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Subj: SSILA Bulletin #14

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Subject: SSILA Bulletin #14  
X-Sender: delancey@darkwing  
To: ssila@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU  
Reply-to: ssila@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU  
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wdeuse, zepeda  
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THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

\*\*\* SSILA BULLETIN \*\*\*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Number 14: February 24, 1995

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- 14.0 SSILA SUMMER MEETING: CALL FOR PAPERS
- 14.1 LANGUAGES IN NEED OF STUDY: ALGONQUIAN, SIOUAN, CHACOAN
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- 14.5 DAKOTA READER AVAILABLE FROM SSILA MEMBER
- 14.6 MESOAMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE?

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\* Papers: Papers on any topic in American Indian linguistics are welcome. A short abstract should (approximately 150 words) should be submitted to the Summer Meeting Program Committee no later than May 1, 1995. Unless the number of submissions does not allow this, each paper will be allotted at least 20 minutes with extra time for discussion.

\* Location and Accommodations: The meeting will take place on the campus of the University of New Mexico, in facilities reserved for the 1995 Linguistic Institute and related activities. Information on short-term housing (on-campus dorms and off-campus motels) is available from SSILA or from the Linguistic Institute housing office (linginst@unmedu).

Abstracts should be sent to: William Bright, SSILA, 1625 Mariposa, Boulder, CO 80302 (tel: 303/938-9718; fax: 303/492-4416; Internet: brightw@spot.colorado.edu).

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14.1 LANGUAGES IN NEED OF STUDY: ALGONQUIAN, SIOUAN, CHACOAN

Lynn Burley's request for a list of American Indian languages in urgent need of study has so far elicited the following responses. Further correspondence on this matter is invited. --VG

Algonquian Languages

From Ives Goddard (mhan009@sivm.si.edu) 10 Feb 1995:

First on the list for Algonquian is Arapaho. There are still good speakers among the Northern and Southern Arapaho communities. Salzmann's 1950s analysis used a biunique transcription, resulting in much variation. The extremely important and interesting prosodic system has never been worked out: what are the occurring, contrasting patterns? What role do the pitch accent patterns play in the morphology? Etc. Some people have dabbled in Arapaho, but as far as I know no one is actively working on it now.

There is also an important gap and opportunity afforded by Sauk, spoken by a few dozen (?) among the Oklahoma Sac and Fox. We think this is similar to Fox (Mesquakie), but no one has done extensive work in the Sauk community. It probably holds some interesting surprises. It will certainly provide an opportunity to study language change on the micro level, as there are extensive innovations, like those in contemporary Mesquakie. Since these changes seem to postdate the split between the communities questions of diffusion, drift, and what have you arise.

Siouan Languages

From John E. Koontz (koontz@alpha.bldr.nist.gov) 10 Feb 1995:

The following Siouan languages could certainly do with more study, and may still be studied with speakers. All Siouan languages are endangered, though some have a fairly large number of speakers still surviving, in some cases down to children, in other cases all older. Unmentioned languages are believed to be extinct. I have starred languages which are particularly poorly known, or in particularly desperate shape.

Crow

\*Hidatsa

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- Crow
- \*Hidatsa
- \*Mandan (very few speakers left; most speakers may be working with someone, so some coordination is required)

- Dakotan (particularly the \*Assiniboine, \*Stone, and \*Santee-Sisseton dialects, which have been largely, though even Teton is not as well known as some European languages one could name, e.g., Albanian)
- \*Omaha-Ponca, Omaha dialect (all speakers elderly)
  - \*Omaha-Ponca, Ponca dialect (very few speakers left)
  - \*Osage (very few speakers left; conditions of work difficult; most speakers may be working with someone, so some coordination is required)
  - \*Ioway-Otoe-Missouria (very few speakers left; conditions of work difficult; most speakers may be working with someone, so some coordination is required)
  - \*Hinnebago

Most of these languages have fairly good morphological information available by now, sometimes out of print, never in print, or not yet in print, but except for recent work with Crow and Dakotan, the syntax has been mainly neglected, and, unfortunately, some basic phonological/phonetic questions remain unanswered for almost all of them! In all cases the available text collections are comparatively small, sometimes very small, and always narrow in scope and should be heavily augmented if possible. Most of these languages still need good, published dictionaries, though projects are in the works for some, and raw materials for others are languishing. All of the languages could use quality classroom instructional material in a fairly urgent way.

I might add that even the extinct Siouan languages need considerable additional work, and that the rate of recruitment of new Siouanists even for philological and editorial work has not been very high.

#### Chacoan Languages

From Jose Braunstein (jab@lomita.org.ar) 14 Feb 1995:

The usual classification of the surviving languages of the Gran Chaco -- excluding a western branch of Guaraní -- distributes fifteen languages into five linguistic families. Only two of these families have received systematic attention in recent years: Guaycuru (specifically Toba) and Matakó-Maka. I think absolute priority for description and analysis in the area must be the last remaining speakers of Vilela-Chunupí (Vilela family), living in Chaco Province, Argentina. Also the four languages of the Mascoi family (Kaskiha, Angaite, Sanapaná and Lengua), and the two Zamuco languages (Chamaçoco and Ayoreo) of the Paraguayan Chaco, have never been described scientifically.

We at the Centro del Hombre Antiguo Chaquen-o (3630 Las Lomitas, Prov. de Formosa, Argentina) believe that the usual classification is of doubtful validity, because the bulk of the existing descriptions ignore the fact that many of the "languages" in the area are in fact linguistic complexes or single links in dialectal chains. We offer our aid and cooperation (in our limited capacities) to any scholars who would like study the languages of the Gran Chaco.

#### 14.2 SMITHSONIAN CATALOGUES NOW ACCESSIBLE BY TELNET

The Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS) is a computerized collection of research catalogs maintained by the Smithsonian Institution's Libraries, Archives, and Research Units. TELNET access to this database has recently been enabled. The address is SIRIS.SI.EDU. Both

VT100 and TN3270 formats are available.

Presently there are four catalogs available on SIRIS:

- LIB: The Smithsonian Library Catalog
- ARI: The Art Inventories Catalog
- ARC: The Archives and Manuscripts Catalog
- BIB: The Research/Bibliographies Catalog

Of these, SSILA members will probably be most interested in the Archives and Manuscripts Catalog. This database consists of approximately 90,000 records contributed by five archival units of the Smithsonian. The subcatalogs listed below can be searched together or separately:

The Archives of American Art (AAA) catalog describes papers of artists, art dealers, art historians, collectors, and others; records of art galleries, museums, and art organizations; videos; and interviews from AAA's oral history project.

The Archives Center of the National Museum of American History (ACA) catalog describes hundreds of collections of manuscripts and visual, magnetic and electronic documents related to the mission of the National Museum of American History, especially the history of advertising, history of technology, and social and cultural history, as well as selected individual items.

The Human Studies Film Archives (HSFA) catalog describes film and video collections of historical, archeological, and ethnographic significance, including edited ethnographic films, unique research footage produced as part of anthropological research, and travelogues by amateur and professional filmmakers.

The National Anthropological Archives (NAA) catalog describes collections of historical manuscripts relating to North American natives; administrative records of the Dept. of Anthropology; professional papers of anthropologists; records of anthropological organizations; art work; and photographs.

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) catalog describes records documenting the history of the Smithsonian Institution since its founding in 1846; research in the fields of science, art and history; papers of staff; records of scientific, historical, and museum organizations; and audio-visual material from research, exhibits, and its oral history and video-history programs.

For further information contact George Bowman, Smithsonian Institution Research Information System, Arts & Industries 2310 900 Jefferson Dr., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20560 (tel: 202/357-4238; fax: 202/786-2687; internet: irmge010@sivm.si.edu; bitnet: irmge010@sivm)

#### 14.3 SILNA-95

The Linguistic Institute for Native Americans, Inc. (LINA) sponsors the annual Summer Institute of Linguistics for Native Americans (SILNA). In 1995, the SILNA program will be held on the U of New Mexico campus and will be partially integrated with the Linguistic Institute. LINA will sponsor an intensive three-week program beginning June 19, 1995, a week before the Linguistic Institute. The early start of the program is intended to allow participants to attend other Linguistic Institute courses

