

DSNA BIENNIAL MEETING 1987

The 1987 meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America will be held at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Friday and Saturday June 5 and 6. Meeting with us, as in 1983 and 1985, will be the American Dialect Society.

Members may submit papers on any topic relating to dictionary making, history, study, or use. Included in the program will be a panel on "Dictionaries and Users." Abstracts of 250-300 words should be submitted by March 20, 1987, to the Chair of the Program Committee (address below). Papers received after the deadline will be considered only if time permits.

Low-cost tours for spouses while meetings are in progress can be arranged to historical Philadelphia, to Valley Forge, or to the gambling casinos at Atlantic City (1¼ hours drive), provided there is sufficient interest.

There will be two housing choices: dormitory or hotel. Dormitory suites have four rooms, with two rooms sharing a bath (each with two showers); cost is \$23

per person in a single, \$19 per person in a double. A Holiday Inn is a mile and a half up the street, with regular bus service to the University. Regular rates are \$65 plus 9% for a single and \$75 plus tax for a double. If we use 20-30 rooms, a convention rate will apply: \$55 plus tax for a single, \$61 plus tax for a double.

Approximate cost at the University for three meals on Friday and two on Saturday will be \$30. The registration fee is \$15.

Members of the Program Committee are John C. Traupman, Professor of Classics at Saint Joseph's University (Chair); Morton Benson, University of Pennsylvania; Robert C. Melzi, Widener University; and William J. Frawley and Roger J. Steiner, University of Delaware.

For more information, write Professor John C. Traupman, Saint Joseph's University, 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19131, or telephone (215) 879-7579.

ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Webster's Third New International

1986 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of **Webster's Third New International Dictionary**, the largest general dictionary of present-day English, published in September 1961 by the G. & C. Merriam Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. The dictionary contained some 450,000 entries in 2,662 pages, including 100,000 new words and meanings, was based on a file of 10,000,000 quotations, took 100 editors and their assistants and 200 outside consultants over 27 years to produce, and cost \$3,500,000 to make.

Its appearance was greeted by a storm of controversy. The initial press release quoted the usage note appended to the first set of senses for the word **ain't** (covering use for "are not," "is not," and "am not"): "though disapproved by many and more common in less educated speech, used orally in most parts of the U.S. by many cultivated speakers esp. in the phrase **ain't I.**" While this reported accurately the findings of field studies made by linguists over the preceding decades, it scandalized many people. The public was and is reared in the school tradition concerning the role of the dictionary, going back to the 18th century, when Dr. Johnson set out to write a

dictionary that would tell people what was correct usage and what was not, like the dictionaries of the Italian and French academies. However, twentieth-century dictionary makers, by and large, have followed the lead of the great **Oxford English Dictionary** (published 1884-1933) in applying to the description of language the same canons of systematic, accurate, and objective treatment that scientists accorded the description of plants, animals, and physical phenomena. Like other dictionaries of record, **Webster's Third** undertook to describe the actual facts about usage, as determined by the examples in the company files and by the reports of linguistic scientists. Many people, however, believed that the word **ain't** should not be in the dictionary much less be said to be "used by many cultivated speakers" and thus accorded respectability. Critics writing in letters to newspaper editors, in reviews in scholarly and professional journals, and even in articles in such popular periodicals as the **New Yorker**, condemned the dictionary for failing to condemn the use of **ain't** and other words unacceptable to them, for eliminating the label **colloquial**, and for not applying the label **slang** to many more words. One critic entitled his attack "Sabotage in Springfield," and another said that the

publisher had "abdicated its responsibility." Many critics had never looked at the dictionary, and most had little understanding of the modern history of English dictionaries. There were defenders, too. A book, **Dictionaries and THAT Dictionary: A Casebook on the Aims of Lexicographers and the Targets of Reviewers** (Chicago: Scott Foresman, 1962) by James Sledd and Wilma R. Ebbitt, is one collection of salvos in the battle. Another collection, entitled **The Role of the Dictionary**, was edited by Philip Gove, the dictionary's editor, and contains favorable reviews.

One reviewer advised people to avoid the new work and use instead their Second Edition, scarcely practical advice considering the 100,000 new words and meanings they would not be able to find in the 27-year-old work. Another tack was taken by critics at the **American Heritage Magazine**, who tried to buy control of the stock of the Merriam Company, suppress the offensive edition, and start over. Failing in that effort, they made their own dictionary, **The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language**, a

smaller work which provided at more than a hundred entries the advice on usage wanted by many dictionary users.

Since the **Heritage** and the **Random House Dictionary** are of a size between **Webster's Third** and the college dictionaries, and the **Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary** has not been updated for many years, **Webster's Third** has emerged as the only dictionary of record for current American English and is the one found in most libraries. It has been updated, first by 5-year supplements bound into new printings of the work, and then in 1976 and 1983 by new-word dictionaries entitled **6,000 Words** and **9,000 Words**. If the practice of the past hundred years is continued, the next five years will see a new edition of this dictionary, which continues the line begun by Noah Webster in 1828 and continued since 1847 by the Merriam Company, now Merriam-Webster, Inc., a subsidiary of **Encyclopaedia Britannica**. (EG)

50th Anniversary of DAE, 35th of DA

On September 15, 1936, the first section of the **Dictionary of American English** was published by the University of Chicago Press. It contained 116 two-column quarto pages and cost four dollars. The new dictionary's scope included the words, phrases, and meanings that originated in America by 1900 and those denoting something important in the development of the country and its people. As a historical dictionary on the model of the **Oxford English Dictionary**, it presented meanings in historical order with dated quotations illustrating them.

The first section contained words from **a** to **baggage**, including more than 40 names of plants and animals compounded with **American**, e.g. **American eagle**. The importance of the apple in American life was reflected in numerous compounds: e.g. **apple brandy**, **-butter**, **pie**, **-sauce**.

Editor of the DAE was Sir William Craigie, who had been one of the editors of the **Oxford English Dictionary**. In 1922, while lecturing at Chicago, he became convinced that a historical dictionary of American English was important to the record of English. The head of the English Department at the University of Chicago, Dr. John Mathews Manley, agreed and arranged for Craigie to join the University faculty. In the autumn of 1925, Craigie began collecting materials for the dictionary with the help of students in his course on dictionary making. Besides the citations they excerpted from books and periodicals, materials used included the collection of the OED, earlier dictionaries of Americanisms, publications by Krapp and Mencken, and several manuscript collections. The first section was seen through the press by George

Watson, who had worked under Craigie on the OED. (See **Dictionaries** 7, p. 214.) Among those who worked on the project was DSNA past president Allen Walker Read. Like the OED, the DAE was first issued in parts to subscribers, then published in volumes. Vol. I appeared in 1938, II in 1940, III in 1942, and IV in 1944.

In 1951 the DAE was followed by the **Dictionary of Americanisms**, which contained only the words and meanings that originated in America and did not stop at 1900. This was the idea and work of Mitford M. Mathews, who had been on the staff of DAE from the beginning. He had found that not only in England but also in the United States, it was commonly believed that America's contribution to the English vocabulary comprised only barbarisms and slang. The DA exhibited such respectable contributions as **allergy**, **appendicitis**, **automobile**, **Christmas tree**, and **Santa Claus**; and from the period after 1900 **ivory tower**, **jazz**, **zipper**, and **zucchini**. New meanings were given in America to the words **buffalo**, **corn**, **public school**, and **robin**. Unlike earlier dictionaries on historical principles, the DA used pictures to illustrate such entries as **ash hopper**, **bee gum**, **brass knuckles**, and **hogan**. The work consisted of 2,000 pages, first in two volumes, later in one.

Short histories of both dictionaries, written by Mitford Mathews, are found in the **University of Chicago Magazine** for March 1966. Unpublished writings of Dr. Mathews on American English and his working papers and correspondence are in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections of the library of Indiana State University. (EG)

TAMONY FILES GO TO U. OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA

The late Peter Tamony, a San Francisco realtor who was a contributor to the **Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary** and to the files of the **Dictionary of American Regional English**, left an im-

mense collection of primary materials — newspaper and magazine clippings, paperback books, recordings, personal correspondence — on colloquial English, especially slang. The collection is now housed at

the University of Missouri-Columbia, thanks to the efforts of Archie Green, Gerald Cohen, and Donald Lance.

The acquisition, described as a treasure trove of information on Americana, was celebrated in April on the occasion of the Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture, delivered by Frederic G. Cassidy, chief editor of *The*

Dictionary of American Regional English.

The Tamony Collection will be discussed at the American Dialect Society's annual meeting on 30 December by Donald Lance. Those interested in using the collection may write to Nancy Lakford, Associate Director, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65201 (phone (314) 882-6028).

RICHARDSON SEEKS NEW SEPA CHIEF

SEPA (Standard English Pronunciation Alphabet), an established project long devoted to the development of a standard English pronunciation alphabet, is in need of a new head. The SEPA developer, Frederick A. Richardson, now 78, believes that his project should now be headed by younger people while he continues to serve for a few more years as senior consultant. SEPA is intended as a standard pronunciation key for popular referral, complementing the professional standard IPA system.

"By clarifying the phonetic nature and typographic function of the name vowels, unnamed primary phonemes, semivowels, true diphthongs, R-altered vowels and schwa, SEPA has corrected many of the dangling phonetic ambiguities and erratic typographic variances that have so long plagued pronunciation

reference at the popular level," Richardson says.

Richardson would like to see a dictionary publisher, a university team or other appropriate institution take over the project. He believes SEPA is sufficiently advanced to be accepted as the nucleus for evolutionary development over a long period. "There is still much to be done," states Richardson, "In the process of refinement, some SEPA symbols and typographic-phonetic disciplines will be altered. But, the fact remains that SEPA has awakened and answered the dormant need for a popular standard pronunciation referral key. The job ahead is to promote voluntary use."

For detailed information write, on your institution's letterhead, to Frederick A. Richardson, 9009 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11209.

CONFERENCES, CONFERENCE PAPERS, AND LECTURES

The Discussion Group on Lexicography, scheduled during the Modern Language Association meetings of late December has the topic "Dictionaries and Language Learning" and includes the following presenters and papers:

Fredric Dolezal, U. of Southern Mississippi, "Decomposing the Deconstruction, or Poetry Meets the Dictionary"; Daniel W. Noland, U. of Texas at Austin, "John Minsheu's *Ductor in Linguas*: Using Etymology to Learn and Remember Languages"; Raphael G. Urciolo, Washington, D.C., "A New Modern Method for Learning a New Language"

The Executive Committee of the Lexicography Discussion Group is as follows: 1986 Roger J. Steiner, 1987 William J. Frawley, 1988 Dolores R. Harris, 1989 Frank R. Abate, and 1990 Garland Cannon.

Another paper on lexicography at the MLA December 1986 meetings is "All the News that's Fit to Print: Current Slang and Problems of Lexicography" by Leonard R.N. Ashley. (EG)

"A New Resource: The Dictionary of American Regional English" was the topic of the session of the American Dialect Society held November 23, 1986, in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English in San Antonio. Papers were given by Virginia G. McDavid on "DARE and the American Vocabulary" and by Fred A. Tarpley on "DARE and the Texan Vocabulary." (EG)

Papers are invited on substantial, original, and unpublished research on all aspects of computational

linguistics, theoretical or applied, for the 25th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 6-9 July 1987 at Stanford University. Among the topics desired: the lexicon, semantics, and information and document retrieval.

The emphasis is on completed work rather than intended work. Authors should submit ten copies of an extended abstract, not to exceed eight double-spaced pages (exclusive of references) in a font no smaller than 10 point. The title page should include the title, author(s), complete address, a 5-line summary, and a specification of topic area. Submissions which do not conform to this format will not be reviewed.

Send submissions to: Candy Sidner, ACL-87 Program Chair, BBN Laboratories Inc., 10 Moulton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238 USA. Papers must be received by 12 January 1987. Authors will be notified by 2 March 1987 and camera-ready copies must be received by 30 April 1987. For more information on the ACL and the conference, contact Don Walker (ACL), Bell Communications Research, 435 South Street, MRE 2A379, Morristown, New Jersey 07960 USA.

The Third Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics will be held in Copenhagen from 1 to 3 April 1987. Topics on all aspects of computational linguistics are planned, including lexical semantics and computational lexicography and lexicology.

For more information on the meeting, write Bente Maegaard, Institut for Anvendt og Matematisk Lingvis-

tik, Kobenhavns Universitet, Njalsgade 96, DK-2300 Kobenhavn S, Denmark.

A conference on lexicographic method in historical dictionaries was held in Heidelberg 3-5 June 1986. Organizer of the conference was H.E. Wiegand, Forschungsschwerpunkt Lexikographie, Universitat Heidelberg, Sandgasse 7, D-6900, Heidelberg, German Federal Republic.

The EURALEX International Congress (ZURILEX '86) was attended by more than 200 lexicographers and linguists from 9 to 14 September in Zurich. The participation was distributed as follows: 45, Britain; 30, West Germany; 25, Switzerland; 12, United States; 11, Denmark; 9, Israel; 8, Italy and Norway; 7, Netherlands; 6, Sweden; 5 or fewer from Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Eire, Finland, France, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, and Yugoslavia.

Sixty-five papers on various aspects of dictionary making were presented in 20 sections. Topics included the way ideology affected the selection of entries in a Chinese dictionary produced during the Cultural Revolution, how computers are being used to make dictionaries, the improvement of dictionaries for people studying foreign languages, and progress on a new edition of the **Shorter Oxford English Dictionary**. A list of papers given appeared in the **Newsletter** for Summer 1986, pp. 2-3. In a concluding panel presentation, four lexicographers representing different interests spoke briefly on problems not taken up at the Congress. Alain Rey (*Dictionnaires Le Robert*, Paris) spoke of the relationship between dictionaries and the

culture that produces them. Laurence Urdang (L. Urdang Inc., Old Lyme, Connecticut) spoke of publications beginning to appear that fill a gap in reference book coverage between dictionaries and encyclopedias--e.g. allusions, nicknames. Della Summers (Longman, Harlow) spoke of selecting dictionary information and presentation to meet the needs of users. F.J. Hausmann (University of Erlangen-Nurnberg) proposed that academic "metalexicographers" act as critics to discourage publishers from practices that are more profitable than useful and as educators to prepare the public for dictionaries with unfamiliar features they need but tend to resist.

An unplanned event was a protest by 21 participants from Nordic countries of the participation in the Congress of two scholars from South Africa. The Nordic countries are active in the cultural as well as an economic boycott of South Africa recommended by the UN. Switzerland, however, is not a member of the UN; moreover, political activity is banned on the campuses of Swiss universities. It is also proscribed by the Constitution of the European Association for Lexicography, and the efforts of the protestors to have the opening meeting of the Congress vote a condemnation of apartheid was blocked. Time was given a spokesperson to present their position at the business meeting of the Association in connection with a motion to repeal the constitutional proscription, which was voted down. A selection of the Zurilex '86 proceedings will be published. The conference organizer, PD Mary Snell-Hornby, has discussed plans with representatives of three publishers. (BK & EG)

DICTIONARY COLLECTIONS

David Vancil has accepted the position as Head of Department of Rare Books and Special Collections of the Indiana State University Cunningham Memorial Library. Vancil has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, an MLS and an MA (English). His career has included teaching at the Uni-

versity of Southwestern Louisiana and librarian duties for Stephen F. Austin State University and McNeese State University. An important part of his work is oversight of the Cordell Collection of Dictionaries, containing over 10,000 titles chiefly in English dictionaries published before 1900.

ACADEMIC STUDY OF LEXICOGRAPHY

A training course in lexicography will be conducted at the University of Exeter 23-27 February 1987. Chief tutors will be Reinhard Hartmann, director of the Dictionary Research Centre at Exeter, and Tom McArthur of Cambridge, editor of the **Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English** and the journal **English Today**. The course is designed for both practising lexicographers who want to add to their knowledge of lexicographic principles and methods and for post-graduate students in lexicography and related disciplines. Practical projects will be pursued in the afternoons, and ten lecture-seminars in the mornings will deal with broader theoretical issues. Course fee is 120.00 pounds. A few places may be still available in the residence (including at a cost of 100.00 pounds room and board, excluding lunch for Sunday evening to Friday morning). For information, write R.R.K. Hartmann, Dictionary Research Centre, University of Exeter, EX4 4QH, England. (EG)

Southern Illinois University is again offering a graduate course in lexicography. Linguistics 540 is taught by DSNA member Dinh-Hoa Nguyen of the Department of Linguistics at SIU-Carbondale.

Nguyen has written several phrase books and textbooks for English and Vietnamese as well as the **Vietnamese-English Dictionary**, **Vietnamese-English Student Dictionary**, and **Essential English-Vietnamese Dictionary** (Tuttle, 1983). His National Endowment for the Humanities-funded "English-Vietnamese Dictionary" to be typeset by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Dallas, will be published by Brill in Leiden, Holland.

Students enrolled in the course on dictionary-making are candidates for the Master of Arts in the Teaching of English as a Second/Foreign Language.

John Simpson, co-editor of the **New Oxford English Dictionary** (in progress) taught a course on lexicogra-

phy to 20 students at the University of Waterloo during his visit there in the autumn of 1985. The students learned about dictionary making by writing entries from citation slips collected for the **Oxford English Dictionary**. They also looked at some dictionaries important in the development of English lexicography, such as Webster, to see what was characteristic at each stage. (EG)

Lexicography courses are taught at the Center for Dictionary Research at the University of Erlangen-Nurnberg in Germany, by the director, Professor Franz Josef Hausmann. About ten students each year are doctoral candidates preparing theses on lexicographic topics, such as German-Spanish dictionaries for Spanish users, dictionaries of South American Spanish, and dictionaries of contemporary Greek. One or two students a year are in master's degree programs in such fields as Italian linguistics or Indo-European studies and have chosen "metalexicography" (the study of dictionaries, as distinguished from their making) as one of two minor fields of study required in addition to their major field.

The courses are supported by a comprehensive collection of dictionaries, both monolingual and bilingual, contemporary and earlier. Specialized technical dictionaries are not included. The effort is made to acquire all German, English, and French dictionaries on the market. Each year, acquisitions focus on one domain, such as Russian or Slovenian dictionaries. A wealth of older dictionaries is available in other Bavarian libraries, whose holdings are listed in the Bavar-

ian Union Catalogue. For information on the Center, write Professor Dr. F.J. Hausmann, Institut für Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft, Glueckstrasse 5, D-8520 Erlangen, West Germany. (EG)

Lexicography will be one of the themes dealt with in the summer course in Frisian linguistics to be offered by the Frisian Academy July 5-10, 1987. Other themes are grammar, dialectology, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, and literature. Collaborating with the Academy are the Universities of Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden, and Utrecht and a regional educational organization, the A.F.U.K. Faculty specialists will be drawn from the several institutions. There is growing scholarly interest in the Frisian language, a Low Germanic tongue closely related in origin to that spoken by the Angles and Saxons, which gave rise to English. In recent years an increasing number of publications about it have appeared, including textbooks on grammar, dictionaries, and festschriften. Frisian is taught in primary and secondary schools in the province of Friesland and can be studied in five universities in the Netherlands. The Frisian Academy was founded in 1938. It employs some 50 researchers and administrative personnel.

Participation in the course is limited to 35 persons, with foreign scholars being given preference. Cost of the tuition, accommodation, and meals will be Dfl. 500. For information write Fryske Akademy, Summercourse 1987, Doelestrjitte 8, 8911 DX Leeuwarden/Ljouwert, The Netherlands. (EG)

COMPUTER LEXICOGRAPHY

Fred R. Shapiro of New York Law School has been conducting lexicological research utilizing computer data bases and will report on this in a talk at the ADS Independent Meeting in New York December 30, 1986. Commercially available full-text online data bases now include Nexis, Lexis, Vu/Text, Magazine ASAP, Trade and Industry ASAP, and others. These can be used for citation collection (both synchronic

and diachronic); and for research on word and phrase frequency, lexical usage, and proverbs. Shapiro will also refer to the use of these by the Oxford and Barnhart dictionary departments, Thomas Paikeday, William Safire and other journalists, and legal scholars (EG, info from **Newsletter of the American Dialect Society**, September 1986, p. 7)

NEW WORD/REFERENCE BOOKS

The New Zealand Pocket Oxford Dictionary was published this summer by Oxford University Press. The book, edited by Dr. Robert Burchfield, presents a revised and updated version of **The Pocket Oxford Dictionary**, from which hundreds of words like **ACAS, A level, Beeb, capital transfer tax, child benefit, communication cord, council house, field sports, Highway Code**, which are not used in New Zealand, have been taken out. This has made room for the inclusion of many words which do not appear in the British version but are important in New Zealand and Australia.

The distinctively New Zealand words fall into several groups: Maori words (**pakeha, kumara, tiki, tapu**); farming words (**aerial topdressing, huntaway, dry matter, stock unit, milk total solids, strainer**); and New Zealand/Australia shared vocabulary (**Anzac biscuits, art unions, domain, play-lunch**); and strictly New Zealand words (**bach, private bag, capping ceremony, ranchsliders, warrant of fitness**).

The cost of the dictionary is 8.95 pounds.

The Oxford Student's Dictionary for Hebrew Speakers was published in December 1985 by Kernerman Publishing, Jerusalem, and Lonnie Kahn & Co. Ltd., Tel Aviv. The learner-oriented dictionary is geared to the special requirements and limited lexical and grammatical knowledge of the FL learner. It employs a limited vocabulary in definitions and explanations; gives all forms of irregular verbs, plurals of nouns, degrees of comparison, spelling, irregular forms; abundant examples of usage in phrases and sentences; and British and American usage.

The work contains the text of the **Oxford Student's Dictionary of Current English** by A.S. Hornby and Christina Ruse, published by Oxford University Press in 1978. That, in turn, was an abridgement of the well-known **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English**, long a standard monolingual dictionary for learners of English as a second or foreign

language. The Hebrew version adds for each sense a short Hebrew gloss which provides an immediate and unambiguous explanation for the less advanced student and confirmation for the more advanced. It also has a more readable format. The pronunciation respellings have been replaced in this version, by a diskette on which the entries are pronounced, to be used with a personal computer.

The book has nearly 25,000 entries in 824 pages. Hebrew editor was Joseph A. Reif of the English Department of Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan; he was assisted by Yaacov Levy and others. A paper presented by Dr. Reif at the Leeds conference in 1985 on learners' dictionaries will appear in a volume being edited by A.P. Cowie.

Houghton Mifflin has published a book for word-lovers who want more information about word origins than the cryptic lines a dictionary provides. **Word Mysteries and Histories: From Quiche to Humble Pie**, by the editors of the **American Heritage Dictionary** costs \$16.95 and contains a foreword by Robert Claiborne, word historian and author of **Our Marvelous Native Tongue**.

The book is illustrated with 35 original wood engravings by Barry Moser and has 512 scholarly and entertaining entries arranged alphabetically. Each entry, which attempts to provide a thorough discussion of a word's appearance and development, is self-contained and has no cross-references.

The idea for **Word Mysteries and Histories** began to evolve when Houghton Mifflin published the **Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary** in 1984 which included 300 word-history paragraphs prepared by Marion Severynse. These additions received a tremendous response from people who purchased the book and used it, encouraging Houghton Mifflin's team of Anne Soukhanov and David Jost to consider moving in a different direction.

The skeleton for the book was the original 300 paragraphs used in **Webster's II** and the remaining 212 were selected and researched by David Jost.

Barnhart Books and Hammond Incorporated have joined forces to publish this fall the **Hammond-Barnhart Dictionary of Science**. The dictionary, edited by Robert K. Barnhart, with Sol Steinmetz as Managing Editor, contains 16,000 entries basic to the natural and physical sciences. The entries were selected on the basis of use by practicing scientists, science teachers, and science curricula. In addition to many new terms and up-to-date definitions, the dictionary includes a number of features not usually found in specialized dictionaries: pronunciation of hard words, variant spellings, affixes and combining forms, illustrative quotations drawn from textbooks, syllabuses, and journals, subject labels for most definitions, etymologies of key terms, usage notes, tables and charts, and discussions of related words under the heading of Associated Terms. A committee of scientists reviewed the entire manuscript during its preparation. The dictionary has 768 two-column pages of text, and over 300 line drawings of concepts and processes, many of them with explanatory legends.

A completely new work, **Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary**, was published in October 1986 by Merriam-Webster, Inc., of Springfield, Massachusetts. The 55,000 entries were written and edited by the dictionary company's permanent staff of professional lexicographers under the direction of Roger W. Pease, Jr., Editor. The new work provides authoritative definitions based on evidence from actual usage in contemporary medical literature. It answers language questions but avoids taking space with encyclopedic information as proper nursing care for patients in traction or the developmental stages of the human embryo — information which is often included in medical dictionaries but which is better presented in medical textbooks. As a result, the editors have been able to provide more extensive coverage of the medical vocabulary.

The dictionary also includes a combination of features that has never before been available in a single medical dictionary: a single alphabetical listing for all entries ("tarsal gland" is entered under "tarsal" instead of "gland" as is the common practice in other medical dictionaries); part-of-speech labels to aid proper usage; pronunciation respelling for all entries; end-of-line hyphenation points; British spellings at their own alphabetical place; illustrative examples of the entry word used in context; and 1,000 biographies of individuals whose names have become part of the medical vocabulary (e.g. Thomas Hodgkin of "Hodgkin's disease," Robert Bunsen of "Bunsen burner").

Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary includes an essay on the history and etymology of the medical vocabulary written by John H. Dirckx, M.D. Other features include a list of prefixes, suffixes and combining forms commonly found in medical writing, a table of signs and symbols found in medical communications, and a handbook of style to aid in medical writing. The cost of the book is \$18.95. (Sol Steinmetz & Ed.)

The new **Collins Paperback English Dictionary** and **Collins Paperback Thesaurus** were published in the summer. The dictionary is drawn from the data base of the **Collins English Dictionary** and contains 71,000 entries with excellent coverage of new words and expressions.

Features of the dictionary are full definitions with modern meanings given first, precise and full pronunciations, new technical terms from science and technology, and maximum legibility provided by computer typesetting.

The thesaurus is a paperback edition of the **New Collins Thesaurus**, which was first published in 1984. It is in A-Z dictionary form, has a synonym finder giving a list of words that can be directly substituted for the headword, and has a total of 240,000 synonyms.

The dictionary is 3.50 pounds and the thesaurus, 2.95 pounds. For further information, write Collins Publishers, 8 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LA, England.

The eleventh edition of Gale Research Company's **Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary** was published in the fall. The first edition in 1960 contained 12,000 terms. The eleventh edition has

grown to more than 400,000 terms and was edited by Julie E. Towell and Helen E. Sheppard.

New features are the addition of 20,000 legal abbreviations and coverage of Vancouver (Canada) Stock Exchange symbols; 4,000 terms from telecommunications and data processing have been added; coverage of accepted periodical title abbreviations has increased by 16,000 since the last edition; and considerable updating has affected national and international association names, Canadian acronyms, cable-television systems, research centers, on-line data bases, and various scientific and medical specialities.

Also available is a reverse edition, **Reverse Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary**, in which the entries are arranged by meaning rather than by acronym or initialism. **New Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations**, which is a supplement to the AIAD and RAIAD, has about 25,000 terms.

The 11th edition of AIAD is 2,928 pages in 3 parts and is \$180.00; **New Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations** is an inter-edition subscription of \$155.00; and the RAIAD is 2,300 pages in 3 parts and is \$205.00. For information, write Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

Also new from Gale is the revised and expanded edition of the **Dictionary of New Information Technology Acronyms**, which has definitions for more than 12,000 acronyms and abbreviations used in such fields as telecommunications, videotex, word processing, data processing, office automation, cable television, and satellite communications. Published in England by Kogan Page, the DNITA is distributed in the United States and Canada by Gale Research. This second edition was edited by Michael Gordon, Alan Singleton, and Clarence Rickards, is 243 pages, and costs \$68.00.

For many years considered one of the best writers' guides through the intricacies of the English language, **The Complete Plain Words** has now been thoroughly updated to reflect current thinking on vocabulary and style.

The original, by Sir Ernest Gowers, was revised by Sidney Greenbaum and Janet Whitcut for Her Majesty's Stationery Office. General principles, good and bad practice; once-common terms which now seem dated, pompous, or obscure; the use, overuse, and misuse of new expressions are all tackled in the volume. The price is 3.95 pounds until 31 December. (ISBN 011-701121-5)

The Penguin Dictionary of English Idioms by Daphne M. Gulland and David G. Hinds-Howell is available for 3.95 pounds. It is a new dictionary which is meant to allow students to compare and distinguish related idioms and stimulate their understanding and familiarity by explaining their meanings and origins and giving examples of typical usage.

New dictionaries or editions from the British publisher Routledge and Kegan Paul include the following. A revised edition of the **Routledge French**

Dictionary for English-speaking users indicates the context in which each French translation is appropriate. A paperback edition of **The Dictionary of Modern Colloquial French** (to appear in February 1987) includes unexpurgated coverage of French argot, with three levels of English translation, slang to standard. **Japanese Business Language** explains not only words but the concepts and customs of Japanese business, for the English-speaking businessman. A paperback second edition of Eric Partridge's **Dictionary of Catch Phrases** (first published in 1977) revised by Paul Beale is half again as large as the first and provides more information about origins. Also newly in paperback is the **Dictionary of Anagrams**, in which each entry is followed by up to eight anagrammatic respellings—a boon to puzzle addicts. **Hobson-Jobson: A Glossary of Colloquial Anglo-Indian Words and Phrases** was reprinted in 1985, after being long unavailable; it contains the words and meanings used in the English of India in colonial times. Other specialized works are **The A-Z of Video and Audio-Visual Jargon**, **The A-Z of Nuclear Jargon**, and **Dictionary of Coin Names** (February 1987). (EG)

Gale Research Company announces the publication of **Computer and Telecommunications Acronyms** (391 pages) which identifies about 25,000 acronyms like PSTN, ASCIL, LANs, and NYNEX. The computer and telecommunications terminology includes data processing terms, names of associations and periodicals, and information and telecommunications services. Each entry includes the acronym, its definition, and in many cases additional information such as subject category, geographic location, and citation of source.

Entries in the dictionary have been selected from Gale's **Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary**, which includes over 340,000 acronyms in all fields. The compilers were Julie E. Towell and Helen E. Sheppard and the cost is \$60.00. Write to Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

Newly published by the Longman Group, **The Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics**, is a new dictionary for students and teachers and defines over 1,500 terms used in language teaching, linguistics, grammar, phonetics, phonology, semantics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and language testing. The definitions are written in clear, non-technical language and the pronunciation is shown using the International Phonetic Alphabet. Useful suggestions for further reading are given in many entries. The 332 page book was compiled by Jack Richards, John Platt, and Heidi Weber. Write to Longman ELT, Longman Group Limited, Burnt Mill, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE, England.

The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., held a symposium in May to celebrate the completion of Volume IV of the **Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary**. Addresses were given to an invited audience by Professor Hans Aarsleff of University, Princeton, Dr. Robert Burchfield, the Editor of the **Supplement**, and Mr. Edmund Weiner, Co-Editor of the **New OED**.

WORDBOOKS IN PROGRESS

"A Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon" is being compiled with the fullest possible assistance from computers by Joseph A. Fitzmyer of the Catholic University of America, Washington; Delbert R. Hillers, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; and Stephen A. Kaufman, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati. Work will be done at these institutions and by scholars at other institutions, with the base of the project being at Johns Hopkins University.

Aramaic is one of the Semitic languages, which also include Hebrew, Arabic, and Ethiopic. In ancient times, it was spoken in northern Syria, western Mesopotamia, and southern Asia Minor. It was the language used for communication throughout the Persian empire, and was spoken by the Jews from the time of their exile in Babylonia until after the time of Christ. Parts of the Biblical books of Daniel and Ezra were written in Aramaic. The Aramaic of Jesus, "Talitha cumi!" ("Little girl, get up") is quoted in Mark 5:41. No existing dictionary covers all its geographic varieties and historical periods. "The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon" will serve as a research tool alongside the major dictionaries of other ancient languages, such as Akkadian and Egyptian. Funding has come from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a matching grant from the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation.

The project's computer hardware has been installed and the files of Aramaic text have been transferred to storage in the new computer. The principal hardware and software consists of a Digital Equipment Corporation Micro-VAX II with a DEC VT240 terminal. It is designed for simultaneous use by up to eight users. The computer is running the UNIX operating system which will support the UNIX shell and C programming planned.

To receive the newsletter of the project, write to: Editors, CAL, Department of Near Eastern Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218 USA. (BK & EG)

A related project is near completion. Michael Sokoloff of Bar Ilan University has been compiling a **Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic of the Byzantine Period**. The Aramaic dialect of the Palestinian Talmud, Midrashim, and Targumim, and the contemporary epigraphic material is covered. It was begun in 1978 and was conceived at the outset as a computer-assisted project. After the texts were selected and prepared as a computer concordance, the actual writing of the dictionary began in September 1983. It is hoped to be ready for the Bar Ilan University Press by late 1986 or early 1987.

Scholars and computer scientists at Columbia University and at Hebrew University in Jerusalem are coming closer to completing the **Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language**, the first comprehensive, scholarly dictionary of the language spoken by millions of Ashkenazic Jews for nearly 1,000 years.

Four volumes of a proposed 12 have been published; volumes five and six are nearing completion. "It is...the Yiddish parallel to the **Oxford English Dic-**

tionary," says Marvin I. Herzog, Atran Professor of Yiddish at Columbia and editor-in-chief of the dictionary. "We have to think of the dictionary as a historical record, a tool of scholarship," Herzog says. "Because Yiddish is a fusion of several languages, the dictionary will be a resource for scholars of Yiddish and other languages as well — German, for instance, and the Slavic languages."

The first four volumes, published independently and now distributed by The Magnes Press of Jerusalem, are entirely in Yiddish. Beginning with the fifth volume, the dictionary's entries will have, in addition, English and Hebrew glosses and Latin-letter transcriptions of every Yiddish word. Most entries will include not only Yiddish definitions, but the various meanings of each word through the years as reflected in citations from Yiddish literature and speech, making the dictionary an invaluable scholarly resource.

The first four volumes cover the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet — aleph — but that is not surprising because the first letter accounts for nearly all the language's vowel sounds.

The work has been facilitated by computers at Columbia and in Jerusalem. The computers not only speed up the lexicographical work, but also make it possible for the two teams to communicate with each other efficiently as they work. Satellite communication allows discussions of policy to flow back and forth between Israeli and American computers within hours. Textual material is also sent by satellite.

Lexicographers move between two data bases: the first, a concordance, and the second, the dictionary in electronic form which is divided into fields for filling in the word, its definition, its history, and examples of use. The project has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and individual donors since 1967.

The keying of the text of the **Oxford English Dictionary** and the **Supplement** has been completed. It was a considerable achievement on the part of the International Computaprint Corporation to have completed the enormous task within the time and to the level of accuracy specified. The proofreaders received the last batch of materials in June 1986. Development work on the computer continues to advance satisfactorily and the automatic processing of the text was scheduled to begin in the fall.

The editing of two giant-size Chinese dictionaries—**Hanyu Da Cidian** (A Comprehensive Dictionary of the Chinese Language) and **Hanyu Da Zidian** (A Comprehensive Dictionary of Chinese Characters) has at last been completed and the publication of the two dictionaries in successive volumes (the former by Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House and the latter jointly by Sichuan Lexicographical Publishing House and Hubei Lexicographical Publishing House) will be starting about the same time—October 1986.

A Comprehensive Dictionary of the Chinese Language is China's first large-size, multi-volume language dictionary, containing around 22,000 single-

character headwords and over 350,000 sub-entries of words and expressions, running into upwards of 50 million Chinese characters. The entries are arranged by their Chinese-character radicals. The work is complete in eleven volumes plus a twelfth volume to accommodate some useful appendices and the indices, each volume coming to over 4,500,000 Chinese characters. Comprehensive in its coverage, the dictionary takes in words both in ancient and modern usage and gives indications of their sources and courses of development. As a big collection of the vocabulary of the Chinese language, ancient and modern, it comprises general words and expressions, idiomatic and set phrases, literary allusions, and those technical words that are commonly seen and admitted in the register of general usage in ancient or modern writings. Entries of words and phrases not included in other dictionaries of the kind can, with rare exceptions, be found in this dictionary. The dictionary is distinguished by its precise and meticulous definitions, exhaustive treatment of the various meanings of the headwords, and copious quotations from authoritative sources. Reflecting historically and giving a panoramic picture of the feature of development and evolution of the Chinese language, it is a dictionary of high academic value. After the publication of the first volume in 1986, each year hence will see two volumes come out till 1992 when the whole set will have been published.

A Comprehensive Dictionary of Chinese Characters will appear in eight volumes, the last volume devoted to appendices and indices. This great work differs from ordinary Chinese dictionaries in its centering on the treatment of the "characters", providing in each instance full, historical coverage of the form, sound and meaning of each character. Setting out to be comprehensive both in scope and time-span, the dic-

tionary lists more than 56,000 characters as headwords in regular script, supplemented in each entry by other scripts of the successive dynasties from Shang onwards up to Han (the most extensive coverage of Chinese characters of all the Chinese dictionaries). In the course of its compilation, careful research into both the ancient and modern records and books was made and citation cards numbering over several million were put into the reference file. Nearly all the characters that ever appear in ancient and modern literature, books, records and reference materials can be looked up in this dictionary. Each volume of **Hanyu Da Zidian** contains approximately 2.5 million Chinese characters. The second volume is expected to come out in May 1987, and the last one in December 1989.

The editing force of each dictionary boasts an impressive array of distinguished scholars and researchers in lexicography and philology. The Editorial Board of **A Comprehensive Dictionary of the Chinese Language** is headed by Professor Luo Zhufeng, Chairman of Shanghai Philosophy and Social Sciences Association and Consultant to Philology Society of China, assisted by Wu Wenqi, Hong Duren, Zhang Dihua, Jiang Weisong, Jian Lihong, Xu Fu, and Chen Luo. The Editorial Board of **A Comprehensive Dictionary of Chinese Characters** is headed by Professor Xu Zhongshu, academician of the China Academy of Social Sciences and reputed scholar of paleography and historian. The associate editors-in-chief are Li Gefei, Zhao Zhenduo, Ran Youqiao, Zhu Zuyan, Li Yunyi and Yan Yanwu. (Ying Wu)

The Basque-English Dictionary under way at the University of Nevada-Reno enjoyed new funding of \$32,000 in 1985 by matching \$16,000 of a \$25,000 challenge grant. They hope to do even better in 1986, with another \$25,000 challenge.

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON LEXICOGRAPHY

In 1988, Oxford University Press will launch a major new quarterly journal. The **Oxford Journal of Lexicography** will be edited by Dr. Robert Ilson, a long-time consultant on lexicography and an Honorary Research Fellow of University College London, backed by an editorial board which is both international and interdisciplinary.

The **Oxford Journal of Lexicography** will be concerned with all aspects of lexicography, theoretical and practical, diachronic and synchronic. Its scope will include dictionaries of all types and other lexically oriented reference works. The journal will be interested in the organization of lexicographic projects and of dictionary publishing, the use of dictionaries, the recruitment and training of lexicographers, and the development of lexicography as a profession.

For those wishing to contribute, the following instructions are given. Three copies must be submitted, typewritten on one side, with double spacing and ample margins. The first page should contain the title of the article, the name and affiliation of the author(s), and a self-contained abstract in English of not more than 150 words. A letter of submission should accompany the manuscript. The references should follow.

the general conventions of presentation, e.g. as in the journal **Applied Linguistics**.

For more information and sending of submissions, write Dr. Robert Ilson, 58 Antrim Mansions, Antrim Road, London NW3 4XU, England.

Lexicographica Series Maior, supplementary volumes to the International Annual for Lexicography, has some new titles published and planned. The most recent publications are Ulrike Hafs' **Leonhard Schwanzenbachs "Synonyma"** (The "Synonyma" of Leonhard Schwanzenbach. Description and Reprint of the edition Frankfurt 1564. Lexicography and Text Types in Early New High German.); Helene Malige-Klappenbach's **Das "Worterbuch der deutschen Gegenwartssprache"** (The East German "Dictionary of the Contemporary German Language". Report, Documentation, Discussion); and Jean-Claude Boulanger's **Aspects de l'interdiction dans la lexicographie francaise contemporaine** (Aspects of Interdiction in Contemporary French Lexicography).

Also available are: **Partikellexikographie** by Werner Wolski (The Lexicography of Particles. A Contribution to Practical Lexicology); **Cesar-Pierre Richelet (1626-1698): biographie et oeuvre lexicographique**

by Laurent Bray (Cesar-Pierre Richelet (1626-1698): Biography and Lexicographic Work); and **Grammar in English Learners' Dictionaries** by Marcel Lemmens and Herman Wekker.

The second volume of **Lexicographica: (International Annual for Lexicography)** was published in 1986. In the thematic part of this issue, edited by Ladislav Zgusta, are an introduction and 12 papers (titles translated into English): "The Greek-Spanish Dictionary and Lexicographic Science" by Francisco R. Adrados; "Cultural Differences in Bilingual Dictionaries" by Alan Rey; "The Absence of Lexical Equivalence and Cases of its Asymmetry" by E. Lou Hohulin; "Translational Equivalent and/or Explanation? The Perennial Problem of Equivalence" by Veronika Schnorr; "How to Present Grammatical Information in a Learner's Dictionary of English" by Dinh-Noa Nguyen; "Linguistic "Purism" and Subcategorizational Labels in YolnguMatha" by R. David Zorc; "How Many Languages Should a "Bilingual" Dictionary Offer?" by Roger J. Steiner; "Metalanguage in Bilingual Dictionaries" by Alain Duval; "Defining with a Controlled Defining Vocabulary in Foreign Learners' Dictionaries" by Thomas Herbst; "Compact by Computer. The Automatic Reversing of a Bilingual Dictionary of Technical Terms" by Antonin Kucera and Otto Volnhals; and "On the State of Bilingual Lexicography German-Spanish, Spanish-German" by Reinhold Werner.

Papers in the non-thematic part are: "The Lexicographers Jacob Grimm (1785-1863) and Wilhelm Grimm (1788-1859). Some Thoughts on the Occasion of Their Bicentenary" by Alan Kirkness; "Etymology in German Dialect Dictionaries" by Max Burgisser; "Conception and Lay-out of the Entries in the Giessen German Etymological Dictionary" by Rolf Hiersche and Manfred Job; "Word-Formation and the Dictionary" by Werner Holly; "General English Dictionaries for Foreign Learners" by Robert Ilson; "The Uses of German Synonym Dictionaries and Thesauri. Reflexions on Selected Historical Examples" by Ulrich Puschel; and "Particles in the Dictionary. A Case-Study with **doch** as an Example" by Werner Wolski.

In the "Discussion" section are "The International Encyclopedia of Lexicography: An Outline of the Project" by its editors, F.J. Hausmann, Oskar Reichmann, H.E. Wiegand, and Ladislav Zgusta; and "Bilingual Electronic Dictionaries: The Example 'Alpha 8'" by Anton Schmuck and Walter Voigt. In the "Reports" section are one by R. Ilson on the Fulbright Colloquium held in London in September 1984 and one by W. Wolski on the colloquium on dialect lexicography held in Marburg in February 1985. These are followed by eight long and 20 short reviews, a bibliography, a list of dictionaries and lexicographic publications received, and an index of names.

For information on these publications, write Max Niemeyer Verlag, P.O.B. 2140, D-7400 Tübingen, West Germany.

The History of Lexicography, proceedings of the seminar held at the University of Exeter in March 1986, was published late in 1986 by John Benjamins of Amsterdam as Volume III.40 in its series 'Amsterdam Studies in the Theory and History of Linguistic Science.' The collection, edited by R.R.K. Hartmann,

contains 23 papers by 24 authors and sells for Dfl. 110.00. (EG)

Publications on lexicography from Max Niemeyer Verlag of Tübingen appearing in the latter half of 1985 were **Modalpartiken und Lexikographie** by Ulrike Bastert; and **Frame-Theorie in der Lexikographie**, by Immo Wegner.

The book **Worlds of Reference** by Tom MacArthur (see DSNA Newsletter, Spring 1986, p. 6) can be purchased in the United States from Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York, New York 10022 at the cost of \$24.95. (ISBN number 0-521-30637X)

The DSNA has received Number 3 for 1986 of the Chinese journal **Lexicographical Studies**. The eleven articles in this issue include "A New Probe into the Methods of Compiling Bilingual Dictionaries—from the Method of Translation to the Method of Making Comparison and Contrast," "Some New Tries in Compiling **A Learner's Dictionary of Modern Chinese**," "A Visit to the National Institute of the French Language," and "A Small Collection of New Words and Meanings." (EG)

La Lexicographie Québécoise: Bilan et Perspectives, edited by Lionel Boisvert, Claude Poirier, and Claude Verreault, was published in 1986 by Les Presses de L'Université Laval of Quebec. This collection contains the papers presented at the colloquium organized by the staff of the Trésor de la langue française au Québec and held at Laval University 11-12 April 1985.

Papers about dictionaries were (with titles translated into English): Dictionaries of French Outside France (F.J. Hausmann), Geographical Variation in Language and Dictionaries (Alain Rey), Regionalisms and Dictionaries of French (Pierre Rezeau), Linguistic Atlases and Quebec Lexicography (G. Bergeron), The Treatment of Ethnic, National, and Place Name Adjectives and of Derivatives of Personal Names in Dictionaries of Québécois (J.-Y. Dugas), The Treatment of Pronunciation in Dictionaries (D. Dumas), The Avenues of Québécois Lexicography (Claude Poirier), and Québécois Lexicography: An Overview (Claude Verreault). Price of the 308-page volume is \$26 (Canadian). (EG)

Volume 3 (of 11) of **Kontroversen, alte und neue**, the proceedings of the Seventh International Congress of Germanists held at Göttingen 25-31 August 1985, was published by Max Niemeyer Verlag of Tübingen in 1986. It contains as Part II the twenty papers of the third forum, "Wortschatz and Woerterbuch" (Wordstock and Wordbook), which reflect a wide ranging and lively interest in lexicography. Cost of the 403-page volume is DM32.50. (EG)

Dictionaries noted in **Maledicta 8** (1986) for entries relating to taboo words and insults were the following: Abel, E.L. **A Dictionary of Drug Abuse Terms and Terminology**. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1984.; Bergeron, Leandre. **Dictionnaire de la langue québécoise**. Montreal: VLB Éditions, 1980.; Courouve, Claude. **Vocabulaire de homosexualité masculine**. Paris: Payot, 1985.; Dynes, W.R. **Homolexis: A Historical and Cultural Dictionary of**

Homosexuality. New York: Gay Academic Union, 1985.; Elting, John R.; Dan Cragg, and Ernest Deal. **A Dictionary of Soldier's Talk.** New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1984.; Grambs, David. **Words about Words.** New York: McGraw-Hill, 1984. Heestermans, Hans; Piet van Sterkenburg; and John van der Kleij, eds. **Erotisch Woordenboek.** Utrecht: Het Spectrum, 1980.; McConville, Brigid; and John Shearlaw. **The Slanguage of Sex.** London: Macdonald, 1984.; Robinson, Sinclair, and Donald Smith. **Practical Handbook of Quebec and Acadian French.** Toronto: Anansi, 1984.; Vinyoles i Vidal, Joan J.; and Joan Ferran i Serafini. **Llenguatge subterrani de la política.** Barcelona: Milla, 1982. In sending these, R. Aman notes recent receipt of Jonathon Green's **The Slang Thesaurus**, being published in London by Hamish Hamilton in 1987. (EG)

The **Barnhart Dictionary Companion** for Spring-Summer 1985 contains about 200 new words (with pronunciation, explanation, examples quoted from periodicals, origin, and frequency). It also contains reviews of two dictionaries and an editorial suggesting that the listing of new words under five categories in the recently published index to the **Dictionary Companion** can help readers to master the working vocabulary of our generation. The categories, and examples from this issue of the **Companion** are: 1) Common Vocabulary: autodestruct, make one's bones. 2) Science and Technology: A-bomb sickness, biotechnologist, cyberphobia. 3) Social Sciences: petty apartheid, grand apartheid, cold-war liberal. 4) Business and Finance: access charge (telephone), ACRS, corporate culture. 5) Entertainment and the

Arts: board-and-computer game, break-acting, break-fast television.

The Winter 1985 issue in its introductory article notes that the **Companion** was originally projected to include 200 new words and meanings a year, but with the research in current periodicals now possible through Nexis and ASAP (electronic editions of magazines and newspapers, giving access to 14 billion words of text) it can now report 1,000 new words a year. Among the new words reported in this issue are **Betamax, cognitive science, deselect, discology, kludge, megahero, puppy mill, and Reaganomics.** A letter to the editor reports the claim of Alic Kahn of Berkeley to have coined the word **yuppie.** David K. Barnhart reviews Volume I of DARE. The concluding editorial by Clarence Barnhart discusses global languages and concludes that English is at present the most practical for global communication. Included in the editorial are some interesting statistics. Writers of articles and books coin about 1,000 new words a month. The working vocabulary of English, according to a 1935 estimate by Ramsay, is 250,000 words. The maximum personal vocabulary is 120,000 words. An average person's vocabulary numbers 30,000 to 40,000 everyday words and 20,000 to 30,000 technical words.

Subscriptions to the **Barnhart Dictionary Companion** are \$50.00 a year in advance, with a 20 percent discount for public and academic libraries, and an added charge for overseas airmail of \$10. Back issues can be obtained at \$12.50 each. Write Barnhart Dictionary Companion, Post Office Box 247, Cold Spring, New York 10516. (EG)

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Reinhold Aman's **Bayrisch-oesterreichisches Schimpfwoerterbuch** (1973) was reissued in 1986 in a paperback edition by Goldman, Munich. This dictionary of Bavarian and Austrian terms of abuse contains 2,500 entries presented in a transcription system developed by Aman for these unwritten dialects. In addition to the lexicon, it contains an extensive introduction to psychological, literary, linguistic, and dialectological matters. (RA) Aman, who is editor of the journal of taboo and insult vocabulary, **Maledicta**, was the subject of an article in the **Washington Post** on 5 September 1986. (EG)

Frederick C. Mish, editorial director of Merriam-Webster, Inc., was guide to Charles Kuralt for a tour of the company's editorial office that was broadcast on CBS on Sunday morning, 18 May 1986. Viewers were given an idea of how dictionaries are made. Mish was also the subject of an interview published in the **Boston Globe Magazine** on 31 August 1986. Brought out in the interview were such facts as the following. **Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary** added 11,000 new words and meanings. Terms that have passed out of use were dropped from that edition, e.g. Vietnamization. The editors receive about 2,000 letters a year, particularly about word origins. Because the Merriam company lost court battles

around 1900 to keep exclusive use of the name Webster (having obtained rights in 1843 to publish Noah Webster's dictionary), "anybody who wants to go down to his basement and crank out a little dictionary and call it 'Webster's' is free to do that." The editor of this newsletter, having answered a query for the **Minneapolis Star and Tribune** as to the English word with the most meanings by proposing the word **set**, was discomfited to read Mish's answer to the question "Does **set** have the most meanings?" (Mish had said that **set, throw, and run** were particularly complicated in their semantic development.): "It's up there. We have 119 meanings for **set** in our unabridged dictionary, but **take** has the most meanings: 137." That set this editor counting in **Webster's Third New International Dictionary.** If not only verb but also noun and adjective senses are counted, **set** has the most: **set, 220; take, 169; run, 163.** (EG)

Morton Benson, Evelyn Benson, and Robert Ilson, compilers of the **BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English** (see Newsletter, Summer 1986, p. 5) were presented with the first copies of the new work at a reception held by the publisher, John Benjamins Publishing Company, during the EURALEX congress in Zurich, September 10, 1986. (EG)

NOTICES

Unless otherwise indicated, the articles in this issue were written by Barbara Ann Kipfer.

The new address of Laurence Urdang Inc. and the Verbatim magazine and book club is Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371-2104, USA.

Can anyone identify the publishers and address of a publication on etymology entitled **The Sesquipedalian**? If so, write Gerard S. Naples, Fleming School, 44 Cuyler Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08609.

Reinhold Aman, editor of **Maledicta**, is conducting a worldwide survey of contemporary vocabulary of sex, excretions, and offensive exclamations for his "Dictionary of Regional Anatomical Terms". Anyone interested in participating will receive a copy of the 24-page "Maledicta Onomastic Questionnaire" containing 250 questions. To obtain a copy of the questionnaire, write to Dr. R. Aman, 331 South Greenfield Avenue, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186 USA.

DSNA members are invited to contribute to a fund to pay the dues of members in countries from which currency cannot be sent out. Mail your contribution to DSNA at the address at the end of this newsletter, marked "Membership Assistance Fund."

Deadline for proposals of papers for the International Conference on Data Bases in the Humanities and Social Sciences to be held in Montgomery, Alabama, July 11-13, 1987, has been extended to January 15, 1987. (See Newsletter, Summer 1986, p. 11) Write: Lawrence J. McCrank, Dean, AUM Library and Resource Center, Auburn University at Montgomery AL 36193-0401.

Cost of two recent books by Morton Benson, Evelyn Benson, and Robert Ilson (See Newsletter, Summer 1986, pp. 5 and 9) are: **BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English**, \$10 paperback and \$20 hardback; and **The Lexicographic Description of English**. \$37; both from John Benjamins North America.

QUERIES FROM THE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN REGIONAL ENGLISH

The **Newsletter of the American Dialect Society (NADS)** for September 1986 contains a new set of queries from the editors of the **Dictionary of American Regional English**. They have inadequate information about the following words and ask your help.

dead-man's stew — used anywhere but south central Wisconsin? Same as graveyard stew (toast and milk)?
dine — go to bed; reported from New Hampshire in 1913.

dinky — meaning 'small', with an unfavorable implication; north-central Ohio, 1920's. Is there evidence of more favorable use?

dole — deal (in playing cards) recorded as of 1857 on Cape Cod and from West Virginia in 1947; use in between?

dollardee — bluegill (fish), reported from Kentucky in 1983. Other evidence from there? Is the "r" folk etymology? Origin?

door-keeper — one "who keeps his door open all the time for making trouble" reported by a Gullah speaker in South Carolina.

dragon spider — not described by the black informant in Florida.

fiddle-worm — said by three Alabama informants (1966-67) to be a very large worm used for bait.

fig around — reported from Rockland, Maine, as meaning 'to idle about, waste time.' Wright's **English Dialect Dictionary** enters this as meaning 'to move briskly, busy oneself.' Perhaps a euphemism in present use?

for (preceded by an intensifier and followed by an adjective) — "He's hell for strong" (very strong). Can anyone confirm this usage or give parallel examples?
jeberdees — men's short underwear, reported by old rural Mississippians and middle-aged rural black Virginians (who ascribed the expression to "old folks"). Other use or remembered use? Origin?

jeff — DARE's informant from St. Francesville, Louisiana, said "(It's about time for me to) name myself Jeff. That means you gonna get going."

Send information to Professor F.G. Cassidy, DARE, 6125 Helen C. White Hall, 600 North Park Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. (EG)

CALENDAR

June 5-6 Biennial meeting of the DSNA, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Information: John C. Traupman, St. Joseph's University, 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131.

July 2-5 EURALEX Colloquium "Translation and Lexicography," Innsbruck, Austria. Information: Mary Snell-Hornby, Institut für Übersetzer und Dolmetscherausbildung der Universität Innsbruck, Fischbacherstr. 4, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria.

August 16-21 8th World Congress of Applied Linguistics (AILA), University of Sydney, Australia. Information: M.A.K. Halliday, Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney, N.S.W. Australia 20006.

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