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

*** SILSA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SILSA Members

Number 5: February 5, 1994

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This is the third SILSA Bulletin, and the last that will be distributed through ORGMAIL. The next issue will be mailed from the University of Oregon MAILSERV. My thanks to Scott Delancy for making the organizers and volunteering to serve as the list manager at the Oregon end. The content of the Bulletin will, of course, remain my responsibility.

The January issue of the SILSA Newsletter was mailed this past week. Many of you will have already received it, and it should most of the others within a few days. The 1994 SILSA Membership Directory is ready for mailing, and will be distributed next week to those of you who have ordered it. (Copies will remain available throughout the year for $3.)

-- Victor Golla

3.2 AAAS SESSION ON HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS IN SAN FRANCISCO

A session on COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS AND HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIPS will be on the program of the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, San Francisco, 18-23 February 1994. Organized by Johanna Nichols (UC-Berkeley) and Lyle Campbell (LSU), the session will include papers on contemporary standard comparative linguistics and attempt an assessment of its capabilities in reconstructing ancestral forms of languages. The relationship to history, archaeology, and cultural anthropology will also be examined. Papers will include:

Jay H. Jasanoff (Cornell). "The comparative method"

Lyle Campbell (LSU). "The role of grammatical evidence in hypotheses of linguistic relationships"

Wilfred Jacobsen (U of Nevada-Reno). "Characterizing and evaluating evidence for distant genetic relationships"

Donald A. Ringe (U of Pennsylvania). "Chances and true linguistic relationships"

Johanna Nichols (UC-Berkeley). "Language at 40,000 BC"

The session will be held in the San Francisco Hilton, Monday, 21 February, 2:30-5:30. For AAAS registration information, call 301-939-4535.

3.3 KANSAS VOLUME STILL WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS

The editors of Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics will publish two numbers of Volume 19, 1993. The second of these will be devoted to papers dealing with native languages of the Americas, and space is still available. The official deadline was February 1, but it can be extended if authors contact the editors. The issue should appear in the next few days. Since KML is a working series, publication of a paper in KML is not to prejudice later publication of a revised version. Student papers should be considered for an on-line issue. Student papers or inquiries to: editors, KML, Linguistics Dept., 427 Blake Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045 (e-mail: LOSANNB@CC.UKANS.EDU).

3.4 AN INDIAN WORD IN YOUR EAR?
A friend in Montana teaches a survey course on Native languages of the Americas. One of her students complained that they did not get to hear what the languages sound like. Has anyone put together a cassette with a sampling of languages? I remember a tape from long ago called "A word in your ear," which, as I recall, gave recorded samples of several languages, along with an unquestioning acceptance of the "Whorfian Hypothesis." If there are such tapes available, please let me know the particulars for purchasing a copy, and I'll pass the info on to the friend in Montana. Thanks.

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If such a sampler doesn't exist, compiling one strikes me as a very worthwhile project for SIL/AL to sponsor. Would anyone be interested in coordinating it? -- V.G.

3.5 A LEXICOGRAPHIC APPEAL FROM OXFORD

From Alan Hughes, Chief Science Editor, OED (ahughes@prideoup.co.uk):

Work has recently begun at Oxford University Press on a comprehensive revision of the Oxford English Dictionary, to be published in 2005. As part of the process of revising and updating the Dictionary, we would like to encourage scientists who have information relevant to the OED to draw it to our attention.

Such information may include:

1. The coinages of particular scientific words
2. Factual errors in their definitions
3. Scientific words and meanings not in the OED
4. Earlier referenced examples of words and meanings already treated in the dictionary (and later examples of those described as obsolete)

Category 4 is especially useful; the OED is a historical dictionary which attempts to track every word and meaning back to its earliest known use in the English language, as well as giving references to the coinages of foreign precursors of English words.

As an example, Professor Joshua Lederman has mailed us about the omission of C.S. Peirce's philosophical sense of 'abduction', not recorded in the OED, and his own coinage of the words 'eugraphy' and 'eugraph'.

Please email oed@oup.co.uk, or write to the Chief Science Editor, Oxford English Dictionary, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK.

3.6 ONE-YEAR SYNTAX POSITION AT MANITOBA FOR NORTH AMERICANIST

The Linguistics Department at the University of Manitoba invites applications for a full-time, one-year position (September 1 to May 31), subject to budgetary approval, at the rank of Assistant Professor and with the understanding that the position may be extended to a second year. The teaching duties will be in the area of syntactic analysis, syntactic theory and semantics. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate a commitment to field research in one of the indigenous languages of North America. A completed doctoral degree and demonstrated excellence in research and teaching in the area of specialization (including both formal and typological approaches and in-depth familiarity with analytical and practical, non-Indo-European language as well as substantial field research experience in a language other than the applicant's own) are required.

The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. The University offers a smoke-free environment, save for specially designated areas. Priority consideration will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Further details may be obtained by e-mail (LINGOPT@INCOMP.MANITOBA.CA) or fax (204/474-9781). Applications (including curriculum vitae, copies of reprints, preprints, etc., and three letters of reference should be sent by mail to reach the department by 30 November 1994. Applications should be addressed to:

H. C. Wolfart, Professor & Head
Linguistics Department
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 5V3, Canada

3.7 PUBLICATION SUPPORT NEEDED FOR RUSSIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, is calling for assistance in publishing the second volume of their Encyclopaedia of the Languages of the World, "Turkish Languages."

The Encyclopaedia is a multi-volume work on which the Institute of Linguistics has been working for a number of years. All articles are written in a standard format, with each language given a sociolinguistic, historical and structural characterization.

The authors of the Turkish languages volume are the recognized authorities in the ex-USSR in the respective languages. The volume, which is about 700 pages long and consists of two introductory articles ("Alpine languages and "Turkish languages") and 53 articles, encompassing all known Turkish languages both ancient and modern. The volume is addressed to specialists in Turkish and the remaining volumes is unclear.

In the present economic situation, it is entirely possible that this collective labor could languish for many years. "Nauka" is prepared to go ahead with the publication of Turkish Languages, but only if substantial support of about $200,000 can be provided.

If you are interested, or know anyone who might be interested in contributing support to this project, please contact:

V. N. Yartsyev
Editor-in-chief of the Encyclopaedia of the Languages of the World

A. A. Kibrik
3.8 MAYAN & MIXTEC MEETINGS

* The 1994 Maya Meetings at Texas will take place from March 10 to March 19.

They will open with the Xth Texas Symposium, March 10-11, bringing together scholars from a wide spectrum of fields to share recent Mayan and Mesoamerican research. This year's theme is "Star Wars: Venus/Itlac Warfare in Mesoamerica." Papers will be presented by Frederick Bove, John Carlson, Federico Fashen, David Fringel, John Jürgenson, Matt Loomis, Simon Martin, Verner Neele, Heather Orr, Kent Reilly, Saburo Sugiyma, Charles Suhler, Karl Taube, Juan Antonio Valdes, and others.

On the evening of March 11, Peter Matthews (U of Calgary) will give a public lecture on "Introducing Mayan Glyphs." The XVIIIth Workshop on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing will be held on the weekend of March 12-13, conducted by Linda Schele (U of Texas-Austin) and Nikolai Grube (U of Bonn).

The XIIIth Long Workshop will be held during the week of March 14-19. It will be conducted by Linda Schele and a team of experts on Mayan epigraphy and related disciplines, headed by John Blue and Tom Jones. The Long Workshop is intended to give practical experience in the analytical methods discussed in the introductory workshop.

For further information, including fees, write: Peter Keeler, Maya Meetings at Texas, PO Box 25649, Austin, TX 78763, or call 512/471-6432.

* If you prefer a Mixtec alternative, the MIXTEC GATEWAY will be held March 13-15 at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, NV, under the co-sponsorship of the Mixtec Foundation of Austin, TX, and the Braunstein Foundation of Las Vegas.

The focus of the meeting will be on the pre-Hispanic period of Mixtec culture and the early Colonial era and will cover archaeology, ethnography, geography, codices, ethnohistory, and early Colonial archives and history. These topics will be discussed by William Autrey, Bruce Bylund, Jili Par, Kathryn Joosserand, Maarten B.R.H.S. Jansen, John Monaghan, Evelyn and Kenneth Pike, Emily Rabin, Kevin Terraciano, Nancy Troike, and Peter van der Loo.

The GATEWAY is in two parts: a two-day overview of all these aspects of Mixtec culture on Saturday-Sunday, followed by a three-day WORKSHOP on Monday-Tuesday. During the OVERVIEW each speaker will summarize the current state of knowledge and research in his/her specialization. In the WORKSHOP these scholars will work directly with participants.

The GATEWAY is open to everyone interested in Mixtec culture. The OVERVIEW is complete in itself; registration is $95, and the session will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday morning. Registration for the WORKSHOP is $80, participants are also required to register for the OVERVIEW.

because data from those sessions will inform WORKSHOP discussions.

Room costs at the hotel are $65 for the Camelot section and $85 for the Tower, single or double occupancy.

To register, send the following information: (1) your name and mailing address; (2) your name and affiliation or town as you prefer them on your name tag; and (3) a check or money order (no credit cards) for your registration to Dr. Nancy Troike, The Mixtec Foundation, P.O. Box 5597, Austin, TX 78762-5597. For further information write or call the Mixtec Foundation, (512) 442-1537. Detailed information concerning hotel accommodation etc. will be sent to registrants.

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