

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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174.0 SSILA Business

* Double-message problem solved (we hope)

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With Ken Whistler's help we think we have figured out the bug that was causing you to receive duplicate mailings of the Bulletin. A loop was being generated by an address that was doing a reply-to the list. We hope that the problem is now fixed.

* Clarification of the Call for Papers
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We were contacted a few days ago by a member who asked:

I am new to SSILA and have not been to an annual meeting. I have the general information and call for papers. Three special sessions are listed: Complex Predicates in the Americas, Language Change in South American Indian Languages, and Lexicography and Archiving.

I'm wondering if all papers must fit into those 3 categories. Are papers dealing with other topics also accepted?

Papers are welcome on all relevant topics relating to the study of American Indian languages. Special thematic sessions form only part of any SSILA meeting, and almost always the smaller part. Unfortunately this was not made clear in the Call for Papers this year.

174.1 Correspondence

* Query about Iroquoian Braille
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From Sheri Wells Jensen (swellsj@bgnet.bgsu.edu) 07 Aug 2002:

I'm in the midst of developing a Braille orthography for West Virginia Mingo. It is primarily for my own use at present, but I'm hoping to design it so it's usable by anyone else who may need or want such a thing and so that it is compatible with other Braille orthographies for indigenous languages (especially Iroquoian ones). As there are no listings for *any* indigenous languages in the World Braille Codes book from the Library of Congress, I would be grateful to hear from anyone who has, or knows about, work in this area.

--Sheri Wells-Jensen
Bowling Green State University
(swellsj@bgnet.bgsu.edu)

* Looking for a translation
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From jacqueline martinez osorio (jaymo@prw.net) 16 Aug 2002:

I am looking for someone who can tell me if the word below is a Native American word, and if so which tribe's language it comes from. The word (written as best as I can) is: Ahwappitah Nahey.

Thank you so much.

--J. Martinez
(jaymo@prw.net)

174.2 Oklahoma Museum Appoints Curator of Native American Languages

From Linda Coldwell (lcoldwell@ou.edu) 12 Aug 2002:

Mary Linn has been selected to serve as the first Curator of Native American languages in the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma. Linn will also serve as assistant professor in the university's Anthropology department.

Linn comes to Oklahoma from the University of Pittsburgh. She received her doctoral degree from the University of Kansas, working under Akira Yamamoto, who introduced her to the study of Native American languages in Oklahoma in the 1990s. Linn's research has focused primarily on the Euchee (Yuchi) language, spoken in eastern Oklahoma. She has prepared the first complete Euchee grammar, and plans to create a dictionary.

As Curator of Native American languages at the museum, Linn will continue working with native communities across the state to develop language programs, in addition to accumulating tapes and video resources for the museum's collection. She hopes to work with the museum and university to create an active linguistic anthropology program in which Oklahoma's Native American students and teachers can learn how to help preserve their language without having to go far from home. "The museum's language program can't be just an archive -- a preservation of what has been lost," Linn said. "The museum needs to be proactive in helping to maintain the languages and in providing native speakers an avenue to use their language."

174.3 News from Brazil

From Ana Suelly A. C. Cabral (asacc@amazon.com.br) 5 Aug 2002:

* The First International Meeting of the Brazilian Working Group on Indigenous Languages (GTLI) was held at the University of Pará in October 2001. As a consequence both of the world crisis and of the institutional crisis at Brazilian universities, several researchers who had announced papers could not attend the meeting. Attendees were especially saddened by the news of the death of Ken Hale, who had been invited to deliver a keynote address. Nevertheless 74 papers were read, 7 panels were presented, and a workshop on new technologies for fieldwork was offered. There were 9 sessions on morphology and syntax, one on phonology, 5 on historical linguistics, one on lexicography, one on endangered languages, one on linguistics and education, and a round-table on the ethics of the research with human beings.

Professor Yonne de Freitas Leite (CNPq) was honored as the first Brazilian woman to become a researcher on Indian languages with her studies on the Tapirapé language and more recently on Araweté, as well as for her contribution to the training of other researchers and to

the development of the linguistic profession. Leite delivered the first speech of the meeting in the opening session. The other keynote speakers were Lucy Seki (UNICAMP), Eric Hamp (University of Chicago), George N. Clements (Phonetics Institute of Paris Sorbonne III), Lyle Campbell (University of Canterbury, New Zealand), and Aryon Dall'Igna Rodrigues (Laboratory of Indigenous Languages of the University of Brasília).

In the final session of the meeting, the organization of a Brazilian association of researchers on indigenous languages was proposed by Yonne Leite, who remarked that there is now a considerable number of linguists united by the same aim of promoting the scientific knowledge of such languages. All the participants applauded this proposal. Yonne Leite and Aryon Rodrigues with the support of GTLI will prepare the constitution of the new society.

* The Proceedings of the meeting ("Linguas Indígenas Brasileiras: Fonologia, Gramática e História, edited by Ana Suelly Arruda Câmara Cabral & Aryon Dall'Igna Rodrigues) have been published in two volumes by the Federal University of Pará Press, 2002. They are dedicated to the memory of the great linguist and humanist Ken Hale. To order in Brazil please call (61)3072177 (Laboratory of Indigenous Languages, University of Brasília). To order outside Brazil please e-mail the editors at aryon@unb.br or asacc@amazon.com.br.]

* GTLI had its most recent regular meeting in Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, June, 24-28, 2002, and elected as its new coordinator Wilmar da Rocha D'Angelis (Depto de Lingüística, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, dangelis@unicamp.br). The new vice-coordinator Ana Suelly Arruda Câmara Cabral (Laboratório de Língua Indígenas e Departamento de Lingüística da Universidade de Brasília asacc@amazon.com.br or asacc@unb.br).

174.4 Positions Open

* Postdoctoral Fellowships for endangered language documentation

From Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au) 09 Aug 2002:

The Research Centre for Linguistic Typology (at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia) invites inquiries from suitably qualified linguists concerning applying for a Postdoctoral Fellowship on the documentation of an endangered language.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in Linguistics, with training in basic linguistic theory and some experience of language description.

Two types of Fellowships are available: (1) La Trobe University Post-doctoral Fellowship; and (2) a Fellowship under the Endangered

Languages Documentation Programme, financed by the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund.

Interested scholars should send a CV, and details of their experience and research interests, to:

Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald
Associate Director, Research Centre for Linguistic Typology
Institute for Advanced Study, La Trobe University
Bundoora, VIC, Australia 3083
(a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au)

174.5 Websites of Interest

* Idiomas Indígenas de Chiapas

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From John Haviland (johnh@reed.edu) 03 Aug 2002:

I am not sure we have ever told Bulletin readers about the still nascent, but growing web page of the Archivo de los Idiomas Indígenas de Chiapas, which can be found at:

<http://www.ciesassureste.edu.mx/juan/Archivo.html>

Of particular note is the recent Masters thesis of Juan Jesús Vázquez Alvarez, a native Chol speaker from Tila, which deals with the morphology of the Chol verb, heretofore scantily and poorly described. It can be found in Spanish in PDF format on the archive page, or directly at:

<http://www.ciesassureste.edu.mx/juan/Chol/JJesus/JJesusTesis.htm>

--John B. Haviland
Reed College, Portland, Oregon
(johnh@reed.edu)

* What's New at the National Anthropological Archives

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From Robert Leopold (Leopold@NMNH.SI.EDU) 01 Aug 2002:

The Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archives and Human Studies Film Archives now has a monthly "What's New" page on the NAA website. Among the stories currently posted are:

- * The Year the Stars Fell: New project to make Smithsonian's extensive collection of Lakota Winter Counts accessible over the Web
- * NAA acquires DNA-related materials from the O.J. Simpson trial
- * Archives acquires the professional papers of Frank Spencer, the anthropologist and microbiologist who exposed the identity of Piltdown Hoax perpetrators
- * Two New Kiowa Calendars added to NAA Collections

- * New collections from anthropologists Linda Klug, Molly Schuchat, Virginia Watson and Walter Zenner
- * NAA digital images reach Rapanui (Easter Island)
- * New footage of excavations at Guatacondo, Chile
- * NAA and HSFA staff news
- * And new this month: our pick for the most entertaining online ethnography.

You can read the complete stories at:

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/whatsnew.htm>

--Robert Leopold, NAA
 (leopold@nmnh.si.edu)

174.6 E-mail Address Updates

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

Brown, Malcolm B. ethnohist@hotmail.com
 Fernández Garay, Ana anafg@ciudad.com.ar
 Jordan, Linda..... nadrojll@pop.earthlink.net
 Montgomery-Anderson, Brad..... sputnik@ku.edu

The new address given in Bulletin #173 for Konrad Koerner contained a typographical error. His correct address is:

Koerner, Konrad efk.koerner@uni-koeln.de

We're sorry for the slip-up.

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