



## A Year of Transitions

Dear DSNA Member,

I write to you as the new chair of the Publications Committee and guest editor of the *Newsletter*, as its long-serving editor, Katherine Isaacs, has been unable to continue in her role this year. On behalf of the Committee and of the Society, I want to say how profoundly grateful we are to Katy for her dedication and service to the Society. We wish her all the very best.

We owe another large debt to Elizabeth Knowles, the outgoing editor of the Society's journal, *Dictionaries*. Elizabeth brought a publisher's discipline and a steady, cheerful demeanor to a job made all the more demanding by the necessity of meeting the requirements for inclusion in the online subscription database Project MUSE. Her lovely farewell is included in this newsletter.

The Project MUSE relationship has become a success in no small measure because of the heavy lifting done by our outgoing executive secretary, Lisa Berglund. In her tireless work on behalf of the DSNA over the past six years, Lisa has laid the foundation for a solid future, seeing the Society through a transition in its revenue base, expanding its website, and spearheading the creation of a solid mission statement, among many other accomplishments. Excerpts from her final report to the General Membership Meeting (May 2013) are also included here.

As we say goodbye to Elizabeth and Lisa, we welcome Ed Finegan, the new editor of *Dictionaries*, and Rebecca Shapiro, the new executive secretary. The announcement about Ed is in the Member News section of this newsletter. Rebecca is one of several members taking on new board roles this year, including Michael Adams, the new president; you can read their biographies on [www.dictionariesociety.com](http://www.dictionariesociety.com). ♦

—Wendalyn Nichols

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### DSNA Membership Renewal

You can now renew your DSNA membership online! For links and more information, see [www.dictionariesociety.com/2011/09/2010-dsna-membership.html](http://www.dictionariesociety.com/2011/09/2010-dsna-membership.html)

To renew DSNA membership by regular mail, print and fill out the 2014 Renewal Form (available from the webpage above) and mail it with a check in US or Canadian dollars.

We also accept wire transfers through Western Union. Please contact the executive secretary at [dsnaadmin@gmail.com](mailto:dsnaadmin@gmail.com) if you wish to use this payment method.

### DSNA Freelancer List

The DSNA Office keeps lists of freelancers and of members willing to be contacted with questions from the general public, news media, and so forth. If you would like to be added to either list, please contact Rebecca Shapiro at [dsnaadmin@gmail.com](mailto:dsnaadmin@gmail.com)

## Thank you for having me



Elizabeth Knowles

*Dictionaries* 34, currently in production, will be my last issue as editor, and I'd like to thank the Society for entrusting the Journal to me for the last four years. I do take the view that as a Brit I'm not the most probable editor for the journal of the Dictionary Society

of North America, but it's been a huge privilege to undertake the role. And needless to say, I couldn't have done it at all without the support of colleagues—especially David Jost, Orin Hargraves, Wendi Nichols, Lisa Berglund, Michael Hancher, and other members of the Publications Committee.

One of the great pleasures of the job has been to realize afresh just how rich and diverse the world of lexicography is. *Dictionaries* has always been particularly strong in its coverage of historical lexicography, and Michael Hancher's article on "Illustrating Webster" was a highlight of "my" first issue. It was very exciting, in 2011, to publish Susan Rennie's first account of her rediscovery of James Boswell's long-lost *Scottish Dictionary*. It's been good too to widen our bilingual coverage to include articles on Japanese, Russian, and Arabic dictionaries, as well as an account of a current project to compile a digital dictionary for Cayuga (Iroquoian).

I've greatly enjoyed working on the "Reference Works in Progress" section, as it opens windows on the compilation of landmark dictionaries—above all, perhaps, the splendid *Dictionary of American Regional English*. And it's been very satisfying to widen this section to include "dictionary-related" areas, such as David Vancil's 2011 article on "Seven North American Dictionary Collections." In the midst of preparing for the 2013 Meeting, Don McCreary found time to provide a ten-year overview of *Dawgspeak*, the University of Georgia's "Slanguage" dictionary.

It is enormously pleasing that *Dictionaries* is now available online through Project MUSE, and so increasingly available to a wider audience. In the current issue we will accordingly be taking the first steps towards widening our book review section to

include online as well as print sources.

I'm delighted now to hand over responsibility for the journal to the sure hands of the incoming editor, Ed Finegan, whose plans for next year are already well advanced. Looking forward greatly to the 2014 issue, Ed!

Thank you all for the opportunity of the last four years. ♦

—Elizabeth Knowles

## News of Members



Edward Finegan

### Edward Finegan Named Editor of *Dictionaries*

The Dictionary Society of North America is pleased to announce the appointment of Edward Finegan as the editor of *Dictionaries*, beginning with volume 35. Ed is professor of linguistics and law at the

University of Southern California and director of its Center for Excellence in Teaching. He served as a member of the DSNA's executive board from 2007 to 2011, chairs the board's finance committee, and is our delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. He is the author of *Attitudes toward English Usage: The History of a War of Words* (1980), co-editor of *Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Register* (Oxford University Press, 1994), co-author of *The Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (Longman, 1999), and co-editor of *Language in the USA* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). His *Language: An Introduction to Its Structure and Use* will be published in its seventh edition in early 2014 (Cengage/Wadsworth). He was the founding general editor of *Oxford Studies in Sociolinguistics*, a monograph series, and has served on the editorial boards of *American Speech*, *Corpora*, *Discourse Processes*, and *English Language and Linguistics*. Authors wishing to publish in *Dictionaries* are invited to be in touch with him at [Finegan@USC.edu](mailto:Finegan@USC.edu).

### Lindsay Rose Russell Wins Dissertation Award

Congratulations to DSNA member Lindsay Rose Russell! Her dissertation, "Women in the English Language Dictionary," has been chosen by the

Rhetoric Society of America for its annual dissertation award. Now a faculty member in the English Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Russell completed her dissertation at the University of Washington earlier this year.

The RSA's website describes Dr. Russell's work as "vast in historical scope and rich in historiographical significance" and adds that Dr. Russell "asks us to rethink how we conceptualize dictionaries as a rhetorical genre, calling particular attention to both their historical gendering as well as a longstanding but heretofore hidden history of women's rhetorical critique, from contributions as readers, writers, and patrons of the emerging dictionary genre in the early modern period to contemporary feminist dictionary projects."

#### **Fraser Sutherland: Lexicography in China**

Fraser Sutherland is in his second year as Professor in the Center for Lexicography at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China, where he is part of a team that is preparing an English advanced learner's dictionary for Chinese users. The Center grants doctoral degrees in lexicography. If DSNA members are visiting Guangzhou (formerly Canton, about two hours' train or bus travel from Hong Kong) he would be delighted to introduce them to his colleagues. He can be reached at [rodfrasers@gmail.com](mailto:rodfrasers@gmail.com).

#### **Yin Yin Lu Launches Lexicography Society's YouTube Series**

Yin Yin Lu, who founded the Lexicography Society as a student at Columbia, and who is now pursuing graduate work at Oxford University, launched the Lexicography Society's YouTube channel with a video series titled *What's Your Word?* ([www.youtube.com/user/Lexicography-Society](http://www.youtube.com/user/Lexicography-Society)) Each video features one person speaking about one word.

According to Yin, the word "has to *resonate* in either a positive or negative way; it has to arouse intense emotion. There is no prescribed structure or style, and the word can be from any language. Moreover, each video is as much about the speaker as it is about the word. *How* they speak is as remarkable/revealing as what they say. The videos are miniature portraits of selves, in a direct sense." ♦

## **Upcoming Lexicography Conferences**

**129th Modern Language Association Annual Convention**, Chicago, January 9–12, 2014. Session 190. Literature and Language change, [http://www.mla.org/program\\_details?prog\\_id=190&year=2014](http://www.mla.org/program_details?prog_id=190&year=2014); and Session 194. Typography and Paratext in Early Modern Lexicography, [http://www.mla.org/program\\_details?prog\\_id=194&year=2014](http://www.mla.org/program_details?prog_id=194&year=2014).

**32nd Congreso Internacional AESLA (Spanish Association of Applied Linguistics)**, Theme: "Language Industries and Social Change." Universidad de Pablo Olavide, Seville, Spain, April 3–5, 2014. <http://aesla2014.tucongreso.es/en/introduction>

**6th International Conference on Corpus Linguistics**, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, May 22–24, 2014. <http://www.congresos.ulpgc.es/cilc6/>  
Contact: Francisco Alonso Almeida, [cilc6@ulpgc.es](mailto:cilc6@ulpgc.es)

**AFRILEX 2014, 19th Annual International Conference of the African Association for Lexicography**, Potchefstroom, South Africa, July 1–3, 2014. Host: Research Unit for Language and Literature in the South African Context. Pre-Conference Workshop on Electronic Dictionaries, June 30, 2014. <http://afrilex.africanlanguages.com/>

**ICHLL 2014, 7th International Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology**, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, July 9–12, 2014. <http://www.wikicfp.com/cfp/servlet/event.showcfp?eventid=31076&copyownerid=51597>

**XVI EURALEX International Congress**, Theme: "The User in Focus," Bolzano/Bozen, Italy, July 15–19, 2014. <http://euralex2014.eurac.edu/en/Pages/default.aspx>

**12th ESSE (European Society for the Study of English) Conference**, Košice, Slovakia, August 29, 2014 – September 2, 2014. <http://kaa.ff.upjs.sk/en/event/4/12th-esse-conference#toc-home>

**VI Congreso Internacional de Lexicografía Hispánica, Instituto Historia de la Lengua (IHL)**, Cilengua, San Millán de la Cogolla (La Rioja), Spain, September 10–12, 2014. [http://cilengua.es/sites/cilengua.es/files/page/docs/vi\\_cilh\\_primera\\_circular\\_web.pdf](http://cilengua.es/sites/cilengua.es/files/page/docs/vi_cilh_primera_circular_web.pdf) ♦



## Reinhard's References

by Reinhard Hartmann

### XIII: Directories

What have we got here? *Trade Secrets. Everything You Will Ever Need to Know about Everything* by Katherine Lapworth & Alexandra Fraser (Orion Media, London 1998) and *The Book of Everything. A Visual Guide to Travel and the World* by Nigel Holmes (Lonely Planet, Footscray Victoria 2012) —two books which offer a lot of interesting facts, but even their titles don't tell us what aspects of trades and travel they cover, or whether they should be called "directories" or not? Maybe not, as the information they present does not meet all the criteria of definitions such as those in the *New Oxford Dictionary of English* ("book listing individuals or organizations alphabetically or thematically") and *Wikipedia* ("website or printed listing of businesses within some category").

What is worse—even embarrassing—is the fact that reference works such as these are often completely ignored by (meta-)lexicographers. A lot more needs to be done in the branch of dictionary research called "typology" to explore how they can be classified (e.g., in terms of their general vs. specialized coverage or their linguistic vs. factual information) and to show what distinguishes them from other types of directories, such as A-to-Zs, albums, almanacs, anthologies, biographical dictionaries, calendars, catalogues, companions, compendiums, databases, encyclopedias, files, folders, glossaries, guides, handbooks, indexes, manuals, primers, registers, vade-mecums, who's whos and workbooks. Each of these can be further sub-divided by factors such as size, format, medium and functionality, as hinted at in the *Dictionary of Lexicography* (by R. Hartmann & G. James, Routledge, London

1998/2001) and further elaborated in Chapter 2 of B. Svensén's *Handbook of Lexicography* (Cambridge U.P. 2009), although without adequate attention to directory-type reference works.

This limited range may be sufficient to exemplify the various sub-genres of "directories" (although they are not always called that, such as "telephone book" or "yellow pages"), and to show that they sometimes combine into "hybrids" such as "dictionary-cum-atlas," "dictionary-cum-thesaurus" and "encyclopedic dictionary."

Some of these directories are of relevance to lexicography (although several are rather rare and out-of-date), e.g., the *Directory of Language Planning Organizations* (J. Rubin, East-West Center, Honolulu 1979); the *Who's Who in Lexicography* (S. McGill, Exeter U.P. 1996); the *Language Industries Atlas* (J.A. Edwards & A.G. Kingscott, IOS Press, Amsterdam 1997); the *Dictionary of Dictionaries and Eminent Encyclopedias* (T. Kabdebo & N. Armstrong, Bowker-Saur, London 1997); the *Writer's Handbook 2010* (B. Turner, Palgrave-Macmillan, London 2009); the web-based *Directory of Learning & Performance Tools* (<http://c4lpt.co.uk/>); and, most impressive of all, the *International Encyclopedia of Lexicography. Wörterbücher/Dictionaries/Dictionnaires* (ed. by F. J. Hausmann et al., W. de Gruyter, Berlin/New York; 3 volumes 1989-91, follow-up Volume 4 in preparation).

All this has reminded me of the need to move on with my project of an *International Directory of Lexicography Institutions*. If you have any potential contributions (for one or more of its Sections: 1 Institutions, 2 Networks and Associations, 3 Conferences, 4 Publishers, 5 Publications and 6 Dissertations), please send them to [r.r.k.hartmann@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.r.k.hartmann@exeter.ac.uk).

Categories covered in previous issues of the DSNA Newsletter:

I..... periodicals, Number 30.2	V..... dictionary research centres, 33.1	IX..... book series, 35.1
II..... festschrift volumes, 31.1	VI..... dissertations, 33.2	X..... associations, 35.2
III..... conference proceedings, 31.2	VII..... textbooks, 34.1	XI..... networks, 36.1
IV..... reference works, 32.1	VIII..... bibliographies, 34.2	XII..... academies, 36.2

## XIV: Conference Series

Whether we are interested in making or using dictionaries, we all go to meetings to seek and to pursue contacts. I have been interested in the relevance of conferences to lexicography ever since I was fortunate to host a conference (*LEXeter '83*) which developed into EURALEX, and I have cited such events on many occasions (*Reinhard's References* III, X, XI and XII).

Progress has been achieved at several levels. Continentally, the leaders are DSNA (19 meetings held in North America once every two years since 1977) and EURALEX (15 congresses in European countries every other year since 1986, all with published proceedings), and similar series now exist for AUSTRALEX, AFRILEX and ASIALEX. Regionally, the best-known conferences are the 11 organized since 1991 by the Nordic Federation of Lexicography (NFL). In some countries there are national societies and meetings, notably in China, Korea and Spain. There have also been several successful series,

such as the *Symposium on Lexicography* at Copenhagen (1982-2007), the *Journée des Dictionnaires* initiated by Jean Pruvost in Paris which has spread to several other countries, and the *International Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology*.

And we should not forget conferences from subject fields surrounding lexicography, including technical terminology (EAFT) and other aspects of applied and computational linguistics, such as phraseology (EUROPHRAS), semiotics (IASS), languages for specific purposes (ESLSP), corpus linguistics (CL) and NLP (E-LEX), as well as onomastics (ICOS), dialectology (SIDG), library science (WLIC) and many other topics represented by associations and other bodies (such as national academies, e.g. UAI). A selection of such conference series is listed in the table below; for "forthcoming events" consult my regular list in the EURALEX Bulletin (part of the *International Journal of Lexicography*).

So—good luck to everybody for many more meetings! ♦

Conference host	Frequency of meetings	Last/next meeting	Website
AFRILEX	18 annual since 1996	19; 2014	<a href="http://www.afrilex.africanlanguages.com">www.afrilex.africanlanguages.com</a>
ASIALEX	7 biennial since 1999	8; 2013	<a href="http://asialex.org">http://asialex.org</a>
AUSTRALEX	15 biennial since 1990	16; 2013	<a href="http://www.australex.org">www.australex.org</a>
CL	7 biennial since 2001	7; 2013	<a href="http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/cl2013">http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/cl2013</a>
DSNA	19 biennial since 1977	19; 2013	<a href="http://www.dictionariesociety.com">www.dictionariesociety.com</a>
EAFT	6 biennial since 2002	6; 2012	<a href="http://www.eaft-aet.net">www.eaft-aet.net</a>
E-LEX	3 biennial since 2009	3; 2013	<a href="http://eki.ee/alex2013">http://eki.ee/alex2013</a>
ESLSP	19 biennial since 1977	19; 2013	<a href="http://lsp2013.univie.ac.at">http://lsp2013.univie.ac.at</a>
EURALEX	15 biennial since 1983	16; 2014	<a href="http://www.euralex.org/conferences">www.euralex.org/conferences</a>
EUROPHRAS	7 biennial since 2000	8; 2014	<a href="http://www.europhras.org">www.europhras.org</a>
IASS	4 quin-quennial since 1994	5; 2014	<a href="http://iassais.wordpress.com/congresses">http://iassais.wordpress.com/congresses</a>
ICHLL	6 biennial since 2002	7; 2014	<a href="http://www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/ishll.html">www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/ishll.html</a>
ICOS	24 triennial since 1938	25; 2014	<a href="http://www.icosweb.net/index.php/conferences.html">www.icosweb.net/index.php/conferences.html</a>
JdD	20 annual since 1994	20; 2013	<a href="http://www3.u-cergy.fr/metadif/jdd.html">http://www3.u-cergy.fr/metadif/jdd.html</a>
NFL	11 biennial since 1991	12; 2013	<a href="http://nordisksprogkoordination.org/nfl/konferencer-og-symposier">http://nordisksprogkoordination.org/nfl/konferencer-og-symposier</a>
SIDG	7 triennial since 1993	7; 2012	<a href="http://www.geo-linguistics.org/conferences.html">www.geo-linguistics.org/conferences.html</a>
SoL	13 biennial since 1982	13; 2007	<a href="http://engerom.ku.dk/arrangement/lexicography/">http://engerom.ku.dk/arrangement/lexicography/</a>
UAI	87 annual since 1919	87; 2013	<a href="http://www.uai-uaa.org">www.uai-uaa.org</a>
WLIC	79 annual since 1928	80; 2014	<a href="http://conference.ifla.org">http://conference.ifla.org</a>

## Excerpts from *Final Report to the DSNA: General Membership Meeting* 26 May 2013

At our executive board meeting in February, we agreed that, as this meeting is my last formal opportunity to speak to the membership in my role as executive secretary of the DSNA, it would be appropriate and useful for me to review the past six years and reflect on what we have accomplished during that period. [. . .]

First, I would like to thank everyone who has served on the Board and the Publications Committee, as well as those who have played other roles, formal and informal, in the governance of DSNA during my secretaryship. This organization's officers are volunteers, which means that we must all be thankful that folks are willing to take time away from their other jobs—or from retirement—so that this organization can continue to function and so as to ensure that we enjoy biennial pleasures like this meeting. I am grateful to Luanne von Schneidmesser, who preceded me as executive secretary, for easing me into my new responsibilities; to the DSNA presidents with whom I have worked—Terry Pratt, Michael Hancher, and Orin Hargraves; to our 2009, 2011 and 2013 conference chairs—Michael Adams, Lise Winer, and Don McCreary and Bill Kretschmar; to Elizabeth Knowles and Katy Isaacs, who have done superb work as editors of our journal and newsletter; and to David Jost, chair of the Publications Committee. I also want to thank my assistant Aimee Levesque, whose fluency with Access and Excel and Paypal and HTML and whose sense of humor have repeatedly saved me from tearing my hair or sending intemperate emails to computing services. And of course, I thank the Catchwords. [. . .]

[O]ur various projects are making the work and aims of the society more available—*Dictionaries* is online, being read by people around the world who may never have heard of the DSNA, our blog and twitter feed are adding readers and followers every day, and through the LSA Institute we are supporting the training of future lexicographers.

Last year we formalized our mission statement, an important pre-requisite if we are to plan for a more activist future. I hope that the new Executive Board [. . .] will formally and informally continue the conversation [. . .] about the future of the DSNA. Our society may be smaller than it was in 2008, but its outreach is broader, and arguably we are positioned to be a more influential organization than ever before, and at a moment that several speakers this week have informed us will be pivotal in the history of lexicography.

I want to conclude my comments this afternoon with a few reflections on my own experience as executive secretary. I believe I have strengthened the day-to-day operation of DSNA, with the support of my fellow volunteers, particularly Elizabeth and Katy. During my tenure the journal and the newsletter have been published on schedule, and both are now available online. The website has been expanded, and I have been maintaining the blog. The organization now holds quarterly meetings, by conference call, of both the Executive Board and the Publications Committee. As I mentioned, we now have a mission statement, and I also have drafted a policy for maintaining the archives of the DSNA.

I had been a member of DSNA for only four years when I was asked to run for this position, and I knew a little bit about dictionaries, less about the organization, and almost nothing about the workings of learned societies. I have learned a lot. My students owe you all a debt, as it's only through my work with DSNA that I gained the confidence to develop my graduate course in lexicography. My scholarship has benefitted as well—I have published three articles on Piozzi's *British Synonymy*, enjoyed a two-week fellowship at the Cordell Collection, and am now completing the first part of my research of annotations in early Federalist Era dictionaries. [. . .]

Serving as executive secretary has also taught me so much about the importance of learned societies like this one to sustaining work in the humanities, as well as about the unique relationship among the academy, lexicographers, and the wider community, users, abusers—and non-users—of dictionaries. Some of you know that next Friday I will assume the chairmanship of the English



Department at Buffalo State—I thank DSNA not just for giving me the confidence to take on that role, but also for giving me a perspective that is not always available to department chairs. [. . .] Whatever I am able to accomplish in addressing these concerns over the next six years, I will owe a debt to my past six years with the DSNA. Thank you. ♦

—Lisa Berglund

## Biennial Meeting of the DSNA at the University of Georgia

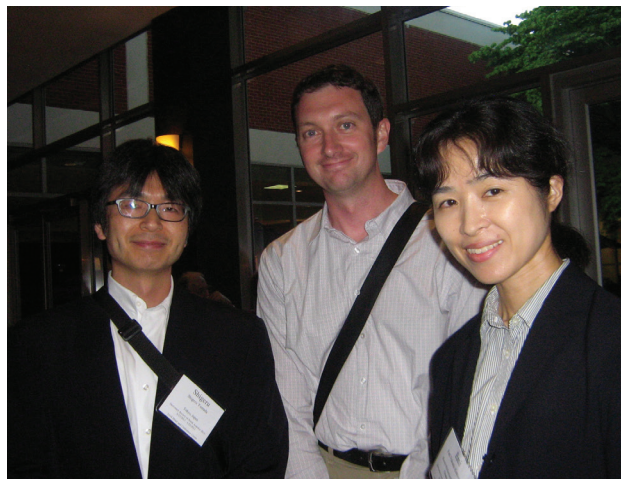
The 19th Biennial Meeting of the DSNA took place at the University of Georgia's UGA Hotel and Conference Center May 25–27, 2013. The conference organizers had given a good deal of thought to every aspect of the meeting, and it paid off: the conference was universally regarded as exceptionally successful. Even the Athens weather, sometimes quite hot in late May, remained lovely, with an occasional light spring shower. Though mightily appreciative, conference goers could not agree on whether the organizers deserved all the credit for that blessing.

The cover of the program booklet featured a memorable—indeed, unforgettable—picture of the university's mascot "Bulldog," seated in front of a trio of dictionaries and whimsically bespectacled for the occasion. One of the dictionaries bears



*Attendees of the 2013 Biennial Meeting of the DSNA*

the familiar D-S-N-A tabs from our journal. The cover and entire program, as well as several other conference photos, can be viewed at [www.dictionariesociety.com/2013-dsna-meeting/](http://www.dictionariesociety.com/2013-dsna-meeting/). Thirty-one papers were presented, in DSNA-hallmark plenary sessions.



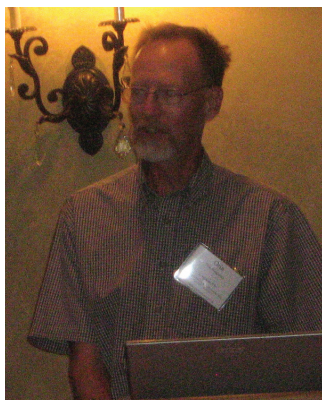
*Professor Shigeru Yamada chats with younger scholars*

Fine papers on a wide range of topics were presented, including exceptional presentations on highly esoteric subjects by younger scholars. Among topics relatively unfamiliar to most DSNA conferees were presentations on Japanese and Chinese historical lexicography, going back even to the Song Dynasty of the tenth to thirteenth centuries. Papers also discussed dictionaries of perhaps a score of languages, including Amharic, Arabic, Frisian, Hebrew, Louisiana French, Persian, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Three papers discussed use (and perceptions) of dictionaries of Anglo-Saxon, EFL, and German. Two papers analyzed early modern English lexicography and women. The conference concluded with a special session on "The Merriam-Webster Dictionaries: Old and New." With the advantage of a half-century's hindsight, the session included a lively roundtable discussion of *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and the brouhaha that ensued partly from publicists' braggadocio. A novelty for our meetings, as part of the session Ward Gilman was interviewed online from his home. The questions and comments put to him by Michael Adams prompted lively responses

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**Biennial Meeting of the DSNA, *continued***

from Gilman, who is now retired but had worked with Philip Gove, editor-in-chief of the *Third*, and who himself edited *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage*. The live online video interview, a first for DSNA, suggests similar possibilities for future meetings.



Orin Hargraves

From the papers overall, one could not help but be struck by the realization that lexicography has meant many things over the centuries, serves as a window into earlier times and cultures, and in the late 20th and early 21st centuries is undergoing a profound change, well beyond the one brought about with the availability of electronic corpora only a few decades ago.

Not all was formal lexicography. On offer was a tour of the old campus and of the Special Collections and Rare Books Library. Plenty of time was built in to socialize and for informal discussion at a welcoming reception, between sessions, and in the evenings at nearby restaurants. At the banquet, DSNA president Orin Hargraves offered a whole-hearted review of his “half-life in lexicography” before joining DSNA’s musical logophiles, the Catchwords. The clever and comical Catchwords—Lisa Berglund, Peter Gilliver,

Orin Hargraves, Katy Isaacs, David Jost, Rod McConchie, Orion Montoya, and Terry Pratt—put smiles on faces across the banquet hall and are now a much-anticipated DSNA banquet staple.

Everyone who attended could appreciate the successful efforts of co-hosts Don McCreary and Bill Kretzschmar and program committee members Fredric Dolezal, Charles Doyle, and Don McCreary himself for a thoroughly engaging few days together. ♦

—Ed Finegan

## American Council of Learned Societies

Baltimore, May 9–11, 2013



This year’s ACLS meeting was, as usual, intellectually rewarding and socially delightful. Besides official delegates of the constituent societies, attendees at ACLS annual meetings include the

societies’ administrative officers (typically executive secretaries), and this year Michael Adams attended in place of our executive secretary. ACLS meetings extend over three calendar days, but the main business is conducted on the only full day, following introductory events the evening before and followed by events on the morning of the third day mounted solely for administrative officers of the societies.

Besides highly enjoyable social aspects of the conference (colleagueship, receptions, banquets, and quick boating tours with colleagues around the Baltimore harbor), conference centerpieces deserve mention. Following a formal roll call of delegates, balloting takes place on matters such as acceptance of new member constituent societies (none this year), report of the nominating committee, and proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. ACLS president Pauline Yu, beginning her third five-year term, made her moderated upbeat report, and we also heard reports by the treasurer and about the fellowship



*The Catchwords in full voice*



programs. The ACLS endowment fund contains about \$100 million, and for the first nine months of FY 2012-2013 investment return was running at about 14.0%—an enviable record! More than \$15 million was awarded in fellowships in 2013 to several hundred junior and senior scholars. At lunch, as in recent years, Jim Leach gave a mixed, if largely discouraging, overview of humanities funding from his vantage point as recently retired chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In the evening, Robert Alter, UC Berkeley professor of Hebrew and comparative literature, offered the Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecture.

The main day also features a morning session by several recent fellowship holders on their projects. The single afternoon session is a real highlight, this year offering three compelling presentations on “MOOCs, the Humanities, and Learned Societies.” There was rather less about learned societies than I’d hoped for, but the presentations offered perspectives from well-informed proponents, with themes chiefly about increasing success rather than threatening dire consequences. The report by Stanford English professor Jennifer Summit, who was engaged last year in the much touted MOOC experiment at San Jose State University, seemed more glowing than subsequent press reports about assessments of the experiment seem to have warranted. In any case, the possibility of using MOOCs to reach a larger audience on the subject of lexicography has been a subject of discussion among DSNA members, including our Executive Committee. Three items of press coverage about MOOCs as identified by ACLS follow: [www.nytimes.com/2013/04/21/opinion/sunday/grading-the-mooc-university.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/21/opinion/sunday/grading-the-mooc-university.html); [www.chronicle.com/article/Major-Players-in-the-MOOC/138817/](http://www.chronicle.com/article/Major-Players-in-the-MOOC/138817/); [chronicle.com/article/The-Professors-Behind-the-MOOC/137905/#id=overview](http://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Professors-Behind-the-MOOC/137905/#id=overview). The meeting handbook itself can be downloaded at <http://www.acls.org/about/default.aspx?id=9291>. ♦

—Ed Finegan, DSNA Delegate

## In Memoriam Hugh Rawson

(12 September 1936–1 June 2013)

Hugh Rawson, a longtime member of DSNA, died on 1 June 2013, aged 76 years. Early on a reporter for *American Banker*, he eventually became the director of the trade publishing department at Thomas Y. Crowell, then director of reference books at Penguin USA. He edited the *Bulletin of the Authors Guild* for many years and wrote a column on words for the popular magazine *American Heritage*. He adapted quickly to the blogosphere with columns first for *The Huffington Post* and finally for *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*.

After Crowell was sold to Harper & Row in 1978, Rawson worked in publishing part-time and in assorted roles, becoming, in his freelance life, a prolific lexicographer, especially as a compiler of dictionaries of quotations, including *A Dictionary of Quotations from the Bible* (NAL, 1988), *A Dictionary of Quotations from Shakespeare: A Topical Guide to Over 3000 Great Passages from the Plays, Sonnets, and Narrative Poems* (Dutton, 1992), *The New International Dictionary of Quotations* (Dutton, 1986), the *American Heritage Dictionary of Quotations* (Penguin, 1997), and the *Oxford Dictionary of American Quotations* (Oxford University Press, 1997), all written with Margaret Miner, his wife.

Rawson and Miner write of the second edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of American Quotations* (OUP, 2006), “It is a collection, organized along historical lines, of nearly six thousand memorable quotations on more than five hundred some aspects of American life and culture.” Perhaps even posthumously, “Nothing gives an author so much pleasure as to find his works quoted by other learned authors,” as Benjamin Franklin is quoted, in the dictionary’s section on “Quotations & Proverbs,” as having written in *Poor Richard’s Almanack* in 1758. “A quotation,” they quote Robert W. Chapman as having written in 1977, “like a pun, should come unsought and then be welcomed only for some propriety or felicity justifying the intrusion,” as we have just proved.

... continued on page 10

**In Memoriam**, *continued*

Such indirection drove Ralph Waldo Emerson to complain in his journals, "I hate quotation. Tell me what you know" (1849), or at least that's how Rawson and Miner quote him. Doubtless, Emerson had not thought of Franklin's quotation, or he might have realized the corner into which he was complaining himself.

Rawson wrote about many things even more strictly lexical than quotations. His very popular books include *Devious Derivations: Popular Misconceptions, and More than 1000 True Origins of Common Words and Phrases* (Crown, 1994); *Wicked Words: A Treasury of Curses, Insults, Put-Downs, and Other Formerly Unprintable Terms from Anglo-Saxon Times to the Present* (Crown, 1989); and, perhaps the most famous and justly admired one of all, *A Dictionary of Euphemisms & Other Doubletalk: Being a Compilation of Linguistic Fig Leaves and Verbal Flourishes for Artful Users of the English Language* (Crown, 1981). A lifelong publishing professional, Rawson was an artful writer of alliterative and self-explanatory titles.

*A Dictionary of Euphemisms & Other Doubletalk* came in for much praise. Ronald R. Butters, himself a longtime member of the DSNA and onetime editor of *American Speech*, wrote in that journal, in a note titled "The Editor Recommends" (1983), "Rawson offers still another layman's-eye view of current American English—one more knowledgeable than Edwin Newman's, less polemical than Jim Quinn's, sometimes almost as entertaining as William Safire's—and with none of John Simon's supercilious nastiness." Thus positioned, wrote Butters, "Rawson is a good-hearted writer," as he would have to be, to include Emerson's anti-quotational quotation in his dictionary of American quotations.

Bernard Oldsey, then editor of *College Literature*, also endorsed the book in a piece called "Editor's Choice" (1983), noting less Rawson's good heart than his sense of humor, which, he claimed

"would appeal more to Mark Twain and Ambrose Bierce than to Emerson." James Yandell, in a wonderful review titled "Things Too Fierce to Mention," published in—of all places—*The San Francisco Jung Institute Library Journal* (1990), recognized both temperamental tendencies: "Rawson," he wrote, "has gathered together with loving care a marvelous collection of examples of the art [of euphemism] which he presents with comments as interesting and funny as his material," but "[u]nderneath his humor, Rawson is as serious about language as was Orwell, and is engaged in Orwell's enterprise of defending meaning against those who, like the Great Communicator, would destroy it" (1990, 46). Rawson was no mere collector of quotations and things.

Rawson's proposed resemblance to Orwell should have protected him from Jacques Barzun, but Barzun nonetheless wrote that Rawson "blurs nuances right and left, sarcastically pointing out 'the truth'" in a review article covering a slew of books on words and usage—including *A Dictionary of Euphemisms & Other Doubletalk*—that appeared in *The American Scholar* (1986). As any serious lexicographer knows, Barzun's displeasure with one's work wears like a badge of honor. In the same article, Barzun disparaged the Dictionary Society of North America and its publications, in which "one hears those who develop the rules being pitiless in their arrogance, especially toward writers who believe in right and wrong and who judge by insight and observation instead of research" (1986), and Sidney Landau, President *emeritus* of that Society, whose *Dictionaries: The Art and Craft of Lexicography* purportedly "makes the literary think lexicographers do not really know what language is" (1986). Rawson was in good company, then—our company. Now, when we think of double-talk, insults, American quotations, or good-hearted lexicography generally, he visits our memories. ♦

—Michael Adams

A decorative border of musical notation, including staves, notes, and clefs, frames the central text of the page.

## "You Can Trust Your Dictionary"

by Lisa Berglund

sung by the Catchwords to the tune of Gilbert and Sullivan's  
"In a contemplative fashion"

To cut cleanly through the babble—  
To restore your peace of mind—  
If you want to win at Scrabble  
Or a definition find:  
When pronunciations vary,  
When the doctors disagree,  
You can trust your dictionary  
For infallibility.

**ALTO:**

Dr. Johnson, single-handed,  
Regulates the English tongue,  
Words and phrases he commanded  
Illustrations strict among.

**SOPRANO:**

Incoherent British spelling  
True Americans deplore;  
"O-U-R" and "double-elling"  
Noah Webster showed the door.

**TENOR:**

We're indebted to James Murray  
For the wealth of OED.  
No, he wasn't in a hurry:  
Forty years from A to Z.

**BARITONE:**

Modern English now beholding:  
The prescriptivists are quaint  
Irregardless of their scolding  
There is nothing wrong with ain't!  
Philip Gove has said there's nothing  
wrong with ain't!

**TENOR:**

Dr Johnson let his bias show 'gainst  
words from foreign climes...

**SOPRANO:**

And Murray's priority:  
Giving authority  
To usage by Shakespeare and  
Scott and the *Times*!

**BARITONE:**

How could Webster think that  
"tongue" was better spelled  
"T-U-N-G"?

**ALTO:**

The lexical fashions  
Of starlets and madams  
Are all you can find in MW3.

**SOPRANO:**

Now you must admit that Johnson  
said the "pastern" was the "knee."

**ALTO:**

You want an example?  
Incompetence ample:  
Just look it up right under  
"Dord (D or d)"!  
How did OED define appendicitis?

**SOPRANO:**

No, letter by letter  
You cannot do better  
Than turning to Johnson or  
Webster or Gove.

AND CHAOS ENSUES  
AS ALL SING THEIR VERSES  
AT ONCE.



**DSNA Newsletter**

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**DSNA Web Site**

[www.dictionariesociety.com](http://www.dictionariesociety.com)

Members with web sites of lexicographical interest who would like to be linked from our website can send URLs for consideration to the DSNA office at [dsnaadmin@gmail.com](mailto:dsnaadmin@gmail.com).

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