

**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 85: March 22, 1999

## 85.1 IN MEMORIAM: PARKER McKENZIE

Dr. Parker Paul McKenzie, Kiowa historian, linguist, and elder, passed away on Friday, March 5, 1999, at the age of 101. He was the oldest member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and a bundle keeper for the Kiowa people. McKenzie was also an accomplished (if self-taught) linguist whose knowledge and talents were often compared to those of Sequoyah, and was a friend and colleague of John Peabody Harrington.

He was born on Nov. 15, 1897, in a Kiowa camp south of what is now Mountain View, Kiowa County, Oklahoma, and was enrolled under his Kiowa name, San-Tau-Koy. He spoke no English until he began attending school at Rainy Mountain boarding school. Later he went to the Phoenix Indian boarding school, Lamson Business College, and Oklahoma A & M. In March 1920, McKenzie began employment in the Indian Monies Section of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anadarko Agency. After 39 years of meritorious service, he retired in June 1959.

McKenzie's association with J. P. Harrington began in 1918, when he served as a part-time Kiowa consultant for the legendary BAE linguist during Harrington's preliminary work with the language, and they subsequently became very productive co-workers. McKenzie supplied much of the data for Harrington's *\_Vocabulary of the Kiowa Language\_* (BAE Bulletin 84, 1928). In 1948, Harrington and McKenzie published a *\_Popular Account of the Kiowa Indian Language\_* (Monographs of the School of American Research 12), using a phonetic alphabet devised by McKenzie. In recent decades McKenzie had worked closely with the linguist Laurel Watkins, and the two published *\_A Grammar of Kiowa\_* in 1984.

McKenzie was long recognized by his Tribe as the principal scholar of the Kiowa language. His painstaking attention to detail and nuances of meaning were legendary. In 1991 the University of Colorado presented McKenzie--then a mere 94--with an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters for his accomplishments as "citizen-scholar, tribal elder, historian, and respected authority on the language of the Kiowa."

McKenzie is survived by his daughters, Esther Hayes of Mountain View and Kathryn Collier of Wewoka, and by 12 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Services were held in the Rainy Mountain Baptist Church on March 11 and he was buried in the Memory Lane Cemetery in Anadarko.

~Based a press release from Liz Pollard ([lpollard@smokesig.com](mailto:lpollard@smokesig.com))

## 85.2 CORRESPONDENCE

### Essential phrases for travelers

- From David McCreedy ([drmccreedy@aol.com](mailto:drmccreedy@aol.com)) 12 March 1999:

I'm looking for translations for four sentences in languages that are native to the Americas to add to my web site ("The Four Essential Travel Phrases") at

<http://www.h2net.net/users/horndinkle/>

Currently the site lists 209 languages, everything from ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics to Klingon, sign language to Braille. However, Native American languages have been exceedingly difficult to obtain. I only have a few: Central Yup'ik, Chippewa, Eastern Canadian Inuktitut, Mesquakie, Miskito, Nahuatl, Navajo, and Sioux.

I realize this request is rather odd, so please let me give you some background. My best friend from college has, since graduation, traveled extensively for her employer. So much in fact that she JOKES she only needs to know four phrases in the local language to get by:

- 1) Where is my room?
- 2) Where is the beach?
- 3) Where is the bar?
- 4) Don't touch me there!

Several years ago, as a birthday surprise, I compiled these "Four Essential Travel Phrases" for her in as many languages as I could find. She loved the gift so much that I continued to collect translations. Last year, to thank me, she put the collection online, at the URL above.

I am hoping that readers of the SSILA Bulletin can help provide me with translations in Native American languages, all in a lighthearted spirit. I will appreciate any effort you can make.

~David McCreedy  
1415 Grape Street, Denver, CO 80220-2609  
([DRMcCreedy@aol.com](mailto:DRMcCreedy@aol.com))

### Sacagawea dollar

- From Bea Woodard ([bea.woodard@lmco.com](mailto:bea.woodard@lmco.com)) 9 March 99:

The U.S. Mint unveiled the image of Sacagawea that was selected for the new silver dollar on Friday, March 19, at a big do in Washington.

More about this silver dollar can be found on the web at:

[www.linecamp.com/museums/americanwest/western\\_names/sacagawea/sacagawea.html](http://www.linecamp.com/museums/americanwest/western_names/sacagawea/sacagawea.html)

## 85.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **Channel Islands Symposium (Santa Barbara, March 29-April 1, 1999)**

- From John R. Johnson ([jjohnson@sbnature2.org](mailto:jjohnson@sbnature2.org)) 9 March 1999:

The 5th Channel Islands Symposium will be held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History from March 29-April 1, 1999. On Tuesday, March 30, from 10:30 to noon there will be a Cultural Anthropology session that will include some papers of interest to SSILA members. (This is the first Channel Islands Symposium in which linguistics papers are being presented.) They include:

- Kathryn Klar (UC Berkeley), "The Island Chumash Language: Implications for Interdisciplinary Work"
- Pamela Munro (UCLA), "Takic Foundations of Nicolen~o Vocabulary"
- John Johnson (SBMNH) & Sally McLendon (Hunter College-CUNY), "The Social History of Native Islanders following Missionization"

The Proceedings of the Fifth Channel Islands Symposium will be published on CD-ROM in June to be followed by a bound paper publication some time thereafter.

~John R. Johnson  
Curator of Anthropology, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
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(homepage: <http://www.sbnature.org>)

### **Anishinaabeg Symposium (U of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Sept. 28-Oct. 1)**

- From Lawrence Martin ([martinlt@uwec.edu](mailto:martinlt@uwec.edu)) 12 March 1999:

A Symposium on "Anishinaabeg of the Great Lakes Region" will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Sept. 28 to Oct. 1. It will be held on the 145th anniversary of the Treaty of LaPointe, which established the Lake Superior Chippewa reservations. This was a critical juncture in the history of The People, and it would have a devastating effect on their economy, political structures, living patterns, work responsibilities, and family systems from that point on.

Scholars of various disciplines will be invited to share their research. Publication of the symposium proceedings is planned, and a long-range goal is an annual or biennial symposium on Anishinaabeg studies.

Principal topics include: Sovereignty, Language Preservation, Environmental Issues, Resource Management, Economic Development, Education, History, Repatriation, Traditional and Contemporary Arts, Oral Traditions, Archival Projects, Traditional Health Practices and Contemporary Health Concerns, Ojibwe Literature, Performing Arts and Music, and other.

Plans for coordinated activities during the symposium include a film festival, a juried art exhibition, a museum display, musical performances, and evening socials.

Paper proposals should be sent by July 1, 1999 to Lawrence Martin at the address below. For more information on the symposium contact either Martin, Denise Sweet, Co-coordinator ([sweetd@uwgb.edu](mailto:sweetd@uwgb.edu)), or LaVone Sneen, Program Assistant ([sneenl@uwec.edu](mailto:sneenl@uwec.edu)). Information can also be found on the web at: <http://www.uwec.edu/Academic/AIS/>

~Lawrence Martin  
Acting Director, American Indian Studies Program  
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## 85.4 VISITING POSITION AVAILABLE AT OREGON

- From Doris Payne ([dlpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:dlpayne@oregon.uoregon.edu)) 15 March 1999:

The Linguistics Department at the University of Oregon announces the opening of a non-tenure related Visiting Assistant Professor position for the 1999-2000 academic year, potentially renewable, depending on Departmental needs.

The Linguistics Department of Oregon enjoys a long tradition of work within the functionalist tradition, concentrating in descriptive work and field work and in empirical work on language use, discourse, and language acquisition. We invite applications from qualified individuals who can contribute to the functional and typological orientation of the department.

Since the openings fill teaching gaps for faculty on leave, the candidate must show evidence of considerable teaching skill, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The successful applicant must be able to help cover our core curriculum, which includes phonetics, phonology, functional-typological morphosyntax, semantics, discourse, historical linguistics, and second language acquisition and teaching.

In addition, the successful applicant must have an active research profile and must be able to direct graduate student research.

Qualifications: Ph.D. in Linguistics.

Duties: Up to two courses per term of hire (we are on a quarter system); mentor students in research projects, as needed; participate in department life, as appropriate.

Please submit a letter of application, vita, and names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of three references to: 1999 VAP Search Committee, Department of Linguistics, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403. Applications must be received by April 16, 1999 to receive fullest consideration.

Web Address: <http://logos.uoregon.edu/uoling>

The University of Oregon is an EO/AA/ADA insitiution.

## 85.5 THE ENDANGERED LANGUAGE FUND: A CALL FOR SUPPORT

- From Doug Whalen ([whalen@lenny.haskins.yale.edu](mailto:whalen@lenny.haskins.yale.edu)) 9 March 1999:

John O'Meara pointed out on the Endangered Language List a few days ago that the Endangered Language Fund at Yale is one of the few groups that sponsor direct work in endangered languages. This may be a good occasion to make a plea for donations.

Right now, about 90% of our donations go immediately to language work. This past year (and the web page does not reflect this--my web master is finishing his dissertation and I just resubmitted the grant that is my main source of support), we awarded 10 grants out of 75 applications. Three of the 10 had Principal Investigators who were also native speakers of the language involved. Even within those three, we saw diversity of approaches: one was for the preparation of a children's book in Tohono O'odham, one was for providing more texts for a Blackfoot immersion program, and one was for travel money to allow a Dakota woman to record more far-flung speakers for her weekly radio show. Our goal is to have about half of our project go to linguistic work that is relevant to linguistics. We are close to achieving this goal.

We need more support, however. The size of our grants (less than \$2,000 US) is not enough. We are beginning to approach foundations and corporations for larger donations, but they expect to see support at the grass roots level as well. Relatively few readers of the SSILA Bulletin have joined the ELF, and I would urge everyone who can afford to join to do so--I realize that \$50 is more than many can afford, but we are happy to accept your show of support in any amount. It truly does make a difference. If you would like more information on joining, please visit our web site:

<http://www.ling.yale.edu/~elf/join.html>

or e-mail to [elf@haskins.yale.edu](mailto:elf@haskins.yale.edu). Note that we accept MasterCard and Visa payments.

~Doug Whalen, President, Endangered Language Fund  
Haskins Laboratories, New Haven, CT 06511-6695  
([whalen@haskins.yale.edu](mailto:whalen@haskins.yale.edu))



## 85.6 COURSES/EVENTS OF INTEREST TO SSILA MEMBERS AT LINGUISTIC INSTITUTE

- From Margaret Reynolds, LSA ([lsa@lsadc.org](mailto:lsa@lsadc.org)) 9 March 1999:

In addition to the SSILA summer meeting (July 9-11), the following courses and events at 1999 LSA Linguistic Institute (University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, 21 June-30 July) may be of special interest to SSILA members:

### Courses:

- History and Typology in Native North America (2 weeks): Marianne Mithun (UC-Santa Barbara)
- Language Contact: Linguistic Results (4 weeks): Sarah G. Thomason, Collitz Professor (U MI)
- Spanish in Contact with Indigenous Languages of South America (2 weeks): Anna Maria Escobar (U IL-Urbana)
- Study of a Native American Language [probably Wakashan] (4 weeks): Emmon Bach (U MA-Amherst)
- Syntax-Discourse Interface and Language Contact (2 weeks): Ellen Prince (U Penn)

### Workshop:

- 17-18 July. Language Maintenance and Death: Reports from the Field and Strategies for the New Millennium

Some 80 courses will be offered, together with several conferences and more than a dozen workshops. There will also be plenty of receptions, parties, and other activities.

DEADLINE for registration (to avoid late fees): May 1, 1999. (Deadline for special services was March 1--please notify us immediately for arranging interpreters for the Deaf or readers for the blind).

The most up-to-date information can be found on the web at:

<http://www.beckman.uiuc.edu/linginst>

(The ANNOUNCEMENT link on our homepage provides updates and important notices).

Institute Affiliate (a.k.a. Visiting Scholar) status is granted to people who do not wish to register at the Linguistic Institute as students and take courses for credit. No record is kept of the work done by Institute Affiliates, nor are transcripts issued. However, on request, the Institute will give a Certificate of Participation.

Institute Affiliates are encouraged to remit their applications and fees by 1 May 1999 (\$1,035 for six weeks; \$835 for four weeks or less). Application forms are on the web at: <http://www.lsadc.org> and <http://www.beckman.uiuc.edu/linginst>. Please contact the LSA Secretariat if you have questions (lsa@lsadc.org; fax: 202-835-1717).

## 85.7 PEOPLE & PLANTS (UPDATE)

- From Fatima Zahmoun ([peopleandplants@cybernet.net.ma](mailto:peopleandplants@cybernet.net.ma)) 13 March 1999:

Issue 4 of the *\_People and Plants Handbook\_* in English will be available for distribution soon, and copies may be requested with the questionnaire form available on "People and Plants Online", the website of the People and Plants Initiative:

<http://www.rbgekew.org.uk/peopleplants/forms/publication.htm>

Please note that the English editions of issues 1, 2, and 3 are out of print, but are available (along with other publications) on "People and Plants Online". We have now translated issues 1-3 of the Handbook into Spanish (under the name of *\_Cuadernos de Pueblos y Plantas\_*), and these have been distributed to Spanish-speaking colleagues who are on the People and Plants database and the Grupo Etnobotanico Latinoamericano (GELA) database, among others.

We are in the process of editing the People and Plants database, which now contains nearly 4500 individuals and institutions. In the future, we will send the Handbook and People and Plants Working Papers only to colleagues who specifically request to receive these publications. If you wish to remain an active member of the People and Plants Network, please return the questionnaire form by Internet, e-mail or post (apart from being available on People and Plants Online, the questionnaire will be sent to all people receiving Handbook issue 4). If you can access People and Plants publications easily on the Internet, please consider not requesting printed versions.

The People and Plants Initiative, which began in 1992, will come to an end on 31 December 2000. However, representatives of the three coordinating institutions -- WWF, UNESCO and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew -- are considering ways of carrying on the People and Plants legacy. One of the options is to keep producing the People and Plants Handbook, Working Papers and People and Plants Online. Please let us know if you have any comments on the desirability of continuing these publications and the Website after the year 2000.

Before the end of next year, we do plan to produce several more issues of the Handbook and Working Papers, so please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to keep receiving our publications.

~Fatima Zahmoun  
Editorial Assistant, People and Plants Handbook  
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## 85.8 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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