

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

*SSILA BULLETIN*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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## 62.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### **The Aboriginal side of "contact" encounters**

>From John Lutz ([jlutz@uvic.ca](mailto:jlutz@uvic.ca)) 19 Feb 1998:

We are seeking help in locating Aboriginal accounts of early encounters between Native Indians and Europeans, including, but not limited to, "First Contact" experiences from California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska. The finished product will be an anthology of these accounts, some of them juxtaposed with European narratives of the same encounters.

Two years into this project we have accumulated over 70 such accounts but are sure there are many we have not been able to locate. We welcome your suggestions, no matter how obvious.

In addition to our hearty thanks and a firm, but virtual handshake, your assistance will be fully acknowledged and rewarded, if we can use your suggestion, by a copy of the volume when it is complete.

~Heather Gleboff & John Lutz  
History Department, Univ. of Victoria  
Victoria, BC, Canada  
([hgleboff@uvic.ca](mailto:hgleboff@uvic.ca) & [jlutz@uvic.ca](mailto:jlutz@uvic.ca))

### **Native American surname index**

>From Mark Thiel ([thielm@vms.csd.mu.edu](mailto:thielm@vms.csd.mu.edu)) 23 Feb 1998:

I am compiling a Native American surname index from mission school records for 18 states, ca. 1900-1960. Included will be an estimated 15,000 surnames of native and non-native origin with related tribal affiliations. Afterwards the data will be cross-checked against an index of Native American related correspondence to indicate which letters might have been authored by native people. Ideas and inquiries are welcome. Might someone be able to suggest any comparable indexes or an expert familiar with such indexes?

~Mark Thiel  
Marquette University Archives  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-3141  
([mark.thiel@marquette.edu](mailto:mark.thiel@marquette.edu))

## 62.2 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Congress of Indigenous Literature (Guatemala, July 28-31)**

>From Fernando Peñalosa ([pelnan@yaxte.org](mailto:pelnan@yaxte.org)) 5 Mar 1998:

The B'EYB'AL Cultural Association cordially invites all interested persons to participate in the FIRST CONGRESS OF INDIGENOUS LITERATURE OF THE AMERICAS, which will be held July 28-31, 1998 in Guatemala City.

Indigenous writers who have published works in their own languages (preferably) or other languages, and also non-indigenous persons who have written on indigenous literature of the Americas, are invited to submit an abstract of their paper no longer than 3 pages, by April 30, 1998. Please include name, address, email address, fax, telephone and title of the paper.

Topics include: Indigenous literatures of the Americas; Poetry and lyric song; Prose, narrative, short stories and fiction; Theatre and drama; Oral tradition, myth, legend, history, fable, comedy; Worldview and indigenous cultures in literature; Methodologies and techniques of writing indigenous literature; Anthropological and sociological aspects of indigenous literature; Editors, publishers, and publishing; Libraries, archives, and writers' organizations; Mass media and indigenous literature; Official languages and literatures in indigenous languages; and Indigenous literary currents and trends.

Once your participation has been approved, we will send you a conference Program. There is a nominal fee of Q.50.00 for Guatemala participants and \$20 (U.S) for those from other countries.

For further information, contact:

Gaspar Pedro Gonzalez  
ASOCIACION CULTURAL B'EYB'AL  
12 calle, 11-13 Zona 6 Mixco  
Guatemala City, Guatemala  
(fax: 011/502-232-2723; e-mail: [lacade@guate.net](mailto:lacade@guate.net)).

- **Friends of Uto-Aztecan (Reno, Nevada, August 6-7)**

>From Kay Fowler ([csfowler@scs.unr.edu](mailto:csfowler@scs.unr.edu)) 20 Feb 1998:

The annual Friends of Uto-Aztecan meeting will be held August 6-7 at the University of Nevada, Reno. For further information please contact:

Catherine S. Fowler  
Department of Anthropology

University of Nevada,  
Reno, Reno, NV 89557  
(e-mail: [csfowler@scs.unr.edu](mailto:csfowler@scs.unr.edu); tel: 702/784-4686;  
FAX: 702/784-1988).

Paper titles are due April 15.

- **Endangered Languages Workshop (Edinburgh, Sept. 25-27)**

>From Nicholas Ostler ([nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk](mailto:nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk)) 24 Feb 1998:

A Workshop on "Endangered Languages: What Role for the The Specialist?" will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 25-27 September, 1998.

This conference, organized by the Foundation for Endangered Languages, is intended to provide a forum for researchers and activists working for the maintenance of indigenous languages that face an uncertain future. The 1998 meeting--the second--is seeking to answer the question: "How can language specialists, whether professional linguists, educators, media professionals or whoever, actually contribute to language maintenance?" We shall be looking for testimony on the actual effects of professional involvement on small language communities throughout the world: both community members, and the professionals themselves will have their tales to tell.

The venue will be the Pollock Halls in Edinburgh. There will be a preliminary volume of proceedings distributed at the Conference. Presentations will last twenty minutes each, with a further ten minutes for discussion.

Organizers are Dr Nicholas Ostler (FEL, Bath, England); Prof Kenneth Mackinnon (U of Edinburgh/U of Hertfordshire); and Dr Briony Williams (U of Edinburgh). The Program Committee includes Akira Yamamoto, Mahendra K Verma, Andrew Woodfield, Anthony Woodbury, Tasaku Tsunoda, Jane Simpson, Mari Rhydwen, Jon Reyhner, Nicholas Ostler, David Nash, Christopher Moseley, Kenneth Mackinnon, John Clews, and Margaret Allen.

Abstracts (500 words or less, 3 copies) should be sent to:

Nicholas Ostler  
Foundation for Endangered Languages  
Batheaston Villa, 172 Bailbrook Lane  
Bath BA1 7AA, England.

This should have a clear short title, but should not bear anything to identify the author; that (with address information) should be included on a separate sheet. E-mail inquiries can be sent to ([nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk](mailto:nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk)). The abstract submission deadline is March 29; camera-ready text should be submitted by July 14.

### 62.3 OREGON SIL OFFERS SUMMER WORKSHOP ON LEXICOGRAPHY, ETC.

>From Tom Payne ([tpayne@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU](mailto:tpayne@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU)) 20 Feb 1998:

The Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of Oregon, as part of its regular offerings, will be sponsoring a lexicography workshop from 23 June to 14 August, 1998. The workshop will be led by Valentin Vydrine, of the European University of St. Petersburg, Russia. Dr. Vydrine is a specialist in the lexicography of West Africa, and is currently compiling a massive comparative dictionary of the Manding languages. This workshop will be designed for all linguistic and anthropological fieldworkers who are in the process of preparing a dictionary of an underdescribed language.

Oregon SIL also offers a variety of graduate and undergraduate level courses in field-oriented linguistics, including a Workshop in Grammatical Description.

For more information on the workshops and other offerings of the Summer Institute of Linguistics at Oregon, please check out our web page at <http://www.sil.org/schools/oregon/oregon.html> or contact

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[tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:tpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu)).

### 62.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- **Mexican site**

I would like to invite SSILA Bulletin readers to visit our website for children, which deals with Mexican cultures, including whole sections in indigenous languages like Nahuatl. The address is: <http://www.kokone.com.mx>

~Jose Antonio Flores Farfan  
Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social  
Tlalpan 14000, Mexico, D.F., MEXICO  
([flores@juarez.ciesas.edu.mx](mailto:flores@juarez.ciesas.edu.mx))

## 62.5 UPDATE ON ENGLISH ONLY ACTIVITY #11

### **Official English Amendment Defeated by U.S. House**

>From James W. Crawford ([jwcrawford@compuserve.com](mailto:jwcrawford@compuserve.com)) 5 Mar 1998:

A backdoor attempt to designate English the nation's official language was rejected by the U.S. House of Representatives during deliberations on H.R. 856, a bill governing the future political status of Puerto Rico.

By a vote of 238-182, the House rejected an English Only amendment submitted by Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.) in favor of a substitute measure, sponsored by Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.). The Burton substitute would make Puerto Rico subject to federal language legislation approved at a later date and would encourage the island's schools to foster English proficiency. But -- unlike the Solomon amendment -- it would impose no English Only requirements as a condition of statehood.

Rep. Burton, a supporter of English Only legislation, nevertheless rejected Solomon's proposal because he considered it a "killer amendment" designed to "drive a stake through the heart" of the Puerto Rico status bill.

H.R. 856 authorizes a plebiscite for residents of Puerto Rico, who will be asked later this year to choose between the alternatives of statehood, "commonwealth" status, or independence. The bill was adopted by a final vote of 209-208.

The House action represents a setback for U.S. English and English First, who have focused for the past year on blocking the Puerto Rico plebiscite. Yet it does not signal any final disposition of English Only legislation -- several versions of which are still pending in the 105th Congress, although no committee action has yet been scheduled. Considering that 1998 is an election year, further action on these measures is likely.

For further information, including the texts of the Burton and Solomon amendments, please see my Language Policy Web Site:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jwcrawford>

## 62.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Adams, Douglas Q. .... [dqadams@uidaho.edu](mailto:dqadams@uidaho.edu)  
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