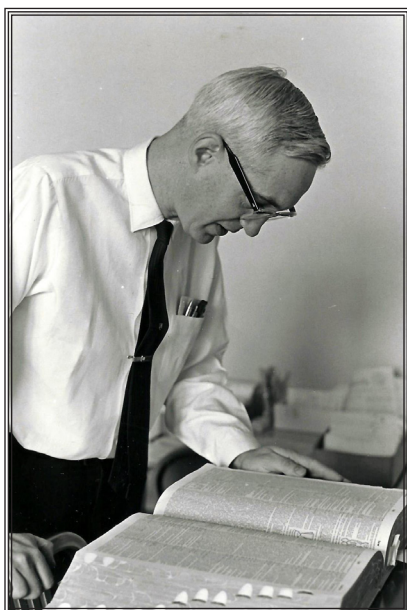


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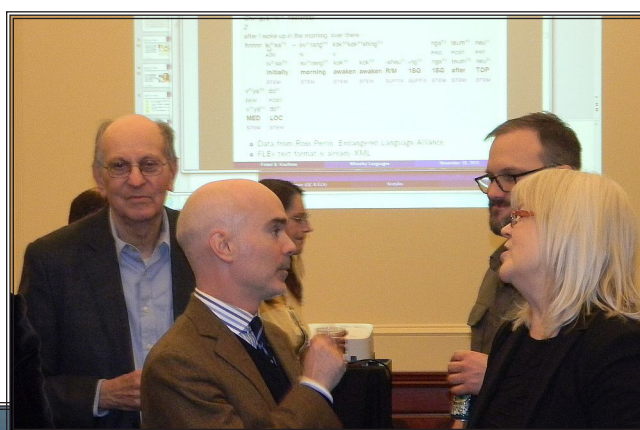
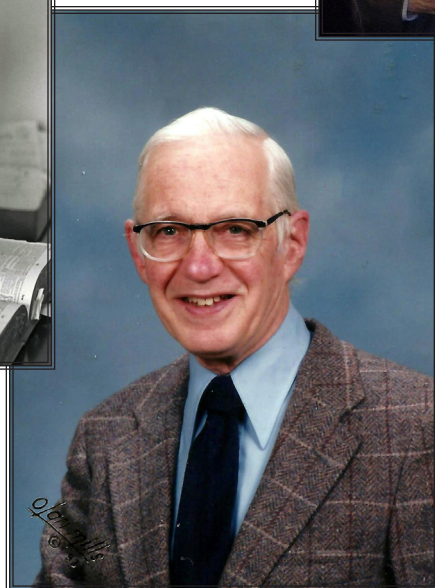
DSNA

NEWSLETTER

In Memoriam:
Ed Gates, Founder of DSNA,
1924–2015



Two Photos of Ed Gates
chosen for the Newsletter
by his wife, Marion Gates



Some attendees at MetroLex: Sidney
Landau, Peter Sokolowski, Rebecca
Shapiro, Jesse Dewitt, Wendi Nichols

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News of Members

Anne Curzan was extensively quoted, along with **Peter Sokolowski** and **David Barnhart**, by Mark Peters in "The Word," the *Boston Globe's* regular language column. The article, "The linguistic sex appeal of the unicorn," from February 21, 2016, can be found at www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2016/02/21/see-any-unicorns-lately/0CEhFoIgeaHw71hjbKSWVO/story.html.

Thomas Katheder announces the publication in December of his paper "Dr. Johnson's Dictionary in Eighteenth-Century Virginia" on the Social Science Research Network. The paper can be viewed for free (no registration required) at ssrn.com/abstract=2703628.

Since the most recent edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* was published in 2014, **Elizabeth Knowles** has been working on a couple of books. The first of these, a new edition of her *Little Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*, is now almost ready for release, and she is focusing her attention on a project very dear to her heart: a book about how quotations function in the language (working title, *The Story of Quotations*), which she is writing for Oxford University Press; it brings together the experience of years of editing *ODQ*, and the opportunity to look in detail at how quotations are used in today's language, and in many cases what changes they have undergone through the years. She continues to recommend retirement with interesting work as a most desirable lifestyle.

Ken Litkowski reports that the Pattern Dictionary of English Prepositions (PDEP) has

reached an important milestone. Ken explains that this dictionary "is a part of The Preposition Project (TPP), which Orin Hargraves and I have been working on for the past 10 years. A major purpose of PDEP is to provide a representative sample of preposition instances (drawn from the British National Corpus) and to tag them with senses using the sense inventory of the *Oxford Dictionary of English* (as augmented by Orin and me during the course of TPP). We have recently completed this tagging of some 47,000 instances and entered into the phase of analysis to characterize preposition behavior. Each sentence has been parsed and used as the basis for extracting features about the context of the preposition use; typically, about 3,500 features are extracted for each example. In this phase, we are applying methods of machine learning to develop models for predicting the sense of a preposition." For a full description of this project, go to aclweb.org/anthology/P14-1120. PDEP has been designed to allow public access to any of the data available in the system and welcomes comments; the website can be found at clres.com/db/TPPEditor.html.

Lynne Murphy has received one of the first National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Program grants, which she will use to finish a book on the relationships between British and American English. One chapter of this will cover the "dictionary cultures" of those two countries. The research for that chapter will also be supported by a British Academy / Leverhulme Small Grant for travel to dictionary archives. For more information, see www.neh.gov/news/press-release/2015-07-29.

Editor's Desk

I am taking over the editorship of the Newsletter as of this issue from Martha Mayou, to whom we owe much gratitude for her excellent work. Assisting me will be Katy Isaacs as Production Editor and Peter Chipman as Assistant Editor in charge of member news and DSNA Conference news. Please send member news to Peter at dsna.membernews@gmail.com. Peter works for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, where he is Senior Editor at the *American Heritage Dictionary*. Assisting me also, I hope, will be you, the members of the DSNA. This is your Newsletter and its focus is on you and your activities and accomplishments. ♦

—David Jost

Member News, continued

Danko Sipka's new book on metalexigraphy, *Lexical Conflict: Theory and Practice*, was published in September by Cambridge University Press. The publisher's description includes this summary: "The first practical study of its kind, *Lexical Conflict* presents a taxonomy of cross-linguistic lexical differences, with thorough discussion of zero equivalence, multiple equivalence and partial equivalence across languages. Illustrated with numerous examples taken from over one hundred world languages, this work is an exhaustive exploration of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural differences, and presents guidelines and solutions for the lexicographic treatment of these differences." Visit www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/languages-linguistics/semantics-and-pragmatics/lexical-conflict-theory-and-practice to learn more.

Tim Stewart announces the imminent completion of his *Dictionary of Blended Denominations*, which is due to come out this year. He also maintains a related website, www.dictionaryofchristianese.com, where he writes short articles of lexicographical interest about the Protestant Christian sociolect. ♦

Special Collection of Note

The archive is called "The Barnhart Dictionary Archive" and it is housed at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. The collection includes a huge amount of correspondence, proposals, questionnaires sent to editorial committee members, etc., in other words, paper generated over more than 40 years in the business. The archive also includes our citation files of about four million citations, some 10,000 originally brought by Craigie to the University of Chicago for the *Dictionary of American English*. The etymology dictionary manuscript and the unpublished university dictionary manuscript are also in Indiana--other mss, too. As well as much of our working library. ♦

—Cynthia Barnhart

(an article about this collection will appear in the next Newsletter.)

Request for Member News

Please send your news for the next issue of the DSNA Newsletter to Peter Chipman at dsna.membernews@gmail.com. ♦

MetroLex

After the DSNA meeting in Vancouver, people were wishing to prolong the good energy that goes with a conference and were disappointed that the next one would be in two years. In that spirit, Katherine Martin, Ben Zimmer, Wendi Nichols, Ammon Shea, and I—all who live in and around New York City—created a DSNA-sponsored series on lexicography. At a meeting we clarified the mission and named ourselves. Being from New Jersey and feeling a bit put upon by NY—as people from NJ often do—I suggested MetroDS, but Ammon clinched it with MetroLex.

The first meeting in January was three days after an epic snowstorm (for NYC) and we still had around 40 people—amazing what we'll do for lexicography, wine, and pretzels (they were all good!). The talks were on works in progress at Google, OUP, and the Endangered Language Project at CUNY—Queens. The papers were short, casual, and exciting. We had a diverse audience: editors, professors, grad students, linguists, lexicographers, and friends. The questions flew, as did the time. MetroLex was held again on April 11, and its topic was "Lexicography and the Law." Videos of the meeting can be seen at www.dictionariesociety.com.

We welcome suggestions for panels, panelists, and hosts for future meetings. These free events will be held quarterly and what would be even better is to have other MetroLexes pop up in other regions, to spark interest and keep us connected between conferences. ♦

—Rebecca Shapiro

In Memoriam: Ed Gates 1924–2015

J. Edward Gates died on December, 24, 2015. As Michael Adams said on the occasion of reporting the awarding to Ed of the Richard Bailey Award in the Spring 2015 Newsletter, Ed Gates

taught courses in lexicography, among other things, and with the help of his ISU colleagues, organized conferences on “The History and Study of Lexicography” (1971) and “Historical Research on English Dictionaries” (1975). The Society for the Study of Dictionaries and Lexicography originated in the second conference; by 1977, it had become the Dictionary Society of North America. Subsequently, Ed Gates ran DSNA as its Secretary-Treasurer, with Donald Hobar as his associate, or vice versa; usually, Gates looked after the wide array of things for which a secretary might be responsible, while Hobar served as treasurer. They took charge of the fledgling society in 1977 until 1989, by which time it was well established. Day-to-day administration of DSNA moved first to Cleveland and then to Madison, but Gates was elected Vice-President in 1995, served as President from 1997 to 1999, and as Past President until 2001. Ultimately, he has led the DSNA, in one way or another, for eighteen of its 37 years. The committee did not select Ed Gates for the inaugural Bailey Award for length of service alone, or even primarily, but rather for inventing DSNA in the first place. We owe the Society to him, and he is still present in everything we do. His dedication to the Society inspires us all. A fuller account of his importance to lexicography can be found in “The Dictionary Society of North America: A History of the Early Years (Part I),” in *Dictionaries* (2014), as well as in the forthcoming Part II.

Ed has meant so much to the DSNA that we will memorialize him both in this issue and in the next. In this issue we present two tributes, one delivered by his son Alan, the Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts. This heartfelt tribute to Ed will introduce you to sides of Ed you may not have known existed. As you will see, he lived a very full life. The other memorial is Ed’s own CV. This is I think of historical interest and lets Ed tell us what he deemed significant in a very significant life. The Society honors you, Ed, and offers our condolences to your wife Marion and your children Elizabeth, William, and Alan. We have all lost a very important person.

—David Jost

In memoriam: J. Edward Gates, December 30, 2015

About five weeks ago, my father told my sister that he had things to do. “I can’t talk right now,” he said. “I have to pack for Jerusalem.” Maybe he was reflecting an awareness that I actually was in Jerusalem at the time. Or maybe he was recollecting sixty-five years ago when he and Mom were in Jerusalem, the Christmas after their wedding. Or maybe, just maybe, he was getting ready for the final journey of his lifetime.

“Jerusalem, my happy home, when shall I come to thee? When shall my labors have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?” We sing hymns of Jerusalem, our heavenly home. I choose to believe that in his final days, Dad really was “packing for Jerusalem” — preparing for transition to another home, another

reality, the joy of which we can only begin to imagine.

He was quite a skilled packer, actually. When we had family trips, he’d lay everything out around the car and pack the trunk like a 3-D jigsaw puzzle. Mostly we had station wagons, but in the mid-1960s we had this little Rambler American sedan, and Dad could pack that little trunk with luggage for five people, and camping equipment, and food supplies — Mary Poppins’ bag had nothing on my Dad’s trunk! The man could pack.

So the question is: What would Edward Gates pack, when “packing for Jerusalem?” What would be essential and emblematic in the celestial



suitcase, the cosmic carry-on, the lifetime luggage of this man?

Our family has been reflecting on this for a few days. Here are some of our thoughts.

Of course he would pack books. He would pack something reflecting his long career as a linguist, lexicographer, and English professor. Maybe he'd pack a copy of *Merriam-Webster's 7th Collegiate Dictionary*, of which he was an editor. He would pack some legacy of his two advanced degrees in theology. But as the years went by, Dad's theology became much less doctrinaire and conventional, so I am thinking he might not pack a theology text; maybe not even a Bible. I think he'd pack a hymnal. He loved the poetry of the hymns. When I was growing up he would have a hymnal by his bedside. He'd climb into bed and, while waiting for Mom, he'd sing hymns for a while. As a kid I was not impressed with the romantic quality of this activity, but it was quite devout. I'm pretty sure Dad would pack a hymnal for Jerusalem.

He would also pack books to read to his grandchildren. "Something edifying," perhaps. But also lots of fun stories and poetry. He loved to read to us and to our children. Related to the books, Dad would pack lots of scrap paper for

notes, and a set of pens in differing colors. In fact, if weight were no object, he might even pack an old computer, and a lifetime supply of floppy disks!

Next, Edward Gates would be sure to pack emblems of his love for nature. Boyhood treasures of fossils, bones, and arrowheads from Minnesota. A few issues of *National Geographic*. A map of the Quabbin Reservoir, where he and Mom so loved to hike. Around his neck: a pair of binoculars, and his camera in its gray bag. He'd pack a canoe paddle if he could. And speaking of his love of Creation, he'd surely pack a compost container and a spade!

As to clothing, I expect he would pack jeans—or, as he'd call them, dungarees. You've heard of "hand-me-downs," but Dad more often wore "hand-me-ups"—pants that his sons were done with, but which he recognized as yet possessing plenty of good wear. He'd pack his sunglasses—flip-up or wrap-around. A stylish cap or two. And a good supply of flannel shirts, including that L.L. Bean red chamois shirt into which his grandchildren loved to burrow when he read to them.

Snacks. Dad would pack a good supply of snacks for his blood sugar. Perhaps half of yesterday's ham sandwich. Or some tasty anadama bread that he'd baked. And a perpetual supply of gently used paper napkins—a few in each pocket!

He would certainly pack a good supply of bad jokes—especially puns and limericks. He even wrote a few himself. Here is one he wrote in 1967:

*A linguist who married a nurse
Entertained her with humorous verse.
But as he grew older
He also grew bolder
And the humor became worse and worse.*

(Will says that last line ought to read, "the humor became more perverse!") That pretty much says it all. He would certainly pack his humor.

Most of all, Dad would pack mementos of his family. He was proud of his three children, Beth,

... continued on page 6

Ed Gates, continued

Will, and Alan. He loved his eight grandchildren: Will, Andrew, Alex, Philip, Kali, Molly, Ethan, and Douglas; and his two great-grandsons, Jeffrey and Josh. He was thoroughly devoted to his extended family, and to the memory of his ancestors. His grandson Alex writes (*excerpts*):

“Grandpa would pack the stories of his parents and their parents and their parents’ parents. He would pack the cassette tapes and the hand-written notes. He would pack the pictures with names and dates noted on the back. And he’d take any of us who would listen through his archives and point to the pictures and the letters and the albums and the charts ..., and the many hows and whens and whats of their lives. He would teach us what it means to have a past ...; that we came from people who lived complex and often hard lives, but they overcame those challenges, to birth and feed and teach and raise children, who then did the same again and again.”

Dad had lots of old photos in his room these past seven years. And most important of all was his wedding photo. That he would surely pack, for that one represents an amazing partnership — 65 years of marriage with Marion Thompson. Through years of financial struggle, into more secure times; in Lebanon, in New England, in the Midwest, and in these final years in Solomons. Nobody ever gave more devoted care to her spouse than Mom has given to Dad these past years. We are deeply grateful also to the staff here at Asbury for the depth and quality of their care. That care has been wonderful. But Mom was at his side every moment. They were together, as they had always been, especially in the quiet, shared moments. I’m not sure how you pack those kinds of memories, that kind of love. But I expect that Mom will have figured out how to pack that part for Dad. Finally, there is one more category of item to be packed. Something to represent Dad’s legendary thrift. Bread twisties. The lining of cereal boxes. Entire collections of containers to be used by the grandchildren as toys: German yogurt cups, cylindrical Quaker Oats boxes, Ovaltine tins.

And here, I suggest, we get to the spiritual heart of the matter. It was Dad’s passion — sometimes, indeed, his obsession — that nothing should go to waste. Whatever bemusement and frustration this may have caused his long-suffering family, I am here to say that this was a kind of parable. A parable of God’s love and grace.

Jesus *almost* said, “I probably never told you this one before, but ... The kingdom of heaven is like a man who found a book that someone else had tried to throw away; and he took that book, and cherished it; and he put it in the trunk of his car; and he drove around with that book for months; and he brought it home; and he determined that this unloved book, like all the others he had rescued, should at all costs find a home where it might be known and kept and read and loved.” (Here endeth the parable.)

Once a family member asked my dad why he had bought at the market the one banana which was already furthest on the way to being over-ripe. “Well,” he replied, as though it was a perfectly stupid question, “because if I didn’t buy it, nobody else would have.”

The kingdom of heaven is like a shepherd, says Jesus, who leaves the 99 sheep to search for the one lost sheep — or was it a book? The kingdom of heaven is like a woman who turns the house upside down to find a lost coin — or was it an overripe banana? In the end it is all the same: the message is that in God’s economy nothing shall be lost. No matter how insignificant or expendable something or someone may seem to others, to God it is precious. Every creature is precious, every child of God loved beyond measure.

If in life Edward Gates lived out this parable, so now in death Edward Gates is an heir to its promise: Nothing is lost. All shall be gathered in. Every child of God is precious to God, and is loved beyond measure, and always will be. In John’s Gospel, Jesus says, *Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, ... and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*

[John 6:37-39]

The economy of God's grace is the reversal of diminishment, the restoration of all that has been lost. In the resurrected life, all shall be gathered and raised up. All wholeness renewed. All sorrow surpassed. All gladness restored. Edward Gates is now fully himself once more, fully one with the mystery of Love itself. The precise shape of the new life into which God welcomes us when we die is something which, of course, we cannot know. But what we believe from Jesus' promises is that it is a welcoming place, a place made ready for us by One who knows us through and through, and loves us without condition.

Nothing will keep us from being welcomed there, says the Apostle in those words we heard from his Letter to the Romans [8:14-39]. Not *"hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, ... or peril, or sword ... [not] powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God."* Adopted as children and heirs of God, we shall know exactly who we are and whose we are.

My dad's deep devotion to family was a sacrament, a taste, a foreshadowing of the greatest love of all. He is now, as we shall all yet be, adopted as heirs by the God who loves us beyond measure.

At Christmas each year in my home we watch the *Muppet Christmas Carol*. In the final scene, the

transformed Mr. Scrooge sings this line, which I offer as a benediction, to my dad, from his family:

*With a loving guarantee,
that even if we part,
I will hold you close in a thankful heart.*

Here, indeed, is our loving guarantee: that even as we part, we will hold him close in a thankful heart. ♦

—with love, by the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates



DSNA Membership Renewal

You can now renew your DSNA membership online! For links and more information, see www.dictionariesociety.com/paying-for-dsna-membership.html.

To renew DSNA membership by regular mail, print and fill out the 2016 Renewal Form (available from the link above) and mail it with a check in U.S. dollars.

We also accept wire transfers through Western Union. Please contact the executive secretary at dsnaadmin@gmail.com if you wish to use this payment method. ♦

DSNA Freelancer List

The DSNA Office keeps lists of freelancers and of members 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 Rebecca Shapiro at dsnaadmin@gmail.com. ♦

JOHN EDWARD GATES

EXPERIENCE

1989–1990 Fulbright Senior Professor, Institute for English Studies, University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

1977–1989 Professor of English, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

1970–1977 Associate Professor of English, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

1969–1970 Visiting Professor of Lexicography, Centre for Linguistic Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

1968–1970 Research Associate, Centre for Linguistic Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Work on a dictionary of linguistic terminology under H.A. Gleason, Jr.

1964–1967 Research Assistant, Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut. Work on a dictionary of linguistic terminology under H.A. Gleason, Jr.

1964–1965 Adjunct Instructor in Psycholinguistics, University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut.

1962–1965 Linguistic Consultant, Dictionary of Idioms for the Deaf, American School for the Deaf, West Hartford, Connecticut; oversaw the content of the dictionary.

1956–1962 Assistant Editor, G. & C. Merriam Company, Springfield, Massachusetts; general editing on Webster's Third New International Dictionary, religious editing on Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary and Webster's New Secondary School Dictionary.

1949–1952 Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, Gerard Institute, Sidon, Lebanon.

1945–1946 U.S. Naval Reserve; service aboard the U.S.S. Currituck (AV-7); discharged as Seaman First Class.

EDUCATION

1968 Ph.D. in Linguistics, Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut. Dissertation: An Analysis of the Lexicographic Resources Used by American Biblical Scholars Today.

1953–1956 Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; completed course requirements for a Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Religion, with special attention to religious language.

1953 S.T.M., Harvard University; concentration in Theology and Ethics.

1949 B.D., Yale University; in Teaching and Research in Religion, with a major in Christian Ethics.

1945 B.A., Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee; with honors in English.

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Membership: Linguistic Society of America (not current), Indiana Council of Teachers of English (not current), Modern Language Association (not current), American Dialect Society, Dictionary Society of North America, European Association for Lexicography.

Offices: Dictionary Society of North America:

President 1975–1977, 1997–1999

Member of the Executive Board 1975–1979

Assistant Secretary Treasurer 1977–1979

Secretary-Treasurer 1979–1989

Vice-President and President-Elect 1995–1997

[Made a Fellow of the Society 1989]

Modern Language Association:

Chair, Lexicography Discussion Group 1981

Other: Co-Director, Conferences on Lexicography at Indiana State University 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977.

PUBLICATIONS OF J. E. GATES

Books:

(Co-Editor) Dictionary of Idioms for the Deaf. West Hartford, Connecticut, 1966. (Revised edition edited by Adam Makkai, published by Barron's Educational Services under the title Dictionary of American Idioms.) An Analysis of the Lexicographic Resources Used by American Biblical Scholars Today. Missoula, Montana: Scholars Press, 1972. (Doctoral dissertation.)

(Co-Editor) Papers on Lexicography in Honor of Warren N. Cordell. Terre Haute, Indiana: Indiana State University for the Dictionary Society of North America, 1979.

Periodicals:

Editor, Dictionary Society of North America Newsletter, 1977–88.

Articles and Reviews:

Review of Glossary of Linguistic Terminology by Mario Pei. Language 44 (1968): 317–326.

"Idioms, the Wild Creatures of Our Thought: Genus and Species." Indiana English Journal 7.1–3 (1972–1973): 70–76.

"A Bibliography on General and English Lexicography." In Lexicography in English. Ed. Raven I. McDavid, Jr. and Audrey R. Duckert. New York: New York Academy of Sciences, 1973. 320–337.

Rev. of Manual of Lexicography by Ladislav Zgusta. Language Sciences, August 1977: 27–33.

"The Treatment of Lexemes Larger than the Word in English Dictionaries." Lexicography as a Science and as an Art 1 (1977): 37–54. (Papers Read at the Special Session of the Modern Language Association of America, December 27, 1977).

Rev. of Caught in the Web of Words: James A. H. Murray and the Oxford English Dictionary by K. M. Elisabeth Murray. Verbatim: The Language Quarterly May 1978: 4–5.

"A Survey of the Teaching of Lexicography." Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 1 (1979): 113–131.

Rev. of A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature by William F. Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker, 2d ed.; and of Shorter Lexicon of the Greek New Testament by F. Wilbur Gingrich and Frederick W. Danker. Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 7 (1985): 300–309.

"Preparation for Lexicography as a Career in the United States." In Lexicography: An Emerging International Profession. Ed. Robert Ilson. Manchester, England: Manchester University Press, 1986. 82–88.

Rev. of Lexicography and Conceptual Analysis by Anna Wierzbicka. Studies in Second Language Acquisition 9 (1986): 253–260.

"The Treatment of Multiword Lexemes in Some Current Dictionaries of English." In ZurILEX'86 Proceedings: Papers Read at the EURALEX International Congress, University of Zurich, 9–14 September 1986. Ed. Mary Snell-Hornby. Tübingen: Francke Verlag, 1988. 99–106.

"The Training of Lexicographers." International Encyclopedia of Lexicography. Ed. H. E. Wiegand et al. Berlin: De Gruyter, 1989–92. I: 94–97.

Review of Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition. Ed. Victoria Neufeldt and David B. Guralnik. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988. English Today 18 (1989): 52–54.

"The Making of a Dictionary of Idioms for the Deaf." [First few pages published in a festschrift for the publication of the Sinhalese Dictionary] 1992.

Review of Babel Unravalled: An Annotated World Bibliography of Dictionary Bibliographies, 1658–1988 by Margaret Cop. Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 14 (1992–1993): 200–204.

"The Lexicography of Religious Language: One Editor's Practice." Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 15 (1994): 86–99.

Review of Catalog of Dictionaries, Word Books, and Philological Texts, 1400–1900: Inventory of the Cordell Collection, Indiana State University, compiled by David Vancil. Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 15 (1994): 198–208.

"A Survey of the Teaching of Lexicography, 1979–1995." Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 18 (1997): 66–32.

"Response to a Forum on Dictionaries in the Classroom." Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 21 (2000) 109–111.

Review of The Users® Webster Dictionary by Thomas M. Paikeday. Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America, 24 (2003): 274–280.

"The Beginnings of the Dictionary Society." Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America 25 (2004). (Forthcoming [was indeed published])

PERSONAL DATA

Born 2 February 1924 in Chicago, Illinois.

Married 31 August 1950 to Marion M. Thompson.

Three children:

Elizabeth Gates Code, born 14 November 1952

William S. Gates, born 26 May 1954

Alan M. Gates, born 25 March 1958 ♦

Profile of Robert E. Lewis, DSNA Fellow and Editor-in-Chief of the Middle English Dictionary

By David Jost

As Bob has said, “one seldom, if ever, sets out in life to become a philologist” (Oizumi, 93) or, I would add, a lexicographer of Middle English. One can see in his preparatory school days at Mercersburg Academy that the path was already being laid in that his education focused on writing (“a theme a week” in English) and reading English literature. Bob also studied Latin and French, two very necessary languages for work in Middle English.

Bob unknowingly continued down the path toward medieval lexicography at Princeton, where he took English courses in Chaucer (D. W. Robertson) and in Old English and non-Chaucerian Middle English (Hans Aarsleff). He also worked in the Rare Books and Special Collections department, which meant working with primary materials. Upon graduation in 1959 he taught for a year at Mercersburg, where he gained “a thorough knowledge of ‘traditional’ English grammar . . . as I attempted to teach it to ninth graders” (Oizumi, 96).

Deciding that teaching at a college or university would suit him better, Bob went on to graduate school at Penn where over the course of his studies he worked with a pantheon of medievalists including B. J. Whiting (Middle Scots) and F. P. Magoun, Jr. (Old English) at Harvard summer term, and at Penn itself Albert C. Baugh (Middle English), Edward B. Irving (Old English and Middle English), and Robert A. Pratt (Chaucer). He also studied Old French philology, Old Icelandic, and comparative



Germanic grammar. His dissertation dealt with how Chaucer used a Medieval Latin treatise. The preparation for editing the *Middle English Dictionary* someday could not have been more apropos.

At Indiana University, the first of only two universities where Bob held positions, he taught courses on the English Language, Middle English, and Old English, as well as courses outside of the medieval period, and in 1978 he devised a course in vernacular paleography. His research was as he says “on large projects, to which I am attracted, and at which I seem to excel, probably because of a careful (one might say inordinate) attention to details, an ability to organize large amounts of data, and sheer persistence and patience (*Sitzfleisch*)” (Oizumi, 101). One could not describe better the personality of one who would someday take over the *Middle English Dictionary*.

His *Sitzfleisch* got him involved in various major research projects including study of the *Prick of Conscience*, of which there were 115 manuscripts known when he began his work, a Chaucer Library edition of a medieval Latin treatise (his doctoral dissertation subject), for which he examined all but four of the 672 manuscripts, and a project to index all Middle English prose, which was “probably the main *desideratum* in Middle English studies after the *MED*” (Oizumi, 104).

Who should come calling on him in 1978 but the “main *desideratum*” and in 1982 Bob joined the line of editors who had overseen this incredible humanities project: Samuel Moore (1930–34), Thomas A. Knott (1935–45), Hans Kurath (1946–61), and Sherman Kuhn (1961–83). Bob (1982–2001) was the last editor and the only one to see the end of the massive project. Of these editors, only Knott was a lexicographer before beginning the job.

For Bob’s nineteen full years (no summers off as generally is the case for faculty) on the project, he spent his time reviewing the work of the other editors and keeping the project on track to completion. In 2001 the *MED* was finally completed “with the publication of the last of 115 fascicles (combined

into thirteen volumes containing nearly 15,000 pages, over 54,000 separate entries, and nearly 900,000 illustrative quotations”) (Oizumi, 108). In reflecting on how his background, as sketched above, affected his work on the *MED* Bob has said, “I like to think that my background, knowledge, and expertise in both linguistic and contextual philology were crucial to the enterprise, and ultimately to the quality of the completed *MED* . . . I can truly say, to paraphrase my predecessor Kuhn, that during my twenty and more years on the *MED* I have never met a word I did not like or enjoy working on” (Oizumi, 109).

Bob retired after the completion of the dictionary but has continued to correct old entries and to add new entries to the *Middle English Compendium*, the name of the *MED* online, now free to all users. He also reads (i.e., proofs and corrects) all entries having a Middle English component for *OED* 3 (roughly 800 pages four times a year). He also brought out the second edition of the *Middle English Dictionary Plan and Bibliography* in 2007. Bob became one of the Fellows of the DSNA in 2003 and wrote an article about the *MED* in *Dictionaries*, in the 2002 volume, which celebrated the completion of the *MED*. Bob’s life is an excellent instance of how earlier preparation, though unwitting, can lead to a fitting fulfillment.

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Lewis, Robert E. 2002. The *Middle English Dictionary* at 71. *Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America* 23: 76–94. ♦

Bob Lewis’s own words:

I posted on my sorting board . . . three quotations: “By doing just a little every day, I can gradually let the task completely overwhelm me” [cartoon caption “inherited from Kuhn”]. “Unfortunately, as all lexicographers know, ‘don’t look into things, unless you are looking for trouble: they nearly always turn out to be less simple than you thought’” [J. R. R. Tolkien]. “It is best, perhaps, to stop here; for etymology, when pursued too far, is wont to beguile the pursuer into every possible quagmire of absurdity” [W. W. Skeat] (Oizumi, 108. For full bibliography of quotations consult Oizumi. I have collapsed some text and slightly repunctuated).

Our guiding principle in the last ten or fifteen years (at least since the beginning of the letter T) has been to try to “capture the generality,” as I constantly used to tell editors, that is, to present what Kurath called “types of meanings,” but at the same time to give the reader as much help as we can with difficult quotations and with subtleties of meaning. It is too difficult for the reader, even the knowledgeable, discriminating reader Kurath hoped would be able to do so from looking at the quotations, to have to make distinctions on his or her own between, say, transitive and intransitive uses of verbs or to decide which quotation in a long block of quotations is the one example of a slight variation in meaning preceded by the word “also.” At times I have wondered if some of our distinctions have not been overly precise or overly subtle or overly contextual, but I then think of our obligation to those who consult the *MED* and conclude that it is better to err in this direction (sometimes with caveats) than to be too general. It has been a constant give and take, however, a constant struggle between these two tendencies, as anyone who has worked on the *MED* will know (Lewis, 2002, 81). ♦

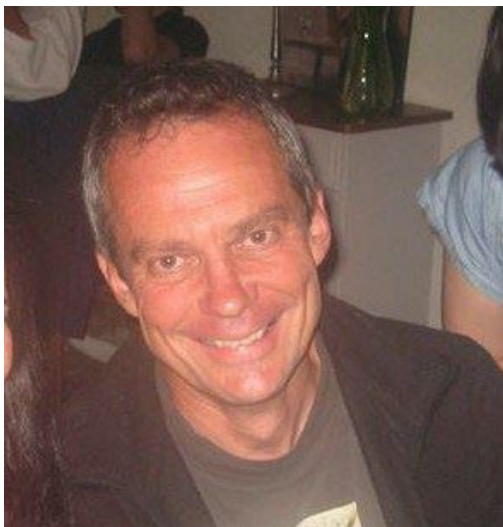
In Memoriam: Adam Kilgarriff

By Orin Hargraves

Adam Kilgarriff died from colon cancer in May, 2015. He was 55. Though never a member of the Society, he was a friend, colleague, and mentor to many who are. I deem his contribution to lexicography to be greater than that of any other person of his generation. Dictionaries are, and will continue to be better for the inspiring and pioneering work that he did in developing online corpora, Word Sketches, and Sketch Engine. His contribution goes far beyond English dictionaries—his influence is felt in the modern lexicography of Arabic, Hindi, Slovak, and Tajik, to name only a few of the more than 80 languages for which he and his team developed corpora and querying software. That achievement alone would elevate Adam into the Lexicography Hall of Fame, but he was also a founder of the Lexicography Master Class, which over the years has trained hundreds of lexicographers around the world.

Adam embodied a rare combination of talents: he was an intuitive lover of language, an expertly trained lexicographer, and a brilliant computational scientist. His degrees were in philosophy

and engineering, intelligent knowledge-based systems, and computational linguistics, respectively. His 1992 doctoral dissertation was on polysemy.



For lexicographers, Adam's enduring claim to fame is the Word Sketch—a one-page summary, with embedded hyperlinks to examples, of a word's collocational behavior and of the statistically meaningful grammatical patterns that the word participates in. Before Sketch Engine (the repository of Adam's corpora and querying software) existed online, the Word Sketches were distributed on CD-ROM to the team of lexicographers who wrote the *Macmillan English Dictionary* (first published in 2002). It took me only a few minutes of working with a Word Sketch to realize that it was the thing lexicographers dreamed of—a reliable index that could replace hours of research, and provide the foundation of a much improved entry to boot. Modern lexicography seems to agree:

Sketch Engine is used today around the world by hundreds of publishers, university-based researchers, and independent scholars who want to know about the lives of words.

I did not meet Adam until the mid-2000s, at a training seminar he gave at OUP in Oxford—fellow DSNA members Orion Montoya and Ben Zimmer were also there. He struck me, quite accurately, as every bit an Englishman—but not eccentric, pasty, or stuffy (those are adjectives that typically collocate with 'Englishman'). He was lively, extremely witty, impressively intelligent, a little mischievous, and self-effacing all at the same time.

My most cherished memories of Adam are from the summer of 2011. I was teaching the inaugural DSNA-sponsored lexicography course at the LSA Institute in Boulder. Adam came (at my polite request) to introduce Sketch Engine to the Institute. He generously offered free access to Sketch Engine for Institute attendees, a tradition that has continued since that time. I had then been using Sketch Engine for going on ten years, under the auspices of various dictionary publishers, and I couldn't imagine teaching lexicography without it—it would have been like assembling a congress of cavepersons and not letting them know that fire had been discovered. During our time at the Institute Adam and I cemented a friendship. His perceptive intelligence, extremely hard work, and unflagging attention to the peculiar details and startling weirdnesses of the world's languages (to all of which he had ready access in his mind) made a deep impression on me. His death is a hard loss but I am heartened that he lives on in spirit, every time a page in Sketch Engine is accessed and delivers to the user a compendium of useful facts about how words live. ♦

Upcoming Lexicography Conferences

GLOBALLEX 2016 workshop @ LREC.

ailab.ijs.si/globalex/

ASIALEX 2016, the 10th International Conference for the Asian Association for Lexicography, Manila, the Philippines, 1–3 June 2016.

asialex2016.national-u.edu.ph/

Lexicom 2016 USA. Workshop in Lexicography, Corpus Linguistics, and Lexical Computing, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 6–10 June 2016.

www.lexmasterclass.com/

AFRILEX 2016, the 21st International Conference of AFRILEX, Tzaneen, South Africa, 4–7 July 2016.

afrilex.africanlanguages.com/homelex.html

Lexicom 2016 Europe. Workshop in Lexicography, Corpus Linguistics, and Lexical Computing, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, 11–15 July 2016.

www.lexmasterclass.com/

International Society for Historical Lexicography and Lexicology, Bloomington, Indiana, 12–15 July 2016.

[www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/research/
international-society-for-historical-lexicography-and-lexicology](http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/research/international-society-for-historical-lexicography-and-lexicology)

EURALEX International Congress, Lexicographic Centre at Ivané Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia, 6–10 September 2016.

euralex2016.tsu.ge/

DSNA 2017, Barbados, 9–11 June 2017; outing on 12 June.

www.dictionariesociety.com ♦

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