wrote for *Webster's Second* or those essays that it spawned – Cabell Greet's (ACD), Wayne O'Neil's (AHD), and Arthur Bronstein's (RHDEL).

The body of the dictionary is pure World – single alphabetical run, historical evolution of meaning, careful and accurate discrimination of senses, and definitions composed by lexicographical artists/craftsmen, though I have detected some tinkering with previous formulations: e.g. **dress**, *n* 5: WNWD's "the usual outer garment worn by women, generally of one piece with a skirt" is now "an outer garment for women, having a skirt and usually made in one piece: formerly and traditionally the usual garment for women, now more often limited to somewhat formal occasions"; **drawer**: how does WNWCD4's "a sliding storage box in a table, bureau, chest, etc. ..." improve WNWD's "a sliding box ..."? Have I been storing my socks in the top drawer all these years? Still, spot checking confirms my conviction that the definitions and discriminations are peerless and are, after all, the heart of the matter.

The synonymies shine too. Try to sift the subtle differences in meaning, style, contextual precision, etc. among the following: *opponent*, *antagonist*, *adversary*, *enemy*, and *foe*. It's not easy to define what native speakers already know – that *enemy*, for instance, fits in a lot of places where *foe* does, but not all places. The synonymy at the entry **opponent** gives clear voice to much of our linguistic knowledge of these synonyms, something a dictionary must do well.

The management of idioms is also brilliant, despite the fact that WNWCD4, like all college dictionaries, fails to give a satisfactory definition of *idiom*: an expression that "... is recognized as a unit ..." (all syntactic constituents are so recognized) "... or has a meaning that differs from the literal meaning of its parts taken together." This applies equally well to expressions like "The place was *lousy with cops*" (metaphor) and "The cops *kept tabs on* suspicious customers" (idiom). Also, much poetic language fits the definition, as when Eliot likens "the evening" to "a patient etherized upon a table." Nevertheless, the treatment of idioms in WNWCD4, as in its predecessors, is astute. Look, for instance, at the panoply of idioms treated at the entry **get**. It runs from **get about** to **get with the program** (*get with it* itself is missing) with stops at **get down** (three senses), **get off** (nine senses), **get somewhere**, and 33 others all told.

And, all told, the book is highly commendable. Especially deserving of praise is the paper and the ink upon it – utterly clear crisp black letters on ultra brilliant white paper. Too bad that the front matter gives no "credit where it's due" – to David Guralnik, Samuel Solomon, and other earlier craftsmen on the staff whose work comprises most of the words on every page of this "new" edition. And too bad the Foreword claims that the volume is a "reference work covering the English language." The English language is more than its lexicon, and the language of the mind has a greater depth and complexity than any dictionary can explain.

— William Chisholm

The Cordell Corner

By David Vancil

Sarton's *History of Science*

In 1994, when I published *Incunable Dictionaries*, I wanted to include the biographies of the scholars who compiled the works that were eventually published by 1501. I found precious little ready information in what I thought would be useful sources; these early scholars were barely mentioned along with the famous and infamous. With the help of my editorial assistant, I started combing through every biographical source I could find locally. I peered into numerous French and German works from the 18th century in particular. Among modern sources, I found the *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, an early edition of *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, and similar works sometimes useful.

A great discovery for me was George Sarton's *Introduction to the History of Science*, published for the Carnegie Institute between 1927 and 1948 in three volumes and reprinted in 1962. While many of this newsletter's readers will be familiar with this collection of information on the development of knowledge from the earliest recorded history through the 14th century, I was completely ignorant of its existence. I was happy to find that it included lexicography: While I used this work as a reference work to find out about many of the scholars whom I had listed in *Incunable Dictionaries*, I have yet to go through it in search of possible additions to the lexicographers I listed in my book. I won't be surprised to find someone I overlooked when I do some of this research during my upcoming sabbatical.

Software Matters!

Incunable Dictionaries and my *Catalog of Dictionaries* were published using the Nota Bene word processor back in its DOS days. A software program developed for scholars, NB performed tasks that no general purpose word processing program could approach accomplishing. However, because of the predominance of Windows-based programs in my workplace, while I continued to install every upgrade as the campus "NB guru," I used it less than before. Now, after more than two years in development, Nota Bene for Windows 5.0 has been released. The program offers an updated version of its basic package, the Scholar's Workstation, including MLA, Chicago, Turabian, and APA academic stylesheets that automatically and effortlessly format articles and chapters. The nifty graphical interface makes the process of setting up the stylesheets both simple and obvious. So I have returned to my first love – in word processing software, anyway.

NB 5 has many worthy features in its basic edition, particularly NB *Ibidem* and NB *Orbis*. NB *Ibidem* (*Ibid.*) Plus, an enhanced version of *Ibidem*, has been made part of the initial release of NB 5.0 at no extra cost) allows the creation of bibliographic and other databases that can be used to keep track of reading and to insert citations or notes into documents and to create bibliographies in hundreds upon hundreds of formats, including academic journals.

Orbis is a "free-form text retrieval system," according to Nota Bene. While I have not made great use of this fea-

ture, I have used it enough to know it works much better than the limited search functions available in standard word processors. *Orbis* brings up a word or phrase in context in numerous documents and allows a researcher to easily paste the selected results into a current document.

WordPerfect and Word users, even of DOS versions, will be impressed by NB's ability to read and write just about any word processing program from the most current almost back to the stone age of the earliest DOS word processing programs. Finally, a free downloadable update to Nota Bene's Scholar's Workstation has been released that adds even more usability features.

Still in development from a recent DOS version is the *Lingua Workstation*, scheduled for release by Christmas. While NB already allows a user to write in modern western European languages in the Scholar's Workstation, the *Lingua Workstation* adds the capability of working in Hebrew, Greek, and Cyrillic. *Lingua Workstation* users can work in multiple languages simultaneously and interfile non-Roman alphabet materials with western European materials in the same *Ibidem* database files.

Another program that I have taken a cotton to is *Citation 7* – now in version 7.1. This is a single-purpose bibliographic database program, whose function is the same as other programs such as ProCite, EndNotes, and the *Ibidem* module in NB. Like the co-developed *Ibidem* module, *Citation 7* really works, placing footnotes in a document and even automatically updating them, as NB does with *Ibidem*. And, of course, it can produce annotated bibliographies, note cards, and other useful documentation. With a Z39.50 client that exports to it, such as BookWhere 2000 (BookWhere also writes to Nota Bene's *Ibidem* database files), a means exists for doing searches throughout the galaxy of compliant library and other bibliographic databases and saving the results to databases. Also, it can capture web page citations handily.

Why use *Citation 7* instead of NB *Ibidem*? A good question. *Citation 7* provides direct bibliographic database support for Word and WordPerfect, and Nota Bene restricts itself to its own word processing program. Additionally, while NB is particularly useful for the individual scholar, I've found that Oberon Development's *Citation 7* program really suits my needs for database projects and sharing data. I hope that someday the programs will be able to exchange data easily, so I don't have to decide which is better for a particular situation.

Without Nota Bene and more recently *Citation 7*, I would have a much harder time producing scholarly articles, books, and HTML and printed catalogues. I feel that I should let everyone know about the existence of these fine programs. While I continue to use other software programs, I feel I deserve something "just a little better" for my scholarly pursuits. I feel that as eminent word worriers, the members of the DSNAs deserve something better also. NB and *Citation 7* are a lot more than just a little better. □

Review: *Encarta World English Dictionary*

The *Encarta World English Dictionary* was published in mid summer. An electronic version appeared in mid September. A college edition is scheduled for completion in 2001 or thereabouts. *The New York Times* took note of this formidable new venture with a front page article on the book (Aug. 17) and a half-page story about the CD (Sept. 16, E-12). It is an impressive achievement that now awaits the response of the public and the assessment of professional and scholarly reviewers.

How does *Encarta* support its claim to being a dictionary of World English? Primarily by pointing to its coverage of English terms coined in other countries — “more than appear in any other dictionary” — and by a series of essays on the varieties of English spoken around the world.

Examples of English words originating elsewhere include *jeepney* from the Philippines, meaning a small truck converted into a bus, a word already established in American dictionaries — and *drissy*, from New Zealand, meaning “frantic,” which isn’t. The use of different words for the same object from country to country is also well noted.

The essays on varieties of English are elaborations on the individual entries for American English, British English, Philippine English, etc. under a generic heading, WORD KEY: WORLD ENGLISH. For example, at **South African English** we find, “The English language as used in the Republic of South Africa: since the early 19th century the mother tongue of settlers of British origin and a second language, in varying degrees, of indigenous Afrikaners, Africans and Asians.” The 30-line essay treats distinctive aspects of pronunciation, vocabulary, and usage.

As a dictionary designed for a highly diverse set of users world-wide, *Encarta* adopts a number of simplifications. It uses “quick definitions” in bold small capitals to introduce individual meanings in entries having multiple meanings. For example: “**table** *n* . . . 1. ITEM OF FURNITURE WITH FLAT TOP a piece of furniture with a flat top and one or more legs, used for placing things on or doing things at. . . . 5. PEOPLE SITTING AT TABLE a group of people sitting at a table, especially for a meal *The whole table erupted in laughter.*”

Encarta abandons the use of traditional pronunciation symbols, except for the schwa, and relies on its own system of respelling. In polysyllabic words, primary stress is indicated by an acute accent over the syllable to be emphasized and secondary stress by a grave accent.

The generic heading WORD KEY is also used to identify other conventional categories of notes — those on usage, word origins, synonyms, and regional variations. A rather dubious new category of *cultural notes* adds about 500 entries on music, art, literature, and movies.

For example, the entry **season** is followed by the heading WORD KEY: CULTURAL NOTE. It begins, “*The Four Seasons*, a violin concerto by the Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi (1725).” The note continues with a description of the music and ends with the statement, “Vivaldi provided a commentary on each movement in a series of sonnets he wrote to accompany the concerto.” (Unfortunately, the note contains several errors of content.) A note on *The*

Tempest at the entry **tempest** credits Shakespeare with originating the phrase *sea-change* in Act I, Scene 2.

Encyclopedic material is highly prominent throughout the book — the usual photos, drawings, maps, and exhibits of various kinds. Almost an entire page is devoted to calendars (Gregorian, Jewish, Hindu, and Islamic) and major festivals of Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam. World currencies get a full page. The entry **river** is accompanied by a half-column chart about the ten longest rivers in the world. The entry **volcano** is similarly amplified. All good browsing though not of much lexical relevance.

Though *Encarta* is touted as the first truly new dictionary of the Information Age, the book bears a striking resemblance to the third edition of the *American Heritage Dictionary* of 1992. It has the same oversize dimensions, gives similar emphasis to the treatment of notes, and is wrapped in a similarly dramatic black jacket with gold and white lettering. It’s about 2000 pages long, somewhat fewer than *AH3*, but comparison of length, lexical coverage, and so on are “iffy,” given the differences in page layout, type faces and sizes, structure and style of entries, and the amount of space allocated to encyclopedic material. *Encarta* and *AH3* are both listed at \$50. The big battle for the desk dictionary market is at least a couple of years away. No mention yet of a usage book, thesaurus, etc.

The CD-ROM was not available in time for this article.

Encarta was produced by the Microsoft corporation and three publishers: Bloomsbury Publishing, UK; St. Martin’s Press, U.S.A.; and Macmillan Australia. The general editor of the U.S. edition is Anne H. Soukhanov. More than 300 lexicographers, consultants, and others from 20 countries are listed as having contributed to the work.

— Herbert Morton

Note to Overseas Members

Secretary-treasurer Luanne von Schneidmesser suggests that overseas members who have to pay high fees for an international check or money order for their dues might consider paying two or three years’ dues at one time. She also says that travelers’ checks in U.S. dollars, which are generally less expensive, are also acceptable. □

News from Afrilex

The 4th International Afrilex Conference was held July 5-6, 1999. Keynote speakers were Prof. A.D. Nkabinde on “Some Hints on the Compilation of a Monolingual Dictionary in a Bantu Language with Special Reference to Zulu” and Mr. G-M de Schryver from Belgium on “The Compilation of Dictionaries for African Languages and the Concept of Simultaneous Feedback.” At the annual business meeting of Afrilex, Prof. Daan Prinsloo was elected chairperson of the organization.

Penny Silva, of the Dictionary Unit for South African English, left to join the dictionary staff of the Oxford University Press in Oxford. She has been replaced by Kathy Kavanagh as the new editor-in-chief. Ms. Kavanagh is a native of Britain, and worked on the first edition of the *Collins-COBUILD Dictionary of the English Language* and then on ELT dictionaries at Oxford University Press. □

Publications of Lexicographical Interest

Publications received by DSNA May - September 1999

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Random House Chinese to English Dictionary. 1999.

Multimedia publications:

Mein erstes Lexikon. (CD) Duden, 1999.
Electronic Scots School Dictionary. (CD) Edinburgh: The Scottish National Dictionary Association, 1998.
Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. (CD) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. □

Calendar

April 10-14, 2000. Exeter Lexicography Course. See article on page 2.

July 3-5, 2000. Stellenbosch, South Africa. Fifth International Conference on Lexicography: "Dictionaries for Special Purposes." Send abstracts before 31 March 2000 by mail, e-mail, or fax to Prof. D.J. Prinsloo, African Languages, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa. E-mail: <prinsloo@postino.up.ac.za> Fax: (012) 420-3163; international: 27-12-420-3163. Tel: (012) 420-2320.

August 8-12, 2000. Ninth Euralex Congress. See article at right. □

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Ninth Euralex Congress

The ninth Euralex International Congress will be held in Stuttgart, Germany, from 8 - 12 August, 2000. The congress organizers are Vincent Docherty (Langenscheidt Publishers, München); Ulrich Heid and Christian Rohrer (Universität Stuttgart, Institut für maschinelle Sprachverarbeitung); and Egbert Lehmann and Leo Wanner (Universität Stuttgart, Institut für Informatik – Intelligente Systeme). Contact address:

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

The Euralex congresses bring together professional lexicographers, publishers, researchers, scholars, and all others interested in dictionaries of all types. The program will include plenary lectures, parallel sessions on the topics listed below, software demonstrations, a presidential debate, pre-congress tutorials and specialized workshops, a book and software exhibition, and social events for participants and their guests.

The following fields will be the main focus of the congress:

1. Computational lexicography and lexicology
2. Phraseology and collocation
3. Historical lexicography and etymology
4. Bilingual lexicography
5. The dictionary-making process
6. Lexicography for specialized languages – terminology and terminography
7. Reports on lexicographical and lexicological projects
8. Dictionary use
9. Lexicological issues of lexicographical relevance

The ninth congress will differ slightly from previous Euralex congresses in that certain sub-topics of the above have been designated, to fit in with special sessions:

Topic 1a: Corpus lexicographical tools in industry and research

Topic 1b: Creating (sizeable) dictionaries for natural language processing

Topic 3a: Creating historical dictionaries

Topic 4a: User aspects of bilingual dictionaries

Topic 5a: Teaching dictionary making & lexicography

Topic 7a: Internet lexicography □

Death of Ole Norling-Christensen

Ole Norling-Christensen, president (and former secretary-treasurer) of the European Association for Lexicography (Euralex), died on June 30, 1999, after a long illness. He was head of the dictionary department at the Danish publisher Gyldendal in Copenhagen. □

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