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# DSNA

NEWSLETTER

## Ladislav Zgusta, DSNA Founding Member

1924 – 2007

*Ladislav Zgusta, one of the 25 founding members of the DSNA, died on April 27, 2007, at the age of 83. He was active in the Society for quite a few years, and served on the executive, as vice-president from 1981–1983 and president from 1983–1985. He attended many of our biennial meetings over the years. In 1987, he was elected a Fellow of the Society. (See the “profile” on Zgusta in the Fall 2003 – Spring 2004 issue of the Newsletter, page 3.) Below are several accounts of his life and work, beginning with the personal reminiscences of Donna Crispissima Farina, a close friend and colleague. — Ed.*

The worlds of lexicography, onomastics, historical and comparative linguistics, and other scholarly fields suffered a deep loss on April 27, 2007, when Professor Ladislav S.L. Zgusta died. Hans Henrich Hock’s outline of Professor Zgusta’s scholarly contributions is found below. I will describe the extraordinary personality of a person who captured the imagination and the respect of students and colleagues.

While living on Twin Oaks Drive, I received an e-mail from Professor Zgusta that closed with the following:

“You call yourself a curious slave when inquiring into Mr. ...’s topic. In reality, you are a slothful, languorous, indolent slave given to complete mental inertia. Lazy is what the hoi polloi would call you in their non *recherche* but quite graspable way. Proof: If you know that I call Twin Oaks ‘Didryas’; if you know things like ... ‘pentameter’, ‘hexameter’; if you know things like ‘tetrarch’; and finally, if you know things like ‘polytheism’ ...: how can you debase yourself by asking a question as superfluous, as silly, and as destructively revelatory as what the meaning of Tridryas, Polydryas is? You pay \$0.27 to the Save Russia Now fund.”

This e-mail is not completely characteristic; a letter from Professor Zgusta, a virtuoso polyglot, usually contained phrases in five or six languages. It does illustrate many of his favorite themes for amusement, which were tied to his scholarship as well as to his personal history. He loved play with words and names. My own epithets focused on laziness and rebelliousness: I was either “miserable and slothful” or “rascally, impertinent, belligerent, and recalcitrant.” At the same time I was being called these names, as my boss when I was a graduate assistant, Professor Zgusta exhorted me to work less (“Miss Crispissima, do not overdo it!”), drink wine, and eat frog legs. As



Photo courtesy of L. Zgusta

my advisor, he refused to sign anything and insisted that I learn to forge his name. He encouraged me to steal from the Linguistics Department office rather than ask the secretary for supplies. I would leave notes such as: “Professor Zgusta, today I stole some envelopes from the office,” or “I forged your name on my class schedule today.” He would answer: “Miss Crispissima, you are making a fine progress!”

Everyone who received a Zgusta name felt honored. Professor Zgusta was particularly fond of two former members of the DSNA, the “Flotsam” and the “Jetsam.” At my first DSNA conference (Ann Arbor, 1981), the Jetsam commandeered a cartload of beer intended for a reception and brought it to his room. Professor Zgusta witnessed this and spoke about it with great admiration over the years. His healthy disrespect for authority was initially a product of his experiences with the Nazis and with the Communist regime in former Czechoslovakia. While in India after the Prague Spring he altered the passports of

*Continued on page 2*

## News of Members

**John Algeo's** book, *British or American English? A Handbook of Word and Grammar Patterns*, was published last year by Cambridge University Press. His next project is the sixth edition of his textbook, *The Origins and Development of the English Language*, for publication next year. The latter book was originally Thomas Pyles's production, but John has been involved from the beginning, and has been revising it since the third edition. He is now listed as the primary author, he says, "having by now rewritten most of it."

### Grant Barrett and Sarah Hilliard

are first-time parents. Their son, Guthrie Allen Hilliard Barrett, was born March 19th, 2007. (Internet photo at right shows Guthrie at one month old.)



**Adams Bodomo**, a past winner of the Laurence Urdang – DSNA Award, has completed his project, with the help of the Award money. His book, *A Dagaare – Cantonese – English Lexicon for Lexicographical Field Research Training*, was published in 2004 in Germany: Afrikawissenschaftliche Lehrbücher herausgegeben von Wilhelm J.G. Möhlig und Bernd Heine, Band 14. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.

**Tony Naden** reports on a recent interesting involvement of his, as a resource person on the lexicographical side of a series of annual computational linguistics workshops held at the University of Ghana, Legon, as part of a cooperative project with N.T.N.U. Trondheim, Norway. Tony has been involved for the last 40 years in lexicography in various indigenous languages of Ghana, West Africa. These include materials for hard-copy publication, electronic sharing and archiving. His input ranges from doing the work himself to cooperating with and advising colleagues, and teaching and training.

**Jeff Prucher** recently published a dictionary of science fiction terms for Oxford University Press, U.S.A.. It's entitled *Brave new Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction*.

**Fred Shapiro** reports that his recent book, *The Yale Book of Quotations*, has been favorably reviewed or written up by the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, the *Sunday Times* (London), and many other media. The book has also been named one of the outstanding reference works of the year by *Library Journal*, the Association of American Publishers, and Amazon.com. Katie Hafner wrote in *Bookforum*: "Not only is the *The Yale Book of Quotations* a more profoundly researched work than anything else to date, it is more comprehensive than any other quotation-reference work."

Retirement agrees with **Michael Sheehan**. He reports, "life in Cedar [Michigan] is wonderful, especially in contrast to my work-life residence on the south side of Chicago before retirement. I have time to write (the dictionary will be my 9th book), I have a weekly radio show in Traverse City on the English language, and I have time to dabble in senior issues. All this and a view of Lake Michigan!" Michael is currently working on the 2nd edition of *Word Parts Dictionary* for McFarland. □

### Zgusta: Continued from page 1

his entire family to deceive authorities into thinking they had visas to the United States. During Professor Zgusta's American life he reveled in his political incorrectness. His graduate assistants were introduced to confused visiting scholars as his "slaves." He constantly invented "causes" (such as the "Save Russia Fund" or the "Slave Liberation Fund") and demanded that his students make a contribution for some infraction of ever new and changing rules.

Professor Zgusta was a founding member of the DSNA. It was his vision to have a collaboration of academic and commercial lexicographers in our organization. I hope that each member of the DSNA who knew him will raise a glass and toast Ladislav S.L. Zgusta. In fact, I hope each one will drink a whole bottle.

### *Sidney Landau writes the following:*

On first meeting Ladislav Zgusta, one was immediately put at ease by his warm and welcoming manner and by his wit and good humor. It was impossible not to like him. A scholar of very broad and deep interests, he was intensely modest and often appeared self-deprecating. In his annotated bibliography (published with the assistance of Donna Farina in 1989), *Lexicography Today*, this is how he describes his own magisterial work, *Manual of Lexicography* (1971), a work that has proved to be immensely influential to everyone writing on lexicography thereafter (including me): "A survey of the theory of lexicography and its methods and procedures. Description of the single steps in dictionary making." That's it. You would think the *Manual* was a mere how-to-do-it pamphlet. For other, much lesser works written by others, his description is far more generous and detailed.

When I wrote the first edition of my book *Dictionaries: the Art and Craft of Lexicography* (1984), Zgusta's *Manual of Lexicography* was indispensable, particularly for its treatment of bilingual and multilingual dictionaries and for the theoretical aspects of lexicography. When I eventually met him at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I told him so. With his Old-World graciousness, Ladislav was one of the most charming of men, warmly encouraging to younger scholars, without a whiff of condescension. One learned with some amazement that he was knowledgeable of the linguistic history and current status of many different languages and language families, and had contributed to important works in all these areas. Yet he never vaunted his knowledge. One had to probe and persistently inquire to learn the depth and breadth of his learning.

Ladislav told me he regretted the large number of typographical errors that found their way into the *Manual* and explained that he had never been able to see final proofs to correct them, as he and his family had had to make a hasty escape from Czechoslovakia to avoid being detained by the Soviets. He was able to laugh about the episode then, but I gather it was somewhat hair-raising, and that the consequences of not escaping would have been severe. The decade of the 1970s in Czechoslovakia was marked by the ruthless suppression of dissidents by the Soviet regime.

What was so appealing about Ladislav Zgusta is that he related to one immediately on a personal and human

level. Quite apart from his many accomplishments as a scholar, he will be missed as a most exceptionally kind and good man.

*Another of Zgusta's colleagues, Hans Henrich Hock, Professor of Linguistics & Sanskrit, Dept of Linguistics, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, writes of Zgusta's academic career:*

On Friday, 27 April 2007, our colleague, mentor, and good friend Ladislav Zgusta passed away. He is survived by his wife, Olga, and two children, and his passing is a great loss to all of us at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1924, he survived two dictatorships, the Nazis and the Communists. Immediately after the collapse of the "Prague Spring," he made a daring, cloak-and-dagger escape with his family, via India, to the United States, where he joined the University of Illinois soon after as member of the faculty in Linguistics and the Classics. In 1986 he was appointed Director of the University's prestigious Center for Advanced Study.

Professor Zgusta earned three doctor's degrees. The first one in Classical Philology and Indology from Prague University (1949), the second in the Philology of Ancient Asia Minor from the Prague Academy (1964), and a third "Dr. Habil" degree in Indo-European linguistics from the University of Brno (1964). The three dissertation topics give only a limited indication of the breadth of his work. He published eight books and monographs, edited or co-edited at least another nine monographs, and produced more than 140 papers and articles, and more than 570 reviews, on a wide range of topics, including Indo-European and general historical and comparative linguistics, synchronic linguistics, typology, onomastics, and perhaps most important, lexicography. His *Manual of Lexicography*, published in 1971 by Mouton, is still a standard in the field.

His contributions have been widely recognized. He served as Collitz Professor at the 1976 Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America. He held Guggenheim fellowships in 1977 and 1983. He was an honorary member of the American Name Society, a fellow of the Dictionary Society of North America, and member of the executive board of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft. He became a corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Science in 1982 and was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1992. Perhaps the personally most significant recognition was his being awarded the Gold Medal of the Czech Academy of Sciences for his work in Humanities in 1992.

Most important, Ladislav Zgusta was a great colleague and friend, known for his loyalty to the Department of Linguistics and his marvelous sense of humor.

A comprehensive bibliography of Professor Zgusta's writing, up to 1994, can be found in these two publications: 1) Hock, Hans Henrich (ed.) 1997. *Historical, Indo-European, and lexicographical studies: A festschrift for Ladislav Zgusta on the occasion of his 70th birthday*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. 2) Kachru, Braj B., and Henry Kahane (eds.) 1995. *Cultures, Ideologies and the Dictionary: Studies in Honor of Ladislav Zgusta*. (Lexicographica: Series Maior.) Tübingen: Max Niemeyer.

*From the web site of the Center of Advanced Studies, University of Illinois:*

Professor Zgusta [was] editor of the journal *Lexicographica*, V, of the series of monographs *Lexicographica, Series Maior*, of the *International Encyclopedia of Lexicography*, and of the *International Encyclopedia of Onomastics*. He [was] known for extensive investigation of the languages and the place names and personal names of ancient Asia Minor and as the author of the first comprehensive work on the theory of lexicography, recently translated into Chinese (published in Peking) and into Serbo-Croatian (published in Sarajevo). His book containing the epigraphical and linguistic interpretation of the oldest Ossetic (Caucasian) inscription was published by the Austrian Academy in Vienna. He has also published in the areas of Indo-European linguistics and general lexicology. Two volumes of his selected essays on lexicography are being edited by his former students, to be published by the Niemeyer Publishing House.

He was elected Collitz Professor (1976) and was a Guggenheim Fellow (1977, 1983). He was elected an honorary member of the American Name Society and a fellow of the Dictionary Society of North America and served on the executive board of, among others, the Indogermanische Gesellschaft. He served as vice-president and then president of the Dictionary Society of North America (1982-85). He became a corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Science (1982) and was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1992). He received the Gold Medal of the Czech Academy of Sciences for his work in Humanities (1992). He has published 10 books and more than 100 studies.

*Edward Gates, a fellow founding member of the DSNA, shares some recollections of his association with Zgusta:*

I began corresponding with Ladislav Zgusta when he went to teach at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He made a special trip over to Terre Haute (about an hour's drive) to meet me. Marion recalls that he brought a lug of grapes as a hostess present. Through the years, we have continued to correspond and to see each other at meetings. Marion recalls that at a conference in Evansville, on its last day, we kept running into him, and each time he bade us an elaborate farewell. When the idea of forming a lexicographic organization was suggested to me by a colleague as I planned a second conference on lexicography at ISU (1975), he was one of the people I consulted for feedback. He wrote that he could not come to the conference (he was going to India), but would like to be enrolled as a member of any group that was formed.

He organized an extra meeting (between the regular years) of DSNA at U. of Illinois in 1978. He was active in the Society over the years. As president in 1983-85, he established the Committee on Lexicographic Terminology. Members were surveyed on their terminology use. The questionnaires and reports went out with the newsletter.

Zgusta also sometimes attended the meetings of Euralex, and we saw him there. When we were traveling and passed through Urbana-Champaign, I sometimes stopped and phoned him for a chat. □



## Cordell Corner

By David Vancil

Many DSNA members are not only actively conducting research in lexicology and lexicography but are collectors of dictionaries. In case it has gone unnoticed, a trend I have observed in the last six months or so is a tremendous jump in the cost of eighteenth-century and earlier books. What this spells for the Cordell Collection is that although we have had our acquisition budget partially restored, it doesn't go very far now. For example, we purchased two books in the last two months, one a second edition of the *Gazophylacium Anglicanum*, published in 1691 under a different title, the other the first English edition of Chomel's *Dictionnaire Oeconomique*, an encyclopedic work published in 1725, for a total of \$7,750 for only two works. This is an astounding increase in costs unlike any I have seen in my previous 22 years as Cordell curator. Just two years ago, such an amount would have purchased a dozen or more books of similar rarity.

Suddenly, the Cordell Collection may have doubled or even quadrupled in value because of market forces over which we seem to have little control. The collection was appraised about 10 years ago, and the values of the works in it had only been inching up, if at all. But now, for example, the value of the first edition of the *Gazophylacium* is on record as being less than the later edition. While the collection itself is irreplaceable at this point in its history, we want to be prudent and insure it against disasters. As a consequence, the Cordell Collection is having its appraisal updated in late April. Any DSNA member who collects books in any depth and is concerned about insuring them should take heed and contact their favorite appraiser to get the values of their holdings updated also. In any case, the anticipated sudden increase in value of the Cordell Collection will leave us wondering what the future holds for book collectors, whether private or institutional.

I am pleased to announce that I have been awarded a six months sabbatical leave scheduled to begin January 2008. I shall be working with Michael Adams, now at Indiana University, on bringing an augmented edition of Mitford Mathews's 1930 University of Chicago dissertation to a publisher. The dissertation is a study of Southern backwoods diction from 1829 to 1840. The project, as it exists now, entails checking Mathews's results against numerous other sources and including this data along with observations in the envisioned published book. Of course, Michael, with his extensive background in the field, will take the lead on this project. Meanwhile, I have developed a database to record our findings. Currently, we have entered findings from DARE and are now checking *A Dictionary of Americanisms* (1951). To date, nine reference sources have been identified to be checked. By the way, there are numerous other texts worthy of attention in our Mathews holdings, some which arrived only last year as a

gift of the late George Mathews, Mitford's son.

Speaking of research, I was gratified that the Cordell Collection was able to be of assistance to linguists on Malta recently. It appeared, unbeknownst to me, that the Cordell Collection has one of only a few extant copies of *Piccolo Dizionario Maltese-Italiano-Inglese*, published in 1856 by two sons of Michele Antonio Vassalli, author of a groundbreaking and extensive Maltese-Latin-Italian dictionary published in 1796. It took exchanges with Frans Sammut, who edited a facsimile edition of the 1796 work, and other individuals both on Malta and in the State Department, to make it clear to me that I really had such a scarce work. Subsequently, we scanned the *Piccolo Dizionario* and made it available in the PDF format not only to our friends on Malta but to anyone else who may have an interest in it. It is unfortunate that there is not a physical copy available outside the Cordell Collection which could be returned to this island nation.

Interestingly, our copy of the *Piccolo* had once been owned by the runic scholar George Stephens, whose library was obtained by bookseller Rob Rulon-Miller. Through just two purchases, we acquired 44 works from the Stephens library for the Cordell Collection and some additional, related titles on literature for our Rare Books Collection, which contains many works that are connected by authorship or some other quality to the Cordell Collection. Anyone interested in Stephens, who was a remarkable linguist and prolific writer of scholarly works, will find themselves welcome at Indiana State.

Mention of making yet another work available in its entirety on the Internet brings to mind a request I received recently from longtime DSNA member Rod McConchie. He was looking for digitized copies of early editions of Calepino's *Dictionarium*, originally published in 1502, hoping that the Cordell Collection had digitized one or more of them. We had not. In fact, we are not equipped to digitize thick books at this time, although it is an undertaking which certainly bears consideration for the future. I found in searching the Internet for Calepinos an interesting gateway to digitized materials called The Philological Museum: An Analytic Bibliography of On-Line Neo-Latin Titles, edited by Dana F. Sutton, The University of California, Irvine, and hosted online by the University of Birmingham in England. To date, the bibliography, which was started in 1999, contains 21,500 records, many with full-text links.

Users can find a link to it at the bottom of the Cordell Collection web page. I recommend it to you. Please report any other resources of such an extensive nature, and I will consider adding a link to them on the Cordell Collection web page.

## DSNA Executive for 2007 – 2009

The election process has been completed and the results are as follows.

**Terry Pratt**, who has served as vice-president and president-elect for the last two years, steps up to the position of president. **David Barnhart** becomes past president.

### New board members

**Michael Hancher**, vice-president and president-elect

**Lisa Berglund**, executive secretary

**Ed Finegan**, member at large

**Steve Kleinedler**, member at large.

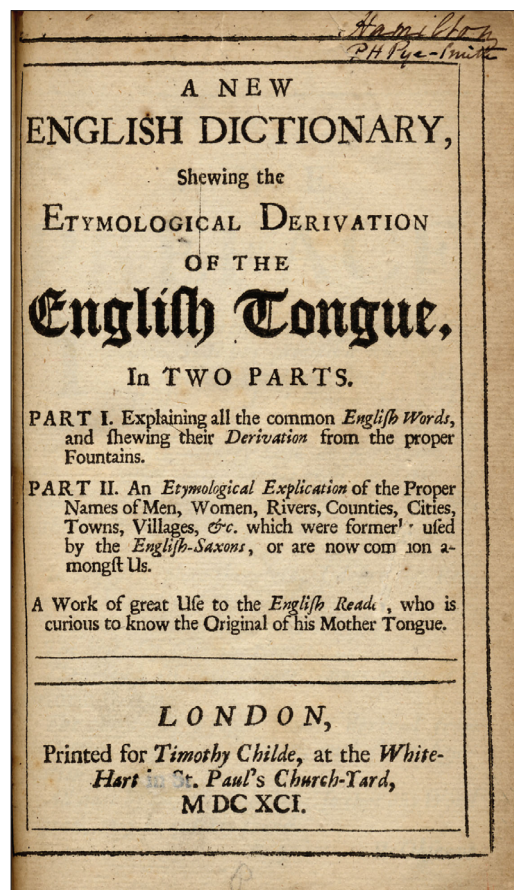
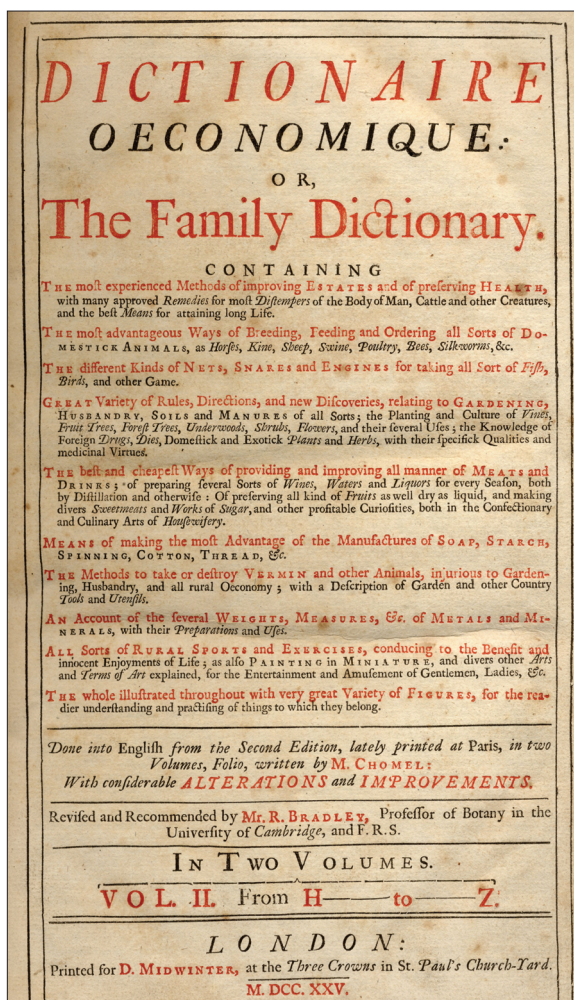
The two continuing members at large are **Joanne Despres** and **Orin Hargraves**. **Michael Agnes** and **Wendalyn Nichols** are completing their terms this year.

Congratulations and best wishes to the new members and our sincere thanks to the outgoing members, for their important volunteer contributions to our Society!

## NHA Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The 2007 annual meeting of the National Humanities Alliance was held in Washington, D.C. March 26 – 27. DSNA representative William Frawley attended and reported on it. He was able to attend only the morning session on March 26th. The opening session on that morning was a talk by Bruce Cole, director of the National Endowment for the Humanities, on the new Digital Humanities Initiative. "This program, with extensive funding, supports integrative work on technology and the humanities, from research grants to startups and workshops," he said. It supports projects that utilize or study the impact of digital technology. There are five new grant programs. For more information on the DH, visit <http://www.neh.gov/grants/digitalhumanities.html> or e-mail [dhi@neh.gov](mailto:dhi@neh.gov)

This first session was followed by three roundtable discussions. The first was on preservation. They learned of "a proposed blueprint for disaster response in order to preserve collections (archives and collections of dictionaries among them)." A Conservation Summit is scheduled for June 27 – 28, 2007, in Washington, D.C. The second roundtable discussion concerned international humanities efforts. There was "strong concern among the humanities advocacy group for more effective and expanded study abroad," including K-12 efforts, efforts in nontraditional places, such as Africa, and global humanities. The third discussion was about "capacity building and infrastructure support," especially using federal, state, and local NEH funds to build long-term efforts in the humanities. □



Title pages of the two most recent acquisitions of the Cordell Collection, described in David Vancil's column on the preceding page. To the right is the second edition of the *Gazophylacium Anglicanum*, published in 1691 under the title *A New English Dictionary, Shewing the Etymological Derivation of the English Tongue*; above is the first English edition of Chomel's *Dictionnaire Oeconomique*, an encyclopedic work published in 1725.



## Kelsie Harder, 1922 – 2007

Kelsie Brown Harder, one of the most famous names in North American onomastic circles, died April 12th, 2007, at the age of 84. He died at his home in Potsdam, New York.

He was a prolific writer and played an active, leading role in the American Name Society. His specialization was place names and he is perhaps best known for his *Illustrated Dictionary of Place Names, United States and Canada*, published in 1976 and still in print.

Among his other works are *Names and Their Varieties: A Collection of Essays in Onomastics* (1986); *Claims to Name: Toponyms of St. Lawrence County* (1993), which he co-authored with Mary H. Smallman; and the monumental, 11-volume *Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America: A Guide to 1,500,000 Place Names in the United States and Territories*, which he produced with Frank Abate. He also wrote many hundreds of articles, and was the editor for years of the journal of the American Name Society, *Names*.

He also published in other "word" fields. One of his earliest publications dealt with the terminology of the game marbles: *Vocabulary of Marble Playing* (1955). He collaborated with Wolfgang Mieder and Stewart A. Kingsbury in *A Dictionary of American Proverbs*, with 15,000 entries, which was published in 1992.

He was director of the Place Name Survey of the United States. At the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United States Board on Geographic Names, held in 1990 in the Library of Congress, Kelsie was the featured speaker.

Douglas Martin, in his obituary for *The New York Times*, April 22, 2007, tells the story of Kelsie's own given name. "[Kelsie Harder's] large achievements began with baby steps, literally. Dr. Harder learned that his parents had wanted to give him an unusual name and liked the sound of Elsie, his sister's. They stuck a "K" in front of Elsie. Dr. Harder, like 'A Boy Named Sue' in the song, spent a lifetime explaining that he was not a girl named Kelsie. 'We are at the mercy of our name givers,' he said in a 1987 interview with *The Post-Standard* of Syracuse. 'These things influence us for the rest of our lives, and we have nothing to do with it.'"

He earned his undergraduate degree and masters degree from Vanderbilt University, with a specialization in English. He then took a doctorate in English from the University of Florida. Most of his career was spent teaching English at the State University of New York at Potsdam.

He is survived by his wife, Louise, and four sons and two daughters, as well as 11 grandchildren.

— V. Neufeldt, with information from  
The New York Times obituary by  
Douglas Martin, Apr 22, 2007.

Frank Abate, a long-time friend and collaborator, remembers Kelsie Harder:

It is not widely known that Kelsie was the compiler of an important annotated bibliography of placename studies that picked up where older such works left off. This remains an unpublished manuscript. He also studied for many years the placenames of New York state. Much of this was published as articles or was presented at meetings. Still, a great deal of Kelsie's raw data from personal research never reached publication. Aside from his very important *Illustrated Dictionary of Place Names: United States and Canada* (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1976; Hudson Group paperback reprint, 1985), thousands of "onomastic facts" that Kelsie unearthed he provided for the four-volume *American Places Dictionary* (Omnigraphics, 1994), to which he also contributed an introductory essay. He was also a key consultant and contributor to the *Omni Gazetteer of the United States of America* (Omnigraphics, 1991). Kelsie spent years annotating his personal copy of George Stewart's seminal *American Place-Names* (Oxford, 1970) in preparation for an updated and revised edition. He also compiled copious notes for the proposed work. Unfortunately, these efforts never saw the light of day, as the project never went to contract. Prof. Harder was known and respected by onomasticians, publishers, and reference editors as a superb scholar, a fine gentleman, and a fun person to be with. A list of his students and associates reads like a "Who's Who" of American letters, lexicography, and academic publishing over the last half century. □

## Ronald Bogus, Roget's Thesaurus Editor, Dies

A brief notice in the New York Times of Feb. 22, 2007 reported the death of Ronald J. Bogus at the age of 79 in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Ron was a lexicographer for many years who worked with me first at Funk & Wagnalls and later at Doubleday. At Funk & Wagnalls he contributed to the superb *Cook's and Diner's Dictionary* edited by Sam Davis, and at Doubleday he was the managing editor of the Doubleday *Roget's Thesaurus*, for which I was the

editor-in-chief. Later, he revised Clement Woods' *Complete Rhyming Dictionary*. We were colleagues and friends throughout most of the 60s and 70s, but since then have been mainly out of touch. He could be great company and was marvelously funny. He was immensely generous and kind and he had a gift for friendship.

— Sidney Landau, from his posting to the DSNA List,  
Mar 14, '07

## Reinhard's References: Festschrift Volumes

By Reinhard R. K. Hartmann

This is the second in my regular column presenting publications of potential interest to readers of this *Newsletter*. I have always been fascinated by 'festschriften' in honor of people who deserve special attention; the ones presented here not only demonstrate the achievements of the four male and five female dedicatees, but often also their background as well as the debts owed to them by colleagues and pupils. The emphasis is on recently completed exemplars of the genre, and those whose major contributions are on lexicographic topics (ranging from 11 to 36 papers by 14 to 36 authors).

Most comprehensive (and relevant for its links to DSNA and its multifarious international and inter-disciplinary connections) is the volume dedicated to the co-founder of both *Lexicographica Series Maior* and the encyclopedia *Wörterbücher/Dictionaries/Dictionnaires*, entitled *Cultures, Ideologies, and the Dictionary: Studies in Honour of Ladislav Zgusta* ed. by Braj B. Kachru & Henry Kahane; published (as Vol. 64 in *Lexicographica. Series Maior*) by M. Niemeyer, Tübingen, 1995.

The links with Euralex and Britain are strongly represented in *Lexicography and Natural Language Processing: A Festschrift in Honour of B.T. Sue Atkins* ed. by Marie-Hélène Corréard; published by the European Association for Lexicography, Stuttgart, 2002.

Connections with German metalexicography are documented in the volume honoring the co-founder of W/D/D and the periodical *Lexicographica International Annual* with the title *Linguistische Theorie und lexikographische Praxis: Symposiumsvorträge, Heidelberg 1996* [zum 60. Geburtstag von Herbert Ernst Wiegand ed. by Klaus-Peter Konerding & Andrea Lehr; published (as Vol. 82 in *Lexicographica. Series Maior*) by M. Niemeyer, Tübingen, 1997.

Notable for its Spanish (& Catalan) connection is the festschrift *Palabra por palabra: Estudios ofrecidos a Paz Battaner* ed. by Elisenda Bernal & Janet DeCesaris; published (as Vol. 10 in *Série monographies of IULA*), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, 2006.

Russian links are strong in *Angliskaja leksikografija: Formirovanie, rasvitie, sovremennoe sostojanie. Yubilejnij sbornik nauchnykh statej* [Olga Karpova] ed. by Faina Iosifovna Kartashkova; published by Ivanovo State University, Ivanovo, 2006.

Connected with Afrilex (& Afrikaans) is *'n Man wat beur. Huldigungsbandel vir Dirk van Schalkwyk* ed. by Willem Botha; published by the Buro van die WAT, Stellenbosch, 2003.

Finally, two more festschriften crossing the line into other genres (such as books commemorating scholars no longer alive and tributes arising from conference proceedings), the last including papers by the two dedicatees:

*Lexicography, Terminology, and Translation: Text-based Studies in Honour of Ingrid Meyer* [† 2004] ed. by Lynne Bowker; published by University of Ottawa Press, Ottawa ON, 2006.

*Les dictionnaires Le Robert: Genèse et évolution* [Journée Québécoise des Dictionnaires 2003 & Hommage à Josette Rey-Debove et à Alain Rey] ed. by Monique C. Cormier et al.; published (in series *Paramètres*) by Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, Montreal QU, 2003.

There are many more (Robert Burchfield, Angus Cameron, Dag Gundersen, Günther Haensch, A.S. Hornby, Yoshiro Kojima, Zoltán Kövecses, Bernard Quemada, Arne Zettersten ...), but I have run out of space. I hope I have at least whetted your appetite for this text type. □

## 2007 Laurence Urdang-DSNA Award Winners

Two scholars are sharing the 2007 Laurence Urdang-DSNA Award. They are Dabney A. Bankert, professor of Medieval English at James Madison University; and Stefan Dollinger, Department of English, University of British Columbia

Professor Bankert will use her award in Amsterdam and other Dutch cities to examine the correspondence between Bosworth and Dutch philologists and theologians concerning the making of his famous *Dictionary of the Anglo-Saxon Language* during the period 1829-1840.

Dr. Dollinger will use his award in his work on the revision of the *Dictionary of Canadianisms*. It will facilitate examination of entries in the letters A and C where errors had been discussed in correspondence between the publisher and editors in 1969. The *Dictionary of Canadianisms* is a major source of data about English in North America.

The Award is again being offered by the DSNA for 2008. Funded by DSNA member and Fellow Laurence Urdang, it will support one or more lexicographical projects during the year 2008 with awards ranging from \$500

to \$2500. Applicants must be current members of the DSNA. The budget may include costs of travel, tuition, materials, subsistence, and related expenses. The proposal should include the following parts: project name; applicant's name and address; statement of the project's immediate goals and expected long-range results; description of the methodology or procedures to be used; summary budget of total expenses for the project; identification of other sources of support available for the project; a one-page biographical résumé for the applicant. The proposal should total no more than three pages, single-spaced, including the one-page resume.

The proposal should be sent (with a self-addressed, stamped postcard for acknowledgment) to incoming DSNA President PROF. TERRY PRATT, 932 PETERS ROAD, RR#3, BONSHAW, P.E.I. C0A 1C0, CANADA (address must be all in caps) or e-mailed to tpratt@upei.ca. It must be received by December 1, 2007. Awards will be bestowed and full payments sent early in 2008.

The Society requests that it be sent copies of any publications arising from the Award. □

## John Sinclair, 1933 – 2007

John McHardy Sinclair, a pioneer in the fields of computational linguistics and corpus lexicography and the developer of the first large computerized language corpora, died March 13th at the age of 73. Most of his academic career was spent at the University of Birmingham, where he held the position of Chair of Modern English Language from 1965 till his retirement in 2000. He became a consultant to the dictionary division at Collins Publishers in 1971 and by the late 70s had persuaded the publisher to invest in a research project in computational lexicography, a radical step, especially for a commercial publisher. The project, in partnership with the University of Birmingham, entailed the creation of the largest corpus of English-language texts in the world. When this project began, scanners cost well over \$100,000. Students were employed to scan texts, producing a corpus of some eight million words, a huge corpus for its time. This database became the Bank of English, which now contains over 400 million words.

The first Cobuild dictionary, based on this corpus, was published by Collins in 1987, and was followed by many other corpus-based dictionaries, grammars, and usage books, directed especially at foreign learners of English.

In the 1960s, John established modern English language as a compulsory component of the undergraduate degree in English at the university. During these years, he also began work on collocation and headed one of the first projects in computational linguistics. In addition, he led a research team that produced innovative task-based language development materials aimed at native speakers of English. His work was instrumental in establishing Birmingham's international reputation as a center for research into spoken discourse.

Patrick Hanks, in his obituary written for the Euralex Newsletter, writes, "He was a corpus linguist par excellence — in fact, he virtually invented the discipline and led the field in developing the corpus-based analysis of collo-

cations. His influence on lexicography, on the study and teaching of language, and on linguistics in general was profound.... Perhaps Sinclair's greatest single contribution to the study of language is his recognition of the importance of collocation as an organizing principle of language." He describes Sinclair as a gifted teacher. "Sinclair was not a prolific writer. His main *modus operandi* was influencing and inspiring others."

John was born June 14, 1933 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He attended Edinburgh University, where he read English Language and Literature, concluding his studies with a First Class Masters degree. After serving in the RAF as an education officer, he returned to Edinburgh as a research student in 1958. He lectured in the Department of English Language and General Linguistics there before leaving to take up his position at the University of Birmingham.

— V. Neufeldt (with information from the U. of Birmingham web site)



Laurence Urdang remembers John Sinclair well, and wrote the following tribute to him.

I first engaged John Sinclair as a consultant to the Collins English Dictionary in 1971, and we met occasionally in the course of the next years while it was under preparation. It was not till several years later, in the late 1970s, that he became so involved in the frequency checking for which he became known, and much of that emerged as a result of our discussions (and, especially, from my paper, "An 'Unabridged' Word Count of English," *Word*, 1966). Sinclair's work was far more advanced than mine, of course, and he pursued avenues unimagined by me, so I do not intend in any way to diminish his enormous contributions to lexicography. Towards the end of the Dictionary project, he became more closely affiliated to Collins through his connection with Patrick Hanks, whom I had engaged as Editor of the Dictionary in 1970. □

## Rutgers Dictionary Exhibit

Rutgers University Library, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, is featuring a special exhibit of dictionaries, entitled, "Everything from A to Z: The Edward J. Bloustein Dictionary Collection." The exhibit celebrates the acquisition of a historic dictionary collection, which originally belonged to the 17th president of Rutgers, Edward J. Bloustein. The exhibit opened in February and runs through June 21, 2007.

Edward J. Bloustein, Rutgers' seventeenth president, was an avid and informed collector of dictionaries. While focusing on general English-language dictionaries, he also collected more specialized works such as compendia of slang, originally published to help understand the speech of criminals; dictionaries of biography; and dictionaries of synonyms, the ancestors of today's thesauri. In 2004, his daughters Elise and Lori Bloustein donated his collection to the Rutgers University Libraries. Among the collection's includes 170+ titles is Thomas Cooper's *Thesaurus Linguae Romanae et Britannicae* (1573).

The exhibition includes examples of various editions of many dictionaries, as well as beautiful engravings from the 1764 revision of Bailey's work by Joseph Nichol Scott.

Also on view are items from Rutgers University Libraries' rare book collections, including medieval and Renaissance precursors of the dictionary form, several miniature "Webster's" from the Alden Jacobs Collection, and portraits of famous lexicographers, as well as photographs generously made available by the Oxford University Press Archives.

The exhibition is on display in the Archibald S. Alexander Library at 169 College Avenue in New Brunswick. For further information, contact curator and archivist, Dr. Fernanda Helen Perrone, at Rutgers University Libraries, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1163; phone: 732 932-7006 x363; FAX: 732 932-7012; e-mail: hperrone@rci.rutgers.edu □



## Robert Barnhart, 1933 – 2007

Robert Knox Barnhart, lexicographer and language researcher, died April 9, 2007, at the age of 73. He was the author of several dictionaries, most notably *The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology*, which was published in 1988 and received the Outstanding Book in Art, Literature and Language Award from the Association of American Publishers. An abridgment, entitled *The Barnhart Concise Dictionary of Etymology*, was published in 1995. He also edited *The Hammond Barnhart Dictionary of Science* (1986), which was also published as *The American Heritage Dictionary of Science* (1988), and the *Barnhart Abbreviations Dictionary* (1995).

He was the son of noted lexicographer Clarence L. Barnhart, known especially for his work on the Thorndike-Barnhart series of school dictionaries. Robert worked with his father on some later editions of these dictionaries and on *The World Book Dictionary*. Robert, his father, and Sol Steinmetz produced *The Barnhart Dictionary of New English*, which went through three editions (1973, 1980, and 1990).

In the obituary written for *The Journal News* of Garrison, NY, published on April 13th, journalist Sean Gorman wrote that Barnhart had moved to Garrison with his wife, Cynthia, about 10 years ago. The Barnharts had been mar-

ried for 51 years and had previously lived in Bronxville, Briarcliff Manor, and Brewster.

Robert was a charter member of DSNA and maintained his membership to the present time.

*The Journal News* obituary reports Robert's wife, Cynthia as saying that her husband's most important characteristic was his integrity. "'He was a wonderful man,' she said. 'He was thoughtful and scholarly, very careful about his work. He had high expectations of himself and of his children.'"

Barnhart was born in Chicago. When he was still a child, the family moved to Bronxville. He was a graduate of the private Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut.

He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and later returned to New York.

Barnhart is survived by his wife, Cynthia, five children, and four grandchildren.

—V. Neufeldt, with information from  
the *Garrison Journal News*

## Editor's Notes

The new executive board of the DSNA has been elected. See page 5 for the results. We welcome all the new members and wish them well, and our thanks for their good volunteer service go out to those who have completed their terms. But a special thank-you is due to **Luanne von Schneidmesser**, who is stepping down after almost 10 years of exemplary service to the Society.

She was first elected secretary-treasure in 1998, succeeding Louis Milic, who had retired. She very capably presided over the enormous task of moving the Society's offices and records to the University of Wisconsin-Madison; to the DARE offices, actually. And over the years, she continued to keep good track of us. In 2001, she was re-elected for a second term and in 2005 her title was changed to executive secretary, in recognition of the broad responsibilities of the position. Among her special accomplishments is the creation of a membership database and the DSNA web site. Altogether, we have been

fortunate in her services to us, which have involved countless volunteer hours. Thanks, Luanne!



Puzzled readers of the the "Cordell Corner" in the last issue are owed an explanation. The surprising dates given for the publication of the two catalogs are errors, the result of a typo by the column's author, compounded by the editor's math skills. To explain: O'Neill's catalog was published in 1988, not 1998 (see the middle of the second column on page 4). That was the initial error. Then your creative editor compounded the error by adding five years to the incorrect 1998, to arrive at 2003 for the publication year of the Vancil catalog, as stated in the subhead above that paragraph. She realized that that date seemed odd, but didn't check with the author, who would have spotted the problem immediately. Sincere apologies from both of us!

— Victoria Neufeldt

## Publications of Lexicographical Interest

### Books Received by DSNA through April 2007

- Cawdrey, Robert. *The First English Dictionary 1604: Robert Cawdrey's Table Alphabeticall*. Oxford: Bodleian Library, 2007.
- Hodgson, Terence. *Eyes like Butterflies: A Treasury of Similes and Metaphors*. Edinburgh: Chambers Harrap, 2006.
- Iamartino, Giovanni and Robert DeMaria, Jr. *Samuel Johnson's Dictionary and the Eighteenth-Century World of Words*. Textus (Journal) vol. XIX. 2006.
- Prucher, Jeff, ed. *Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Shapiro, Fred., ed. *The Yale Dictionary of Quotations*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2006.
- Schweickard, Wolfgang. *Deonomasticon Italicum: Dizionario storico dei derivati da nomi geografici e da nomi di persona*. Vol. II: *Derivati da nomi geografici: F--L*. Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag, 2006.
- Smith, David Horton, et al. *A Dictionary of Nonprofit Terms and Concepts*. Bloomington: Indiana U. Press, 2006.
- Sobkowiak, Włodzimierz. *Phonetics of EFL Dictionary Definitions*. Poznań: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie. 2006.

### Other Recent Titles

- Miyoshi, Kusujiro. *Johnson's and Webster's Verbal Examples: With Special Reference to Exemplifying Usage in Dictionary Entries*. Max Niemeyer Verlag, Lexicographica. Series Maior 132, 2007.
- Taylor, Kevin J. *Ka-BOOM! A Dictionary of Comic Book Words, Symbols & Onomatopoeia*. Surrey, British Columbia: Mora Publications, 2006. □

## Dutch Dictionary Free Online

As from 26 January 2007 the *Dictionary of the Dutch Language* (*Woordenboek der Nederlandsche Taal*), in short the WNT, is available on the internet free of charge. The WNT, one of the products of the Leiden Institute for Dutch Lexicology (INL), contains hundreds of thousands of definitions of Dutch words, and many times more quotations from sources from the period between around 1500 and 1976.

All headwords can be retrieved in their original spelling of 1863, but also in the modern spelling. Some other features are the possibility to search for parts of words (e.g. suffixes, prefixes), parts of speech, or terms used in the definitions (e.g. all words with a definition containing the term 'plant' or 'ship').

In the online WNT links have been made to information outside of the dictionary. For example, to all words from those volumes of the *Dutch Etymological Dictionary* that so far have been published, including the most recent developments in the etymological field, with links to the equivalents in the WNT. The dictionary also contains links to corresponding words in Afrikaans, images of plants and animals, and dialect maps.

The source list of the online WNT has been renewed completely and now contains a great number of new works that we discovered to have been used for the WNT

as well. Based on this new source list, many quotations in the WNT have now been given an exact date.

Using the online WNT is free of charge and perfectly easy. The web site of the online WNT can be approached through [wnt.inl.nl](http://wnt.inl.nl) and after a registration procedure to become a user of the product, the dictionary can be consulted wherever and whenever one wishes. For institutions it is even easier to consult the WNT online, because for them the product is freely available on the basis of their IP address. If your institution does not have free access yet, please contact us at [tst-gtb@inl.nl](mailto:tst-gtb@inl.nl), in order to arrange this.

— Anne Dykstra, for  
Dr Tanneke Schoonheim,  
INL Leiden

## African Language Technology

Announcing a new portal: African Language Technology (AfLaT) URL: <http://aflat.org>

Interest in language technology research for African languages has seen a tremendous increase in recent years. This is marked by the growing availability of digital corpora, dictionaries and tools for many (formerly) resource-scarce African languages. The AfLaT web site aims to catalogue these resources for the benefit of researchers interested in African language technology.

AfLaT.org contains a steadily growing collection of bibliographic resources, web links and tools, provided by AfLaT members. We would like to invite you to join this community effort and share information, discuss research topics or just simply browse through the available content. Registration is free of charge.

— Gilles-Maurice de Schryver

## Freelancers Wanted by OUP

Oxford University Press is looking for lexicographers or graduate or undergraduate students to work freelance on a new dictionary/corpus project. The project is due to start in June 2007, and involves linkage between dictionary data and corpus/natural language data.

Both British and American English native speakers are being sought. You should have a bachelor's degree or be working toward one, be quick to learn, with a strong background in the English language; lexicographical study or experience is desirable but not essential. Excellent analytical, decision-making, and linguistic skills are essential, together with good IT skills and the ability to work quickly and to keep to given schedules. Because the work is entirely Web-based, you will need access to Mozilla Firefox 1 or 2.0, or Internet Explorer 6 and above.

The work is paid according to an hourly fee, and hours and periods of working are flexible within the requirements of the schedule.

As part of the application process, selected candidates will be asked to complete a short online aptitude test. Closing date for receipt of applications is June 7, 2007.

Send a CV/résumé and cover letter to Ben Zimmer:  
e-mail: [ben.zimmer@oup.com](mailto:ben.zimmer@oup.com)  
regular mail: Ben Zimmer, Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. □

## Calendar

**Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP)**, 15th annual conference, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, **July 11-14, 2007**. Pre-conference activities, July 10. Theme: "Open the Book, Open the Mind." Highlighting how books develop and extend minds and cultures, and also how they are opened to new media and new purposes. Featured speakers include Adrian Johns and Louise Erdrich. More than fifty panels will address a broad range of topics in the history of authorship, reading, and publishing. Pre-conference events include workshops at Minnesota Center for Book Arts, a new-book presentation at the new Minneapolis Public Library, and an evening panel discussion devoted to "Book Arts and Artists' Books." Book-related excursions Saturday afternoon, July 14. For information, including registration, accommodations, and preliminary schedule of presentations: <http://www.cce.umn.edu/conferences/sharp/>. Deadline for early registration (at a lower rate): June 15. Contact for arrangements: Heather Dorr at 612-625-5267 or [hdorr@umn.edu](mailto:hdorr@umn.edu).

**Studies in the History of the English Language**, 5th biennial conference, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, **October 4 - 6, 2007**. Topics include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, stylistics, metrics, discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, language acquisition, contact, and change, as well as differing theoretical and methodological perspectives. Contact: Bill Kretschmar: [shel5@english.uga.edu](mailto:shel5@english.uga.edu). Street address: Dept. of English, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-6205. Web site: <http://www.english.uga.edu/shel5>

**International Association for World Englishes**, 13th annual conference, Regensburg University, Regensburg, Germany, **October 4-6, 2007**. Theme: World Englishes: Problems – Properties – Prospects. Topics include: 1) political, pedagogical, anthropological, & contact issues re global spread & increasing indigenization of English; 2) structural features & conditions of use of newly-emerging varieties, & general linguistic questions re processes of contact & change; 3) social repercussions & sociolinguistic consequences of globalization of English. Contact: IAWWE 2007, c/o Prof. Edgar W. Schneider, U. of Regensburg, Dept of English & American Studies, D-93040 Regensburg, Germany. Tel: +49-941-943-3470. To register: [iawe2007@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de](mailto:iawe2007@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de) Web site: <http://www.iawe2007.uni-regensburg.de>

**Lexicography and Computers: Current Issues and Future Perspectives**: international conference on 50th anniversary of the *Trésor de la Langue Française*, at Campus Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Nancy, France, **January 23 – 25, 2008**. Sponsoring organization: CNRS (ATILF). Conference themes include: methodological analyses of past and current practices for *TLF*, lexicographical projects inspired by *TLF*, relationship between NLP and computerized dictionaries, emerging lexicographical practices. Proposals for papers in French or English invited. Deadline: September 1, 2007. Accepted proposals will be published in pre-conference proceedings available to conference participants. Selected articles will appear in a 250/300-page volume published later. For topics for papers and other

information, contact a member of the organizing committee at:

[tlfo7-co@atilf.fr](mailto:tlfo7-co@atilf.fr)

**Second International Symposium on Historical English Lexis (HEL-LEX2)**, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, **April 25-28, 2008**. To be held under the aegis of the VARIENG Centre of Excellence of the English Department of the university. Call for papers: send abstracts to [HEL-LEX2@helsinki.fi](mailto:HEL-LEX2@helsinki.fi) by September 30, 2007. Preference for subject: aspect of history of the English lexicon, but papers of comparative nature also accepted. Plenary speakers: Prof. Dieter Kastovsky, Chair of English Linguistics, University of Vienna; Elizabeth Knowles, Publishing Manager, Oxford University Press; Julie Coleman, Reader, Department of English, University of Leicester. Proposed venue is Lammi Biological Station, a University of Helsinki research facility located at Lammi, 120 km. north of Helsinki. A web site will be available soon.

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**14th Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference**, University of Wisconsin, Madison, (GLAC -14), University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, **May 1 – 4, 2008**. Annual conference of Society for Germanic Linguistics. Call for Papers. Deadline: January 4, 2008. Abstracts invited for 20- or 30-minute papers (plus 10 minutes of discussion) on any linguistic or philological aspect of any historical or modern Germanic language or dialect, including English (especially to the Early Modern period) and the extra-territorial varieties. Papers welcome from any linguistic subfield (including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, contact, and change) and from different theoretical approaches. Specify preference for 20-minute or 30-minute slot. Single-spaced one-page abstract (in .doc or .rtf format, or .pdf if the file includes special characters or complex formatting); submit online at web site (see below). Include title but no author information in the abstract itself. Anonymous review. Notifications of acceptance will be distributed by February 4, 2008. Organizers: Joseph Salmons <[jsalmons@wisc.edu](mailto:jsalmons@wisc.edu)> and Rob Howell <[rbhowell@wisc.edu](mailto:rbhowell@wisc.edu)> Web site: <http://mki.wisc.edu/GLAC/GLAC14.htm>. □



## DSNA Newsletter

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### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (U.S. \$)

|                              | <i>U.S., Canada,<br/>&amp; Mexico</i> | <i>Other<br/>countries</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| regular, joint, institution: | \$30                                  | \$40                       |
| student or retired           | \$20                                  | \$30                       |

Send **correspondence re membership**, etc. to Luanne von Schneidemesser, Executive Secretary, DSNA, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 6129 Helen C. White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

Fax: (608) 263-3817 Tel: (608) 265-0532  
e-mail: [Lvonschn@wisc.edu](mailto:Lvonschn@wisc.edu)

### DSNA Web Site

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

Webmaster Luanne von Schneidemesser invites members with web sites of lexicographical interest to send her the URLs. She will be happy to add a link on the DSNA web site.