

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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104.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Delays and problems

Owing to the recent illness of the Editor, the January issue of the SSILA Newsletter will be delayed by about 2 weeks. It is at the printers now and should reach most members by mid-February.

Some time in early February the SSILA website will be moved to a new, more efficient server. We hope this will clear up the numerous problems that users have been having with the searchable databases (particularly the Membership Directory). This move should be finished before the next Bulletin appears; if not, we will keep you updated on our progress. Meanwhile, if you have a bookmark or link to the SSILA site, please change it (if you haven't already) to: <http://www.ssila.org> When your browser goes to this address you are automatically forwarded to the SSILA site, wherever the actual web address of the site is.

104.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Siebert Collection items on the web

- From Ives Goddard (Goddard.Ives@NMNH.SI.EDU) 22 Jan 2000:

Items from the auction of the Siebert collection (see SSILA Newsletter XVIII:2, July 1999, and XVIII:4, Jan. 2000) are showing up in dealers' catalogues, including on-line lists. Although I'm reluctant to give free advertising, curious readers of the SSILA Bulletin might want to look at the American Indian list at the Philadelphia Rare Books & Manuscripts Company's site: <http://www.prbm.com/interest/amerind.htm> where at least one Siebert item is listed for sale, Bishop Baraga's Catholic liturgy in Ojibwa (1846).

Meanwhile, the items (many of them linguistic) that Yale obtained at the first Siebert sale are described on the Beinecke Library Recent Acquisitions web page:

<http://www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/blrecaq.htm>

And maps from the first sale are described in the "Auctions" report in on-line magazine MapForum.Com, Issue 7: <http://www.mapforum.com/7auct.htm>

~Ives Goddard
Smithsonian Institution
(goddard.ives@nmnh.si.edu)

Article on indigenous languages available

- From Dave Harmon (धारmon@georgewright.org) 18 Jan 2000:

There is a good article entitled "Reclaiming Indigenous Languages," by Teresa L. McCarty and Lucille J. Watahomigie, in the current issue of COMMON GROUND: ARCHEOLOGY AND

ETHNOGRAPHY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, a publication of the U.S. National Park Service. Aimed at a general audience, the article covers Navajo, Maori, Mohawk, and other languages.

There are sidebars on IPOLA by Inee Yang Slaughter and on Hawaiian by William H. Wilson. The article is very attractively laid out, and, since COMMON GROUND is a government publication and therefore in the public domain, it strikes me that the article could be useful to teachers and others as a handout in a variety of settings.

I am advised by COMMON GROUND's editor, David Andrews, that they have extra copies, but that they're going fast. Interested individuals should e-mail David at David_Andrews@nps.gov or call him on his direct line at 202/343-1881. Since David didn't mention a charge, my guess is that copies are free while they last.

The article is not yet available on-line but the Park Service plans to post out-of-print issues at their website after this is overhauled later in the year.

--Dave Harmon
Secretary-Treasurer, Terralingua
(dkharmon@georgewright.org)

The anti-"Chief" vote at LSA

- From Susan Steele (steele@gulley.vpa.uconn.edu) 18 Jan 2000:

The affirmative vote at the LSA Business Meeting on the resolution opposing the "Chief Illiniwek" mascot, and the votes on on the two motions to boycott the University of Illinois and the state of Illinois until the Chief is replaced, expressed only the sense of the meeting, not of the LSA. All three measures must now go out for a vote of the entire membership.

~Susan Steele
University of Connecticut
(steele@gulley.vpa.uconn.edu)

[We're sorry for the inaccuracy in our report. --VG]

Language and biodiversity grants at NSF

- From (whalen@lenny.haskins.yale.edu) 28 Jan 2000:

People who work at US institutions and are interested in links between the language and the environment may want to look into the initiative on biodiversity at the National Science Foundation. Check out the page at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf0022>

It is probably too late to establish a full proposal for this year (a letter of intent has to be in by Monday), but there are “incubation” grants for conferences and exploration that could be applied for.

~Doug Whalen
The Endangered Language Fund
Yale University

104.2 ENDANGERED LANGUAGE FUND REQUESTS PROPOSALS, ANNOUNCES 1999 AWARDS

- From Doug Whalen (whalen@lenny.haskins.yale.edu) 26 Jan 2000:

The Endangered Language Fund is pleased to announce its Request for Proposals for 2000. The Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the scientific description of endangered languages, support for maintenance efforts, and the dissemination of results to the scholarly community and to native communities.

ELF provides grants for language maintenance and linguistic field work. The work most likely to be funded is that which serves both the native community and the field of linguistics. Work which has immediate applicability to one group and more distant application to the other will also be considered. Publishing subventions are a low priority, although they will be considered. The language involved must be in danger of disappearing within a generation or two. Endangerment is a continuum, and the location on the continuum is one factor in ELF's funding decisions. Eligible expenses include travel, tapes, films, consultant fees, etc. Grants are normally for one year periods, though extensions may be applied for. Grants in this round are expected to be less than \$3,000 in size.

NOTE: At least two awards will be made for work on languages in the state of Oklahoma. Language communities there and researchers working on those languages are particularly encouraged to apply.

There is no application form. For instructions on what information to submit, in what format, contact ELF at: Dept. of Linguistics, Yale University, Box 208236, New Haven, CT 06520-8236 (tel: 203/432-2450; fax: 203/432-4087; e-mail: elf@haskins.yale.edu). Or (best of all) visit the ELF website at: <http://www.ling.yale.edu/~elf>

Applications must be received by APRIL 20th, 2000. Decisions will be delivered by the end of May, 2000.

The Endangered Language Fund made 12 grant awards in 1999, which received a total of \$20,000 in funding. These included:

- Elena Benedicto (Purdue University), Indigenous Women as Linguists
- Marianne Milligan (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Menominee Phonology and Morphology.
- Jonette Sam (Pueblo of Picuris), An Integrated Approach to Language Renewal at Picuris Pueblo, New Mexico.
- Carolyn J. MacKay & Frank R. Trechsel (Ball State University), A Linguistic Description of Pisa Flores Tepehua.
- Yogendra P. Yadava (Royal Nepal Academy), A Study of the Dhangar Language.
- Delphine Red Shirt (Guilford, CT), Winyan Isnala: My Mother's Story.
- Yaron Matras (University of Manchester), A Description of the Domari Language of Jerusalem.
- James T. Collins (National University of Malaysia), Documenting and Describing the Tola' Language.
- Hongkai Sun (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), Recording the Last Fluent Speakers of Anong, a Language of Yunnan (PRC).
- Silverio Jimenez (Mexico City), The Nahuatl from Milpa Alta.
- Veronica M. Grondona (University of Pittsburgh), Material development for Bilingual Education among the Mocovi.
- David VanBik (Haka, Chin State, Burma), Lai (Haka Chin)-English Dictionary.

104.3 AILDI

The University of Arizona, Tucson, will again host the American Indian Language Development Institute this summer (June 5-30), for its 21st session. AILDI is a uniquely successful gathering of linguists, tribal elders, teachers, and other education personnel for an integrated, holistic learning experience focusing on American Indian languages and cultures. This year's Institute will focus on specific teaching methods for maintaining and revitalizing indigenous languages in both the community and the school.

This year's course topics will include: Foundations of Bilingual Education; Creative Writing for Native American Communities; Linguistics for Native American Communities; Media, Reading, and Language Arts for Native American Communities; Bilingual Methods and Materials; Bilingual Education Practicum; Hopi Language and Culture; Linguistics Workshop; Native American Language Immersion; and Language and Culture in Indigenous Education. Tuition is \$730 for six credit hours (all courses lead toward regular degree programs, and toward bilingual and ESL endorsements). Books and supplies cost about \$150, and housing is available on-campus and in privately owned apartments (\$400-\$700 approximately). Financial assistance is available but limited. Early registration is encouraged. To receive registration information, or for other queries, contact:

Karen Francis-Begay, AILDI, Univ. of Arizona, Dept. of Language, Reading & Culture, College of Education, Room 517, P.O. Box 210069, Tucson, AZ 85721-0069 (tel: 520/621-1068; fax: 520/621-8174; e-mail: kfbegay@u.arizona.edu).

104.4 SPECIAL ISSUE OF TRIBAL COLLEGE JOURNAL

- From Jon Reyhner (jon.reyhner@nau.edu) 24 Jan 2000:

Articles in the Spring 2000 issue of Tribal College Journal will explore the efforts being made by tribal colleges to revitalize Native languages. TCJ is published by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, an organization of 33 tribal colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. The language issue will be available March 1.

Contents include:

- Paul Boyer describes the Learning Lodge Institute, an ambitious project by the seven tribal colleges in Montana and funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to save their languages from extinction.
- A traditional Blackfoot society member, Duane Mistaken Chief, explains how Red Crow Community College prepares teachers in Alberta to abide by the tribal maxim, “don’t take the way of life in the wrong direction.”
- Language scholar Jon Reyhner provides a resource guide on Native language revitalization publications, videos, and web sites.
- Northern Cheyenne language scholar Dr. Richard Little Bear (President of Dull Knife Memorial College) believes language revitalization efforts are on the wrong track and explains what he thinks needs to be done differently.
- Jennifer Dale describes the Nishnaabemowin Language Instructors’ Institute, a three-year summer institute for language instructors at Bay Mills Community College, whose graduates are teaching Ojibwe throughout the region.

The single issue price is \$9, or \$10.50 for foreign orders. Order from: Tribal College Journal, P.O. Box 720, Mancos CO 81328 (tel: 970/533-9170; fax: 970/533-9145; e-mail: info@tribalcollegejournal.org). The bulk issue rate for classrooms and conferences is \$4/ copy for orders of 10 or more (plus shipping and handling) while supplies last. If you want to order multiple copies, please place your order as soon as possible.

104.5 UPCOMING MEETINGS

California Languages (Marin Headlands, March 17-19)

The 4th biannual “Language is Life” gathering -- California Languages in the New Millennium - will take place at the Marin Headlands, opposite San Francisco, March 17-19, 2000. Jointly sponsored by the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival (AICLS) and the California Council for the Humanities, the meeting has as its principal goal the sharing of information on language maintenance and revitalization in California and elsewhere. Topics will include: Master-Apprentice Programs; Language revival efforts for tribes with no speakers; Preschools; Bringing language back into the family; Immersion camps; High school language classes; Story-telling; Language teaching methods and materials; Writing systems and the use of technology; Funding opportunities and grant writing. The full cost of the weekend, which includes dorm space, is \$175 per person (\$160 before March 1). Marin Headlands has conference rooms and sleeping facilities, and provides meals. For further information: Amy Rouillard (tel: 619/232-4020; e-mail: AmyR@calhum.org); Leanne Hinton (hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu).

Alaska Anthropological Association (Anchorage, AK, March 23-25)

- From Roy Iutzi-Mitchell (ffri@aurora.uaf.edu) 28 Jan 2000:

A session on “Linguistic Anthropology in the Far North” is being organized for the 26th annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, at the Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska, March 23-25, 2000.

We are seeking presentations on linguistic anthropology, both applied and theoretical, in Alaska and other circumpolar regions. Particularly appropriate would be presentations in which linguistics is centered within four-field anthropology. A non-exclusive list of topics includes: the relevance of linguistic anthropology to social issues, sociolinguistics, conversation analysis, language and culture, linguistic relativity, language contact, language conservation, language policy and planning, and historical linguistics.

Interested presenters should send 100-word abstracts to Roy Iutzi-Mitchell at Ilisagvik College, P.O. Box 749, Barrow, Alaska 99723 (or by e-mail: ffri@aurora.alaska.edu) by 6 February 2000. General information on the meeting may be found at: <http://www.alaska.net/~oha/aaa>

104.6 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Yinka-Dene (BC Athabaskan) site

- From CSTC Public Information (pubinfo@cstc.bc.ca) 29 Jan 2000:

A Web site for the Yinka Dene Language Institute (YDLI), located on the Saik'uz First Nation Indian Reserve just south of Vanderhoof, BC, has been added to the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Web site. The URL is: <http://cstc.bc.ca/yinkadene/ydindex.htm>

The site was created by Bill Poser, a linguist trained at MIT, who specializes in the Athabaskan languages and is currently working for the Yinka Dene Institute, a First Nations organization affiliated with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

The site provides information about YDLI, its activities and publications. A distinctive feature of the site is the large amount of linguistic information that it provides. The focus is on Carrier and the other Athabaskan languages of YDLI's service area, but information is included on the native languages of British Columbia in general. At the site are:

- bibliographies on all of the Athabaskan languages of Northern British Columbia
- bibliographies on various topics relevant to native languages, endangered languages, and language maintenance and teaching
- a list of the native languages of British Columbia classified by language family
- a list of communities in British Columbia giving the native language of the community
- a description of where Carrier is spoken and what its dialects are
- grammatical information about Carrier
- a chart comparing features of Carrier dialects
- a chart comparing Carrier words across dialects
- Carrier texts with interactive annotation and translation
- descriptions of the writing systems used for Carrier

Change of address for Canadian languages site

- From Mark Fettes (mfettes@esperantic.org) 20 Jan 2000:

There is a link to my web pages under "Concern for Endangered Languages" in the Internet Links section of the SSILA site. The URL for these pages has changed. It is now:

<http://esperantic.org/~mfettes/>

Also, perhaps the description could be modified slightly to note that it contains "papers on Canadian aboriginal language policy, linguistic ecology, interlinguistics, Esperanto."

~Mark Fettes
Ottawa, Ontario
(mfettes@esperantic.org)

Lushootseed school site

- From (DavidCort@aol.com) 21 Jan 2000:

Please consider linking to the Tulalip Elementary School site, a site published by students in the Tulalip Indian Reservation and dedicated to the preservation of our Native language, Lushootseed. The site presents Native students' research and instruction on the Native language and culture of Puget Sound, including constellations, measurement, traditional bilingual stories, traditional lunar calendar, and more. The address is:

www.msvl.wednet.edu/MsvlSchools/msdhome/elementary/tulalip_site/index.htm

~David Cort

(David_Cort@msvl.wednet.edu)

Mvskoke site

- From Stephen A Scott (scottse@etown.edu) 24 Jan 2000:

I happened across a rather extensive Mvskoke (Muscogee) web site. The address is:

<http://hometown.aol.com/hopayie/hopayi.html>

~Steve Scott

Columbia, Pennsylvania

The Linguasphere Observatory

An independent research network, the Linguasphere Observatory is devoted to the classification of the world's languages and dialects, language mapping, the study and promotion of multilingualism/bilingualism and the exploration of our global linguistic environment. The website: <http://www.linguasphere.org> contains extracts from the "Linguasphere Register of the World's Languages and Speech Communities" -- the first comprehensive and transnational classification of the languages and dialects of the world -- including: NORTH-AMERICAN languages from CREE to NAHUATL.

The observatory would be very grateful to receive comments from readers of the SSILA Bulletin on this extract, which can be viewed and downloaded (together with an explanation of the methodology used entitled Guide to Extracts) -- by selecting the "Download Extracts" button on the homepage.

Any scientific support will of course be fully acknowledged. The purpose of the website is not only to provide a free information service, but also to provide a forum for the gathering and collation of new and revised data on the world's languages and dialects.

~Barbara Kahana

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104.X E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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