

DSNA MEETING IN CINCINNATI JUNE 11-12, 1981

The third biennial meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America will be held at Xavier University, June 11 and 12, 1981. The following papers will be presented: Jeffrey F. Huntsman, "Theories of Definition and Glossing Procedures in Medieval English Lexicography"; Frederick H. Brengelman, "Dialect Glossaries of the 17th Century"; Sidney I. Landau, "Computer Use in Medical Lexicography: IDMB"; David L. Gold, "Ordering the Senses in a Monolingual Dictionary Entry"; James Lorient, "Sentence Transforms of Noun Compounds as a Kind of Definition"; Lael Ely Bradshaw, "Science as Seen in Three Eighteenth Century English Works"; Philip G. Buehler, "Some Interesting Words in the Middle English *Genesis and Exodus*"; Allen Walker Read, "Relation of Generalized Definitions to Their Contextual Basis"; William J. Cameron, "Building a Collection of Early Dictionaries for Use in a Graduate Library School"; Jean Hamer, "Louis Kahn

Collection: The Collector and His Collection."

This year the program will be enhanced by a joint meeting of the American Dialect Society. Members of each group are welcome at the sessions of the other. DSNA members not already ADS members are invited to join. The ADS fosters studies and publications on American Language. Members receive a newsletter three times a year, the journal *American Speech* four times a year, and occasional publications (PADS). Executive Secretary of ADS is Allen Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville IL 62650.

Information about the DSNA meeting, including registration, schedule, and accommodations, may be had by writing Donald Hobar, DSNA Secretary-Treasurer, Continuing Education, Indiana State University, Terre Haute IN 47809.

KAHN COLLECTION OF DICTIONARIES

An attraction of the meeting in Cincinnati for those interested in the history of dictionaries is the opportunity to see the Louis E. Kahn Collection of Dictionaries. Originally assembled by the late Mr. Kahn in the early 1950's with the goal of owning all editions of all the dictionaries ever printed, it rapidly became one of the largest and finest private collections in the world. Upon his death, it was kept intact and given to the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County on the suggestion of Yeatman Anderson III, a librarian who had been assisting Mr. Kahn, and who is now Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections. Mr. Anderson sends the following information about the Collection.

The main outline of the early history of the Louis E. Kahn Collection of English Language Dictionaries was admirably laid out by Warren N. Cordell in his introduction to the catalog of the Collection published in 1972. Although the flood of dictionaries into the Collection has been reduced to a trickle, we continue to add to it whenever possible.

Perhaps the most significant addition was the 1689 or first edition of the anonymous *Gazophylacium Anglicanum*, a work important

in the development of English etymology. We have, of course, acquired additional editions of the dictionaries of Bailey and Johnson, including a second copy of the latter's folio dictionary of 1755.

We also added an interesting and unusual bilingual dictionary — Ram Comul Sen's *Dictionary in English and Bengalee, translated from Todd's edition of Johnson's English Dictionary*, Serampore, India, 1834, 2 vols. in 1. Acquired at the same time was a large folio manuscript of a Sanskrit dictionary, by an unknown author, with transliteration into the Roman alphabet and translations into Hindi, Bengali, Persian and English. The manuscript is unfinished in that the Roman transliterations and the English translations appear only on the first few pages. But it is obvious that someone was working on a polylingual dictionary. We suspect that the person was not an Englishman because of the following translation: "Ajagaram — throwing down her eyes (a woman) looking only at her husband." Whether we are right or wrong, this manuscript could be the basis of a good paper for someone.

Collecting should provide not only knowledge

and pleasure, but upon occasion amusement as well. In the tradition of Ambrose Bierce's **Devil's Dictionary** is an older work, Alexandre Baudouin's **The Man of the World Dictionary**, London, 1822. This is a translation of the second French edition. For your amusement we quote the following "definition" from the book. "Dictionary. A dictionary-maker once made some

observations to d'Alembert on the impropriety of several words. The academician corrected them. The other, encouraged by his docility, then ventured to criticize a sentence 'Pardon me, sir,' said d'Alembert, "I acknowledge your authority with respect to a single word, but it ceases when two are joined together."

MLA LEXICOGRAPHY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Lexicography Discussion Group of the Modern Language Association met Saturday evening, December 27, during the annual meeting in Houston. Under the topic "Research in Lexicography" the following papers were given: Cross-Referencing Many Standards: Some Sample Entries for the **DICTIONARY OF CARIBBEAN ENGLISH USAGE**, by Richard Allsopp, University of the West Indies; Remarks on the Dictionary/Encyclopedia Debate, by William Frawley, University of Delaware; Conceptual Primitives in the English Lexicon, by Raoul N. Smith, Northwestern University; and The Lexicographical Treatment of Idiomatic Prepositions, by John C. Traupman,

St. Joseph's University. Copies of the papers can be obtained at \$1 to cover costs from the Chairman, Roger J. Steiner, Department of Language and Literature, University of Delaware, Newark DE 19711. At the meeting, Raoul N. Smith was elected to the Executive Committee of the Discussion Group. Other members are: Roger J. Steiner; J. Edward Gates, Chairman for 1981; Walter D. Glanze of Walter Glanze Word Books, N.Y., Secretary; and Gladys E. Saunders, University of Virginia. The topic for the December 1981 meeting in New York will be "The Dictionary in America; Past, Present, Future."

MEETINGS ON LEXICOGRAPHY

The Lexicography Sub-Committee of the Present-Day English Discussion Group of the Modern Language Association met in Houston on Sunday, December 28. The primary business was a discussion of Jonathan E. Lighter's **Historical Dictionary of American Slang** (see description in this issue under **DICTIONARIES IN PROGRESS**). The discussion was led by Professor Bethany Dumas of the University of Tennessee, under whose supervision Lighter wrote his doctoral thesis. Also discussed briefly was the possibility of switching to computer storage and editing for the **Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage** being made by Richard Allsopp of the University of the West Indies. An-

nouncements were made of publication of the **Bantam New College German Dictionary** (see **NEW DICTIONARIES**) and of an appeal from A. J. Aitken, editor of the **Scottish National Dictionary**, for funds to make a Concise Dictionary of the Scottish Tongue. Gifts, bequests, and interest-free loans are welcome. The projected work will draw on both the **Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue** and the **Scottish National Dictionary**.

The Conference on Bilingual Lexicography planned for March 1981 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, has been postponed until late October or early November.

DSNA PUBLICATIONS

The second volume of **DICTIONARIES: JOURNAL OF THE DICTIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA** is expected to appear this spring. Publication of **Papers of the Dictionary Society of North America: 1979**, being edited by B. Gillian Michell of the University of Western Ontario, is also expected by the time of the June meeting. Funds have been obtained from Indiana State University to publish the 1977 proceedings, being edited by Edward Gates and

Donald Hobar, and typing of camera-ready copy is beginning. The Publication Committee and the Executive Board have approved a policy for future publications of proceedings. Participants in the biennial meetings are to provide camera-ready copy before the time of the meeting, publication will be funded from registration fees, and registrants will receive copies of the volume. A uniform cover format has been designed which will be used first for the 1979 volume.

NEW DICTIONARIES

The **Bantam New College German & English Dictionary** by DSNA member John C. Traupman of St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, was published in December 1980. It is the last in the Bantam New College series, for many years edited by the late Edwin B. Williams, and more recently by DSNA member Walter D. Glanze. The book has been in the making for 12 years. It

contains 70,000 entries in 768 pages and costs only \$2.95.

A second edition of the **Dictionary of Jamaican English**, by DSNA member Frederic G. Cassidy and R. B. LePage, appeared in 1980.

The **Essential English-Vietnamese Dictionary** by Dinh-Hoa Nguyen of Southern Illinois Univer-

sity, Carbondale, was published late in 1980 by Asia Books (P.O. Box 873, Carbondale IL 62901) at \$7.50. Professor Nguyen is also the author of the **Vietnamese-English Dictionary**, a **Vietnamese-English Student Dictionary**, and several other books for Anglophones learning Vietnamese and Vietnamese learning English.

The **Dictionary of Afro-Latin American Civilization** by DSNA member Benjamin Nunez was published by Greenwood Press in October 1980. The work identifies 4,700 words, phrases, historical events, and people of note significant to the life of blacks in Brazil, Jamaica, Haiti, the Anglo-French and Dutch Islands, and the Spanish Caribbean. Dr. Nunez was Professor of Latin American Civilization and Linguistics at West Chester State College in Pennsylvania (1967-78) and earlier taught at Georgetown

University in Washington, D.C. He is now retired and pursuing his scholarship at the Library of Congress.

A Dictionary of Theoretical Concepts in Biology by DSNA member Keith E. Roe and Richard G. Frederick was published this year by Scarecrow Press. The 1164 entries are names of theories, laws, and rules found in publications of the past ten years, including some that honor the original formulator (Allen's Rule, Wallace's Line) and some that are colorful (Beneficial Death, Red Queen). Entries are arranged alphabetically, and citations are arranged chronologically to show historical development. Cross-references call attention to related concepts. Keith Roe is Associate Librarian and head of the Life Science Library at the Pennsylvania State University.

DICTIONARIES IN PROGRESS

A Historical Dictionary of American Slang is being prepared by Jonathan E. Lighter of the Department of English at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. It is intended to present the slang words and phrases current in this country during the past 350 years. For this dictionary, slang is defined as "unorthodox, nontechnical popular vocabulary composed especially of novel-sounding synonyms for standard English words and phrases" and further described in the prospectus distributed at the MLA meeting as "often associated with youthful, raffish, or otherwise undignified individuals, who are presumed to use it for its often striking connotations of impertinence, irreverence, or rejection of polite conventionality." Lighter has collected data from books, magazines, newspapers, films, television, radio, and oral sources. Eighty percent of the citations collected were found at the New York Public Library. Each entry will consist of the entry word, a functional label, pronunciation (if not in standard dictionaries and in special cases), label noting restriction to a particular social group, definitions of senses in order of apparent historical development, and all citations collected for the sense, in chronological order. A bibliography will be included of all sources from which the citations were drawn. An appendix will list spurious words and meanings that have appeared in earlier slang dictionaries.

Collection was begun as an avocation by Lighter in 1968. A more rigorous and systematic approach was undertaken in 1971. In September, 1980, 90,000 citations from 5000 sources had been gathered. Portions of the work have appeared in "Slang of the AEF: 1917-1919: A Historical Glossary" (*American Speech* 47 (1972), 5-142) and in Lighter's doctoral dissertation "A Historical Dictionary of American Slang: Volume I, the Letter A" (1980). Thirty-five thousand senses, with 2,250,000 words of text, are projected. A computer will be used for text editing and preparation of camera-ready copy. Target date for completion is the summer of

1984.

The Basque Studies Program of the University of Nevada, Reno, is currently preparing a Basque-English, English-Basque dictionary. Under the direction of Mr. Gorka Aulestia, the dictionary is intended primarily as a tool for American students of the Basque language and literature. Five Basque dialects (Biscayan, Labourdin, Guipuzcoan, Navarrese and Souletine) are encompassed, as is the new unified literary form called Euskera Batua.

Mr. Aulestia devoted a year to preliminary work on the project before coming to Reno in August of 1980. He is currently supported by a grant from the Hilliard Foundation (a local humanities-oriented endowment). He has completed the Basque-English vocabulary and is currently reversing it from English to Basque. Nineteen existing Basque dictionaries and several English ones have been utilized to date as reference guides. At present there are 45,000 entries. The meaning of many is illustrated in context by providing examples of use drawn from Basque literary works, sayings, folk songs, etc. It is anticipated that the dictionary will be ready for publication in the summer of 1983.

A Reverse Manchu Dictionary is being made by William Roszycki of the Department of Uralic and Altaic Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington. The work is an index, alphabetized from the ends of the words, of headwords in Hauer's *Handwoerterbuch der Mandschusprache*, and will be useful to linguists in the analysis of word formation by providing lists of Manchu words having the same suffix or (in compounds) the same terminal element.

Work on the English-Vietnamese/Vietnamese-English Dictionary Project at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale is scheduled for completion in August 1981. Copy is being typed and the Project Director, Professor Dinh-Hoa Nguyen, is negotiating with publishers. In May 1980, Dr. Franklin E. Huffman of Cornell University,

visited the project as a consultant. He is the co-author (with Im Proum) of the **English-Khmer Dictionary** published by Yale University Press in 1978. The Project was begun in 1977 and has been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Work continues on the International Dictionary of Medicine and Biology at John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Publishers, in New York. Editor-in-Chief is DSN member Sidney I. Landau, who was earlier the editor of the Doubleday Dictionary and usage editor for the Funk & Wagnalls New College Standard Dictionary. Work began on the new, many-volume dictionary in 1977. A newsletter from the project issued in January 1981 reports the formation of a Panel on International Usage to deal with questions of variant usage in different countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Members to represent Japan, India, and South Africa are being sought. The newsletter also reports that at the end of 1980, 35,000 definitions (one-fifth of the projected total) were in hand. Deadline for their completion is June 1981. One of the problems encountered is the identification of variant names for the same referent (compounds or phrases differing in order of components). Prior dic-

tionaries often have not recognized these as variants and given different definitions in different areas of the field. If the editor assigning defining to specialists cannot detect the identity, essentially the same thing is defined, for example, in neurology, genetics, and nephrology. When the definitions are all in, essential similarity of the entries can be determined, and one form, made the key entry.

A **HITTITE Dictionary** is in progress at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Two volumes will contain articles on Hittite words that were written in syllable signs, and a third will contain logograms borrowed from Sumerian and Akkadian for which Hittite syllable equivalents are uncertain. The first fascicle of the second volume was published at the end of 1979. It is hoped to finish the project in ten years. The lexical file used for the dictionary was collected by Professor Harry A. Hoffner, Jr. since 1963, with the help of Dr. Howard Berman since 1976. Project directors are Professor Hans G. Guterbock and Dr. Hoffner. (LSA Bulletin)

A Guggenheim Foundation grant has been awarded to Laurence C. Thompson of the University of Hawaii at Manoa for work on Salish Indian texts and lexicography. (Linguistic Reporter, May 1980)

LEXICOGRAPHY IN INDIA

A national symposium on "Perspectives on Indian Lexicography" was held at the University of Kerala, Trivandrum, February 25-29, 1980. It was organized by the Malayalam Lexicon Department and the Lexicographical Society of India and financed by the University Grants Commission. Senior scholars representing the various languages of India presented papers containing for each major language a bibliography of dictionaries, a critical review of these, and proposals for future work. The scholars drew up a statement assessing the dictionaries of India, setting priorities for future work, and recommending standards. Among the dictionaries proposed for early attention are large general purpose dictionaries of the various languages of India; bilingual (especially translators') dictionaries; school dictionaries; technical glossaries; dictionaries of tribal languages, regional dialects, and pre-industrial occupations which are likely to die out; and specialized works such as dictionaries of quotations, proverbs, and synonyms. The scholars further urged the preparation of hand-

books on the techniques of dictionary making, and of studies in lexicology and in lexicographical theory and history, both in India and elsewhere. One specific suggestion was the establishment of a journal by the Lexicographical Society of India. Detailed specifications were presented for collection of data, type of entry, content and arrangement of the entry, format, and personnel. The statement concluded with a resolution urging the Government of India, the University Grants Commission, the state governments, and the universities to establish more departments of lexicography, especially in universities, to meet the needs of the country.

A third national workshop and seminar on lexicography was held at the Centre of Advanced Study in Linguistics at Annamalai University in South India, January 27 to February 9, 1981.

The Lexicographical Society of India held its annual General Body meeting in conjunction with this workshop-seminar. (News Bulletin of the Lexicographical Society of India, December 1980.)

SPECIALIZED DICTIONARIES IN BASQUE COMPILED BY UZEI

UZEI (Unibertsitate Zerbitzuetarako Euskal Ikastetxea) was founded in 1977 in order to prepare for a University which would use Euskera, the Basque Language, as a medium of instruction. UZEI plans to publish a total of 15 dictionaries in special academic fields. Four have already been published.

Each dictionary has two sections: a section of definitions in the form of articles alphabetically arranged in Euskera (which range from a sentence to several pages in length), with translations of each article's title into Spanish, French, English, and sometimes German; a second section contains multilingual vocabulary

lists between Euskera and three or four other languages.

Euskera-speaking specialists put each dictionary together under the supervision of an UZEI staff member. Workers first read all available material published in Euskera in each special field, and then they compile vocabularies based on these works. Specialized dictionaries which already exist in other languages are then used to check the lists in Euskera for completeness. Where there are gaps in the Euskera vocabulary, the staff must decide on or invent terms themselves.

All terms are entered on file cards, and speakers of other languages then go through each file and make the entries in their respective languages. The cards' contents are entered on magnetic

tape, and printouts are produced for proofreading and additions. UZEI's staff is currently studying the possibility of computerizing the compilation process, since problems of storage (which is necessary for future improved editions of the dictionaries) multiply with the publication of each new dictionary.

UZEI staff members are especially interested in language standardization and computer applications to lexicography, and they look forward to the chance to share experiences with other workers in these fields. Correspondence can be addressed to: Joseba Intxausti, Director, UZEI, 8 Esterlines, San Sebastian, Guipuzcoa, The Basque Country, Spain. (Howard W. Hawhee)

LEXICOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Philip Mahone Griffith, Professor of English at the University of Tulsa, is making a hand count of Samuel Johnson's **Dictionary of The English Language** to determine what use is made of the writings of King Charles I. Professor Griffith did

similar research earlier on the use in the **Dictionary of Swift's Directions to Servants**. That work was published in the University of Tulsa Monograph Series.

TEACHING OF LEXICOGRAPHY

David Jost and Stephen Lappert of the Middle English Dictionary staff are teaching lexicography at the University of Michigan January to April. The course is entitled "Dictionaries and Dictionary Making in England and America" and entails weekly sessions, exercises and reports, a research project, and examinations. Texts are **Papers on Lexicography in Honor of Warren H. Cordell** edited by J. E. Congleton, Edward Gates, and Donald Hobar; and **Dictionaries British and American**, by James R. Hulbert. Handouts include bibliographies of dictionaries and secondary sources. Four students

are enrolled: one graduate student in English, one graduate student in Library Science, one other graduate student, and one undergraduate in mathematics. The course was first offered a year ago and enrolled two graduate students in education and one undergraduate in English.

James D. Barry is teaching a one-semester-hour course in lexicography for undergraduates this spring at Loyola University of Chicago, where he is Vice President and Assistant to the President. He has conducted this course several times before.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Dinh-Hoa Nguyen, of the Center for Vietnamese Studies at the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, has had a collection of his articles, **Language in Vietnamese Society: Some Articles by Dinh-Hoa Nguyen** published by Asia Books of Carbondale. Editor of the volume is his daughter, Patricia Nguyen My-Huong.

Seymour L. Schreiter, formerly with the English Division of the U.S. Information Agency, is now a member of the Board of Directors of the Fun-

dacao Cultural Brasil-Estados Unidos in Sao Paulo. He has requested articles on lexicography to appear in the newsletter published by the Foundation.

Morton Benson of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, gave four lectures on lexicography in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in December 1980. In March 1981 he is to give one in Israel at the University of Haifa.

NOTICES

COMMENTS ON ETYMOLOGY, a series of working papers on etymology and Indo-European morphology, is issued every other week from October to May by the Humanities Department of the University of Missouri, Rolla MO 65401. Annual subscription: \$4 for individuals, \$8 for libraries and institutions. Sample copy on request from Prof. Gerald Cohen.

Contributions to the Cordell Fellowship in Lexicography continue to be welcomed. Mail to the

DSNA Secretary of (specifying the purpose) to the ISU Foundation, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.

Applications for graduate study in the Specialization in Lexicography within the MA Program in English at Indiana State University can be received until about August 1. Though the Cordell Fellowship will probably be awarded in April, other teaching and research

assistantships may be available for those needing financial aid. Send inquiries to J. E. Gates, Department of English, Indiana State University, Terre Haute IN 47809.

The Association for the Study of Jewish

Languages will be happy to advise compilers of dictionaries of non-Jewish languages on entries of Jewish interest. Address: Association for the Study of Jewish Languages, 1610 Eshkol Tower, University of Haifa, Mount Carmel, Haifa 31 999, Israel.

CALENDAR OF LEXICOGRAPHIC EVENTS

May 25-27. Conference on Conceptual and Terminological Analysis in the Social Sciences, Bielefeld, West Germany. (Fred W. Riggs, Dept. of Political Science, University of Hawaii, Honolulu HI 96822; or I. Dahlberg, Woogstr. 36a, D-6000 Frankfurt 50, West Germany.)

June 11-12. Biennial meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America and summer meeting of the American Dialect Society. (See item in

this issue.)

October-November. Workshop on Bilingual Dictionaries, Urbana IL. (Ladislav Zgusta, Department of Linguistics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL 61801.)

December. MLA Lexicography Discussion Group, New York. (Edward Gates, Department of English, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.)

CORRECTION

Editors for the papers of the first Conference on General and Jewish Lexicography (1979) are David L. Gold and Roger J. Steiner. There is no

plan to publish the papers of the second conference (1980). Our apologies for these errors in the fall 1980 NEWSLETTER.

DSNA NEWSLETTER

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47809. Editor: J. Edward Gates. Managing Editor: Donald Hobar.

UPDATE ON CINCINNATI PROGRAM

Papers for sessions of the American Dialect Society being held in conjunction with the DSNA meeting in Cincinnati June 11-12 are: "A Social History of the General Purpose Quebec French Dictionary" by Stanley Aleong (U. of Montreal); "Lexicography — Pronunciation Problems and Variables: Some Continuing Headaches and Solutions" by Arthur J. Bronstein (Lehman College, CCNY); "Watch My Rear End Not Her's" by Thomas J. Creswell (Chicago State University); "Editing Green's Word-Book" by Michael I. Miller (Virginia Commonwealth University); and "Explaining Language Variation to the Public" by Michael Montgomery (Memphis State University).