

SSILA newsletter

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FEBRUARY 1982

Published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. Editor: Victor Golla, Department of Anthropology, George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052.

Volume 1, Number 1

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EDITORIAL

A Society for Americanist Linguistics

The establishment of a general scholarly society for American Indian linguistics has been long in coming. The traditions of our tribe, it would seem, are heavy on feats of individual dedication but light on sustained collaborative effort. But despite the reluctance and caution that attended the decision to formalize the organization of the Conference on American Indian Languages in the present Society, now that it has been accomplished the need for it is clear. The community of American Indian linguists has become simply too large and diverse, and the centrifugal forces acting on us are too great, to allow matters to drift for much longer. Regional groups, with their own conferences and newsletters (even journals), have multiplied; interest in Central and South American languages has risen sharply;

students and established linguists from a variety of subdisciplines are once again finding stimulation and challenge in American Indian languages. If CAIL is to retain its usefulness as a marketplace of ideas and as an expression of the unity of Americanist linguistics, hard practical decisions must be made and intellectual authority exercised at a high level of generality. These must be the tasks of a corporate group.

SSILA will succeed in this role only if it accurately reflects the diversity of the field, and honestly summarizes its common purposes. This is more easily said than done, but nothing is more essential for our fledgling organization than the development of a communal spirit and a clear set of shared goals.

During this first year, especially, the Newsletter will serve as an important forum for discussion of the goals of the Society, and all members are urged to take advantage of its pages. Letters will be published as fully as space allows.

-- V.G.

MINUTES OF THE SSILA BUSINESS MEETING, DEC. 5, 1981

The first Business Meeting of the Society was held in Los Angeles, Saturday afternoon, Dec. 5, 1981, after the conclusion of the final session of the 20th Conference on American Indian Languages (at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association). In the absence of Wick R. Miller, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, the meeting was called to order by the Acting Secretary, Victor Golla.

The first item of business was the adoption of the Bylaws of the Society. The draft of the Bylaws that had been distrib-

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uted to the membership on Nov. 1, 1981 was adopted, with three amendments:

1. (Proposed by Nora C. England). To edit the text of the draft Bylaws so as to avoid the general indiscriminate use of "he/his/him" for a general third person pronoun.

2. (Proposed by Nora C. England). To amend Article 3, Section 7 of the draft Bylaws by insertion of the following after the first sentence: "Prior to making nominations, the Chair of the Nominating Committee shall call for suggestions from the membership."

3. (Several proposers). To adopt as the name of the Society: "The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas."

The Society having been constituted by the adoption of Bylaws, the next item of business was the nomination and election of officers for 1982, as provided by Article 6, Section 2 of the Bylaws. Those elected were:

President: Ives Goddard

Vice President (and President-Elect for 1983): M. Dale Kinkade

Secretary-Treasurer (through 1984): Victor Golla

Members of the Executive Committee: Nora C. England, Harriet E. Manelis Klein, and Kenneth W. Whistler.*

President Goddard assumed the chair. There was a brief report from the Organizing Committee, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

* Subsequent to the meeting straws were drawn and terms of office assigned as follows: Klein (through 1984), Whistler (through 1983), England (through 1982).

The Conference on American Indian Languages has met as an integral part of the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association since 1964. The arrangement has been informal but enduring. The AAA Program Committee treats CAIL sessions as separate "organized symposia", but allows the organizers of CAIL to submit 4 or 5 sessions as a "package" that they only rarely alter.

When SSILA was being organized, the question was raised whether the existence of a formal sponsor of CAIL might place the "gentleman's agreement" between the AAA and CAIL in jeopardy. Might not the AAA Program Committee be compelled to exercise more rigorous supervision of the CAIL sessions (perhaps curtailing their number) if they were proposed by a Society? To allay these fears, the SSILA Organizing Committee met with Edward J. Lehman, Executive Director of the AAA, late in 1980. We were assured at that time that the formal sponsorship of CAIL by SSILA would in no way affect the relationship of CAIL to the AAA Annual Meeting. We were, however, warned that future developments in the structure of the Annual Meeting might have some effect on CAIL, but that this would be the case whether or not CAIL were sponsored by a formal group.

These developments are now materializing. The AAA is discussing a plan to do away with the present Annual Meeting, substituting for it a biennial joint meeting of the major "cooperating societies" (meaning principally the American Ethnological Society, the Society for Applied Anthropology, the Society for American Archaeology, and the American Society of Physical Anthropologists). In alternate years no general meeting of any sort would be held. (For details see the Anthropology Newsletter for December, 1981). If this plan is adopted, the last Annual Meeting in the present format will be held in 1984. No general meeting would be held in 1985, and the first joint meeting of the cooperating societies would be held late in 1986.

Should this proposed restructuring of the AAA meetings be approved (discussions are continuing this year with the cooperating societies, and a decision can be expected by 1983) the continued association of CAIL with the AAA is in doubt. At best, we would be able to continue meeting as part of a large gathering of anthropologists only in alternate years, and even then only as an adoptee of one of the "cooperating societies". (The proposal is quite clear about this: the AAA as a general organization will cease to organize any part of the scientific sessions. Small groups such as ours are expected to make arrangements with the AES, SFAA, SAA, or ASPA if they wish to join in the meetings. Are we to be Ethnologists, Applied Anthropologists, Archaeologists, or Physical Anthropologists?)

Until we know for certain what the AAA intends to do with their Annual Meeting there is no definite action we can take. But it will obviously serve us well to begin seriously considering some other possibilities for CAIL. Some that have been suggested in the past are: meeting with the LSA at their winter meeting; meeting during the Linguistic Institute; meeting with one or another regional anthropological society; meeting independently. Members are urged to give some thought to the pros and cons of these and other alternatives, and to communicate suggestions to the Executive Committee or the Newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Menomini Lexicon by Leonard Bloomfield, edited by Charles F. Hockett. Milwaukee Public Museum Publications in Anthropology and History, No. 3, 1975. \$7.50 (softbound) plus \$1.10 for shipping (Wisconsin residents add 4% tax). Order from: Publications Office, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53233. [Nancy Oestreich Lurie writes: "We published this to sell at cost mainly to accomodate the Menominee tribe's language program and scholars.... It's a real bargain and I'd like to see it made use of."]

* Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 6: Subarctic. Smithsonian Inst. Press, 1981. Order from: Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Document no. SN 047-000-00374-1. \$22. (For non-U.S. addresses, order from S.I. Press, P.O. Box 1579, Wash. DC 20013.) [2 survey articles: "Subarctic Algonquian Languages," by Richard A. Rhodes and Evelyn M. Todd, and "Northern Athapaskan Languages," by Michael E. Krauss and Victor K. Golla.]

* The Aymara Language in its Social and Cultural Context: Essays on Aspects of Aymara Language and Culture. Ed. by M.J. Hardman. Univ. of Florida Social Science Monograph No. 67, 1981. Order from: University Presses of Florida, 15 NW 15 St., Gainesville, FL 32603. \$25.00 plus 85¢ postage/handling. [23 contributions, under three general headings: "Grammatical and Semantic Categories and World View", "Contact with Other Languages", and "Implications for Applied Anthropological Linguistics".]

* Historical and Modern Studies in North American Indian Literacy. A symposium under this title is being organized for the Dec. 1982 AAA Meetings by Kathleen J. Bragdon (NHB 85, Stop 100, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560). Anyone interested in contributing a paper should contact her before March 20.

* Call for papers: Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics will devote an issue (vol. 7, no.2) to papers dealing with, or bearing upon, any aspect of Native American languages. The issue will be dedicated to Mary R. Haas. Send contributions to: Editors, KWPL, Dept. of Linguistics, Lawrence, KS 66045. Deadline: April 1.

* SSILA nominations. Members of SSILA are asked to forward to the Nominating Committee the names of members who might be interested in holding office in the Society. Address: SSILA Nominating Committee, c/o Victor Golla, Dept. of Anthropology, George Washington Univ., Washington, DC 20052.

REGIONAL NETWORKS

[A directory of regional conferences, newsletters, journals, and special publication series will be published annually in the February issue of the SSILA Newsletter. In order to keep it as accurate and comprehensive as possible, corrections and additions to the directory should be forwarded promptly to the Editor.]

ATHABASKAN/ESKIMO-ALEUT

--Athabaskan Conference. (Primarily linguistics; sometimes interdisciplinary). Meets irregularly. Most recent meeting: Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, June 26-28, 1981. Next meeting: (tentative) Fairbanks, AK, Summer 1982. Contact: Michael Krauss, ANLC, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

--Athapaskan News. Editor: Dave Henry, Box 21, Old Pinchbeck, R.R. 1, Williams Lake, BC, Canada V2G 2P1. Appears at irregular intervals. \$2/volume.

--Research Papers: Alaska Native Language Center. Deal with "advances and problems in linguistic research in Alaskan and related Native American Languages: Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit, Eskimo-Aleut, Haida, and Tsimshian." Prices vary. For list write: ANLC, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

ALGONQUIAN/IROQUOIAN

--Algonquian Conference. (Interdisciplinary). Meets annually, usually in late October. Most recent meeting: Toronto, Oct. 23-25, 1981. Next meeting: Québec City, Oct. 1982.

--Papers of the Algonquian Conference. The papers of the 6th Conference (1974) were published by the National Museum of Man, Ottawa; papers of the 7th and succeeding Conferences have been published by Carleton University. For prices: Dept. of Linguistics, Carleton Univ., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6.

--Conference on Iroquoian Research. (Interdisciplinary). Meets annually, 2nd week in October. Next meeting: Rensselaerville Conference Center, SUNY-Albany, Oct. 1982. Contact: Marianne Mithun, Dept. of Anth., SUNY, Albany, NY 12222.

--Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics. Editor: John Nichols, Native Studies, Brandon Univ., Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 6A9. Four issues a year. \$3.50/yr.

NORTHWEST

--International Conference on Salishan and Neighboring Languages. (Linguistics only). Meets annually in mid-August. Most recent meeting: Univ. of Montana, Missoula, Aug. 13-15, 1981. Next meeting: Portland State Univ., Portland, OR, Aug. 9-11, 1982. Contact: Wayne Suttles, Dept. of Anthropology, PSU, Portland, OR 97207.

--Northwest Languages Newsletter. Editor: Yvonne Hébert, Dept. of Linguistics, UBC, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1W5. Three issues a year. \$2/year.

CALIFORNIA/OREGON

--Hokan-Penutian Conference. (Linguistics and archaeology). Meets annually, late June or early July. Joint meeting of the Hokan Languages Workshop and the Penutian Conference. Last meeting: Sonoma State Univ., Rhonert Park, CA, June 30-July 2, 1981. Next meeting: UC-Santa Cruz, June 27-30, 1982. Contact: William Shipley, Stevenson College, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

--California-Oregon Languages Newsletter. Editors: Victor Golla & Kenneth Whistler, Dept. of Anthropology, George Washington Univ., Washington, DC 20052. Six issues a year. \$3/yr.

--Proceedings of the Hokan Languages Workshop. Four volumes available (1977-80). 1981 volume (to appear late 1982) will also include papers from the Penutian Conference. Prices vary. For list: Committee on Publications, Dept. of Linguistics, S. Illinois Univ., Carbondale, IL 62901.

--Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, Papers in Linguistics. Editor: Margaret Langdon. One issue annually. Supplement to Jour. of Calif. and G.B. Anth., but available separately. For rates: JCGBA, Dept. of Anthropology, UCR, Riverside, CA 92521.

PLAINS/SOUTHEAST

--Siouan Conference. (Linguistics). First meeting: Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, June

16-18, 1981. Contact: David S. Rood, Dept. of Linguistics, Campus Box 295, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

--Siouan and Caddoan Linguistics. Editors: David S. Rood & Allan R. Taylor (address as above). Appears "at least once yearly, oftener if news of interest to subscribers, and the editors' energies, warrant and permit it." Free on request.

--Conference on Muskogean Languages and Linguistics. First meeting: Norman, OK, Oct. 19, 1978. (See report in IJAL 46: 41-45, 1980.) Contact: James M. Crawford, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

SOUTHWEST/NORTHERN MEXICO

--Friends of Uto-Aztecan. (Linguistics). Meets annually. Contact: Wick R. Miller, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

--Kiowa-Tanoan Linguistics Conference. Meets at irregular intervals. Last meeting: Albuquerque, NM (Linguistic Institute), June 27-28, 1980. Contact: Laurel Watkins, Dept. of Anthropology, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

--TLALOCAN. Publishes texts in Mesoamerican, northern Mexican, and Greater Southwestern languages, as well as documents relative to Indian peoples. Contact: Karen Dakin, Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas, UNAM, Mexico D.F., Mexico.

MAYAN

--Mayan Workshop/Taller de Lingüística Maya. Meets annually, in the summer. Next meeting: (tentative) San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, July 12-16, 1982. Contact: Judith L. Aissen, Dept. of Linguistics, Yale Univ., New Haven, CT 06520.

--Journal of Mayan Linguistics. Editor: Nora C. England, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242. Published at irregular intervals. \$8/volume (\$11 foreign airmail).

--Mayan Linguistics Newsletter. Editor: Judith Aissen (address above). Three issues per academic year. \$3/volume.

--Workshop on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing. Meets annually. Next meeting: Univ. of Texas, Austin, Feb. 27-28, 1982, conducted by Linda Schele. Notebook (with drawings of glyphs, commentaries) available for this and earlier Workshops. Contact: Nancy P. Troike, Inst. of Latin American Studies, Univ. of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.

ANDEAN SOUTH AMERICA

--Workshop on Andean Linguistics. Meets at irregular intervals. Last meeting: Cornell Univ. (PILEI, see below), Summer, 1981. Contact: Garland D. Bills, Dept. of Linguistics, UNM, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

--Andean Linguistics Newsletter/Correo de Lingüística Andina. Editor: Garland D. Bills (address above).

GENERAL LATIN AMERICA

--PILEI (El Programa Interamericano de Lingüística y Enseñanza de Idiomas). Irregularly scheduled symposia and training institutes. Most recent institute: Cornell Univ., June 29-Aug. 7, 1981. Contact: Donald F. Solá, 190 Uris Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853.

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

Executive Committee for 1982

Ives Goddard (Smithsonian), President
M. Dale Kinkade (UBC), Vice President
Victor Golla (George Washington U),
Secretary-Treasurer
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Harriet E. Manelis Klein (Montclair S)
Kenneth W. Whistler (UCSB)

SSILA welcome applications for membership from all those interested in the scholarly study of the languages of the native peoples of North, Central, and South America. Dues are \$3.00 per year. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "SSILA" and sent to:

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