THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

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2.1 CORRESPONDENCE

29 Nov 1993 09:51
From Koontz@alpa.blbr.nist.gov (John E. Koontz)
Victor:

If you want a nice short address for your Bulletin like SSILA_Let, instead of the long list(s) of recipients, you can have the systems people define the alias in the system /etc/aliases file on Unix systems. Aliases defined there don't get expanded by the mailer like aliases in .mailrc files. On Sun systems there is a way for the system /etc/aliases file to point to a name list file that you can maintain without the system people becoming involved. You might also find it worthwhile for the system people to help you set up the structure of a listserv. Either this device of the foregoing one simplifies your job and shortens the headers.

--John Koontz

* I am working on this, but it looks like Humboldt's computer people don't have the capability (and the incentive) to set up (a) server for SSILA, or to solve some other solution to the header problem. Perhaps the easiest solution would be to distribute the Bulletin from another, more technical person. Does anyone want to discuss this with me?

VG

Fri, 26 Nov 1993 22:24
From: RTOIKE@CITARIZONA.EDU
Victor:

A great idea, and well done. It's a good way to get new information out quickly. I prefer the newsletter format over an open discussion forum, signed up to the one for the American Dialect Society, and have been dismayed by the trivial level of most discussion, and having it take up my time even to read. Kudos for a good inaugural issue.

--Rudy Troike

* There were several other short messages in the same vein, for all of which I am grateful.

17 Dec 1993 17:37
From: Margaret Anderson <anderson@unc.edu>

Does anyone know how to express the following phrase in Chinook Jargon?

"Shaping a Northern Destiny"

Replies may be sent directly to my email address: Anderson@unc.edu

--Margaret Seguin Anderson

2.2 RESEARCH CENTERS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES: A Query

November 30, 1993

I just received the first issue of the SSILA electronic bulletin, which I think is a very good idea. It gave me the idea of addressing to you a query that I have in mind these days, for possible diffusion on the SSILA network and maybe even more broadly if there are other appropriate networks.

My query has to do with the existence in the U.S. of institutions specifically devoted to the documentation, study and promotion of indigenous languages and knowledge systems (e.g. ethnobiology, ethnomedicine). What
I have in mind is neither museums, nor advocacy groups, but research centers having that particular focus.

This query comes from my own long-standing interest in the issue as a researcher. I am a linguistic/cognitive anthropologist at Berkeley, now finishing up my dissertation on the language of illness among the Tzeltal Maya of Chiapas, Mexico, a piece of research at the interface with ethnomedicine. I have also done work on ethnohistory and color categorization, as well as general lexico-semantic work. I plan to pursue these and similar interests in my future career, but I would like to be able to do so within the framework of an institution or research center bringing together people sharing this common goal: to document and study indigenous languages of the Americas. But obviously not limited to those; in view of both helping their preservation and answering scientific questions, as well as of offering solid bases to educational and other applied efforts in indigenous communities themselves.

The problem is, I don’t know of any such institution, whether associated with a university or independent. Therefore, I am beginning efforts to find out if anything similar, or at least there are people out there trying to set up something along these lines. The SIILA Bulletin seems like a good place to look. I would be very interested in getting in touch with others sharing my interest. If the institution I have in mind doesn’t exist, maybe we can be instrumental in bringing it into existence—since it is certainly needed.

—Luisa Maffi, Anthropology, UC-Berkeley (maffi@al.berkeley.edu)

2.3 POSITION(S) IN FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES & CULTURES AT UNIV. OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The University of Northern British Columbia is a new provincially funded institution with a main campus in Prince George, British Columbia. The University has a mandate to respond to the post-secondary educational goals of the entire northern two-thirds of the province. This is an area in which many of the University’s programs are possible. For example, the First Nations History is taught within the History Program, and First Nations political issues will be addressed in the politics program. There is also a separate Program in First Nations Studies, which will offer focused undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

UNBC has designated 6 areas as special focuses: First Nations Studies, Environmental Studies, Women’s Studies, Northern Studies, and International Studies (focused on the circumpolar north, Pacific Rim and international indigenous peoples). Each of these areas will be included within many of the University’s programs as possible. For example, First Nations History is taught within the History Program, and First Nations political issues will be addressed in the politics program. There is also a separate Program in First Nations Studies, which will offer focused undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

A major emphasis on the languages, cultures and contemporary issues of the First Nations of northern BC. We want to find academics who will contribute to these areas and can work in partnership with First Nations languages and community-based teaching. Rank and type of appointment are negotiable, and salary is competitive. We currently have a large department of language and culture with over 100 students and a variety of programs.

Applicants must provide a current CV and the names of 3 references. The cover letter for applications should indicate that it should be placed in ‘competition number FM1’.

In accordance with Canadian law, preference will be given to applicants who are eligible to work in Canada.

The appointment of an academic with extensive experience with First Nations will be an asset to UNBC in fulfilling its mandate, and members of First Nations are particularly invited to apply; membership in other underrepresented groups (women, visible minorities and persons with disabilities) will also be valued as an asset.

Applications may be submitted to the following address:

Human Resources
University of Northern British Columbia
P.O. Box 9900, Station A
Prince George, British Columbia V2L 5R2

Interested applicants are also invited to call the Programme Chair for further information. The Programme Chair is Margaret Seguin Anderson and she can be reached at (250) 960-9771. E-mail for her can be sent to: Anderson@unbc.edu.

Margaret adds: UNBC anticipates offering a small range of graduate programmes in the future, and the Programme in First Nations Studies is one of the approved MA programmes. We are now looking for applications for graduate studies from highly qualified and motivated students who are interested in the unique opportunities of studying in northern British Columbia.

For further details, see the January issue of the SIILA Newsletter.

2.4 BARGAIN FOR NAHUATL BUFFS

From Fran Karttunen (ljar457@utexas.edu):

For just the month of January the Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies is offering J. A. Campbell's book, A Morphological Dictionary of Classical Nahuatl: A Morpheme Index to the Vocabulario en lengua mexicana castellana de Alonso de Molina, for half price. Usually $40, it can be ordered for $20; plus $3 for postage and handling by mail or fax. The mailing address is: HSMSS, 475 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637. Fax number is: (312) 833-5497.

This offer is only to individual scholars and libraries, and one must mention the half-price sale when ordering.

The Porras reprinting of Molina 1571 was out of print in summer 1992 and just about impossible to get from used book dealers. I don't know if they have made more available yet. If not, Campbell's work is the only way to get Molina. Nahuatl scholars shouldn't pass up this opportunity.

2.5 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED
In linguistics, the traditional fin de siècle syndrome has fortunately not (yet) led to a decadent movement, but rather to a growing concern with the numerous endangered languages of the world (over 2,000 according to recent estimates). Among these are of course many indigenous languages of the Americas. At its 15th congress (Quebec 1992), the Permanent International Committee of Linguists (PICIL) initiated an "Endangered Languages" project, which was subsequently adopted by UNESCO. As Bibliographie Linguistique/Linguistic Bibliography (BL), PICIL's official Bibliography, future volumes of BL vol. will attempt to give special attention to minority languages in general and endangered languages in particular. However, this will not be possible without the assistance of specialist correspondents. As of this year, John Nichols of the University of Manitoba will be serving as sub-editor for the Algonquian and Siouan language sections. The other American Indian language families are in need of similar specialists as sub-editors. The BL volume covering the linguistic output of the year 1992 is currently in preparation, with a deadline for contributions of April 1, 1994. Any suggestions are welcome. Contact:

Bibliographie Linguistique/Linguistic Bibliography
Princen Alexanderhof 5, P.O. Box 90752
NL-2509 LT The Hague, NETHERLANDS
(tel: +31 70 31 40 345/256; Fax: +31 70 31 40 450)

2.6 SESSION ON BOARDING SCHOOLS

Chip Reilly (CREILLY@gallu.gallaudet.edu) is interested in getting in contact with American Indians who might want to participate in a session on "The Boarding School Experience" at the 1994 AAA meeting in Atlanta. Chip wants the session to "look at how children themselves have responded to the conditions within boarding schools, orphanages and other broadly educative institutions. He wants to juxtapose studies of a range of groups, both historical and contemporary, and feels that the experience of Indian children in government boarding schools being discouraged from speaking their native languages (often with physical punishment) would be an appropriate topic. If you have studied (or have been in) such situations, and are interested in the session, contact: Charles Reilly, Gallaudet University, Culture and Communication Studies, 601 Florida Ave, NE, Washington DC 20002 (phone 202/651-5339; e-mail creilly@gallu.gallaudet.edu). DEADLINE for submission of session proposal is early Spring, 1994.

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