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

\*\*\* SSILA BULLETIN \*\*\*

Number 2: January 3, 1994

CONTENTS:

- 2.1 CORRESPONDENCE
- 2.2 RESEARCH CENTERS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES: A Query
- 2.3 POSITION(S) IN FIRST NATIONS STUDIES AT U. OF NORTHERN B.C.
- 2.4 BARGAIN FOR NAHUATL BUFFS
- 2.5 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED
- 2.6 SESSION ON BOARDING SCHOOLS AT AAA

2.1 CORRESPONDENCE

29 Nov 1993 09:51  
From: koontz@alpha.bladr.nist.gov (John E. Koontz)

Victor:

If you want a nice short address for your Bulletin like SSILA.Net, instead of the present (partial) 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 do. 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 ListServer for SSILA, or to find some other solution to the header problem. Perhaps the easiest solution would be to distribute the Bulletin from another, more technically sophisticated, site. Does anyone want to discuss this with me?  
-VG \*

Fri, 26 Nov 1993 22:54  
From: RTROIKE@CCIT.ARIZONA.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. I signed on 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.  
-VG \*

17 Dec 1993 17:37  
From: Margaret Anderson <anderson@unbc.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@unbc.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's very much in my 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 Izeltal Maya of Chiapas, Mexico, a piece of research at the interface with ethnomedicine. I have also done work on ethnobiology and color categorization, as well as general lexicographic 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 a major institution or research center bringing together people sharing this common goal: to document and study indigenous languages (of the Americas for sure, 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 any exist at all, or if at least there are people out there trying to set up something along these lines. The SSILA Bulletin seems like a good place to start. I would be very interested in getting contact with other people 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@qal.berkeley.edu)

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### 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 there are sixteen Tribal Councils, and over 76 bands and a dozen urban Friendship centres. There are numerous First Nations languages spoken in the territories of these groups: Haida, Tsimshian, Gitksan, Nisga'a, Haisla, Nuxalk, Shuswap, Tlingit, Tahltan, and a large number of Athapaskan languages, including Wet'suwet'en, Carrier, Beaver, Sekani, Tsilqot'in, and others.

UNBC has designated 5 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 as many of the university's programmes as possible. For example First Nations History will be taught within the History Programme, and First Nations political issues will be addressed in the politics programme. There is also a separate Programme in First Nations Studies, which will offer focused undergraduate and graduate degree programmes. A major emphasis will be 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 language teachers in community-based teaching. Rank and type of appointment are negotiable, and salary is competitive. We currently have a large "omnibus" advertisement out for over 100 positions in a variety of areas. The ad includes a listing of position number FN1 which is for First Nations languages and cultures.

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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 FN1".

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

The appointment of faculty 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 viewed as an asset.

Applications may be submitted to the following address:

Human Resources  
University of Northern British Columbia  
P.O. Bag 1950, Station A  
Prince George, British Columbia V2L 5P2  
CANADA

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 (604) 960-5777. E-mail for her can be sent to: <Anderson@unbc.edu>.

Margaret adds: UNBC anticipates offering a small range of graduate programmes from the outset, 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 SSILA Newsletter.

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### 2.4 BARGAIN FOR NAHUATL BUFFS

From Fran Karttunen (LIAR457@utxvms.cc.utexas.edu):

For just the month of January the Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies is offering R. Joe Campbell's book, *A Morphological Dictionary of Classical Nahuatl: A Morpheme Index to the Vocabulario en lengua mexicana y castellana of Fray Alonso de Molina*, for half price. Usually \$50, it can be ordered for \$25, plus \$3 for postage and handling, by mail or FAX. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 620587, Middleton, WI 53562-0587. The FAX number is: (608) 831-3997.

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

The Porrúa 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.

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### 2.5 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

From Mark Janse, Editor, Bibliographie Linguistique:

In linguistics, the traditional fin de siecle 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 90% 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 (PICL) initiated an "Endangered Languages" project, which was subsequently adopted by UNESCO. As Bibliographie Linguistique/Linguistic Bibliography (BL) is PICL's official Bibliography, future volumes of BL 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  
Prins Willem-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 (CBREILLY@gallua.gallaudet.edu) is interested in getting in contact with American Indianists 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 their 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, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington DC 20002 (phone 202/651-5339; e-mail cbreilly@gallua.gallaudet.edu). DEADLINE for submission of session proposal is early Spring, 1994.

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