

**DSNA Newsletter**

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**Publishing Information**

The *DSNA Newsletter* is published two or three times a year: Spring, and/or Summer, and Fall. The editor is Katherine Isaacs. News of members and other items of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send **all Newsletter correspondence**, such as items for publication, etc., to the editor at <kmi@sover.net>.

Please include "DSNA" in the subject line of e-mails to avoid risk of having your message deleted unopened as spam.

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

	U.S., Canada, & Mexico	Other countries
Regular, joint, institutions:	\$40	\$50
Student or retired:	\$30	\$40

Send **correspondence re membership**, etc. to  
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**DSNA Web Site**

<http://www.dictionariesociety.com/>  
Web contact Erin McKean 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.



DICTIONARY SOCIETY  
OF NORTH AMERICA

Volume 32 ■ Number 1 ■ Summer 2008

# DSNA

NEWSLETTER

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

## DICTIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

THE BLOG OF THE DICTIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007

### About the Society

The Dictionary Society of North America was formed in 1975 to bring together people interested in dictionary making, study, collection, and use. Our 500 members who live in 42 countries around the world

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

[General Information about the Society](#)

[Membership Form](#)

[DSNA Email Group \(members only\)](#)

*A screenshot of the new DSNA website and blog*

The DSNA has a new blog, at [www.dictionariesociety.com](http://www.dictionariesociety.com) (DSNA.com was taken by a headhunting firm; DSNA.org was taken by the Delaware School Nurse Association.)

The publications committee, which set up the new blog, hopes that it will help raise the profile of the association online and allow for more frequent and timely updates to members, as well as serving as a forum for member feedback.

Current links include PDFs of DSNA newsletters, Tables of Contents for *Dictionaries*, and information about membership and a link to the society's Yahoo! Groups e-mail list. Proposed links include lists of lexicographical resources for members and prospective members, as well as a blogroll of members' sites.

Content is slowly migrating from the the old DSNA site at UW-Madison; if you notice a missing link, or would like to propose a link for inclusion, please e-mail Erin McKean at [<erin@logocracy.com>](mailto:erin@logocracy.com).

—Erin McKean



## Calendar

**Fourth International Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology**, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Chateau Lacombe Hotel, **June 19–21, 2008**.

Two plenary lectures will be given at the fourth International Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology: Anatoly Liberman of the University of Minnesota will speak on "The Growth of the English Etymological Dictionary" and Stefan Dollinger of the University of British Columbia, the editor of the forthcoming second edition of the *Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles*, will speak on the DCHP-2 project. [www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/ichll4call.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/ichll4call.html)

**13th EURALEX International Congress**, Barcelona, Spain, **15–19 July 2008**, organized by the InfoLex Research Group at Pompeu Fabra University. The EURALEX Congresses bring together professional lexicographers, publishers, researchers, software developers, and others interested in dictionaries of all types. The programme will include plenary lectures, parallel sessions on various topics, software demonstrations, pre-congress tutorials and specialized workshops, a special session for students and works-in-progress, and a book and software exhibition. Discounts are offered to DSNA members. Please contact <euralex2008@upf.edu>. [www.euralex.org](http://www.euralex.org)

**Methods XIII**, University of Leeds, England, **4–8 August 2008**, hosted jointly by the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield. The special theme of the conference is *Geolinguistics*, and keynote addresses in this area are to be given by William Labov and David Britain. Other keynote speakers are Tony Lodge and Sali Tagliamonte. Methods in Dialectology conferences have been taking place every three years since 1972, at venues generally alternating between Europe and Canada. Beginning as a forum for the discussion of methodological issues in dialect research, they have steadily expanded their scope and now encompass the entire range of matters of regional, historical, and social language variation. Any and all languages are included within the compass of the Methods series. [www.leeds.ac.uk/english/activities/conferences/methods/methods.php?file=home](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/english/activities/conferences/methods/methods.php?file=home)

**The National Coalition of Independent Scholars**, 2008 Biennial Conference, Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, **October 24–26, 2008**. Abstracts of up to 250 words for 20-minute papers invited from all scholars whose research is not supported by employment in an academic or research institution, including adjunct faculty and graduate students. Presenters need not be members of NCIS. For more details, contact Kendra Leonard, Program Chair, at <caennen@gmail.com>. [www.ncis.org](http://www.ncis.org)

**AustraLex 2008**, Wellington, New Zealand, **13–14 November, 2008**, hosted by the New Zealand Dictionary Centre at Victoria University.

The theme *Faces, Forms, and Functions of Lexicography* is general, to allow papers from all aspects of lexicography, lexicographical research, and methodology to be presented. The conference includes the Biennial General Meeting of AustraLex. We invite submissions for presentations on all aspects of lexicography. Presentations of 30 minutes include single papers, panel discussions, and poster presentations. Abstracts can be up to 250 words in length and should include a title. Please send abstracts as e-mail attachments to <dianne.bardsley@vuw.ac.nz>, with an indication of equipment that you require for your presentation. These should be received before August 30. □

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## Looking Ahead: DSNA XVII

The next Biennial Meeting of the DSNA will be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, **May 27–30, 2009**. It will be hosted by the Department of English (George B. Hutchinson, Chair) and coordinated by DSNA member Michael Adams, who teaches there in the English Department. □

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*Defining Experience... continued from page 4*

Finally, after six weeks, 133 e-mail threads, 14 conference calls, two dozen backchannel conversations, and up to 30 versions of some of the definitions, all parties signed off on the final document. We ended up defining six terms rather than five, it being decided somewhere along the way that one term was ambiguous and needed to be split. I billed just over 60 hours on the job. I succeeded in getting all the terms defined with single sentences, and the longest definition (still too long for my liking, but there had to be compromise somewhere) was 35 words. The work averaged out to around 10 hours for each definition. Imagine a reference publisher popping for that!

What became clear to me throughout the job is that civil servants, industry leaders, and professional consultants — especially those that ring the Beltway and specialize in snaring fat government contracts — are often called upon to write definitions. The definitions need to stand up to the rigors of legislation, marketplace forces, intra-agency warfare, and conflicting agendas among government, consumers, and industry. The framers of these definitions are typically not at all schooled in any principles of defining, and the results can often be far from satisfactory.

That's where professional lexicography can make a real contribution. Everyone affiliated with this project had a great appreciation for my disinterested input, and despite their not listening at all to each other at various times, they seemed to absorb quietly and respectfully my comments about why certain things work, and others don't work, in good definitions.

The challenge for us is to make our lexicographic expertise known. I think we have a very strong case for presenting an institute about lexicography for the NEH — a subject that has been talked about within DSNA in the past — and now might be the time to do it! □

## Deaths

A brief obituary notice for **Olga Coren** appeared in the March 6, 2008 *New York Times*. She died March 5 at the age of 89. Sidney Landau submitted the following remembrance to the DSNA e-mail list. “[In the *Times* obit,] she is identified as a lexicographer and crossword puzzle editor. When I joined Funk & Wagnalls in New York in 1961, Olga was a senior editor, and though she was not my chief tutor, she was one of my mentors. She was an excellent lexicographer, meticulous to a fault. I believe she went on to work for Random House and became a science editor. The Funk & Wagnalls lexicographers were like a large ram-bunctious family — all strong, eccentric personalities, and violent clashes were not uncommon. I will always remember Olga as a major player in this group.”

—Sidney Landau



An obituary in the April 15, 2008 *New York Times* reported the death of **Eugene Ehrlich**, 85, “Word Connoisseur”. The obituary describes Mr. Ehrlich as “a self-educated lexicographer who wrote 40 dictionaries, thesauruses and phrase books for the ‘extraordinarily literate,’ not to mention people just hoping to sound that way.” He was educated at City College of New York and served in the US Army during World War II, and for many years was a professor at Columbia University in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. □



## Introducing the Editor

I found my way to lexicography almost by accident in 1990, after training as a medievalist (B.A., Wellesley College) and working briefly in a computer speech recognition lab at MIT. An hour-long lunch with a working lexicographer convinced me that someone had invented the perfect career for me and I hadn't even known it existed! I soon talked my way into a freelance position as a scribe on the *American Heritage Dictionary, 3rd edition*, literally copying edits in longhand from one fanfold printout to another. A desire for secure employment and health insurance, however, led me to the Connecticut shoreline and an apprenticeship under Frank Abate at the office variously known as "the Dictionaries Group of Omnigraphics" and "Dictionary and Reference Specialists."

I moved back to the Boston area in 1994 and have been freelancing since then, working on projects for Houghton Mifflin, InfoSoft/Inso, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Bloomsbury, among others. Specialities of the house include onomastics, geographic reference works, Americanization, pronunciation, and end-of-line breaks.

Now based in Montpelier, Vermont, my full-time job for the past 11 years has been maintaining small children (I have two, no longer quite so small), and I have mostly fit lexicography around the edges. I look forward to moving it back toward the center.

I see myself as the compiler rather than writer of this newsletter, and strongly encourage all members to collaborate on making it a reflection of the DSNA membership. I welcome all submissions and suggestions for articles. Be warned, however, that if I like your suggestion, I will tell you to write it up and submit it. □



photo: R. Isaacs-Falbel

— Katherine M. Isaacs  
(Katy, when not in print)

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## Submissions Wanted!

*Doggerel defined:  
Lexicographic Haiku  
— submit yours today!*

Be a part of the DSNA Newsletter — enter the first ever DSNA Doggerel® contest. Entries will be published in subsequent issues of the newsletter. All forms of poetry are welcome, and extra points will be awarded for rhymes for "lexicography". E-mail submissions to the editor at <kmi@sover.net>. □

## A Defining Experience

by Orin Hargraves

Recently I finished a contract job that took me a little outside the small world of harmless drudgery that is my usual bread and butter. It's the only job I ever got from having my "Lexicographer" shingle hung out that didn't come from the usual sources — that is, reference publishers and research outfits. By the end of it, I was convinced that there is a great opportunity for lexicographers that languishes because of a lack of awareness about who we are and what we do, so I thought a brief account of the experience might be of interest to newsletter readers.

Along with this unusual job came a rather draconian Nondisclosure Agreement that is still in effect and that keeps me from talking about the nuts and bolts, but I think I'm within bounds by summing up the job thus: a Washington Beltway consulting firm had a contract from a government agency, the principal responsibility of which was to write a report that provided authoritative definitions for a handful (5 in all) of new terms affecting the principal industry associated with the agency. The main players in this scenario were:

- two principals from the consulting firm
- three senior civil servants associated with the government agency
- two representatives from a trade group associated with the industry
- two "work groups," consisting of volunteer professionals in the industry; they were convened by and met regularly with the trade group reps.

I was approached in my capacity as a lexicographer because, four months into the project, the definitions had become unwieldy, almost incomprehensible, and the object of much wrangling among the parties involved. I can't reproduce the definitions I found at the outset here, but suffice it to say that when the principal noun in one of them was "governance entity" and another one ran to nearly 100 words with multiple clauses separated by semicolons, you knew there was a problem.

My instinct was to treat the definitions as I would any others presented to me for editing: determine what was really *sine qua non* about the thing being defined, remove everything extraneous, insure that all the hypernyms were right,

and if possible, make it sound good. As soon as I started tinkering, however, I discovered that what really had to happen first was a little consciousness-raising: there was immediate resistance from one quarter or another to everything I tried to remove (or rarely, add) to the definitions, and this, I learned, was because of attachments that various parties had to what was already in the definition text. It seemed to be considered a mark of success, satisfaction, or at least consolation, that everyone had their two cents somewhere in the definitions. My first job, then, was to educate all parties about what a good definition was and what it wasn't. Happily, everyone was uniformly receptive to this short course of instruction. It helped tremendously that I was the only nonvested party involved in the project, and had no particular policy agenda or ax to grind.

Over the course of three weeks the definitions went through a dozen drafts each in preparation for a public comment period, in which a wider audience would have an opportunity to review the report and definitions. These rewrites were often done in real time: on conference calls, with anywhere from four to twelve participants, often with several people talking at once, occasionally in an unloving way, about what they thought the definition had to say. It was the first time in my career that I have ever had to defend good defining practice on the fly, and there were numerous times when I was temporarily speechless: I'm used to the luxury of being able to let a good definition rise into consciousness of its own accord, and it was a little unnerving to work in a context in which I was expected to produce definition cures *impromptu*.

The public comment period came and went. After this, the whole project was back to square one in some respects, since the definitions — now formally acceptable, as far as I was concerned — were deemed to be a bit off-message in content. So we started the process again: e-mails, conference calls, protracted discussions about the merits and demerits of this or that verb, adjective, or adverb, and redrafts involving delicate surgery on every single word in the definitions.

*...continued on page 10*

## Notes from the DSNA office

The physical relocation of the DSNA offices, chronicled by Luanne von Schneidmesser in the Fall 2007 newsletter, was completed in late August; a highlight was the unpacking, repacking and storing of a formidable collection of 40-odd boxes of archives, journals and other materials. Until I was able to commandeer an underused closet down the corridor, Ketchum Hall 322 was a shifting sea of file folders lapping against cardboard retaining walls. DSNA shares my English Department office here at Buffalo State College, and students wandering in for fall semester advisement were often perplexed by the maze they were required to negotiate in order to reach my desk.

The dust settled at last, and we have turned to cyber-reorganizing and paperwork. Thanks to my invaluable assistant Aimee Levesque, an MA candidate in English, the membership database has been converted into a flexible, searchable format. We are updating other records, including our lists of freelancers and consultants — please let me

know if you would like to be included on either or both rosters. We've submitted our application to conduct business in New York State, and as soon as that goes through we will apply for our bulk mail permit. With the Publications Committee we are working on redesigns for the DSNA logo and website, and later this year we will begin scanning the first 24 years of the newsletter for posting online. We also are exploring options for creating an endowed DSNA Fellowship. On the other hand, we are still working out kinks in our online membership renewal process, and we thank you for your patience as revisions continue. Even more gratitude is due Luanne for her patience not only in answering my many questions but also in forwarding all the DSNA correspondence that still turns up in Wisconsin.

A personal note: my application for a sabbatical in Spring 2009 was approved, and one of the projects I will be pursuing is the design of a graduate course, "Introduction to Lexicography."

—Lisa Berglund  
Executive Secretary, DSNA

The following books have been received by the DSNA office:

*International Journal of Lexicography*, 20:4 (Dec. 2007). Contents include "The Architecture of Joseph Wright's English Dialect Dictionary: Preparing the Computerised Version" by M. Markus and R. Heuberger; "Das Akademiewörterbuch Leb! Die Monolinguale Lexikographie in Ungarn Von Den Anfängen Bis Zur Gegenwart Unter Besonderer Berücksichtigung Des Neuen Akademiewörterbuchs," by Loránd-Levente Pálfi and Júlia Pajzs; and "Innovation and Continuity in English Learners' Dictionaries: The Single-clause When-definition" by N. E. Osseton; and five reviews.

*Lexicographical Studies 2008:1*. (Journal of the China Lexicographical Association.) In Chinese. Contents include "On the Originality of a Dictionary and the Principals of Approval" by Wang Ning, "Multi-level and Omni-dimensional High Correspondence: A General Requirement for Dictionary Compiling and Editing" by Zhou Weiliang, "Build up a Chain of Modern Chinese Language Dictionaries" by Zheng Ding'ou, and "Problems of Treating Parts of Speech in a Dictionary of Synonyms" by Xu Jin.

Eugene Rivelis, *How is the bilingual dictionary possible?* In Russian. Stockholm Slavic Studies 36. Stockholm University, 2007. An analysis of the implications of applying principles of cognitive semantics and grammar to bilingual lexicography.

William Safire, *Safire's Political Dictionary*. New York: Oxford University Press 2008. "A stem-to-stern updating and expansion of the *Language of Politics*, which was first published in 1968 and last revised in 1993, long before such terms as 'hanging chads,' '9/11' and the 'War on Terror' became part of our everyday vocabulary. Nearly every entry in that renowned work has been revised and updated and scores of completely new entries have been added to produce an indispensable guide to the political language being used and abused in America today."

Sven Tarp, *Lexicography in the borderland between knowledge and non-knowledge*. Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag 2008. General lexicographical theory with particular focus on learner's lexicography.



## Reinhard's References: Reference Works on Lexicography

By Reinhard Hartmann

Many years ago, while working on a *Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*, I became aware of the distinctions 'language' versus 'metalanguage' and 'linguistics' versus 'metalinguistics', the latter in each pair using a variant of the former to describe the observed object. More recently, when I moved on to co-author a *Dictionary of Lexicography*, this distinction became relevant again, with the language and terminology of 'lexicography' having to be rephrased and explained by a modified language and terminology called 'metalexigraphy'. Or, as the *Dictionary of Lexicography* (2001: 93) defines this notion, "A complex of activities concerned with reflection on the practice of LEXICOGRAPHY" [with a cross-reference to DICTIONARY RESEARCH].

Whether or not this is a satisfactory definition, it illustrates one of the many problems faced by the compilers of such dictionaries of a technical field (or 'language for specific purposes' or 'domain-specific language'). Both practising lexicographers and metalexigraphers (dictionary researchers) need to be aware of these complexities, which is why a new generation of such LSP dictionaries have become available for them.

There are several relevant titles for a number of languages and communities, e.g. for Chinese: *Cishuxue cidian* by Z.X. Yang & Q.K. Xu (Xuelin Press, Shanghai 1992), for Spanish: *Diccionario de Lexicografía Práctica* by J. Martínez de Sousa (Biblograf, Barcelona 1995), for English: *Dictionary of Lexicography* by R. Hartmann and G. James (Routledge, London 1998, paperback 2001; Japanese translation published and Chinese translation in preparation) and *Lexicography. A Dictionary of Basic Terminology* by I. Burkhanov (WSP, Rzeszów 1998). For German, a dictionary of *Lexikographie und Wörterbuchforschung* is in preparation as one of the volumes in the new series *Wörterbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft* (ed. by H.E. Wiegand and S. Schierholz). Some are multilingual, as the *Nordisk leksikografisk ordbok*

by H. Bergenholtz, *et al.* (Universitetsforlaget, Oslo 1997), the *Dictionary of Lexicographical Terms for French, Latvian and English* by A. Bankavs (LU, Riga 2002) and a project based on Polish headed by Monika Bieliska.

The most comprehensive treatment of the field of lexicography ever attempted is the trilingual three-volume encyclopedia *Wörterbücher/Dictionaries/Dictionnaires* ed. by F.J. Hausmann, *et al.* (HSK Vol. 5.1-5.3 W. de Gruyter, Berlin 1989-1991) for which a supplementary Vol. 5.4 is in preparation ed. by R.H. Gouws, *et al.*

Guides in dictionary or encyclopedic form are also available for neighbouring disciplines such as translation, lexicology, linguistics (general, LSP and computational), terminology and library science, but I don't have space for them here.

Other reference works of relevance include the *Who's Who in Lexicography. An International Directory of EURALEX Members* by S. McGill (Dictionary Research Centre, Exeter 1996), various bibliographies of dictionaries (some of which are listed in *Babel Unravalled. An Annotated World Bibliography of Dictionary Bibliographies* by M. Cop; Niemeyer, Tübingen 1990), and the *Lexicon Grammaticorum. Who's Who in the History of World Linguistics* ed. by H. Stammerjohann (Niemeyer, Tübingen 1996).

Have we reached the stage when we are moving towards 'reference works' for 'reference science'? □

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The DSNA Office is updating lists of freelancers and its list of folks willing to be contacted with questions from the general public, news media, and so forth. If you would like to be added to either list, please contact Lisa Berglund at <dsnadmin@gmail.com>.



## DSNA at the American Council of Learned Societies

The DSNA is one of seventy national scholarly organizations that constitute the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), a private nonprofit federation begun in 1919 to advance humanistic studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and the social sciences, and to maintain and strengthen relations among the national societies devoted to such studies. Its constituent societies include large and wide-ranging ones like the American Anthropological Association, the Modern Language Association, and the American Psychological Association as well as ones closer to the size of DSNA, like the American Society for Aesthetics, the American Society for Theatre Research, and the Society for Music Theory. The constituent societies are on equal footing, and each has one vote in the business meeting. The annual meeting of the ACLS convenes a delegate and an administrator from each organization as well as representatives from the members and supporters of the National Humanities Alliances and others whose positions make the ACLS a source of information and exchange of ideas, for example, the director of New Zealand's humanities council. The 2008 meeting was in Pittsburgh, home of Andrew Carnegie and Andrew Mellon, whose foundations have supported the work of the ACLS and higher education in general. Luanne von Schneidmesser and I represented DSNA.

The annual meeting is designed not only to report on the programs and finances of the ACLS but also to facilitate conversation about the changing contexts in which scholarship in the humanities is carried out and transmitted. To that end, the 2008 program provided several structured sessions as well as abundant opportunity for those attending to socialize and talk together informally over food and drink, including a buffet dinner the opening night at Pittsburgh's Andy Warhol Museum. Concurrent sessions were held on two topics: the recruitment and professional socialization of graduate students by scholarly associations and barriers to international scholarship currently posed by U.S. immigration and visa policies. A long session on "Learned Societies and the Future of Publishing: When will the revolution arrive?" was organ-

ized and expertly moderated by James O'Donnell, Provost of Georgetown University and Secretary of the ACLS Board of Directors, and included an hour of audience interaction with the five members of the panel. In the words of Michael Keller, Stanford University's University Librarian, the revolution is here, and humanists must "swim in the tsunami" and "accept that the results of scholarship must be disseminated in e-form."

Because awarding peer-reviewed fellowships to individuals is at the core of ACLS activity, three recent fellowship recipients described their projects — in nineteenth century literature and science, in ethnography of Zulu song and dance, and in American history. The last, Jonathan Levy's dissertation project, "The Ways of Providence: Capitalism, Risk, and Freedom," is of particular interest to DSNA members because it grew from a painstaking analysis of the occurrences and changing meaning and associations of the word risk.

As is customary at ACLS, the luncheon speaker was the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bruce Cole. He focused on the public engagement initiative *We the People*, established in 2002, and the upcoming *Picturing America* initiative.

The concluding session was the 2008 Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecture, by Theodor Meron, Professor of Law Emeritus from New York University and judge on the international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. In a description earlier in the day of the qualifications of the Haskins lecturer, ACLS President Pauline Yu characterized the desiderata as "erudition, eloquence, and emeritude." Judge Meron did not disappoint. His lecture will be published, in print and online, in the ACLS Occasional Paper series, as are all the Haskins lectures.

DSNA members can find more information about the ACLS and its programs at [www.acls.org](http://www.acls.org). The address for the ACLS Humanities E-book project is [www.humanitiesEbook.org](http://www.humanitiesEbook.org). To learn about current legislation and key votes affecting the humanities community, go to [www.humanitiesadvocacy.org](http://www.humanitiesadvocacy.org).

ACLS logo by permission

—Connie Eble

## Academic Dictionary Updates



### *Middle English Dictionary*

As readers of this newsletter in 2001 will remember, the DSNA held its biennial meeting in May of that year in Ann Arbor in order to help celebrate the completion of the *Middle English Dictionary* (MED) after seventy-one years in progress at the University of Michigan, along with the recent electronic publication of the *Middle English Compendium* partially based on it. Shortly after that meeting, the 115th and final fascicle, containing words beginning with the letters X-Y-Z, was sent off to the printer and was published by the University of Michigan Press in July of that year. The completed MED runs to 14,939 pages in thirteen volumes, with 54,081 separate entries and 891,531 illustrative quotations.

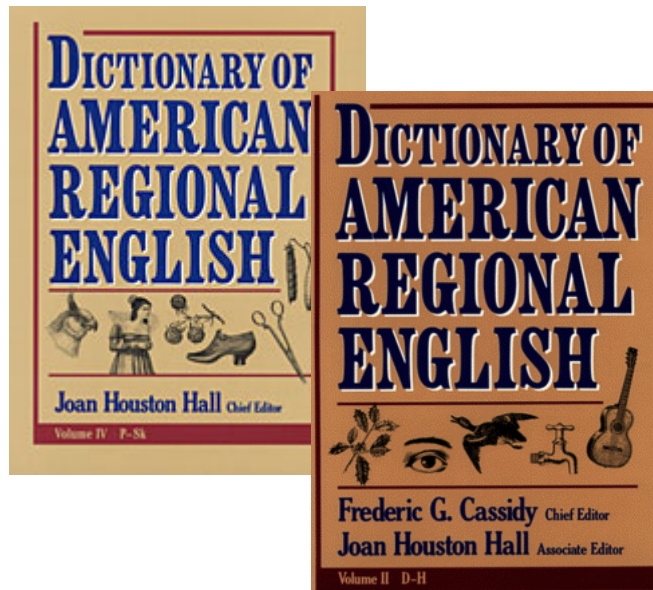
Then in early 2007 the final piece of the MED was published: a second edition of the *Plan and Bibliography* that editor Hans Kurath and his colleagues Margaret Ogden, Charles Palmer, and Richard McKelvey prepared in 1954, two years after the first fascicle of the MED had been published. The first part of this new edition, written by me, is a complete reshaping and rewriting of Kurath's original *Plan*, with an up-to-date history of the project and a comprehensive guide to the entries and their constituent parts. The *Bibliography* is by Mary Jane Williams, our bibliographer, and me, with the assistance of Marilyn Miller. It contains a revised list of the texts used in the print dictionary, combining the original *Bibliography*, the supplemental *Bibliography* published in 1984, and the additions made between 1984 and 2001, when the last fascicle was published. The new *Bibliography* amounts to over 9,400 full entries, nearly twice the number in the original and supplemental bibliographies combined, with notes on the changes in date, title, manuscript, or edition that took place in the print dictionary between 1952 and 2001.

At one time a print supplement was part of the long-range plan, and files for it were prepared and organized during the last twenty-five years of the project. The kind of supplement envisioned originally was a short one, in which we would correct the obvious errors, revise definitions and etymologies that we knew needed to be revised, and add the new words in our files, much like the supplement to the *Scottish National Dictionary* (1976). But as we worked through the remainder of the alphabet, it became increasingly clear to us that, in view of the length of time that had elapsed since the first fascicle appeared in 1952 and the changes in editorial practice that had taken place since then, the kind of supplement that would best serve the scholarly community would be a full and systematic one, which, in conjunction with the completed MED, would provide a coherent whole in which all entries would be similar in treatment, fullness, and coverage from A to Z.

Unfortunately, by the time the MED was completed, the cost of producing this fuller kind of supplement — indeed, even the shorter version — was too great, but our supplement files (eighteen boxes of quotation slips alphabetized by headword, the majority of which are also in electronic form) are available for consultation in Ann Arbor, through the Special Collections Library in the Hatcher Graduate Library at the University of Michigan. We hope to be able, as time and resources permit, to correct the obvious errors, to append some additional quotations for current entries, and to add some entirely new entries in the electronic MED.

—Robert E. Lewis  
University of Michigan

## Academic Dictionary Updates (continued)



Images courtesy of the DARE website  
© Harvard University Press

### *DARE Looks “On Beyond Zebra”*

As the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE) moves steadily toward the end of the alphabet, staff members are not only focusing on the letter Z but are also looking ahead toward *Volume VI* and the electronic edition.

With *Volume VI*, readers will get the bibliography, the cumulative index of all the regional, usage, and etymological labels in all five text volumes, and the feature we have been referring to in the text as the “Map Section.” Here we will have a great opportunity to pull together many sets of contrastive maps for the same item or idea. So rather than having to look in multiple volumes to see the distributions of *hero*, *hoagie*, *sub*, *grinder*, *Cuban*, and *poor boy*, readers will be able to see the maps displayed on facing pages. It should be a great teaching tool as well as a good coffee table book!

Plans for the electronic edition are under discussion with Harvard University Press, and we are eager to come to an agreement about how that project will proceed. We will share the news as soon as it is available.

As for *Volume V* (Sl–Z), our progress has been slowed by the recent availability of Google Books, with all its riches and its frustrating limitations. But because of its tremendous value in antedating (and postdating) a very large percentage of our entries, we feel obligated to consult it regularly, at the same time trying to avoid getting bogged down by the minutiae. We anticipate that *Volume V* will come out in 2010. You’ll all be invited to the celebration!

—Joan Hall  
University of Wisconsin