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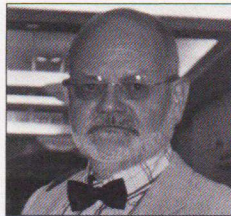
NEWSLETTER



Photo by L. von Schneidmesser

The fourteenth biennial meeting of DSNA was held in Durham, NC, May 29-31, 2003. It was sponsored by Duke University-North Carolina University Cooperative Graduate Program in English Linguistics, and held at the Durham Marriott at the Civic Center. Hosts and organizers were Ron Butters and Marge Wolfram. Thirty-nine papers were presented, in 12 sessions. About 80 people attended the conference. Only one presentation had to be cancelled: John F. Oates was unable to attend due to illness. His topic was "The New Lexical Data Banks of Ancient Greek."

A reception after the first day's sessions provided an opportunity for people to get to know each other (again) and nosh and drink, all to live music supplied by a very good local jazz group, pictured at the top of this page.



Co-hosts Marge Wolfram and Ron Butters.
Photos by R. McKinzey.

DSNA Board for 2003-2005

President: David Jost; *Vice-President/President-elect:* David Barnhart; *Past President:* Richard Bailey; *Secretary-Treasurer:* Luanne von Schneidmesser; *Members-at-large:* Michael Agnes, Rima McKinzey, Wendi Nichols, & Jesse Sheidlower.

Outgoing board members: Past President Joan Hall and members-at-large Anatoly Liberman & Erin McKean.



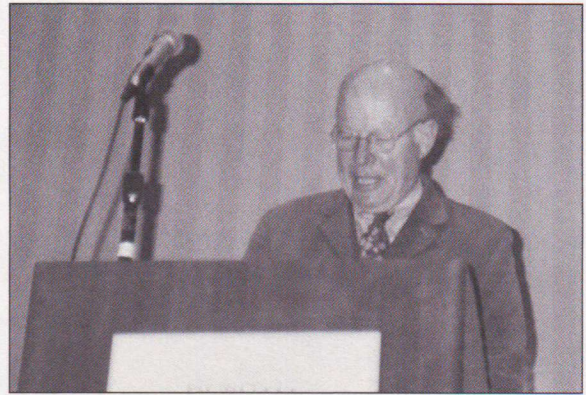
Photo by L. von Schneidmesser

The Banquet

The banquet was held in a ballroom of the hotel. It featured a presidential address by Richard Bailey, entitled "A Life in Lexicography." Later, diners were treated to a performance by Terry Pratt of the late Fred Cassidy's linguistic version of "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General," from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. Terry was accompanied on the piano by incoming DSNA president, David Jost. See opposite page.



Photo by R. McKinzey



Dick Bailey at the banquet, speaking about his life in lexicography.
Photo by R. McKinzey.

The evening ended with people visiting, posing for pictures, and singing around the piano. The spontaneous pianist for this part of the evening was Peter Gilliver.

Photos on this page by L. von Schneidmesser, except as noted.



Congratulations to Bob Lewis

Newly elected DSNA Fellow **Robert Lewis** has received another honor. The Council of the British Academy has awarded him the Sir Israel Gollancz Memorial Prize. This is a biennial recognition first given to Joseph Wright, editor of the *English Dialect Dictionary*, in 1925. Subsequent winners involved with dictionaries were Charles Talbut Onions (1933) and Sir William Craigie (1935), both editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. A. J. Aitken, a frequent visitor to Ann Arbor and editor of the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*, was the winner in 1981. Bob is only the third person from the U.S. to receive this award.

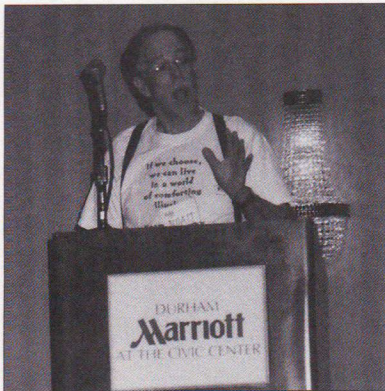
The British Academy is a government body combining the functions of NSF and NEH, and is thus a major source of funding for academic research in Britain.

— Richard W. Bailey

A Modern Linguistician

Lyrics by Frederic Cassidy, to the tune of "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General"

*I am the very model of a Modern Linguistician —
An out-and-out Descriptivist, an Anti-historician;
I like to catch a language in an attitude synchronic:
The fact that it's impossible I only find ironic.
I have the utmost passion for the sport terminological.
I yearn to name another -eme is more than biological.
I yearn to count the phoneme as some people count their riches;
I count it forward, count it back, till I don't know which which is;
I put it all in formulas — with X and Y I'm prodigal —
Because it all contributes to my purity methodical.
Indeed in all the wisdoms of the scholar and technician,
I am the very model of a Modern Linguistician.*



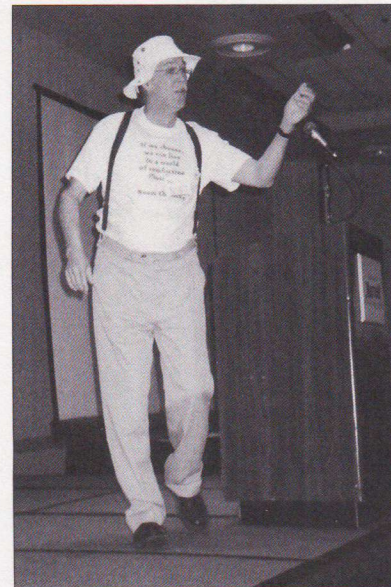
Terry Pratt
as didactician!
Photo by L. von
Schneidemesser.

*I am the very model of a Modern Linguistician:
Just furnish me a nucleus and I'll perform a fission.
I like to cut a segment from a living speech continuum
And write it up so no one knows it's only my opinuum.
To starkest objectivity I have a moral leaning,
For what I do is meaningful though I've no use for meaning.
I'm scientist and artist too — my constructs are symmetrical,
Though what I do with languages may seem to some obstetrical.
I look upon the petty world from point of view Olympian
And think of other trades than mine as altogether shrimpian.
Indeed from every angle I'm the scholarly Patrician,
For I'm the very model of a Modern Linguistician.*

*I am the very model of a Modern Linguistician —
I'm dedicated to my work — I'm conscious of a mission.
All language teachers hitherto have lacked my fine perception.*

*They think that they are scientists? The rankest self-deception!
For methods quite traditional they show a vile proclivity
Receiving my discoveries with bland insensitivity.
Sometimes they fail to comprehend the point of my experiment
And leave me laughing to myself in undisguised merriment.
But now I've shown 'em how the phone and how the morph are
captured,
It must be through opacity that they are enraptured.
They're all completely baffled by my lucid exposition,
For I'm the very model of a Modern Linguistician.*

*I am the very model of a Modern Linguistician —
A sort of combination of the Seer and the Magician.
I'm simply indefatigable — never never we-o-ry
Of building up a theory on the theory of a the-o-ry.
I strive to find the unity that lies behind dichotomy
In lingo esoteric such as Cree and Potawatomi.
I love to make a postulate of no substantiality
And rush it into print before it loses topicality.
When I must change my point of view I always do it haughtily
And beat the opposition sown in publications quarterly.
In fact, in all the universe and all of man's condition,
I am the very model of a Modern Linguistician.*



Really into the spirit!
Photo by L. von Schneidemesser.



Accompanist David Jost
at piano.
Photo by R. McKinzey



2003 conference photo, taken in the session ballroom by Margaret Wolfram. It is a digital color photo. Anyone interested in receiving a copy to print out themselves may contact the editor (see back page for e-mail address — note that it is a new address), who will send it out as a JPEG attachment.

Papers Presented at DSNA XIV

The complete program follows, with presenters listed in alphabetical order by surname:

Frank Abate. *He Thought He Had Jupiter by the Balls: Towards An Etymology for Fiasco.*

Michael Adams. *Ibid.*

Paz Battaner: SEE DECESARIS.

Lisa Berglund. *Fossil Fish: Preserving Samuel Johnson within Hester Lynch Piozzi's British Synonymy.*

Garrison Bickerstaff. *Politics of Historical Lexicography: Native Americanisms as a Focus on Ethnocentrism and Originalities in the OED 1 and DAE.*

Charlotte Brewer. *Status Labels and the OED.*

Ron Butters. SEE WESTERHAUS.

Win Carus: SEE JOST.

Becky Childs & Christine Mallinson. *The Role of Lexicon in the Construction of Ethnolinguistic Boundaries: Evidence from the Enclave Community of Texana, North Carolina.*

Gerald Cohen. *Dictionary of 1913 Baseball and Other Lingo: Based Primarily on the Baseball Columns of the San Francisco Bulletin.*

Tom Dalzell. *A Labor so Ungrateful: Report of a Project to Update Eric Partridge's Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English ...*

Janet DeCesaris & Paz Battaner. *New Spanish Lexicography.*

Joanne M. Despres. *Dating in the Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition.*

Kazuo Dohi. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English: Reevaluated.*

Bethany K. Dumas. *Definitions of Legal Terms in Jury Instructions.*

Connie Eble. *Slang Lexicography on the World Wide Web.*

Timothy H. Everett. *A Study in Contrast: The use of Prescriptive Lexicographic Authority by 19th-Century American Courts and the Use of Descriptive Lexicographic Authority by late 20th-Century American Courts.*

Peter M. Gilliver. *That Brownest of Brown Studies: The Work of the Editors and In-House Staff of the Oxford English Dictionary.*

Michael Hancher. *Familiar Quotations.*

Patrick Hanks. *Onomastic Lexicography.*

Orin Hargraves. *Long-Distance Lexicography: A View from the Field.*

David Herman & Susan Moss. *Plant Names and Folk Taxonomies: Ethnobiological Contexts for Lexicography.*

Sarah Hilliard & Walt Wolfram. *The Sociolinguistic Significance of Folk Dictionaries.*

August A. Imholtz, Jr. *Giving Little Credit Where Liddell Is Due: The Development of the Oxford Greek-English Lexicon and the Role of Its American Contributors.*

David Jost & Win Carus. *Is the Semantic Web Possible?*

Elizabeth Knowles. *Intelligentelasticity: The Early Years of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.*

Anatoly Liberman. *The Highlights of Dutch Etymological Lexicography.*

Christine Mallinson. SEE CHILDS.

Rod McConchie. SEE VANCIL.

Don R. McCreary. *Creating a Dictionary of College Slang: Fighting the Boredom of Feckless Youth with "Dawgspeak."*

Erin McKean. *Reviewing the Reviewers, 1976-2002: How, Where, When, and Why are Dictionaries Reviewed?*

Allan Metcalf. *Gaps in the Lexicon.*

Linda C. Mitchell. SEE VANCIL.

Susan Moss: SEE HERMAN.

Thomas E. Nunnally. *Why You Can't Ache All Over: Uneven Collocation of Ache with Body Parts.*

Betty Phillips. SEE VANCIL.

Jeffrey Reaser. *"Hey mon, did you see that man over there?": The Adoption of Jamaican mon in Afro-Bahamian English.*

Debbie Sawczak. *Etymologies in School Dictionaries.*

Jesse Sheidlower. *George W. Matsell's Vocabulum -or- The Rogue's Lexicon: A Reappraisal.*

Roger Steiner. *Reversibility in Bilingual Dictionaries.*

David Vancil, Rod McConchie, Linda C. Mitchell, & Betty Phillips. *The Cordell Collection: Center for Scholarly Research in the History of Lexicography.* Four papers were presented:

Paper 1: *The Cordell Collection: Past, Present, and Future.*

Paper 2: *The Cordell Collection and Research on the Introduction of New Terms.*

Paper 3: *The Cordell Collection and Research on the Dynamic Cultural Changes in Dictionaries in 17th- and 18th-Century England.*

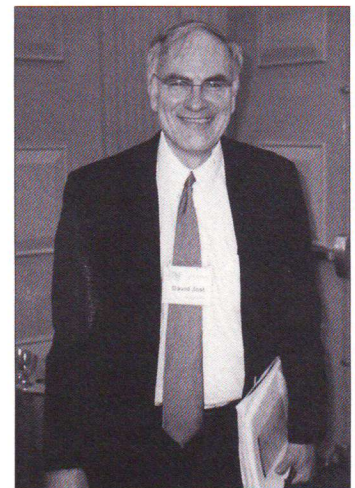
Paper 4: *The Cordell Collection and Research on Stress Shifts in English.*

Thora Van Male. *The French Connection: Representations of France in the Ornamental Illustrations of French Dictionaries.*

Jennifer Westerhaus & Ron Butters. *Trademark, Metaphor, and Synecdoche in Dictionary Labeling.*

Walt Wolfram. SEE HILLIARD.

Julie Anne Zorn. *Making FUDGE: Testing Metcalf's Predictive Method for New-Word Success.*



New President David Jost.
Photo by L. von
Schneidemesser.

New DSNA Fellows Named

At the biennial business meeting, two new Fellows were named in recognition of their service to our field. One represented academic lexicography: **Robert E. Lewis**; the other, commercial dictionary making: **Laurence Urdang**.

Robert Lewis discovered his life work in his first year as a graduate student at Penn, where he enrolled in a course in Early Middle English literature with Albert C. Baugh, who was then in his last year of teaching before retirement. It was a wonderful conjunction of the stars. In nineteen years at Indiana University, Lewis thought of himself as a medievalist, and in 1978 he published his edition of a work with a cheerfully medieval title: *De Miseria Humane Conditionis* — the first volume of the Chaucer Library, of which he is now general editor. In 1982 he collaborated with Angus McIntosh on *A Descriptive Guide to the Manuscripts of the Prick of Conscience* and in 1985 with N. F. Blake and A. S. G. Edwards on *Index of Printed Middle English Prose*.

Looking for a successor to Sherman M. Kuhn, the search committee found and persuaded Lewis to come to Ann Arbor as editor of the *Middle English Dictionary* (1930-2001). It soon dawned on Lewis that he was a lexicographer, and the rest of his career is one of bringing this magnificent work to completion. He recruited, trained, and supervised others including such DSNA activists as David Jost (our new president), Joseph Pickett, and Michael Adams (editor of our journal). In a tribute published on the occasion of his receipt of the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 2002, it was said that “he brought a new standard of excellence” to the work. Details of the history and importance of the *MED* are given in the most recent issue of *Dictionaries*.

Among other scholarly activities, Lewis is a member of the Usage Panel for the *American Heritage Dictionary*, and he is at work on the “second edition” of the *MED Plan and Bibliography*, a much anticipated work that will appear fifty years after the first edition.

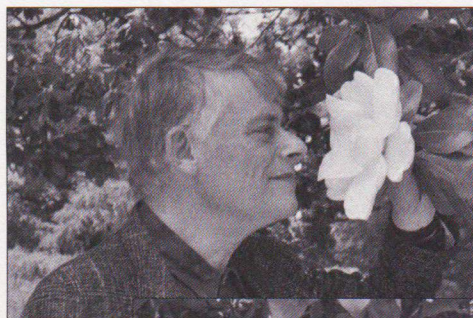
Laurence Urdang, being discharged from the Navy in 1945, became a student of general and comparative linguistics at Columbia. As a graduate student, he worked under André Martinet and began his lexicographical career as pronunciation editor for *Funk & Wagnalls New International Dictionary*. He was soon engaged in work for Random House, first as editor for the thrice-yearly updates of the *American College Dictionary* and then as managing editor for what became the *Random House Dictionary of the English Language* (1966) and its “college” abridgement (1968). While in this role he became the first to make really extensive use of computers in producing a large dictionary. After the publication of the big *Random House*, he hired the late Stuart Flexner, who became his able successor.

In 1968, Urdang set out on his own with Laurence Urdang Inc., and he organized workers for very many dictionary projects, both here and in Aylesbury (where he once purchased a lunch of Aylesbury duck for me when I was in England). These were busy times, and Urdang brought one successful project after another to market — a young person's encyclopedia for *My Weekly Reader*, a series of reference works for Gale (including the *Idioms and*

Phrases Index.) In 1986, he established Verbatim Books to oversee the publication of *Verbatim: The Language Quarterly* (now ably edited by DSNA member Erin McKean), and he organized a book club for dictionaries and related works (see www.verbatimbooks.com for details). At the same time, he was engaged to write an entirely original thesaurus, duly published in 1991 as the *Oxford Thesaurus*, and he was later asked to prepare a British edition (published in 1997).

Urdang has funded the *Verbatim-DSNA Award*, now called the Urdang DSNA Award, which has been given since 1996 to support the production and study of dictionaries, and he remains (as always) a whirlwind of energy and imagination. To date, he has written, co-authored, or edited more than 120 dictionaries. Currently he is at work on a “Historical Nautical Dictionary,” a work expected to contain about 15,000 entries, and (from the specimens I have seen) a work of deep learning and a wealth of new information.

— Richard W. Bailey



The Sarah P. Duke Gardens had much to offer the conferees, from magnolia blossoms to gnarled old trees and tiny wildlife.

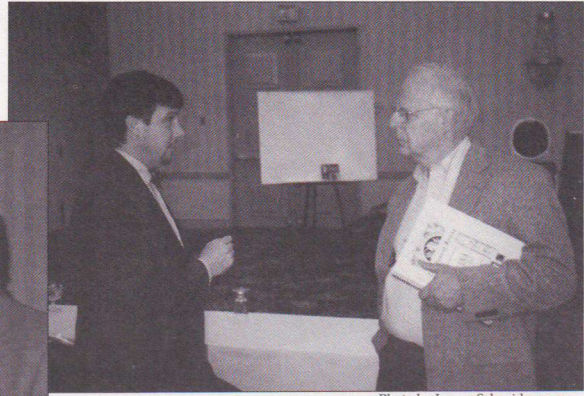
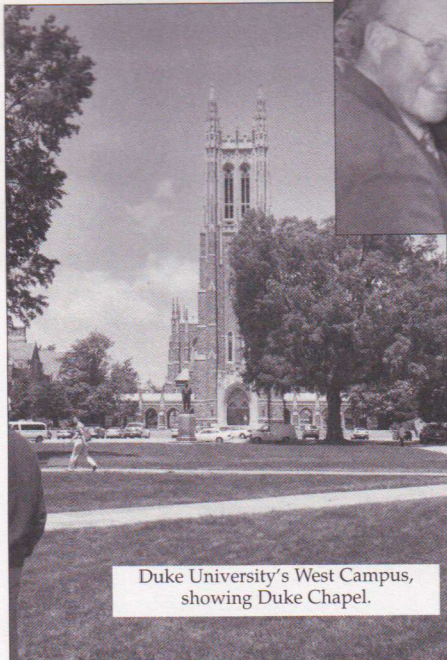


Photo by L. von Schneidmesser

Some scenes of conviviality and enjoyment — so characteristic of DSNA meetings! All photos on this page by or courtesy of R. McKinzey, except as noted.



Duke University's West Campus, showing Duke Chapel.



DSNA Newsletter

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

Visit our web site for useful and interesting information about DSNA. Webmaster Luanne von Schneidemesser updates it regularly and will be happy to add a link to a member's web site that is of lexicographical interest.

Publishing Information

The *DSNA Newsletter* is published two or three times a year: Spring and/or Summer, and Fall. The editor is Victoria Neufeldt. News of members and other items of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send **all *Newsletter* correspondence**, copy for ads, items for publication, etc. to the editor.

Victoria Neufeldt, Editor

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