



Changes afoot—and ahead—for DSNA

This newsletter marks the first official appearance of the new DSNA logo (above at left). Designed by Liz Scinta and shepherded by Executive Secretary Lisa Berglund and publications committee members David Jost (chair) and Wendalyn Nichols, the new “thumb-tab” logo will gradually be rolled out on all of our print and online materials. Many thanks to the four of them, and to the rest of the publications committee and the board who helped out with this step forward.



The Dictionary Society of North America is also pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Knowles to be the new Editor of *Dictionaries*, DSNA’s academic journal. A historical lexicographer, Elizabeth worked on the 4th edition of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (1993), is currently editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* (7th edition, 2009). Most recently, she has been working on a book about exploring the English language (*How to Read a Word*, to be published in the autumn).

To add to the editorship changes, Orin Hargraves—the current book review editor—has been named Associate Editor of *Dictionaries*.

News of Members

Ben Zimmer has been profiled in print, interviewed on the radio, and lauded on high-profile websites (including slate.com) for his latest venture. Ben has stepped in to fill the very large shoes of the late **William Safire** (also a DSNA member) in writing the now biweekly "On Language" column for the *New York Times Magazine*. Ben wrote the "On Language" column remembering Safire last October, and kindly adapted it for the last edition of this newsletter.



The prestigious Prix Georges-Émile Lapalme 2009 has been awarded to **Monique C. Cormier** by the Province of Québec for her promotion, sustenance, and strengthening of the French language in Québec. Professor Cormier was the 2004 recipient of the Laurence Urdang-DSNA award.

Fraser Sutherland has just published his tenth poetry collection, *The Philosophy of As If* (Toronto: BookLand Press, 2010.) As the author's note says, "Fraser Sutherland may be the only Canadian poet who is also a lexicographer." More information is available at www.booklandpress.com.

Bo Svensén's "systematic survey of the theory and methods of dictionary-making," *A Handbook of Lexicography: The Theory and Practice of Dictionary-Making* (2009) is now available from Cambridge University Press.

Anatoly Liberman has recently had published "the foundation of [his] dictionary," described by the publisher as a "broadly conceptualized reference tool ... for etymological research." The 896-page opus, *A Bibliography of English Etymology: Sources and Word List* (2009), is available from the University of Minnesota Press.

Five DSNA members (below) gathered at the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies in Philadelphia on 8 May 2010: **Richard W. Bailey** (delegate from the American Dialect Society), **Lisa Berglund** (DSNA executive secretary), **Michael Hancher** (DSNA president and acting DSNA delegate), **David Vander Meulen** (delegate from the Bibliographical Society of America) and **Luanne von Schneidemesser** (acting executive director of the American Dialect Society).



(Photo courtesy of David Vander Meulen)

We congratulate skiing lexicographer **Carl Burnett** for his efforts at the 2010 Vancouver



Paralympics. Racing in the sit-ski division, Carl placed 9th in the slalom and 14th in the giant slalom (the highest ranking American in both those events), and finished 12th in the super combined. Since

then he's come in 3rd in the slalom at the 2010 US Adaptive Alpine Championships, and met President Obama at the White House with the rest of the US Olympic Team. An impressive year—and it's only May!

From the archives....

Luanne von Schneidemesser sent along this picture, taken at the DSNA conference in Madison, Wisc., in 1997.



From left to right: (Unknown), David Vander Meulen, Allan Metcalf, Allen Walker Read, Dick Bailey, Charlotte Read, and Bill Chisholm.



The following books have been received at the DSNA office:

Cresswell, Julia, *The Insect that Stole Butter? Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins*. 2nd ed. Oxford UP, 2009.

Dent, Susie, *What Made the Crocodile Cry? 101 Questions about the English Language*. Oxford UP, 2009.

Geeraerts, Dirk, *Theories of Lexical Semantics*. Oxford Linguistics. Oxford UP, 2010.

Giorgi, Alessandra, *About the Speaker: Towards a Syntax of Indexicality*. Oxford Studies in Theoretical Linguistics. Oxford UP, 2010.

Lexikos 19 and the Lexikos 19 supplement (2009).

Manser, Martin H., *1001 Words You Need to Know and Use: An A-Z of Effective Vocabulary*. Oxford UP, 2010.

Oxford Dictionary of Art and Artists, ed. Ian Chilvers. 4th ed. Oxford UP, 2009.

Oxford Essential Arabic Dictionary (English-Arabic/Arabic-English). Oxford UP, 2010.

Oxford English Dictionary of British History, ed. John Cannon. Rev. ed. Oxford UP, 2009.

Pocket Oxford Chinese Dictionary, 4th ed. Oxford UP.

Pocket Oxford German Dictionary, 4th ed. Oxford UP.

Pocket Oxford Spanish Dictionary, 4th ed. Oxford UP.

Reinhard's References VII: Textbooks

by Reinhard Hartmann

Having just submitted a review of another textbook (Svensén's *Handbook of Lexicography* 2009) for a forthcoming issue of *Dictionaries*, I am even more aware of the growth and development of this genre since Zgusta's *Manual* (1971). [Full references to all textbooks cited here are provided in the bibliography on the EURALEX website euralex.pbworks.com/Text+Books/; for other genres treated in my column, see the list below.]

Textbooks are defined in most dictionaries as "essential aids" to the "study of a subject," typically linked to a school/college/training context. However, few courses and teachers are available for such formal teaching in the field of lexicography, therefore such aids become even more important. However, since the readership is less predictable than in other fields, the scope may be bigger and vaguer, and the books on offer may have to appeal to a wider range of multidisciplinary customers, such as linguists, language teachers, terminologists, translators, and computer experts. Interestingly, all books in this genre actually avoid the word *textbook* in their titles, preferring terms like *introduction*, *guide*, *manual*, and *handbook*. The inherent tensions between practical skills and theoretical principles, a topic of much interest since Wiegand's massive work on *Wörterbuchforschung* (1998), remain an issue for several of these publications.

Some outstanding examples of lexicography textbooks in the last two decades have been, for English, Landau's *Dictionaries* (1984/2001), which concentrated on the art and craft of managing and editing (American) dictionaries, my own *Teaching and Researching Lexicography* (Hartmann 2001), in which I tried to show that research-based knowledge has relevance to such practical tasks, Jackson's *Lexicography* (2002), the *Practical Guide* edited by van Sterkenburg (2003), the *Oxford Guide* by Atkins & Rundell (2008), which stressed lexicographic practice but paradoxically demonstrated

many links both to theoretical principles and neighbouring disciplines, and most recently, Svensén's *Handbook* (2009), whose sub-title reflects a healthy balance between the theory and practice of dictionary-making.

Some more special topics rarely covered in textbooks include (tradition and innovation in) English lexicography (Béjoint 1994/2000), bilingual lexicography (Marello 1989 and Adamska-Sałaciak 2006), phraseology (Corpas Pastor 1996), terminology and LSP lexicography (Bergenholtz & Tarp 1994/1995 and Pavel & Nolet 2001), encyclopedics (Rey 1982), dictionary use (Lew 2004), and corpus linguistics (Ooi 1998). A combination of two of these, LSP and bilingual lexicography, has been offered by Nielsen (1994).

General textbooks for other languages include Kojima (1999 Japanese), Devkin (2000 Russian), Pruvost (2002 French), Herbst & Klotz (2003 German), Gouws & Prinsloo (2005 South African languages), and Fjeld & Vikør (2008 Norwegian).

Finally, we need to ask whether the debate introduced by McArthur some years ago on the direction in which lexicography is moving, "towards reference science," has been reflected yet in this part of the literature. Well, for a start, there is the textbook edited by Lin (2004 *Gongjushuxue Gailun* = "Introduction to Reference Tool Science") which looks at reference works in a more realistic wider setting.

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Reinhard's References so far:

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| I | Periodicals | DSNAN 30.2 (2006) pp. 5-6
[cf. also my survey of 40 journals of relevance to lexicography in <i>Lexikos</i> Vol. 19 (2009) pp. 404-422] |
| II | Festschrift volumes | 31.1 (2007) p. 7 |
| III | Conference proceedings | 31.2 (2007) p. 8 |
| IV | Reference works | 32.1 (2008) p. 8 |
| V | Dictionary research centres | 33.1 (2009) pp. 4-5 |
| VI | Dissertations | 33.2 (2009) p. 4 |

DSNA Fellow: Joan Houston Hall

Article II, Section B3 of the Constitution of the Dictionary Society of North America states "Any member distinguished for the study, making or collecting of dictionaries may be elected by the membership as a Fellow of the DSNA, upon recommendation of the Executive Board." At last year's conference in Bloomington, the Society elected four new Fellows: Joan Houston Hall, Luanne von Schneidemesser, Roger Steiner, and Victoria Neufeldt. The newsletter will run profiles of all four new Fellows over the next few issues. Vicki Neufeldt's profile appeared in the last issue, and we continue here with Joan Houston Hall, the Chief Editor of the *Dictionary of American Regional English*, explaining how she came to be in charge of this immense and immensely important project.

Like many others in our field, I fell into lexicography quite by accident. I went to graduate school at Emory University thinking that I would specialize in Southern Literature. But a chance encounter with the man who would have been my major professor, in which he flew into a rage because a nun to whom I introduced him was not wearing a habit, caused me to rethink my focus.

Looking at the timetable, I saw that there was still a space open in a History of the English Language course taught by Lee Pederson, and I enrolled in it. Lee required three papers that fall quarter, in Old, Middle, and Modern English. But if we were willing to do some fieldwork for his Dialect Survey of Rural Georgia in lieu of the third paper, we were encouraged to do so.

Having twelve other papers to write in as many weeks, I jumped at the chance to do something outside the classroom and soon became hooked by linguistic fieldwork. It was quite scary to do "cold calls" asking people to give me their time to answer questions about *fireboards*, *play pretties*, and *rotgut* or *white lightning*, but it was also exhilarating and satisfying. And I learned more about Georgia and the American South than would ever have been possible simply by studying Southern Literature.

Lee also told us about an exciting project going on at the University of Wisconsin then, in which fieldworkers were going to communities all across the United States, asking questions similar to those in the Georgia project but on a

very much larger scale. I thought, "Oh, I would love to work on that project." And I actually had a chance to meet Fred Cassidy at a party at Lee Pederson's home where I could have told him of my interest in *DARE*; but I was too timid to

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Joan Houston Hall

(Photo: Richard C. Graves)

In Memoriam

William Chisholm, a former editor of *Dictionaries*, passed away January 18, 2008.



William Chisholm
(Photo courtesy of Luanne von Schneidemesser)

Bill was the Pronunciation Editor for *Webster's New World Dictionary* for a number of years, and wrote several books on English. He received his PhD from the University of Michigan, and was professor of English and linguistics at Cleveland State University from 1969 until retiring in 1998. He edited the DSNA's journal *Dictionaries* from volume 12 through volume 20, 1990–1999. Michael Adams and Luanne von Schneidemesser wrote the following tributes:

Bill Chisholm was editor of *Dictionaries* for a decade, advancing the success of the journal so well established by Richard W. Bailey. The Society owes him the debt of memory.

He was an exacting editor. He never allowed an unsupported assertion to pass; if you could do without a word, you did. Barely a sentence escaped his correction, suggestion, or query. If he criticized something you wrote, you could argue with him, but mostly he didn't budge. If you convinced him, your argument had the spiritual authority of Mohammed.

I ended my first article for *Dictionaries* by observing that "the course of true lexicography never did run smooth." *Smooth*, Chisholm noted, isn't used much as an adverb nowadays, having been superseded by *smoothly*. I was paraphrasing Shakespeare; he insisted on quotation marks. Earnest as I am, he saw quickly how to pull my leg. I wrote one of my best sentences ever: "Just deserts are too often in the eye of the withholder." "Desserts?" he queried, which prompted an astonished explanation of just what I was trying to accomplish. He didn't admit that it was a joke until I succeeded him as editor. I hadn't expected a sense of humor; when you met him, it wasn't obvious.

Once, I visited him at home, to learn some things about editing and producing the journal. We spent an hour on the fine points of manual kerning. Then I realized how careful he had been with every printed page. His paper was perfectly white, the print sharp, the page aesthetically composed. He vexed authors, it's true, but his presentation of their work respected them. At the same time, it was a gesture towards readers.

What I didn't know, what I would never have guessed from the little I knew of him, was that he and his wife kept tropical birds. He showed them to me proudly during my visit. Their cages were as neat and precise as his pages, their feathers tight and smooth as the prose he groomed. It was a grey day in a grey suburb, yet the spectrum of tropical color lit the room.

This is my memorial: I think of *Dictionaries* open to a spread of his clean and precisely ordered text, birds on the corners of the pages like avian putti. Their "fire-fangled feathers dangle down."
— Michael Adams

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The first glimpse I caught of Bill Chisholm was when walking behind him at the 1995 DSNA conference in Cleveland—what a magnificent head of hair! But it wasn't just his hair that made him outstanding. He was editor

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Joan Houston Hall, *continued*

introduce myself.

Fast forward about six years to the point where I had finished my course work, married my college sweetheart, moved to Oregon where he went to graduate school, moved to Maine where he took a job, and was still trying to finish a dissertation based on the Georgia fieldwork. Lee wrote me that Fred Cassidy was just beginning the process of editing all the material that had been collected for *DARE*, and he was looking for someone to help him. Was I interested? Was I!

On Lee's recommendation, and without even a telephone interview, Fred Cassidy hired me and my husband and I moved to Madison. (I can't imagine a scenario like that these days!) It turned out to be a good fit, and the "temporary" job of editing the *Dictionary*, which was intended as a publication to celebrate the bicentennial of the United States, turned into a career.

I came in 1975 as an Assistant Editor. We expanded the editorial staff dramatically the next few years in an attempt to speed the writing, and in 1979, after I had trained many

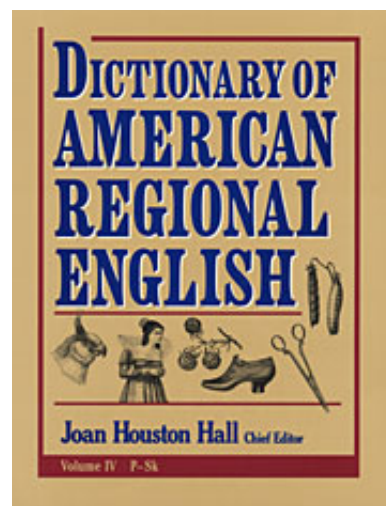
new people, I was made Associate Editor. Fred gradually shifted editorial and administrative responsibilities to me during the next decade, and by the 1990s I was Co-Principal Investigator and then Principal Investigator on the federal grants. After his death in 2000 I was named Chief Editor.

As all who knew Fred Cassidy will remember, he was an extremely engaging person, and he enjoyed and nurtured friendships. He took a personal interest in the people he hired, asking about their interests outside the job and remembering their children at Christmas. For me, he was boss, mentor, colleague, and friend. I feel lucky to have known him in those capacities, and I'm fortunate to have "inherited" the project he initiated and nurtured. The people he hired to work on *DARE* have been both skilled and dedicated, and together we will realize his mantra "On to Z!" But we will also go further, migrating the text to an online edition where we can keep it up to date and have it reflect our language in the new millennium as well as the old.



Joan Hall examines a display at the Cordell Collection banquet, DSNA XVII, 2009.

(Photo: Luanne von Schneidemesser)



Cordell Corner

by David Vancil

The Cordell Collection has experienced some changes. For example, a major addition to our arsenal of research tools has been the askSam versions of our databases of the pre-1901 and post-1901 holdings in the Cordell Collection. You'll find these available from the Cordell Collection home page along with the traditional databases created in Microsoft Access. The advantage of the askSam databases is that they support Boolean keyword searching, so you can join or exclude words and phrases with the usual "and," "or," and "not" operators or an implied "and." In addition, you can use wildcards to conduct searches. It's easy to progress through the search or through the database using either your browser or the database program's "backward" and "forward" arrows. The only negative is that we cannot incorporate changes from the Access database; corrections and additions have to be done manually in the askSam database. So much for automation. This means that we will not be updating the holdings as frequently as in the past.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that Jamie Davis, whom many of you met at the DSNA banquet, was no longer with the Special Collections Department. In light of the economic downturn and the fact that new faculty lines have been temporarily frozen at our institution, we feel lucky in having squeezed out the last new faculty line in the person of Kate McMillan, our new cataloger/reference librarian. While Kate's position is more extensive than the Cordell Collection alone, she is cutting her cataloging teeth on the Cordell Collection and has already cataloged recent additions from Laurence Urdang's library as well as resuming where Jamie left off. Kate is focusing on cataloging the remainder of the nineteenth-century English-language portion of the Cordell Collection next. As this is more than 2,000 items, it will probably take a long while. Meanwhile,

as has always been the case, although I may have failed to express it, anyone who wants something moved up in priority need only ask. If you have cataloging questions, you can reach Kate directly at Kate.McMillan@indstate.edu.

While I announced the acquisition of the Laurence Urdang Archive in a significant library publication, I don't think I have mentioned it yet to DSNA members. The Urdang Archive consists of 30 cartons of papers, books, letters, personal papers, memorabilia, and even digital materials. Part of the focus of the archive in addition to Urdang's career is on his interest in marine terminology. Most of the digital material has to do with his work-in-progress, a maritime dictionary. Published material includes a complete run of *Verbatim*, books compiled, written, or edited by Urdang, books published under his imprint, and books given and usually inscribed to him by eminent



Laurence Urdang
(Photo courtesy of the Cordell Collection)



*A somewhat younger Larry Urdang.
(Photo courtesy of the Cordell Collection)*

writers, including William Safire and Erica Jong. The department has mounted an exhibit. Because of the size of the collection, it is listed separately on our website. It is selectable from our homepage as a database or directly by using the following link: library.indstate.edu/scripts/as_web7.exe?Command=First&File=urdang_archive.ask. This askSam database presents an expanded version of the packing sheets which accompanied the archive. Anyone who wants additional information on what he or she discovers in the database will need to follow up with us. Until we see how the archive is used, we have decided not to invest additional time in listing or cataloging the material. On a personal level, as the son of a WWII veteran, I found materials relating to Laurence's high-school years and subsequent career choices revealing and somewhat moving.

I believe I made a promise several newsletter articles ago that the library, as it had completed a major digitization project on another collection, would begin digitizing elements of the Cordell Collection for the delectation and possible use of individuals interested in historic dictionaries. I have been at a loss for how to live up to this promise for several reasons.

The cost of digitization equipment appeared out of reach. Yet I had some funds available, ostensibly for the purchase of large collections. Unfortunately, even these funds have proved to be insufficient for the purchase of some very large holdings. Yet, when technology became available to digitize books at an affordable cost, I found the means to purchase two digitization machines. These two machines are the BookDrive Pro and the BookDrive Mini. Distributed by ATIZ (www.atiz.com), these devices use opposing cameras to shoot images of pages of a book which is nestled in a cradle. As a V-shaped cover is raised and dropped, images of the page are captured. This can be done—in the case of the Pro—at 1,000 pages an hour! I have personally seen this equipment in use in another library. I think those of you who visit the pages and correspond with the individuals who are distributing the BookDrive line will be stunned at how inexpensive these are compared to the usual overhead scanners being sold. What is equally compelling in choosing these “scanners” is that the operator does not have to be an expert. Students can run these machines. While we await the arrival of these new wonder-gizmos, we are scanning using an exceptionally high-quality flatbed scanner manufactured by Epson, but I have to personally select the books based on criteria that will allow the book to be captured without harm. As you can imagine, we are not clocking pages in the realm that the ATIZ product can attain. What the ATIZ products can achieve in an hour would take a week or more on a flatbed scanner. Nonetheless, we are adding about a book a week. You can find these by searching on the term “image” in either version of the pre-1901 database. Please feel free to request scans. Otherwise, it may be quite a while before we reach what interests you.



Montreal in 2011



Photo: Claudio Calligaris; by permission, McGill University

For the first time in many years (and only the second time ever), the DSNA conference will be held outside the United States. DSNA XVIII will be convening in Montreal, Québec, Canada, on June 8–11, 2011. Lise Winer of McGill University, the coordinator for this conference, issues the following invitation:

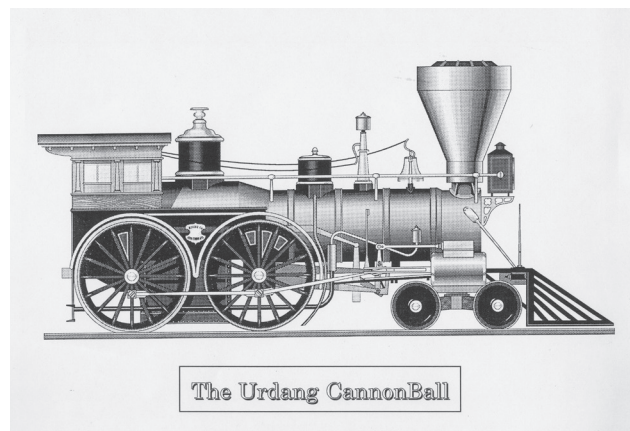
Make sure your passport is in order, and come experience a great conference in a great city. Montreal is a perfect place to hear just about any language and of course, to converse in our Québec varieties of French and English. On the conference side, we will be at the McGill New Residence Hotel right at the edge of Parc Mont-Royal, a mountain in mid-city, host to walkers, bicyclists, and birdwatchers. At the foot of the eastern slope is a series of sports grounds, and a weekly summer “Tam Tam Jam”—multi-ethnic drumming.

Old Montreal is a lovely section of town that is quite manageable to walk around in a few hours. The city has beautiful Botanical Gardens, art museums and galleries, fabulous shopping, and lots of really excellent restos (restaurants), bars, cafes-terrasses, bistros, etc., from vegan to Vietnamese.

The conference venue is in the lower level of the hotel: two presentation/exhibition rooms, its own lovely lobby and an on-site cafeteria. The complex in which the hotel is located has a complete range of stores and services right inside.

The conference will focus on Canadian dictionaries—both French and English—but we welcome any dictionary-related submissions. Most sessions will be non-concurrent, giving everyone a chance to hear as many presentations as possible. A call for papers will go out in September.

A note from the editor: As most readers are no doubt aware, the rules for US citizens traveling to and from Canada have changed in the last few years. A valid passport, passport card, or Enhanced Driver's License is now required even for land travel. For more information, visit the website of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative at www.getyouhome.gov/html/lang_eng/index.html.



The DSNA Office maintains lists of freelancers and people 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 dsnaadmin@gmail.com

DSNA Newsletter

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Publishing Information

The *DSNA Newsletter* is published twice a year, in the spring and fall. The editor is Katherine Isaacs. News of members and other items of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send *Newsletter* correspondence, such as items for publication, etc., to the editor at <editor.dsnan@gmail.com>.

DSNA Web Site

www.dictionariesociety.com

Members with web sites of lexicographical interest who would like to be linked from our website can send URLs to the DSNA office at <dsnaadmin@gmail.com>.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (U.S. \$)

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

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This issue: Vol. 34 No. 1 (Spring 2010)
Cumulative issue #71