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

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

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Number 11: December 8, 1994

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11.0 SSILA BUSINESS

\* ~~SSILA Election Results~~

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

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Vice President for 1995 and President-Elect for 1996: WILLIAM SHIPLEY

Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee 1995-97: TERENCE 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. One award went to J. Randolph Valentine, for his unpublished University of Texas dissertation, Ojibwe Dialect Relationships. The other award went to Hanni Woodbury for her edition of Concerning the League: The Iroquois League 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. This meeting will take place in San Diego, California, in early January 1996. Although one or more sessions will be organized under SSILA sponsorship at the next AAA meeting (Washington, DC, 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 of 1995. Nevertheless, the SSILA sessions will be listed in the LSA program and will be scheduled 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 meetings between the AAA and the LSA in future years.

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11.1 CORRESPONDENCE

From: Peter Cole <pcole@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 Andes (edited by Peter Cole, Gabriella Hermon and Mario Daniel Martin) in the last SSILA BULLETIN. The volume contains her paper "Whither Bilingual Education in Peru? Quechua Literacy and Empowerment."

From Phil Young (pyoung@oregon.uoregon.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 n

o hard copy for my \$3.

--I will investigate the feasibility of doing this. (Any electronic directory would supplement, not supplant, the printed directory.) --VG

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From John Dyson (dyson@ucs.indiana.edu) 22 Nov 1994:

For a project on 17th-19th century Chickasaw geography, I would appreciate any leads on early Chickasaw terminology for the area of western Kentucky and Tennessee known as the Jackson Purchase. I'm particularly interested in what the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers were called by the Chickasaw, and whether the Duck and Elk Rivers were translations of Chickasaw or other Muskogean terms. All the documentation I have seen thus far is in European languages or in modern Chickasaw.

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**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 19-23, 1995, at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City.

Papers must be clearly and directly related to indigenous literatures, but all approaches 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 150-200 word abstract in English or Spanish should be sent to:

Monica Barnes, Program Chair  
377 Rector Place, Apt. 11J  
New York, NY 10280.

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 (LAILA/ALILA), non-members should include 1995 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 LAILA/ALILA.

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 funding from 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 LAILA/ALILA, contact: Dr. Mary H. Preuss, Pennsylvania State University-McKeesport, University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15132  
-7698.

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

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**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 a not-for-profit, indigenous-language publishing center in Oaxaca, Mexico. In January of this year, CELIAC moved into its own building 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. (A 50,000-word text, generated by a native speaker, is likely to have from 2000 to 4000 unique words. It can take a fieldworking linguist a year or more to accumulate a list of that many 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, recited 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 marketing 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 and interact with others who are also learning how to write in various indigenous languages. Learning to handle the computers and to write fluidly in the indigenous language takes about a month, in our experience. However, authors should stay for at least three months if they wish to leave with a completed 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 barred *n* or the dieresis, on e-mail. We do, however, show the Spanish *ny* as *n*.)

1. X'TACHWIN X'TATLIN LI TUTUNAKU (Palabra y Canto de los Totonacos), by Tiburcio Perez Gonzalez (Jun). Poetry in Totonac and Spanish. Over 50 original color illustrations by the author. May 1994. \$60.
2. DILLZAAN NHA' KALHJAGOK'KS (Cuentos y Leyendas en Idioma Zapoteco de la Sierra Norte; Area Cajonof: Yaganiza, San Mateo, Xagacia, y Carizal), by Alfredo Rios Belem. In Zapotec. June 1994. \$30.
3. NA KAA IYO YO CHI NUU CHIKUA'A (La Vida Cotidiana de Jicayan, Volume I), by Josefa Leonarda Gonzalez Ventura. In Mixtec. March 1993. \$30.

4. LA VIDA COTIDIANA DE JICAYAN. (Na Kaa Iyo Yo Chi Nuu Chikua'a Volume I), by Josefa Leonarda Gonzalez Ventura. In Spanish. March 1994. \$30.
5. LALA IA TI JUJMI KI TSA KO WI (Asi se Cuenta en el Idioma Chinanteco de Ojitlan), by Fidel Pereda Ramon and Bartola Morales Garcia. In Chinantec. Publication date: late 1994.
6. TE'EN NI TUI NUU YO (Asi se Fundo Nuestro Pueblo), by Pablo Hernandez Hernandez. In Mixtec. Publication date: late 1994.
7. RA NT'EMEE MAYA'MU 'NE MAPAYA (La Religion Tradicional y Religion Contemporanea), by Jesus Salinas Pedraza. In Nahn'u (Otomi) and Spanish. In Spanish and Nahn'u, late 1994 or early 1995. (The English edition of this book is available in H.R. Bernard and J. Salinas, Native Ethnography, Sage Publications, 1989.)
8. RA 'MEDE RA HNINI RA DEXTO (Historia de la Comunidad de El Dexto), by Jesus Salinas Pedraza. In Nahn'u and Spanish. Publication date: Early 1995.
9. YELESI'IN CHE BENE' GOLHE JSESHE (Los Conocimientos de los Ancianos de Yatza'chi el Bajo), by Digna Salvador Eugenio. In Zapotec and Spanish. Publication date: late-1994.
10. TYUSU CHA NAKATYI NUYIVI NUU KASANDO'O (Cuentos que Narra la Gente de Jamiltepec), by Miguel Lopez Hernandez. In Mixtec and Spanish. Publication date: late 1994

CELIAC's books are published in perfect-bound, paperback editions and as PC disk 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 CELIAC books are in MS-DOS, WordPerfect 5.1 format. Disks cost \$30 each if purchased separately, but are \$10 with the purchase of a book. Order from: Box 1530, Oaxaca, Oax. Mexico 68000, or CELIAC, Avenida Ejercito Mexicano 1107, Colonia Ampliacion Dolores, Oaxaca, Oaxaca, 68020 Mexico.

Payment for CELIAC books may be made by international bank draft, or you may wire funds directly to CELIAC. For details in Spanish, contact CELIAC on e-mail at <CELIAC@aneta.igc.apc.org>, or call Jesus Salinas or Josefa Gonzalez at: 011-52-951-59725 or 59729. For details in English, contact H. Russell Bernard on e-mail at <alv16@rs1.rrz.Uni-Koeln.DE>.

If you wish to sponsor a native author at CELIAC, or help CELIAC purchase a computer for a village, or underwrite the distribution of CELIAC'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 CELIAC.

#### 11.4 COMPUTER & FIELD LINGUISTICS GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT AT PITT

From Sally Thomason (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 (e.g. working dictionaries, analyzed texts), and that can perform sophisticated information retrieval tasks that could help to illustrate or test linguistic hypotheses.

The language materials 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 appeal 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 at Pitt in Linguistics or in a closely-related field with specialization in such areas as Computational Linguistics or Psycholinguistics. The position provides an 8-month salary at the level of a Pitt IA 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, send email to Rich Thomason at thomason@isp.pitt.edu. For information concerning graduate study in Linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh, send email to Alan Juffs at juffs@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 (a.k.a. Severn Ojibwe), and Cree. These languages are all spoken as first languages by substantial numbers of children and adults, but in recent years there has 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 in schools at the primary and secondary levels, in both first and second language programs.

The first major phase of our project consisted of work in creating community awareness of the need for Native Language development for formal school settings, as well as an assessment of fluency levels and language usage in the communities we serve. The second phase, currently in progress, has involved the collection of materials and development of student dictionaries in Ojibwe, Oji-Cree, and Fort Severn Cree, as well as the production of language-sensitive style 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. Satellite projects include the development of proposals for a monolingual Oji-Cree dictionary, a structured program of community-based Native language literacy, and a community-based terminology 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. I (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 themes, language lessons, dictionaries, picture 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  
American Indian Studies Program  
1188 Educational Sciences Building  
1025 W. Johnson Street  
The University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

in Canada

J. Randolph Valentine / Ifka Filipovich  
Northern Native Education Council  
PO Box 1419  
21 King St  
Sioux Lookout, ON  
POV-210

Thank you.

J. Randolph Valentine  
University of Western Ontario & University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Marguerite MacKenzie  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
John D. Nichols  
University of Manitoba  
Patricia Ningewance  
University of Manitoba & Lac Seul First Nation

Representing:

Native Language Development Project

Northern Native Education Council  
Keewaytinook Okimakanak  
Windigo First Nations Council  
Shibogama First Nations Council  
Sandy Lake First Nation  
Independent First Nations Alliance  
Slate Falls District Area School Board

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#### 11.6 LATAMLIN: THE LATIN AMERICAN LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES LIST

A new Internet discussion group, LATAMLIN (Latin American Linguistics and Languages Discussion 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 samples of ongoing research; and keep updated with 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: [LISTSERV@MITVMA.MIT.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@MITVMA.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:  
Cristina S. Banfi, [pinango@binnah.cc.brandeis.edu](mailto:pinango@binnah.cc.brandeis.edu)  
[csbanfi@mit.edu](mailto:csbanfi@mit.edu)

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