

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

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <---

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165.1 CORRESPONDENCE

A poem of León-Portilla's?

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From Frances Karttunen (karttu@nantucket.net) 07 May 2002:

A while ago I came across a poem attributed to Miguel León-Portilla in an unpublished paper. I translated it and wrote to don Miguel to ask if it really was his poem and if I might reproduce it. I received no reply, which is typical of attempted communications with Mexico. Although don Miguel has translated a vast amount of Nahuatl poetry, I had never before seen an original poem attributed to him. Here it is in original Spanish:

Cuando muere una lengua

Cuando muere una lengua
las cosas divinas,
estrellas, sol y luna;
las cosas humanas,
pensar y sentir
no se reflejan ya
en ese espejo.

Cuando muere una lengua,
todo lo que hay en el mundo,
mares y ríos,
animales y plantas,
ni se piensan, ni pronuncian
con atisbos y sonidos
que no existen ya.

Entonces se cierra
a todos los pueblos del mundo,
una ventana, una puerta.
Un asomarse, de modo distinto
a las cosas divinas y humanas,
a cuanto es ser y vida en la tierra.

Cuando muere una lengua,
sus palabras de amor,
entonación de dolor y querencia,
tal vez viejos cantos,
relatos, discursos, plegarias;
nadie, cual fueron, alcanzará a repetir.

Cuando muere una lengua,
ya muchas han muerto
y muchas pueden morir;
espejos para siempre quebrados,
sombra de voces
para siempre acalladas:
la humanidad se empobrece.

If any SSILA members know if this is truly a poem by don Miguel, I
would
be very grateful to hear about it.

--Frances

Karttunen

67 N. Centre St., Nantucket, MA

02554

(karttu@nantucket.net)

Translation help needed

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From "The Global Word, Inc." (service@globalword.com) 9 May 2002:

We are a US based translation firm looking for translation companies or
translators to work with on a project that requires translation of
200 individual English words into the following indigenous languages of
Latin America:

1. Arawak
2. Ica
3. Jeringonsa
4. Maya

5. Miskitu
6. Shuar

We would greatly appreciate any help.

--Madia

Bassieva

The Global Word,

Inc.

(mediabl@aol.com)

165.2 NEW DIRECTION FOR K'INAL WINIK

From Laura Martin (l.martin@csuohio.edu) 6 May 2002:

For more than 15 years, northeast Ohio audiences have participated enthusiastically in "K'in al Winik: A Festival of Maya Art, Language and Culture" and its associated Maya Hieroglyphic Weekends, directed by Laura Martin of Cleveland State University, a long-time SSILA member and a specialist in Mayan language and culture. The Festivals, which have been offered biennially during Fall semesters, have addressed a variety of themes. These have included: weaving and textiles; literature and other expressive forms; Mayan revitalization after the Guatemalan Civil War; architecture, archeology and iconography; cosmology, calendrics, and spirituality; and health and daily life. The hieroglyph weekends have covered glyphic writing and decipherment, the traditional calendar, and classic art and architecture.

The Festival has presented leading and internationally known faculty scholars (including many SSILA members), along with Mayan performers, artists, intellectuals, and community activists. Every Festival has included Mayan presenters who have articulated the connections between ancient traditions and modern life. From time to time, other activities have also taken place, including a month-long weavers-in-residence program.

An important component of each K'in al Winik program has been engagement with schools in the Greater Cleveland area, especially to provide information about contemporary Mayan life as a supplement to study about

Classic Mayan culture, a frequent topic in both lower and upper grades. Teachers' workshops, collaborations with museum and art educators, school

programs, and student visits to campus have been a consistent aspect of the Festival. As a result, teachers increasingly request additional information, materials, and training to learn more about contemporary Maya. Last summer, Laura Martin directed a teachers' institute, and the

interest and enthusiasm of teachers for continued programs and curricular

materials have prompted a new orientation and name for K'in al Winik: the

K'in al Winik Archive and Maya Curriculum Project.

While K'inah Winik will continue to offer public programs on an occasional basis, the focus of its activities is now on (a) serving K-16 curricular needs, (b) building international collaborations with Mayan communities, and (c) archiving the Festival's materials. A newly designed educational website serves as a curricular resource and link to other sites about the Maya. A Teachers' Advisory Council has been formed, whose members provide suggestions for curricular design and development as well as early assessment of materials in development. We are also inventorying and archiving a vast array of primary materials gathered or produced during the Festivals and hieroglyph weekends, as well as Laura Martin's extensive field work materials on Q'anjob'al and Mocho.

One of the most exciting aspects of the new orientation is the opportunity to respond to requests from Mayan Festival participants and colleagues that we develop bilingual Spanish-English versions of the curricular resources that can be used by teachers and students both in the U.S. and in Guatemala. On a recent trip to Guatemala, Laura Martin and Nadine Grimm, project coordinator, met with various higher education personnel, local organizations, and government officials to discuss potential educational collaborations, materials production, teacher training workshops, and exchange programs.

For more information, call the project office at 216-687-4797, e-mail <kinalwinik@popmail.csuohio.edu>, or visit:

<http://www.csuohio.edu/kinalwinik>

(The site is still under development; comments and suggestions are welcome.)

165.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

* Siouan and Caddoan Languages (Spearfish, SD, May 31-June 1)

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From Dick Carter (RichardCarter@bhsu.edu) via John Koontz 8 May 2002:

The 2002 meeting of the Siouan and Caddoan Languages Conference will be held at Black Hills State University, in Spearfish, South Dakota, on Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1. Those wishing to present papers

should submit a title and brief abstract to the convener, Dick Carter, by May 25. (This would be best accomplished by sending the abstract as an e-mail attachment to <RichardCarter@bhsu.edu>.) This year we will have a "parasession" on Friday morning devoted to papers that test contemporary ideas in linguistic theory against data from Siouan or Caddoan languages -- although papers which incorporate additional data from other language families will also be welcome. Other sessions will welcome papers on any topic concerning Siouan or Caddoan languages.

Rooms for conference participants have been reserved at Pangborn Hall,

a university dormitory. Those planning to attend the conference and reside in the dormitory should inform the convener by e-mail. Our rooms will be on the first floor. Room costs will be \$10.80 per night for double occupancy, \$21.60 per night for single occupancy, with an added 8% in tax. Persons residing on campus are also charged a facilities use fee of \$7.50, plus 6% tax. There will also be a nominal registration fee for all participants, to cover the cost of coffee-break refreshments. Those who find dormitory living too spartan may make their own arrangements at one of the many motels. The following would be good choices:

Best Western Downtown	605-642-4676	(about 1/4 mile away)
Kelly Inn	605-642-7795	(about a mile away)
Holiday Inn	800-999-3541	(not easily walkable)
Comfort Inn	605-642-2337	(not easily walkable)

Spearfish is located at the northern end of the beautiful Black Hills, and weather at the end of May is ordinarily delightful. For those planning to drive, Spearfish is located on Interstate Hwy. 90 about 45 miles north of Rapid City, South Dakota. Those traveling by air will fly to Rapid City Regional Airport, at which point it would be easiest to rent a car for the (roughly) 60 mile trip to Spearfish. There is much to see in the area: the drive through Spearfish Canyon, a federally designated "Scenic Byway", is especially fine in the late spring. For those interested, casino gambling is available in the historic town of Deadwood, 17 miles away. (Supply your own money. And yes, Kevin Costner does give you better odds than the state and national lotteries.)

For those staying on campus: dormitory staff will be available for check-in anytime after noon on Thursday, May 30, and will help with checkout from 10 AM - 12 Noon on Sunday, June 2. (Those wishing to leave on Saturday night may do so, of course.)

Those needing additional information or assistance should contact Dick Carter at the above e-mail address. He can also be reached by phone at 605-642-6540.

* 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Survey (Berkeley, June 8-9)

A conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Survey of California and Other Indian Languages will be held on the UC Berkeley campus, June 8-9, 2002, sponsored by the UCB Department of Linguistics.

The Survey was founded in 1952, a few months prior to the official establishment of the Department of Linguistics at Berkeley. Over the years, the Survey has supported the work of scores of students and researchers, hosted numerous Native Americans coming to research their languages, and developed valuable archives of fieldnotes and sound recordings. We are having a celebratory conference this year, and

would
like to invite all people working on California Indian languages or
their
nearby relatives, and also people who have been connected with the
Survey
of California and Other Indian Languages in any way, to come and
celebrate
with us.

If you work on California Indian languages or their nearby relatives,
or
if you have been connected with the Survey of California and Other
Indian
Languages in some way while working on any Native American language,
please
come and give a paper, or just come and celebrate. Any topic on
American
Indian languages, theoretical, descriptive or applied, is welcome, as
are
papers about the fieldwork experience, and commentaries on the history
of
the Survey or experiences related to it. Please send your paper title
and brief abstract to Leanne Hinton at hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu .

The first session of the 50th Anniversary Conference will overlap with
the 5th biennial Breath of Life Workshop for California Indians whose
languages have no speakers, which will be taking place the week
preceding
the conference. The first session of the Conference will be
presentations
of the projects developed by participants in the Breath of Life
Workshop.
If any of you who have worked on languages that might be represented at
the Breath of Life Workshop might like to come earlier than Saturday
and
meet with the participants, you would be very welcome to do so.

If you are planning to attend, or if you have any questions, please
e-mail Leanne Hinton (hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu) or call (510) 643-
7621.
A fee of \$35 will be charged to help with food and other expenses.

* 34th Algonquian Conference (Kingston, Ontario, October 24-27)

From Charlotte Reinholtz (cr19@qsilver.queensu.ca) 9 May 2002:

The 34th Algonquian Conference will be held on October 24-27, 2002,
at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, hosted by Language
and Linguistics and organized by Charlotte Reinholtz.

Papers are invited on any topic dealing with Algonquian peoples
including,
but not limited to, language, history, art, archeology, ethnography and
anthropology. We especially encourage papers which explore issues of
diversity and change, particularly as they relate to the preservation

of the languages and cultures of Algonquian peoples.

Papers may be delivered in English or French. Speakers will be allowed 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Please indicate any equipment needed for your presentation.

Contributors should send titles and one page abstracts by September 1st, 2002 to:

Charlotte Reinholtz, Organizer
34th Algonquian Conference, Language and Linguistics
Queen's University, Kingston Hall, Room 301
Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6
E-mail: cr19@qsilver.queensu.ca
Fax: (613) 533-6522

All submissions should include a separate sheet, indicating the presenter's name, address, affiliation, telephone and fax number, and e-mail address.

Registration materials and information about the conference venue, accommodation and transport will be available by June 1st, 2002 at:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/algonquian>

165.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Australian links

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From David Nathan (djn@it.usyd.edu.au) 03 May 2002:

SSILA members might like to link to a couple of resources that I have been involved with:

--The WWW Virtual Library: Australian Aboriginal Languages.

www.dnathan.com/VL/

--Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi Web Dictionary (the first hypertext web dictionary of any Aboriginal language anywhere)

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVLPages/AborigPages/LANG/GAMDICT/GAMDICT.HTM>

--David

Nathan

University of Sydney,

Australia

(www.dnathan.com)

165.5 HOMEPAGES

[In preparation for a new section of the SSILA Membership Directory, we are collecting the addresses of the homepages maintained by SSILA members. If you would like your homepage address to be added to this list, please send it to <golla@ssila.org>. We will publish addresses as they come in -- the addresses received since the last Bulletin are noted below. The cumulative list will be available soon at the SSILA website. --VG]

Coronel-Molina, Serafín <http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~scoronel>
Elgin, Suzette Haden <http://www.sfw.org/members/elgin>
Hartley, Alan <http://www.d.umn.edu/~ahartley>
King, Alex <http://www.koryaks.net/>
Klein, Sheldon
<http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~sklein/sklein.html>
Kroskirty, Paul V.
<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/indian/academics/kroskirty.html>
Tuttle, Siri (office)
<http://angli02.kgw.tu-berlin.de/staff/Tuttle/index.html>
Tuttle, Siri (personal)..... <http://www.sirituttle.net>

165.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA mailing list since the last Bulletin:

Brown, Malcolm B.mbb5546@sunlink.net
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