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Received: from nic.CSU.net by nic.CSU.net (PMDF #3155) id
<01H8J3YGQA4E8X005Z@nic.CSU.net>; Sat, 5 Feb 1994 15:02:32 PST
Date: Sat, 05 Feb 1994 15:02:31 -0800 (PST)
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THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Number 3: February 5, 1994

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3.1 EDITORIAL MATTERS

This is the third SSILA Bulletin, and the last that will be distributed through Humboldt State University. The next issue will be mailed from the University of Oregon MAILSERV. My thanks to Scott DeLancey for making the arrangements and volunteering to serve as the list manager at the Oregon end. The content of the Bulletin will, of course, remain my responsibility.

The January issue of the SSILA Newsletter was mailed this past week. Many of you will have already received it, and it should most of the others within a few days. The 1994 SSILA Membership Directory is ready for mailing, and will be distributed next week to those of you who have ordered it. (Copies will remain available throughout the year for for \$3.)

-- Victor Golla

3.2 AAAS SESSION ON HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS IN SAN FRANCISCO

A session on COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS AND HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIPS will be on the program of the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, San Francisco, 18-23 February 1994. Organized by Johanna Nichols (UC-Berkeley) and Lyle Campbell (LSU), the session will survey methods of contemporary standard comparative linguistics and attempt an assessment of its capabilities in reconstructing ancestral forms of language. The relationship to history, archaeology, and cultural anthropology will also be examined. Papers will include:

Jay H. Jasanoff (Cornell), "The comparative method"

Lyle Campbell (LSU), "The role of grammatical evidence in hypotheses of linguistic relationship"

William H. Jacobsen (U of Nevada-Reno), "Characterizing and evaluating evidence for distant genetic relationships"

Donald A. Ringe (U of Pennsylvania), "Chance and true linguistic relationships"

Johanna Nichols (UC-Berkeley), "Language at 40,000 BC"

The session will be held in the San Francisco Hilton, Monday, 21 February, 2:30-5:30. For AAAS registration information call: 301-855-8811.

3.3 KANSAS VOLUME STILL WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS

The editors of Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics will publish two numbers of Volume 19, 1994. The second of these will be devoted to papers dealing with native languages of the Americas, and space is still available. The official deadline was February 1, but it can be extended if authors contact the editors in the next few days. Since KWPL is a working series, publication of a paper in KWPL does not preclude later publication of a revised version elsewhere. Submissions should be in good readable form (double or 1.5 spaced), but not necessarily final copies. Student papers are encouraged. Send papers or inquiries to: Editors, KWPL Linguistics Dept., 427 Blake Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045 (e-mail: LGSAA@KUHUB.CC.UKANS.EDU).

3.4 AN INDIAN WORD IN YOUR EAR?

Don Frantz, University of Lethbridge, Alberta (frantzdn@hg.uleth.ca) writes:

A friend in Montana teaches a survey course on Native languages (of the Americas). One of her students complained that they did not get to hear what the languages sound like. Has anyone put together a cassette with a sampling of languages? I remember a tape from long ago called "A word in your ear", which, as I recall, gave recorded samples of several languages, along with an unquestioning acceptance of the "Whorfian Hypothesis". If there are tapes available, please let me know the particulars for purchasing a copy, and I'll pass the info on to the friend in Montana. Thanks.

--- If such a sampler doesn't exist, compiling one strikes me as a very worthwhile project for SSILA to sponsor. Would anyone be interested in coordinating it? -- V.G.

3.5 A LEXICOGRAPHIC APPEAL FROM OXFORD

From Alan Hughes, Chief Science Editor, OED (ahughes%pride@oup.co.uk):

Work has recently begun at Oxford University Press on a comprehensive revision of the Oxford English Dictionary, to be published in 2005. As part of the process of revising and updating the Dictionary, we would like to encourage scientists who have information relevant to the OED to draw it to our attention.

Such information may include:

- 1) the coinages of particular scientific words
- 2) factual errors in their definitions
- 3) scientific words and meanings not in the OED
- 4) earlier referenced examples of words and meanings already treated in the dictionary (and later examples of those described as obsolete)

Category 4 is especially useful: the OED is a historical dictionary which attempts to trace every word and meaning back to its earliest known use in the English language, as well as giving references to the coinages of foreign precursors of English words.

As an example, Professor Joshua Lederberg has mailed us about the omission of C. S. Peirce's philosophical sense of 'abduction', not recorded in the OED, and his own coinage of the words 'eugram' and 'eugraphy'.

Please email oed3@oup.co.uk, or write to the Chief Science Editor, Oxford English Dictionary, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK.

3.6 ONE-YEAR SYNTAX POSITION AT MANITOBA FOR NORTH AMERICANIST

The Linguistics Department at the University of Manitoba invites applications for a full-time sessional position for 1994-95 (September 1 to May 31), subject to budgetary approval, at the rank of Assistant Professor and with salary to depend on qualifications and experience.

Teaching duties and MA/PhD supervision will be concentrated in, but not limited to, the core areas of syntactic analysis, syntactic theory and

semantics. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate a commitment to field research in one of the indigenous languages of North America.

A completed doctoral degree and demonstrated excellence in research and teaching in the area of specialization (including both formal and typological approaches and in-depth familiarity, both analytical and practical, in a non-Indo-European language as well as substantial field research experience in a language other than the applicant's own) are required.

The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities. The University offers a smoke-free environment, save for specially designated areas. Priority consideration will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Further details may be obtained by e-mail (LINGDPT@CCM.UMANITOBA.CA) or fax (204/275-5781). Applications (including curriculum vitae, offprints, preprints, etc.) and three letters of reference should be sent by mail to reach the Department by 28 February 1994 and should be addressed to:

H. C. Wolfart, Professor & Head
Linguistics Department
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 5V5, CANADA

3.7 PUBLICATION SUPPORT NEEDED FOR RUSSIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, is calling for assistance in publishing the second volume of their Encyclopedia of the Languages of the World, "Turkic Languages."

The Encyclopedia is a multi-volume work on which the Institute of Linguistics has been working for a number of years. All articles are written in a standard format, with each language given a sociolinguistic, historical and structural characterization.

The authors of the Turkic languages volume are the recognized authorities in the ex-USSR in the respective languages. The volume, which is about 700 pages long, contains two introductory articles ("Altaic languages and Turkic languages") and 53 articles, encompassing all known Turkic languages both ancient and modern. The volume is addressed to specialists in the field and the remaining volumes is unclear.

In the present economic situation, it is entirely possible that this collective long-term labor could languish for many years. "Nauka" is prepared to go ahead with the publication of "Turkic Languages," but only if a subsidy of approximately \$1200 can be provided.

If colleagues or organizations in other countries can offer any support in this situation, the working group involved in the preparation of the Encyclopedia would much appreciate hearing from them.

Please contact:

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Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences
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E-mail: kibrik@iling.msk.su

3.8 MAYAN & MIXTEC MEETINGS

* The 1994 Maya Meetings at Texas will take place from March 10 to March 19.

They will open with the Xth TEXAS SYMPOSIUM, March 10-11, bringing together scholars from a wide spectrum of fields to share recent Mayan and Meso-american research. This year's theme is "Star Wars: Venus/Tlaloc Warfare in Mesoamerica". Papers will be presented by Frederick Bove, John Carlson, Federico Fahsen, David Friedel, John Justeson, Matt Looper, Simon Martin, Verner Nahm, Heather Orr, Kent Reilly, Saburo Sugiyama, Charles Suhler, Karl Taube, Juan Antonio Valdes, and others.

On the evening of March 11, Peter Mathews (U of Calgary) will give a public lecture on "Introducing Mayan Glyphs."

The XVIIIth WORKSHOP ON MAYA HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING will be held on the weekend of March 12-13, conducted by Linda Schele (U of Texas-Austin) and Nikolai Grube (U of Bonn).

The XIIth LONG WORKSHOP will be held during the week of March 14-19. It will be conducted by Linda Schele and a team of experts on Mayan epigraphy and related disciplines, headed by Ben Leaf and Tom Jones. The Long Workshop is intended to give practical experience in the analytical methods discussed in the introductory workshop.

For further information, including fees, write: Peter Keeler, Maya Meetings at Texas, PO Box 5645, Austin, TX 78763, or call 512/471-6292.

* If you prefer a Mixtec alternative, the MIXTEC GATEWAY will be held March 12-16 at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, NV, under the co-sponsorship of The Mixtec Foundation of Austin, TX, and the Braunstein Foundation of Las Vegas.

The focus of the meeting will be on the pre-Hispanic period of Mixtec culture and the early Colonial era and will cover archaeology, ethnography, geography, codices, ethnohistory, and early Colonial archives and history. These topics will be discussed by William Autrey, Bruce Byland, Jill Furst, Kathryn Josserand, Maarten E.R.G.N. Jansen, John Monaghan, Evelyn and Kenneth Pike, Emily Rabin, Kevin Terraciano, Nancy Troike, and Peter van der Loo.

The GATEWAY is in two parts: a two-day OVERVIEW of all these aspects of Mixtec culture on Saturday-Sunday, followed by a three-day WORKSHOP on Monday-Wednesday. During the OVERVIEW each speaker will summarize the current state of knowledge and research in his/her specialization. In the WORKSHOP these scholars will work directly with participants.

The GATEWAY is open to everyone interested in Mixtec culture. The OVERVIEW is complete in itself; registration is \$25, and the session will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday morning. Registration for the WORKSHOP is \$50, participants are also required to register for the OVERVIEW

because data from those sessions will inform WORKSHOP discussions. Room costs at the hotel are \$65 for the Camelot section and \$85 for the Tower, single or double occupancy.

To register, send the following information: (1) your name and mailing address; (2) your name and affiliation or town as you prefer them on your name tag; and (3) a check or money order (no credit cards) for your registration to Dr. Nancy Troike, The Mixtec Foundation, P.O. Box 5587, Austin, TX 78763-5587. For further information write or call The Mixtec Foundation (512) 452-1537. Detailed information concerning hotel accommodations, etc., will be sent to registrants.

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