

**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 69: June 11, 1998

## 69.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### More on solar power in the field

- From Dennis A. Moore ([moore@ufpa.br](mailto:moore@ufpa.br)) 27 May 1998:

The solar equipment recommended by Warnick ("Solar Power in the Field", SSILA Bulletin #67) seems fine for stationary use but would not be portable, since the solar panel weighs 7.2 kg and the lead battery another 10-15 kg. This equipment will also produce much more energy than required for normal laptop use. The average energy consumption for Pentium laptops is 23 watts (with power management disabled), and some models (for example of Compaq and Dell) use less than 12 watts (\_PC Magazine\_, August 1997, p.139). Power management features can drop consumption by perhaps 30%. One highly portable mini system which the Museu Goeldi has used in Amazonia consists of an 11-watt flexible Uni-Solar MBC-262 solar panel (1.14 kg, \$169) connected via a wire and adapter to a NRG Compak 12-volt NiCad battery (1 kg, \$169). This combination will produce and store about 50 usable watt-hours per day (depending on the sun) -- enough, for example, to provide 16 watts for a bit over three hours. To transfer the energy from the battery to the laptop, one common option is to plug an inverter (for example the PowerStar Pocket Socket Inverter, 0.23 kg, \$79) into the battery and then plug the transformer (=power supply) of the laptop into the inverter. This option wastes perhaps 25% of the energy by changing it from DC to AC and then back to DC again, but it works for all laptops. Some laptops have optional DC adapters, which connect a 12-volt battery directly to the laptop. The above system will allow about 3-4 hours of laptop use per day, assuming a reasonably efficient laptop with power management enabled and good sunlight. To double this capacity, use a second solar panel connected to a second battery. Of course, other low-wattage equipment can be used with this same system, for example, small fluorescent lamps, portable printers, and recorders. The Real Goods Solar Living Sourcebook (from Real Goods, 966 Mazzoni St., Ukiah, CA 95482-3471; tel: 1-800-762-7325) offers solar equipment and helpful technical explanations. Video stores sell rechargeable NiCad batteries. Radio Shack has inverters and many types of adapters.

~Denny Moore  
Museu Goeldi  
Belem, Para, BRAZIL

## **Monument for dying languages, redivivus**

▪ From Burgaud ([burgaud@burgaud.demon.nl](mailto:burgaud@burgaud.demon.nl)) 24 May 1998:  
About a month ago, I made an appeal on the net for help in constructing an internet "Monument for the Dying Languages" [see Bulletins #65:3 and #66:1]. The concept is too big and too interactive to be run by a single person. What we need in order to develop the site is various homepages with short descriptions of endangered languages, and clickable sound files of spoken languages. To date the responses have been too few. Perhaps I didn't reach the right people. In any event, here is another appeal for collaboration.

For the list of languages see: <http://www.burgaud.demon.nl>

Thank you.

~Patrick-Henri Burgaud  
Arnhem, The Netherlands  
([burgaud@burgaud.demon.nl](mailto:burgaud@burgaud.demon.nl))

## 69.2 LEIDEN CONFERENCE ON THE LANGUAGES OF BOLIVIA

- From Hein van der Voort ([Hein.van.der.Voort@let.uva.nl](mailto:Hein.van.der.Voort@let.uva.nl)):

The following program of (informal) talks on Bolivian languages was presented recently at the University of Leiden in The Netherlands. (Rondonia is included because of the relations across the Guapore river into Lowland Bolivia). The conference was organized jointly by the Dept. of Comparative Linguistics at the U of Leiden and the Dept. of General Linguistics at the U of Amsterdam, with the financial support of CNWS.

The program included:

W. Adelaar - Introduction

M. Crevels - Bolivian indigenous languages: an overview

U. von Gleich - Multilingualism in Bolivia

H. van der Voort - An overview of Rondonian languages

S. van de Kerke - Leko morphology

J. Hullemans & S. van de Kerke - Case marking in Moseño

L. Villafañe-Aquino - An outline of Yuqui

H. de Haan - Notes on Chiquitano

R. Howard-Malverde - Quechua-Aymara relations in Potosí

A. Torero - Los pueblos Altiplánicos

R. van Gijn & J. Hullemans - "Transcripciones Quechuas": a Bolivian Quechua corpus

P. Muysken - The Uru of Jehan Vellard's texts: a first analysis

The final afternoon of the meeting was given over to a biking tour of the Leiden area.

For further information: Willem Adelaar ([wadelaar@rullet.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:wadelaar@rullet.leidenuniv.nl))

or Peter Muysken ([pieter.muysken@let.uva.nl](mailto:pieter.muysken@let.uva.nl)).

## 69.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Hokan-Penutian workshop cancelled**

- From Scott DeLancey ([delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu)) 5 Jun 1998:

The Hokan-Penutian Conference, scheduled for the last weekend in June in Eugene, will not take place. There were only half-a-dozen papers submitted, and the majority sentiment among those authors is that it's not worth holding the conference for that small a group.

- **Endangered languages conference (Edinburgh, 25-27 September)**

- From Nicholas Ostler ([nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk](mailto:nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk)):

A conference on "Endangered Languages: What Role for the Specialist?" will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 25-27 September 1998, under the auspices of the UK Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL). Organized by Dr Nicholas Ostler (FEL, Bath), Mrs Margaret Allen (FEL, York), and Dr Briony Williams (U of Edinburgh, Scotland), the conference--the second organized by FEL--is seeking answers to the question: How can language specialists, whether professional linguists, educators, media professionals or whoever, actually contribute to language maintenance? Papers will address the actual effects of professional involvement on small language communities throughout the world.

The preliminary program includes:

### Friday, 25 September

Donna B. Gerdtts, "The Linguist in Language Revitalization Programmes"

(Keynote Speaker; Salishan, Canada)

Kim Hardie, "Role of Specialists: the Case of Flemish in Belgium"

Jens E. Jahn, "Istria: Between Ethnic Awakening & Nationalism"

Ken Mackinnon, "The Past and Future of Scots Gaelic" (Celtic)

### Saturday, 26 September

Mick Mallon, "A Partnership: Two Old Men" (Eskimo)

Jon Reyhner & Gina Cantoni, "What Educators Can Do"

Louanna Furbee, "Two Kinds of Expert in Language Renewal" (Siouan)

R. Bolognesi, "Standardization: the Case of Sardinian"

V. Grondona, "Speakers and the language specialist: Mocovi" (Waikuruan, Argentina)

Annual General Meeting (Foundation for Endangered Languages)

Diego Quesada, "Competing Interpretations: What if they are Wrong?" (Chibchan, Costa Rica)

Tapani Salminen, "Minority Languages in a Society in Turmoil" (North of Russian Fed.,

Ural/Tungus./ Turk/Paleosib.)

Lynn Landweer, "Indicators of Vitality: Labu and Vanimo" (Austronesian, Sko, NiuGini)

Sunday, 27 September

Bojan Petek, "Slovenian Language in the Information Age"

R. C. MacDougall, "Effects and Defects of E-mail" (Mohawk, US)

Mari Rhydwen, "Strategies for Doing the Impossible" (Australia)

H. Valiquette, "First Things First"

Akira Yamamoto, "Language Community, Scientific Community & Mutually Supported Community"

The conference will also feature social events, including a conference dinner and an expedition in the Edinburgh area.

For further information contact: Margaret J. Allen, Treasurer FEL,

14 Newland Park Close, York YO10 3HW, England ([JOSALLEN@compuserve.com](mailto:JOSALLEN@compuserve.com));

or: Nicholas Ostler, President FEL, Batheaston Villa, 172 Bailbrook

Lane, Bath BA1 7AA, England ([nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk](mailto:nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk)).

## 69.4 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### Canada's National Aboriginal Day

▪ From Yvonne Yazzie ([yazzie@leland.stanford.edu](mailto:yazzie@leland.stanford.edu)) 11 Jun 1998:  
June 21st is Canada's National Aboriginal Day. Two websites are up for the occasion, providing extensive information on the day, links to other sites and pages, and lists of events celebrating Canada's First Nations.

- National Aboriginal Day (<http://www.aboriginalday.com/>).
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada/Affaires indiennes du Nord Canada (<http://www.inac.gc.ca/>).

In addition, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) will present a live national broadcast of musical events celebrating National Aboriginal Day from Winnipeg at 7 pm (8pm EST) on CBC Radio Two. Radio Two is also broadcast live via the Internet at: <http://www.radio.cbc.ca/> and is accessible to anyone with a quick Internet connection (28.8 kbps or greater) and the necessary RealAudio plug-in for their web-browser. Instructions for acquiring and installing a RealAudio player are available at the CBC Radio site: <http://www.radio.cbc.ca/announce.html>

## 69.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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