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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184.0   SSILA Business: Annual Meeting Update

The SSILA Executive Committee welcomes friends and colleagues to the
21st
Annual Meeting of the Society, which is being held in conjunction with
the 77th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, in
Atlanta,
Georgia, January 2-5, 2003. Ninety papers are scheduled for
presentation.
All sessions and meeting events will be held in the Atlanta Hilton, 255
Cortland St. NE, in either the Fayette-Newton room or the adjacent
Rockdale-Forsythe room.

The program is posted at the SSILA website (www.ssila.org) and the full
meeting program, including SSILA, is also available at the LSA website
(www.lsadc.org web2/2003annmeet/program.html). Note that the late
withdrawal of several papers (see below) is not indicated in the posted
programs.

Those of you who have preregistered may pick up your meeting packets at

the LSA registration desk, which will open at noon on Thursday. If you
still need to register, you may register with the LSA on site. The
on-site registration fee is $85 ($35 for students) and may be paid
with cash, check, or traveller's cheque. Credit card payments will not
be accepted. This fee is all that needs to be paid; SSILA members who
are not presenting papers and who register on site are not required to
pay an additional registration fee to SSILA. Paper presenters who have
not yet paid the SSILA fee will be billed in January.

* Papers withdrawn
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The following papers have been withdrawn:

Session 4, Friday morning, January 3

    Marlene Socorro S.,"Análisis comparativo de la cláusula relativa
      en dos lenguas arahuacas"
    Luis Oquendo, "La anáfora en as lenguas caribes yukpa y yek'wana"

Session 7b, Friday afternoon, January 3

    Martha Macri & Victor Golla, "The J. P. Harrington Project:
      A progress report"

Session 11, Saturday afternoon, January 4

    José Alvarez, "Limits to moraic integrity in Kari'ña (Cariban)"

Session 12b, Sunday morning, January 5

    Candace Maher, "Conceptualization and categorization: Jicarilla
      Apache classificatory verb stems"

(Professor Alvarez and Drs. Socorro and Oquendo have been prevented
from
attending the meeting by the political and economic crisis in
Venezuela.
They wish to relay their deep regret for this late cancellation.)

* Special events: SSILA Forum, Business Meeting, and Reception
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Participants in the Atlanta meeting are reminded that three special
events are scheduled in addition to the regular sessions:

SSILA Forum

A forum on the ethical and legal issues raised by the Internet
dissemination of digital audiofiles of American Indian languages will
be held during the lunch break on Saturday, January 4 (12:15 to 1:45 pm
in the Fayette-Newton Room). Members with concerns about these issues
are invited to join in the discussion, which will be moderated by
SSILA's President, Leanne Hinton.

Annual Business Meeting

The SSILA Business Meeting will take place in the early evening
of Saturday, January 4 (7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Fayette-Newton Room).
Important items on the agenda will be the presentation of SSILA's first
annual Ken Hale Prize, and a discussion of the possibility of SSILA
again holding its annual meeting with the AAA.

Reception for David Rood

Immediately following the Business Meeting (8:30 pm) a reception will
be
held in an adjacent room, hosted by the University of Chicago Press,
to honor Professor David Rood for his many years of service as Editor
of the International Journal of American Linguistics. All members of
SSILA are cordially invited.

184.1 Correspondence
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* The Navajo Night Chant
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From Lawrence A. Rosenwald (lrosenwald@wellesley.edu) 17 Dec 2002:

This coming spring I'm teaching a course on American literature
between the Civil War and World War II. I'm very interested in
American literature written in languages other than English, and find the
Matthews translation of the Navajo Night Chant--published, as I recall, in
1902- - very beautiful, and very interesting to read in an American literary
context. So I think I'm going to ask my students to read it (in the
Bierhorst edition).

But I'm pretty ignorant about the work, and would be most grateful for
suggestions of articles to look at that illuminate it--philologically,
anthropologically, literarily. Any ideas?

                                              --Larry Rosenwald
                                               Wellesley College
                                            (lrosenwald@wellesley.edu)

* Nahuatl etymology of "Olmec"
  ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
From Alan H. Hartley (ahartley@d.umn.edu) 20 Dec 2002:

I am a consultant on American Indian ethnonyms for the OED. In
reviewing the proposed OED entries OLMEC and OLMECA (primarily for
the proper sense assignment of the various English citations), I
thought it would be wise also to solicit expert opinion on the etymology.

The recent stages are clear--Sp. Olmeca < Nahuatl olmecah (sg. form
olmecatl)--but on the gloss of the Nahuatl name as 'people of the land

of rubber' and its derivation from olman 'land of rubber' (< olli
'rubber') the consensus is less solid. As I'm not equipped to
etymologize in Nahuatl, I wonder if there's someone who could help.

Also, early attestations of the name are often in juxtaposition or
composition with the name Xical(l)anca. Can anyone tell me the
earliest occurrence of the name (as olmeca or ulmeca) in either the simple or
the composite form?

--Alan Hartley
Duluth, Minnesota
(ahartley@d.umn.edu)

184.2 Tsimshian "Talking Dictionary"

From Margaret Seguin Anderson (anderson@unbc.ca) 18 Dec 2002:

SSILA members will be interested to know that a new Tsimshian Sm'algyax
"talking dictionary" will soon be available. The Sm'algyax Living
Legacy Talking Dictionary has been prepared under the auspices of the
Ts'msyen Sm'algyax Authority (c/o the Tsimshian Tribal Council, Prince
Rupert), which has sponsored a series of projects funded by the First
Peoples' Cultural Foundation (http://www.fpcf.ca/FPHLCC/default.htm). These
projects have imported an existing lexical database from Shoebox into
the LinguaLinks software environment, expanded and updated that
database, and added sound files and images.

The data from the lexical database is exported from LinguaLinks in
standard format, then converted into XML and finally transformed into
HTML by using custom software written by Larry Hayashi, a software
programmer with SIL International and the Canada Institute of
Linguistics. The talking dictionary opens to a screen that facilitates
searching by either Sm'algyax words or English glosses, and sound files with
example sentences recorded by fluent speakers of Sm'algyax can be played from
most lexical entries.

The final "talking dictionary" can be distributed via the web or on CD.
Updates from the database take only a few minutes, so we can continue
To expand and develop the project, and even prepare special versions with
reduced data for use in schools, etc. Distribution of the Tsimshian
"talking dictionary" will be some time this winter, as soon as the
Ts'msyeen Sm'algyax Authority has completed circulating it to
Communities for approval. Similar projects are now in the development stage
for several more northern BC languages. For further information, please
contact me at <anderson@unbc.ca>.

--Margaret Seguin Anderson
University of Northern British Columbia, NW Region
Prince Rupert, BC
(anderson@unbc.ca)

184.3   Information Needed for New Karuk Dictionary

From Susan Smith (ssmith4@darkwing.uoregon.edu) 26 Dec 2002:

I've just taken a job with the Karuk Tribe as their Language Program
Director, and one of our projects is to update the dictionary which
appears in William Bright's "The Karuk Language" (1958). We plan to
publish our work by October 2005. We are seeking submissions of any
Karuk words which do not currently appear in Bright's book, including
words which appear in other works, both published and unpublished.

I would be grateful if anyone who has such lexical data could provide
me as much as possible of the following information for each word:

1. The word itself
2. The part of speech
3. A free translation
4. Any surrounding text material which accompanied the word (in Karuk
    and English)
5. The Karuk speaker from whom you heard the word
6. If the word comes from a written text or a recording, the name of
    the text or recording the word appears in, and the line number in
    the text or the time on the tape recording
7. A parse and gloss for each morpheme
8. Any comments you have about the word

Here is an example of what we are looking for:

1. vaakíri(h)
2. verb
3. "to move toward the fire"
4. aak kích ivaakírihti "Just move closer to the fire!"
5. Nettie Reuben
6. "Bullhead & Kunbach'aa", 1950a:5
7. va- "go", -kirih "into fire"
8. This appears to be an indicative durative form used as a command.

Please send your submissions (or questions), with your name and contact
information, to me at the address below.

                                             Susan Smith
                          Karuk Chi Nuuchuuphi Dictionary Project
                                 Karuk Tribe of California
                                          P. O. Box 1016
                                   Happy Camp, CA 96039
                                      (susan@karuk.org)
                                      1-800-50-KARUK

184.4 Websites of Interest
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* Virtual Mohawk
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From Monica Lamb (ai@buycny.com) 23 Dec 2002:

I thought readers of the Bulletin might want to know about my latest

work with the Mohawk language on the web. I have developed a Mohawk
A.I. ChatBot, which I call "Onkwehonwehneha." It has over 300,000
patterns and unlimited responses so far.

Although I'm still in the process of developing a voice, physical body,
and mobile apps for Onkwehonwehneha, you can chat with this Bot by
sending an AOL instant message to "Onkwehonwehneha", by using a cell
phone and instant message to "Onkwehonwehneha", or by going to my web-
site at BuyCNY.com or Monigarr.com.

You can view a small sample of the chatlogs at: http://www.buycny.com

                                                    --Monica Lamb
                                          MoniGarr A.I.Consultants
                                                  St Regis, Quebec
                                               (ai@buycny.com)

* New posting at SIL-Mexico site
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From Albert Bickford (albert_bickford@sil.org) 28 Dec 2002:

I am pleased to announce the posting of the following item to the
SIL-Mexico website:

  Wolgemuth, Carl. 2002. Gramática nahuatl (mela'tajtol) de los
  municipios de Mecayapan y Tatahuicapan de Juárez, Veracruz. Segunda
  edición (versión electrónica).

The web address for the file is:

  http://www.sil.org/mexico/nahuatl/istmo/G027a-GramNahIst-NAU.htm

This electronic version may be downloaded without charge; a print
version is also available for sale (details at the web address above).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this publication.

                                                  --Albert Bickford
                                                      SIL-Mexico
                                           (albert_bickford@sil.org)

184.5 E-mail Address Updates

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

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Josserand, Kathryn .... jjossera@mailer.fsu.edu

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Kalish, Mia..................... miakalish@redpony.us
King, Alexander D. ............. a.king@abdn.ac.uk
MacKay, Carolyn ................ cjmackay@bsu.edu
McFarland, Teresa .............. terefar@socrates.berkeley.edu
Weber, David ................... david_weber@sil.org
Whritenour, Raymond ............ n977@webtv.net



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