THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS
*** SSILA BULLETIN ***
An Information Service for SSILA Members

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II.0 SSILA BUSINESS

* SSILA Election Results

142 ballots were received by the announced deadline. Elected were:

Vice President for 1995 and President-Elect for 1996: WILLIAM SHIPLEY
Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee 1995-97: TERRENCE KAUFMAN
Secretary-Treasurer 1995: VICTOR GOLLA
Member of the Nominating Committee 1995-97: KAREN M. BOOKER

* 1994 Book Awards

The SSILA Book Award, given annually to "a substantial work that, in the opinion of the Society, most significantly contributes to our knowledge of the indigenous languages of the Americas," was bestowed on two monographs in the 1994 competition. The award went to J. Randolph Valentine, for his unpublished University of Texas dissertation, "Ojibwe Dialect Relationships: The Siouxian Hypothesis" for his edition of "Concerning the League: The Iroquois Language Tradition as Dictated in Onondaga by John Arthur Gibson" (published as Memoir 9, Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics, 1992).

* SSILA to Meet With LSA Next Winter

Last week in Atlanta the SSILA Executive Committee voted to hold the next annual meeting of SSILA jointly with the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in San Diego, California, in early January 1996. Although one or more sessions will be organized under the auspices of SSILA at the next LSA meeting (Washington, D.C., November 1995), the Society's business meeting and the majority of its sessions will be at the LSA meeting.

The LSA will allow SSILA to organize its component of the San Diego meeting independently, and a separate call for papers will be sent to SSILA members in the summer. In the LSA program, the SSILA sessions will be listed as an integral part of the general LSA meeting.

In the following year (November 1996) SSILA will return to the AAA. If the experiment with the LSA proves successful, we will alternate our principal meeting between the AAA and the LSA in future years.

II.1 CORRESPONDENCE

From: Peter Cole (cole@chopin.udel.edu) 12 Nov 1994:

Nancy Hornberger has pointed out to me that I inadvertently left her name out of my publication announcement for Language in the Language of Philosophy. I hereby apologize to Nancy Hornberger and Mario Daniel Martínez for the last SSILA BULLETIN. The volume contains her paper, "Spanish and English in Home and School: Bilingual Education, Language Planning and Empowerment.

From Phil Young (pyoung@oregon.oregon.edu) 16 Nov 1994:

Why not — at least as an option — send the SSILA membership directory electronically? Then we could print it out in any size (and type style) we individually choose. I’d be happy to receive just an electronic copy and
11.2 SYMPOSIUM ON LATIN AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURES

A call for papers has been issued for the 12th International Symposium on Latin American Indian Literatures, which will take place on June 20-23, 1995, at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City.

Papers must be clearly and directly related to indigenous literatures, but all fields are welcome: anthropology, art, astronomy, architecture, bibliography, codices, history, ethnohistory, indigenista literature, linguistics, literary studies, medicine, religion, rock art, etc. Delivery time will be 30 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions.

To be considered, four copies (typewritten, double spaced) of a 100-200 word abstract in English or Spanish should be sent to:

Monica Barnes, Program Chair
377 Hector Place, Apt. 11
New York, NY 10028

Please include your name, complete address, phone number, and fax (if you have one) on the abstract. Since participation is restricted to members of the Latin American Indian Literatures Association (LAIA/LAITA), non-members should include $15 dues with their abstract ($25 for general members, $5 for students or retirees). The symposium fee of $45 ($12 for students or retirees) must also be included. (If this is a problem you should contact the Program Chair.) Please make check payable to LAIA/LAITA.

The absolute deadline for the receipt of abstracts is Jan. 31, 1995. Since many individuals must have confirmation at an earlier date in order to secure funds for their institutions, each abstract will be evaluated by referees and notification will be mailed to the submitter within six weeks after receipt.

For further information about LAIA/LAITA, contact: Dr. Mary H. Preuss, Pennsylvania State University, University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15132, 757-9688.

E-mail contact: Ron Anderson (randerso@asac.usiu.edu).

11.3 CELIAC: BOOKS IN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF OAXACA

Russ Bernard (on leave 1994-95 at the Univ. of Cologne) writes:

Readers who have followed the Oaxaca Native Literacy Project and CELIAC (Centro Editorial en Literatura Indigena, A.C.) may be interested to know the latest developments. CELIAC is still a small, indigenous-language publishing center in Oaxaca, Mexico. In January of this year, CELIAC moved into its own space, and began publishing books in indigenous languages. It is now marketing these books to scholars, libraries, and any interested persons who may wish to purchase them.

CELIAC markets its books in hard copy and on disk. Book-length texts on disk are a resource for many scholarly activities, including the making of dictionaries. The 4000-word text, generated by a native speaker, is likely to have from 2000 to 4000 unique words. It can take a fieldworker a year to accumulate a list of unique words, and all the unique words in a native-generated written text are, by definition, in context.

Next year, CELIAC will begin issuing its books on audiotape, recorded by the authors themselves.

We hope that these packages (books, disks, tapes) will be commercially viable. If they are (if enough copies are sold to cover all the real costs of producing and marking up all the books), then indigenous language publishing can create employment for at least some people. If that happens, then the CELIAC model can help preserve many languages around the world.

Colleagues who work with indigenous peoples of Latin America are invited to contact CELIAC. At CELIAC, indigenous teachers offer instruction in Spanish to other Spanish-speaking indigenous people on how to write books in indigenous languages. During the training, the authors reside in the CELIAC building, interact with others who are also learning how to write in various indigenous languages. Learning to handle the computers and to write fluently in the indigenous language takes about a month in our experience. However, authors should stay for at least three months if they wish to complete a manuscript in hand. The costs are modest, but even as a not-for-profit organization, CELIAC has to cover its costs.

Proceeds from sales of CELIAC books support indigenous authors and also support the distribution of books to local schools. Following is a list of the books now available or in press. (Note: We do not show special characters, like the barrido or the diereis, in carriage. We do, however, show the Spanish onyx as n.)


CEILAC's books are published in perfect-bound, paperback editions and as
6K files. Prices are in US dollars and include shipping in the U.S.
Canada, and Mexico. For other countries, add $10 per volume. Disk versions
of CEILAC books are available in MacDraw and Windows or MS WordPerfect 5.1 format. Disks cost $20 each
if purchased separately, but are $10 with the purchase of a book. Order from:
Box 1300, Oaxaca, Oax. Mexico 68000, or CEILAC, Avenida Ejercito
Mexicano 501, Colonia Ampliacin Dolores, Oaxaca, Oaxaca, 68020 Mexico.
Payment for CEILAC books may be made by international bank draft, or you
may wire funds directly to CEILAC. For details in Spanish, contact CEILAC
on (52) 6-37-31-20, 6-37-20, or call Jesus Salinas or Josefa
Gonzalez at 6-52-31-25 or 6-27. For details in English, contact
H. Russell Bernard on e-mail at ariel@hil.rzv.unr.wouin.de.

If you wish to sponsor a native author at CEILAC, or help CEILAC purchase
a computer, please consider the distribution of CEILAC's books to
village schools, contact Russell Bernard (e-mail address above). These tax-deductible contributions to the project are handled by the
University of Florida Foundation, Inc. Contact Jesus Salinas or Josefa Gonzalez by
phone, mail, or e-mail (addresses above) if you'd like to visit CEILAC.

11.4 COMPUTER & FIELD LINGUISTICS GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT AT PITT

From Sally Thomson (sally@isp.pitt.edu) 20 Nov 1994:

Funding is available starting September, 1995, in the Linguistics
Department at the University of Pittsburgh for a graduate student
who can assist in developing tools for computer-assisted field

linguistics. In the current phase of the project that would include
this work, we are developing tools for entering and retrieving
information from lexical files and files containing marked text.
The goal is a system that is capable of producing documents of various
sorts, from glossing dictionaries, analyzed texts, and that can
perform sophisticated retrieval tasks that could help to
illustrate or test linguistic hypotheses.

The language material currently used by the system are drawn from
Native American languages studied by Pitt faculty and students.
Candidates with an interest in Native American or other endangered
languages are especially welcome, but the research project has
potential for anyone interested in computational linguistics.

Candidates should be experienced programmers able to work
independently with C++ and Windows, and should be interested in a
graduate degree in linguistics or in a closely-related field
with specialization in such areas as Computational Linguistics or
Psycholinguistics. The position offers an 8-month salary at the
level of a Pitt TA salary, as well as tuition and health benefits.
The application deadline for Fall 1995 admission to the Linguistics
Department is Feb. 1, 1995. For further information concerning this
position, contact Thomas Thomson at phil@isp.pitt.edu. For
information concerning graduate study in Linguistics at the University
of Pittsburgh, send email to Alan Juffs at juff@isp.pitt.edu.

11.5 MODEL LANGUAGE MATERIALS AND CURRICULA NEEDED

From Rand Valentine (rvalent@julian.uwo.ca):

We represent a group of First Nations organizations in northern Ontario
seeking to develop first and second language curricula for teaching Ojibwe,
Oji-Cree, and Cree. These languages are all spoken
as first languages by substantial numbers of children and adults, but in
recent years have been increasing pressure from English, and some
Ojibwe and Cree children in northern Ontario today appear to be in danger
of losing their heritage languages. Our project seeks to implement formal
language programs at schools at the primary and secondary levels, in both
first and second language programs.

The first major phase of our project consisted of working in creating community
awareness of the need for Native Language development for formal school
settlements, an assessment of fluency levels and language usage
in the communities we serve. The second phase, currently in progress,
has been the collection of materials and development of student
dictionaries in Ojibwe, Oji-Cree, and Fort Severn Cree, as well as the
production of sensitive topic guides to aid students and
teachers in syllabic and Roman writing. The third phase will involve the
development of extensive language-oriented curricula at all primary and
secondary levels. Our projects include the development of
proposals for a monolingual Ojib language-centered, a structured program of
cultural language literacy, and a community-based
termology board to aid in the development of new vocabulary. Needless
to say, we are very excited about the prospects our project holds for
the fostering of the languages with which we work.
We are seeking models of materials and curricula from similar efforts undertaken elsewhere. If you have produced materials and programs that you are willing to share with us, we would appreciate very much hearing from you. We are willing to pay for all materials, within our budgetary limitations. M.R. Valentine have developed several computer applications for language presentation and instruction on the Macintosh computer, which I am happy to share with you in exchange for language materials of your own. We will also be compiling an annotated bibliography of resources, which we will happily share with anyone interested. If you have developed first or second language curricula for aboriginal languages, including course materials focusing on Native language thesauri, language lessons, dictionaries, dictionaries, computer applications, or anything else that you think might aid us in our efforts to preserve the heritage languages of Northern Ontario, please write to us at the email address listed below. Please distribute this notice to any potentially interested groups lacking email access as well. We can be contacted by conventional mail at the following addresses:

in the U.S.
J. Randolph Valentine
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1025 W. Johnson Street
The University of Wisconsin, Madison
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

in Canada
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Northern Native Education Council
PO Box 1619
21 King St
Moose Lookout, ON
P0Y 2T0

Thank you.
J. Randolph Valentine
University of Western Ontario & University of Wisconsin, Madison
Marguerite MacKenzie
Memorial University of Newfoundland
John L. Nichols
University of Manitoba
Patricia Nimmo/Anawan
University of Manitoba & Lac Seul First Nation

Representing:
Northern Native Education Council
Kweyatinook Okimakanak
Kndigo First Nations Council
Shibogama First Nations Council
Sand Lake First Nation
Independent First Nations Alliance
Slate Falls District Area School Board

II.6 LATAMLIN: THE LATIN AMERICAN LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES LIST
A new Internet discussion group, LATAMLIN (Latin American Linguistics and Languages List), has recently been established to provide a forum for discussion and a means of communication for anyone working on or interested in the study of Linguistics and Languages in Latin America. The List is unmoderated and open to all.

LATAMLIN aims to serve:
- Linguists working in Latin America;
- Linguists outside Latin America working on topics related to Latin America, e.g., endangered languages, Latin American varieties of Spanish and Portuguese, etc.);
- Latin American linguists working outside Latin America who wish to re-establish or maintain contacts with their colleagues back home;
- Anyone interested in ongoing research in Linguistics in Latin America.

This List will enable linguists to, for example, exchange ideas with colleagues working on related topics, be updated about seminars, conferences, workshops, and other important linguistic events in Latin America and around the world; create and develop links with colleagues throughout Latin America; facilitate the exchange of bibliographical material and news of ongoing research; keep abreast of recent developments in the field and forthcoming publications; keep abreast of topics outside one's main area of interest.

The languages of communication will be English, Spanish and Portuguese.

To subscribe send the following e-mail:

to: LISTSERVER@MIT.EDU
message: subscribe LATAMLIN <full name>
     (e.g. subscribe LATAMLIN John Smith)

After subscribing you will receive the introductory information.

If you have questions, contact:
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