

**The Society for the Study of the
Indigenous Languages of the Americas**

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Victor Golla

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Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

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53.1 IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT J. FRANKLIN

Rob Franklin, a dedicated linguist, anthropologist, and teacher, who worked with tireless devotion on behalf of the tribal rights of Native American peoples, died Sunday, August 17, from cancer, at the young age of 45. He is survived by his wife and partner in work, Pam Bunte.

Diagnosed with lymphoma in March, Rob managed to keep up with his duties as chair of the Anthropology Department at California State University- Dominguez Hills until the week before his death. He completed his summer NSF commitment on the Paiute language study (a part of the Numic project mentioned below). In addition, he was working with the local Gabrielino tribe to do preliminary work on their recognition petition. He was able to complete his part of that project as well.

Born in 1952, Rob received his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1984 with a dissertation on “The role of Structure, Agency, and Communication in the Development of Federal Policy toward the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe.” The following year he began teaching at CSU-Dominguez Hills. In addition to a number of joint papers on Southern Paiute anthropology and linguistics, Rob and his wife published *From the Sands to the Mountain: Change and Persistence in a Southern Paiute Community* (U of Nebraska Press, 1987), summarizing the political and cultural development of the San Juan people in recent decades. They also edited and annotated the 209 Southern Paiute song texts that Sapir collected in 1910 from his Southern Paiute consultant, Tony Tillohash (published in 1994 in Volume 4 of *The Collected Works of Edward Sapir*).

Rob’s family and friends will always remember his enthusiasm for life, his wonderful cooking, and his love for Celtic music. In addition to his wife Pam, Rob leaves his daughters Rachel, Abigail and Rebecca, and his granddaughters Madeleine Grace Melcher and Eleanor Jane Martin. He is also survived by his parents, a brother, and a sister.

A memorial service will be held at 10 am on Tuesday, August 26, in Long Beach, California. Those wishing to attend should contact Pam Bunte for the location and directions (e-mail: pbunte@csulb.edu).

Contributions can be made to the Native American Rights Fund, 1506 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302. Contributors should write on their check that it is in memory of Robert Franklin.

John McLaughlin writes:

Rob spent over two decades doing linguistic and anthropological research in collaboration with his wife, Pam Bunte. Their major field commitment was to the San Juan Southern Paiutes, and Rob and Pam were responsible for much of the documentary effort that allowed the tribe to gain Federal recognition. They also worked with the Cambodian community in Los Angeles and assisted other Native American tribes in the Federal recognition process. At the time of his death, Rob had been a member of the Numic Comparative Lexicon team for three years, and was preparing a Southern Paiute

dictionary and volume of texts. His field notes on Southern Paiute will constitute a major resource for Numic studies for years to come.

53.2 CORRESPONDENCE

Where's that Time article?

From Jonathan Bobaljik (jbobalj@husc.harvard.edu) 17 August 1997:

I have just tried to follow up two of the three articles on endangered languages from the Media Watch section of the latest SSILA Newsletter (I don't read Gaelic, so didn't bother tracking that one down). I found David Crystal's article in Civilization, and read through it quickly. I couldn't find the TIME magazine article, though. In fact, I looked at all the issues of Time from June, July and August (so far), and couldn't find any article. Is it in a different magazine maybe?

~Jonathan Bobaljik
Harvard University, Society of Fellows
78 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge MA 02138

[It was called to my attention--after the July SSILA Newsletter was printed and on its way to everyone's mailboxes--that the article (and cover) appeared only in the international edition of Time for July 7. Canada apparently gets that edition, as well as everybody else in the world except the US domestic readership, and I saw the article while I was visiting Toronto this summer. Fortunately I have a xerox copy, which I would be happy to re-copy and mail (or fax) to anyone who would like one. -- Victor Golla.]

Writer needed for Kutenai article

From Margaret Anderson (anderson@unbc.edu) 14 August 1997:

I recently received a letter from Curtis Fahey, Managing Editor for the "Encyclopedia of Canada's Peoples", to be published by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. They require a short article (2,500 words) on the Kutenai people, with a Canadian emphasis. If any reader of the SSILA Bulletin knows of an appropriate person to write this article, please send me the information. I co-authored the article on the Tsimshian/Nisga'a/Gitksan with Deanna Nyce and Susan Marsden, so I am familiar with the format they require. Thanks for any suggestions.

~Margaret Anderson
Univ. of Northern British Columbia

Phone number correction for Wordpath

From Alice Anderton, 12 August 1997:

Thanks for the nice article on Wordpath [in the "Media Watch" section of the July SSILA Newsletter]. At first I thought I had a typo to complain about in the telephone number, but then I realized it was in our materials! My telephone number, which we use for the Society, is: 405/447-6103 (NOT *477-). Of course, I may be too busy to answer the phone now, with 6,000 brochures to correct...

~Alice Anderton
Intertribal Wordpath Society
1506 Barkley St., Norman, OK 73071-4602
(aanderton@uoknor.edu)

53.3 THE BOOK EXCHANGE

From Paul von Wichert (umvonwi0@cc.umanitoba.ca) 15 August 1997:

I am looking for the two-volume *Ojibwa Texts* by William Jones, edited by Truman Michelson, published by the American Ethnological Society in 1917-19. According to my University bookstore, the 1974 AMS reprint is unavailable despite being listed in Books in Print, and my searches through antiquarian bookstores have reached a dead end. If anyone has an extra copy that they are willing to sell, please contact me at the address below.

~Paul von Wichert
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phone: 204/453-3604

53.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Editorial remarks

We have gotten some negative feedback from the developers of two new sites that we noted here recently. One developer said that his pages were “in a very tentative state” and that he had put them on the local server “thinking no one would be able to find them until we were ready to release the URL.” The other developer was “horrified” to see that we had announced the address of his website, adding accusingly, “I don’t know how you got it.”

In fact, we retrieved both addresses from Alta Vista in routine searches. The two URLs in question--and the addresses of thousands of sites whose developers mistakenly think they are working in private--are available world-wide on any decent Internet search engine. We apologize to our two distressed colleagues, but the fact is, the web is not a private distribution network and it is unwise to treat it as such. The niceties of publication (“announcement,” “release,” “distribution”) do not apply on the Internet. Anything you upload to your server, no matter how “under construction” it may be, is immediately visitable by all and sundry (including nosy SSILA). If you want to protect yourself from being discovered a search engine you have to be pretty smart and pretty fast, and the only sure protection is simply not to upload.

If readers working on websites have any thoughts and suggestions they would like to share with other developers regarding “site visibility”, their messages will be very welcome and will be posted in this column.

New German site

Meanwhile...with all relevant caveats: SSILA member Michael Dürr, an Americanist and librarian at the Berliner Gesamtkatalog (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin), has a new site at <<http://www.snafu.de/~duerr>>.

Although his pages are UNDER CONSTRUCTION Dürr has already posted some of his own publications on the Popol Vuh and other topics (Na-Dene, Franz Boas), and more material will soon appear.

53.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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