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**CALL FOR PAPERS: ANNUAL MEETING (HAIL COLUMBIA!), MLA, NCTE**

By unanimous telephone vote this month, the Executive Council for the first time authorized an independent Annual Meeting for the ADS—to be held in Washington, D.C. this November, probably the first week. (See pp. 9-10 for the recommendation that led to this move.) The theme is "Roles and Varieties of American English." President A. Hood Roberts announced that the meeting will include both invited and submitted papers, and issued this *call for papers*: abstracts should be sent to John Algeo at the address below. Further details of the 1978 Annual Meeting will be published as plans progress.

As in the past, however, the ADS will continue to schedule sessions during the MLA annual meeting, which is scheduled for Dec. 27-30 in New York. Abstracts should be sent to Algeo by April 1.

Likewise, the ADS will continue sponsoring a session during the NCTE annual meeting in November. Abstracts for this meeting should be sent to Rex Wilson by March 15.

**DIRECTORY OF ADS OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR 1978**

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\*c/o Pederson, Winter Quarter 1978

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*Editor, NADS:* Allan Metcalf  
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**CALLS FOR PAPERS: 1978 ADS MEETINGS**

The first date given is the *deadline for abstracts*.

- March 15:** Abstracts for PACIFIC COAST REGIONAL MEETING in association with the California Linguistics Association Conference  
California State University, Northridge, May 6  
*Chair:* Patricia C. Nichols, San Jose State University  
*Regional Secretary:* Mary Ritchie Key, University of California, Irvine  
*Abstracts:* One page, three copies; on a separate sheet give the author's name and address and the title of the paper. Papers dealing with language variation in space and time are especially welcome. Send to: Pat Nichols, Linguistics Program, San Jose State Univ., San Jose, Calif. 95192.
- April 15:** Abstracts for SUMMER MEETING in association with the Linguistic Society of America Summer Meeting (July 28-30) and Linguistic Institute (June 12-August 5)  
Urbana, University of Illinois, July 27  
*Chairman:* Dennis Baron, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana  
*Abstracts:* One page, two copies, following LSA format. Send to: Dennis Baron, English Dept., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801.
- May 1:** Abstracts for SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING in association with SCMLA  
Houston, Hyatt Regency, Oct. 19-21  
*Chairperson:* Nancy Jones, Northlake Community College, Irving, Tex.  
*Regional Secretary:* Curt M. Rulon, North Texas State University  
*Abstracts:* Send to: Curt M. Rulon, English Dept., North Texas State Univ., Denton, Tex. 76203. Phone (817) 788-2000.
- April 30:** Abstracts for ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING in association with RMMLA and the Linguistic Association of the Southwest  
Phoenix, Hyatt Regency, Oct. 26-28  
*Presiding:* John Sharp, University of Texas, El Paso  
*Regional Secretary:* Thomas L. Clark, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
*Abstracts:* Send to: John Sharp, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Univ. of Texas, El Paso, Tex. 79902.
- May 1:** Abstracts for MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING in association with MMLA  
St. Louis, Chase-Park Plaza, Nov. 2  
*Presiding:* Garrett Scott, Bloomington, Ill. Public Schools.  
*Regional Secretary:* Donald Lance, University of Missouri, Columbia  
*Abstracts:* Papers on *linguistic variation* that are dialectal in nature are welcome, as well as papers on regional and social dialects. Send to: Donald Lance, English Dept., Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65201, or Garrett Scott, 1601 West Hovey, Normal, Ill. 61761.
- May 1:** Abstracts for SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING in association with SAMLA  
Atlanta, Sheraton-Biltmore, Nov. 9-11  
*Chair:* Connie C. Eble, University of North Carolina  
*Regional Secretary:* David L. Shores, Old Dominion University  
*Abstracts:* Preference will be given to topics related to the South Atlantic region and to younger members of the profession. Members of the program must belong to both SAMLA and ADS. Send to: Connie C. Eble, English Department, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING: DECEMBER 27, 1977**

Not even close to a quorum, the Executive Council nevertheless met as scheduled in Palmer House Parlor D at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27. A. Hood Roberts, vice president and acting president, and A. Murray Kinloch were the only two Council members in attendance. Also present were H. Rex Wilson, executive secretary; John Algeo, *American Speech* editor and vice president for 1978; Fred Tarpley, chairman of the planning committee; Donald Lance, Midwest regional secretary; Fred Cassidy, *DARE* editor and member of the planning committee, and Allan Metcalf, *NADS* editor.

Reports were received from Margaret Bryant for the Committee on Proverbial Sayings (to be published in the next issue of *NADS*) and from ACLS delegate Audrey Duckert (presented informally through the executive secretary).

For *American Speech*, editor Algeo reported progress that is certain to cause confusion among the readership, though it will be explained in forthcoming issues of *AS*. The problem is the promptness of the editor and the University of Alabama Press, which will take over publication of *AS* from Columbia University Press starting with the 1978 issues. Alabama promises to have an issue out within five months of receipt of the manuscript—and the MS. for the first issue of 1978 has already gone out, so members will be getting 1978 issues before 1977 ones. With the 1978 issues, *AS* will return to four issues a year of 80 pages each rather than two of 160 pages each.

Algeo read particulars of the draft contract with Alabama, which for the most part follows the contract with Columbia. Kinloch's motion that the contract be accepted in principle met with no dissent, but could not count as an official action because of the lack of a quorum.

In severing its connection with *AS*, Columbia University Press plans to destroy its entire stockpile of surplus back issues beyond a certain minimum number. Roberts said he would attempt to forestall the slaughter by seeing if the USIA would take the surplus copies and distribute them to its libraries.

Kinloch proposed a resolution of gratitude to Algeo for his astounding achievement in bringing *AS* up to date.

Tarpley presented the report of the Planning Committee, published elsewhere in this issue. It called for two specific immediate actions: by the Executive Committee, to set a special site and date (Washington, November 1978) for the next Annual Meeting; by the membership, to change the Society's name to American Language Society.

Lance reported a successful Midwest Regional Meeting in October, capped with a banquet, and noted that Garrett Scott would be chairman of the 1978 meeting.

With discussion of the agenda for the Dec. 29 business meeting and sundry desultory remarks, such as Wilson's mentioning his pruning of the overgrown exchange list, the meeting adjourned.

**ANNUAL MEETING 1977: HOT AIR AND TOGETHERNESS**

Nothing like the cavernous, drafty "windchime room" frozen into the memories of those who attended the 1976 Annual meeting faced the ADS faithful in Chicago 1977. Instead, this year the MLA thoughtfully provided the ADS with a pair of cozy closets in the Palmer House. Rooms 752 and 736 held, in a pinch, 50 people and a little warm air, and a pinch there was for the first two sessions. A few more managed to peek in from the narrow corridor, but those who came late had no chance to catch even a glimpse.

*Session 1: 2:45-4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28.*

Having surveyed 25 parishes in five Eastern states, Henry R. Stern of the University of North Carolina, Asheville, reported "a surprising lack of linguistic uniformity" in the

American Catholic Church, despite its hierarchical structure. In general, however, the Church is more open to outside influence than previously; the language of the Church is less distinctive, more in line with general trends. In the more modern parishes, at least, *curates* have become *associate pastors*; the *sacrament of penance* is the *sacrament of rite of reconciliation*; the *confession box* is the *room of reconciliation*; the *mass* is the *liturgy*; a *sermon* is a *homily*; Catholics will attend *services* and say "he goes to our church," where they once attended *mass* and would say "he's in our parish." Stern found, incidentally, churches in the South to be much more innovative than those in the North.

*Hear, hear!* declared Allen Walker Read of Columbia University, was one of the most striking of the Briticisms remarked by Americans in the 18th century. The exclamation began in the 17th century as the admonition, "hear him!" In 1766 a shocked American wrote of English in a Parliamentary debate shouting "hear him!" and laughing. By the end of the 18th century the phrase was reduced to *hear, hear!* A certain John Neal of Maine in 1828 described it as a large sharp cry, repeated three or four times as rapidly as possible, a sort of barbarous hooting. The exclamation drew American attention because American public meetings were orderly, sedate and attentive. Read listed a number of other 18th century Briticisms, including *jallop*, *dissenters*, *heath*, *downs*, *barrows* and *coke*.

It is time for researchers in American dialectology to seek a wider audience, said Timothy Frazer of Western Illinois University in the third and final talk of the first session. His paper connected dialectology with the study of material culture, in the manner of Marshall and Vlach's article in *AS* 48:163-91. Just as Macomb, Ill., where Western Illinois University is located, lies in a transition area between North Midland and South Midland dialects, so it displays examples of both Northern and Midland house styles. In dialects, for example, Macomb is at the boundary of North and North Midland *barnyard* and *haymow* vs. South and South Midland *barnlot* and *hayloft*. Correspondingly the town shows examples of Northern "temple-form houses" and Midland-Southern "hall and parlor houses," as Frazer's handout attested in photographs.

*Session 2: 8:30-9:45 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 29.*

Skimming over a paper which he said amounted to more than 15 pages in a partly completed draft, James Sledd of the University of Texas, Austin, succeeded in stoking the atmosphere by remarking: Linguistic relativism is just a phony political slogan which nobody needs; practical purposes are better served by more precise statements—linguistic or purely political. And: What the relativist does is deny the meaning of good and bad. And: Our most important sociolinguistic enterprise remains the teaching of freshman English; think what would happen if it fell in the hands of the Center for Applied Linguistics. To support the less provocative assertion that not all languages and dialects are equal in merit and complexity, he offered such evidence as pidgins and creoles, artificial languages and children's grammars. Members of the audience declared that he misrepresented the relativist position; languages are equal *in potentiality*, said relativist Fred Cassidy.

Richard C. Payne of the University of Chicago then leafed through a few pages of his yet to be written *Word Geography of the North-Central States*, one of the volumes of the Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States, of which he is assistant editor. The Northern, North Midland and South Midland patterns displayed in Kurath's *Word Geography of the Eastern United States* continue as expected in the Great Lakes area with such words as Northern *buttery*, *swill pail* or *bucket*, *spider*, *thills* or *fills*, *angleworm* and *devil's darning needle*; Midland *quarter till*, *blinds*, *weather board*, *hay shock*, *poke* and *corn shucks*; South Midland *tow sack* and *grass sack*, he said. But the sharply defined boundaries near the East Coast become broader transition bands in the Midwest. Westward movement of three Northern terms not mentioned by Kurath seems to be stopped by Lake Michigan:

*swale* 'small bog' (vs. *slough*), *clock shelf* 'mantel', *jute bag* 'gunny sack'. There are no obvious examples of social stratification of lexical items, Payne said, but urban-rural differences do appear. For example, *paper bag* is urban and cultivated, *paper sack* rural and uncultivated.

Into the remaining half hour was compressed the *Annual Business Meeting*, presided over (as were all of the sessions) by A. Hood Roberts, vice president 1977 and president 1978. The Business Meeting included these matters:

1. A memorial tribute to W.R. Van Riper by Raven I. McDavid, Jr. (printed elsewhere in this issue).
2. Executive Secretary H. Rex Wilson's report. This consisted primarily of the following financial statement for the period Oct. 29, 1976 to Nov. 30, 1977.

<i>Received, U.S. Funds:</i>	Transfer from First Virginia Bank	\$ 2,435.95
	Dues .....	16,708.93
	Gifts .....	475.00
	Mailing list fee .....	25.00
	Bank interest .....	40.92
		<u>\$19,685.80</u>
<i>Expended, U.S. Funds:</i>	<i>American Speech</i> .....	\$ 6,804.92
	(Arrears, printing \$2070.40; Volume 50 \$4642.40; Postage \$92.12)	
	<i>PADS</i> .....	6,389.11
	(Arrears, printing \$3389.11; Nos. 61-2 advance \$3000.00)	
	<i>Newsletter</i> .....	725.00
	Administrative costs: telephone and postage .....	27.22
	Executive travel .....	214.04
	<i>ACLS</i> .....	605.00
	(Dues \$300.00; Council of Secretaries \$305.00)	
		<u>\$14,765.29</u>
<i>U.S. Funds Balance</i> .....		\$ 4,920.51
<i>Received, Canadian Funds:</i>	Dues .....	\$ 2,279.51
	Bank interest .....	7.99
		<u>\$ 2,287.50</u>
<i>Expended, Canadian Funds:</i>	Postage, telephone .....	\$ 613.46
<i>Canadian Funds Balance</i> .....		\$ 1,674.04

Memorandum, clerical costs of \$2407.10 (Canadian) were borne by a research grant to H.R. Wilson. This amount may have to be reimbursed.

Wilson also reported 384 individual members, 14 life members, 2 complimentary members, 2 honorary members, for a total of 402; 339 institutional members, 1 exchange, making the grand total 742, of which 723 are dues-paying.

He also reported the deaths of George Faust and Roberta Stevenson.

3. The Nominating Committee report (see *NADS* 9.3, p. 2). A motion to accept the report was seconded and passed by voice vote without dissent. For 1978 John Algeo will be vice president, Paul Eschholz the new member of the Executive Council, and F. G. Cassidy the elected member of the Nominating Committee.

4. John Algeo's oral report on *American Speech*. The manuscript for the first issue of 1978 was handed in two weeks ago to the University of Alabama Press, and it should appear by mid-year; Columbia University Press will take care of the 1976 and 1977 issues in about a year and a half.

"I speak for the Society," responded Fred Cassidy, "in saying we have been most impressed by the way *American Speech* has been taken up to date. I propose that we give formal notice that we thank the editor profoundly." Hear, hear! came cries amid the general applause.

5. James Hartman's oral report on *Publication of the American Dialect Society*. In its fuller written form the report goes something like this.

Two *PADS* manuscripts are currently in final stages of printing: Nos. 61-62, April-November 1974, "Social Aspects of a Verb Form: Native Atlanta Fifth Grade Speech—the Present Tense of *BE*" by Howard Dunlap, and Nos. 63-64, April-November 1975, "Usage in Dictionaries and Dictionaries of Usage" by Thomas J. Creswell, both issues edited by Virginia McDavid. Members should receive these issues soon.

As *PADS* is now an occasional monograph, all publications subsequent to these will bear the current year date along with the continued serial number.

The editor has eight manuscripts in varying stages of negotiation for acceptance, revision, and editing. These include No. 65, "Place Names of Sumter County, Alabama" by Virginia Foscue and No. 66, "A Dialect Survey of Carbonear, Newfoundland" by Harold Paddock. Both of these were scheduled by Virginia McDavid, and the manuscripts of both are now with the current editor. These four are in the possession of the editor also: W. Kruck, "Looking for Dr. Condom"; Raoul Smith, "Jonathan Fisher, Early American Linguist" (working title); Frank Anshen, "Speech variation among Negroes in a Small Southern Community"; Gary Underwood, "Dialect of the Mesabi Range." In prospect also are Ann Senn, "Linguistic Geography of Eighteenth Century New Jersey" and Norman Heap, "A Word List from Bucks County," but the manuscripts for these are not in the editor's possession and will probably need to be replaced by the authors.

6. Allan Metcalf's report on *NADS*, which runs in full as follows: Three issues sufficed to convey the Society's essential news in 1977, vs. four in 1976. Advances totaling \$725, or about \$240 per issue, paid the bills—including first class postage, the only luxury. Access to an IBM Selectric Composer (courtesy of Office Services, MacMurray College) permitted the editor to improve typography starting with 9.3 at no increase in cost. Issues continue to appear later than hoped.

7. Fred Cassidy's report on *DARE*. A grant of \$275,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, matched by NEH, has enabled the dictionary to add two editors. "We are still talking about 1980 and hoping 1981" as completion date, he said.

8. The ACLS report, by Rex Wilson. Audrey Duckert, our delegate, attended the May meeting; Wilson attended the meeting of the Council of Secretaries in Charlottesville in November. He found the latter helpful in making his job easier.

9. An announcement from Raven McDavid: A week ago Ray O'Cain and he completed all technical clarification for production of the first fascicle of the *Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States* by the University of Chicago Press. Subscription information will be forthcoming from Allen Fitchen at the Press.

10. The planning committee report by Fred Tarpley (printed elsewhere in this issue). He pointed out that constitutionally the Executive Council would make the decision about the site and time of the Annual Meeting. Hood Roberts said the proposed change of name to American Language Society would be brought to the 1978 Annual Meeting.

Richard Bailey moved to recommend that the Executive Council not go ahead with a separate Annual Meeting in Washington in November 1978. By a show of hands his motion was defeated, but in a fairly close vote.

Discussion of the Planning Committee's proposals had barely begun, but with MLA members queuing outside for the next scheduled session, Roberts had to adjourn the meeting at this point.

*Session 3: 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30.*

Maybe it was the MLA's refusal to list this session's papers because their authors were not MLA members; maybe it was the scheduling at the very end of the MLA meeting. Whatever the reason, Room 736 was only half filled, with about 25 present for the final three papers.

Elucidating a seven-page handout, **Curt M. Rulon** of North Texas State University illustrated the use of the Chomsky-Halle *SPE* symbology in determining the distance between dialects. In forming verb preterites and past participles, the varying applicability of two syntactic rules of inflectional leveling can be a measure of dialect difference. Rule A is "preterite spreading," which produces a past participle identical in form to the preterite, as in the regular *play, played, played* and the irregular *stride, strode, strode*. Rule B is "participle spreading," which forms the preterite from the past participle, as in *cling, clung, clung*, and sometimes in *see, seen, seen; do, done, done*. Neither Rule A nor Rule B applies in *rise, rose, risen; dive, dove, dived*.

**Scott Baird** of Trinity University, San Antonio, proclaimed the discovery of a unique South Texas dialect blend, distinctive from both the Southern dialect and a Standardized one. All three dialects—"Southwestern," Southern, and Standardized—exist in the Anglo monolingual English speech of San Antonio, as Baird learned from recordings made by his students in such field locations as Handy Andy grocery stores. Baird thus departed from the conclusions of E. Bagby Atwood and Janet Sawyer, who saw San Antonio's Anglo dialect as a single Southern-South Midland one. "There is a major, Standardized, dialect in San Antonio that is found outside the schools," Baird concluded, "that influences Mexican-American pronunciation just as much as the schools do." From the audience Glenn Gilbert applauded the concept of Southwestern English, and suggested that ethnic influence, especially German, has contributed to the surprising influence of Northern dialects.

With evidence from the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States augmenting her own data from 27 primary interviews, **Carol Fitzgerald** of the University of South Carolina and Paine College investigated J.L. Dillard's claim that blacks and whites use the "double subject" differently. She also compared all speakers of nonstandard English vs. speakers of standard English. Differences did appear, though not as Dillard had described them. Blacks and nonstandard speakers made significantly greater use of the double subject in the pattern *NP (filled pause) Pro VP*, for example: "And the little girl, she's just a complete free spirit." On the other hand, white and standard speakers used the double subject significantly more often in the pattern *NP Modifier Pro VP*, for example: "The kid next door, one of little bitty children, rode by on a bike a few minutes ago, he had one of 'em." For all categories of speakers a third type of double subject, *Pronoun V Object, Noun (Aux. Verb)* was rare: "Well, they were farmers and this was their source of income, but otherwise he was a carpenter, my grandfather on my mother's side was." Neither educational level nor occupation correlated with the use of double subjects. The double subject, Fitzgerald added, brings a penalty only in the written language—it brings order to the spoken language.

And with that it came to an end, this last session of the ADS Annual Meeting did.



**NEW NAME, NEW PLACE: MINUTES OF THE ADS PLANNING COMMITTEE**

A special Long Range Planning Committee, appointed by ADS President W.R. Van Riper [see *NADS* 9.1, pp. 13, 14], met in Room 746 of the Americana Hotel in New York Nov. 25, 1977. Members present were John Algeo, Frederic Cassidy, Virginia McDavid, Fred Tarpley, chair; A. Hood Roberts, ex officio; H. Rex Wilson, ex officio. Members absent were Walter Avis and Mary Key.

1. The appointment and organization of the committee by the late William R. Van Riper was reviewed, along with the report on "The Future of the American Dialect Society" by John Algeo [*NADS* 8.4, pp. 4-7].

2. Objectives of the ADS, as stated in the constitution\* and understood by committee members, were discussed. It was agreed that while the statement of objectives is broad enough to cover present activities of the Society, the objectives need interpretation and publicity among members and prospective members.

3. John Algeo and H. Rex Wilson were asked to prepare a brochure outlining the objectives and activities of the Society and to present a draft of the brochure to the Executive Committee in Chicago during MLA. Two types of membership forms are to be designed: one would be an application for membership submitted by the prospective member; the other would be an application form on which a present member would sign his name as the person extending an invitation to a prospective member. It was agreed that the membership of the Society would be listed each year in an issue of *NADS* to enable members to determine if a person considered for an invitation to membership is already a member.

4. A change in the name of the Society was considered, and alternative names collected previously by John Algeo were discussed. It was pointed out that no matter what breadth was given within the Society to the word *dialect*, there would always be the problem of interpreting it to outsiders who wished to restrict its meaning or view *dialect* apart from "standard language" study. The committee recommended that the name of the Society be changed to American Language Society with the belief that such a name change would make the function of the Society clearer to a wider audience. It was pointed out that the name change would coincide with the realization of DARE, a major objective of the American Dialect Society.

5. Ideas for increasing membership in the Society were discussed, and the following recommendations were made:

a. Print the membership list in *NADS* early in the new year to enable members to consider extending invitations to prospective members.

b. Exchange membership lists and advertisements with Verbatim, Maledicta, the Mencken Society, and the Linguistic Society of America.

c. Set a goal of a minimum of 1,000 members by November 1978.

6. Because the Society has difficulty in scheduling and publicizing programs and in maintaining its identity at MLA, where members often have other professional obligations, and where members outside English and Foreign Languages are rare, it was decided that a separate meeting of the Society would be beneficial. It was recommended that the first separate meeting of the Society be held in Washington, D.C., in November 1978. Presidents and executive secretaries of societies with interests in language would be invited to attend the Washington meeting to discuss a possible consortium. Some of the organizations mentioned for a possible consortium were American Name Society, Mencken

\**Article II, Purpose:* The American Dialect Society is organized in the interest of the academic community and not for profit. Its object is the study of the English language in North America, together with other languages or dialects of other languages influencing it or influenced by it.

Society, Dictionary Society of North America, Pidgin and Creole Society, Center on American Folklife, NWAVE. It was recommended that the second separate meeting be held in the spring of 1979, and each spring thereafter. Even with a separate annual meeting, the Society would still schedule program sessions at MLA, Linguistic Society of America, National Council of Teachers of English, and other organizations. It was felt that an annual meeting apart from MLA would attract more members from speech, linguistics, journalism, pidgin and creole studies, and other disciplines. Hood Roberts discussed various organizations in Washington which might be involved in the initial meeting and which might contribute to program activities at that meeting.

7. Revitalization of the Society through several active committees was discussed. Some of the committees considered important to the Society were: Use of Computers in Language Study, New Words, Usage, Non-English Dialects in North America, Bibliography, Regionalisms and Linguistic Geography, Research in Teaching, Proverbial Sayings and Place Names. Separate annual meetings would enable these committees to meet and to schedule open meetings to be attended by any interested person.

8. Among the projects discussed as appropriate for the Society if resources are available were the following:

a. A motion picture for classroom use on American dialects. It was pointed out that the film would have to be of professional quality and that filmed lectures would not make the film attractive for classroom use.

b. A bibliography of language in North America. A funded research grant will probably be necessary for this project.

c. A series of radio programs on American dialects prepared in cooperation with Public Broadcasting.

9. The suggestion was made by Fred Tarpley that *PADS*, now published as an occasional monograph, might become a series of widely distributed books if given individualized covers and distributed through an organization with a sales catalog, such as the National Council of Teachers of English. The Roger Shuy dialect book was for many years the best-selling publication of NCTE, and it was suggested by Fred Tarpley that the Society should be producing the best sellers in its field for the educational market with possible circulation through NCTE. He also asked that the Society consider the publication of dialect maps and recordings for circulation in the same manner. John Algeo, a member of the NCTE Commission on Language, agreed to look into the possibilities of the sale of Society publications through NCTE.

10. The role of the Society in national issues falling within its objectives was questioned by Fred Tarpley, who pointed out that the resolution on "Students' Right to Their Own Language" originated with the Conference on College Composition and Communication, a branch of NCTE, and resulted in a position paper on the resolution, while the Society has remained silent on the issue. He suggested that a Society publication on the issue would be appropriate.

11. The possibility of offering a speakers service to stimulate interest in the Society was explored. Such a service might be modeled after the NCTE or CCCC distinguished lecturer series through which institutions and groups may request a lecture. Details of the selection of speakers to be made available, the regions they would serve, and the reimbursement for travel expenses would have to be worked out by the Society.

12. An annual audit of the Society treasury was recommended for strengthening the financial operation of the Society and offering support to the Executive Committee.

—Fred Tarpley, Chair

## A MODEST DEMURRER: THE AMERICAN WHAT SOCIETY?

By Richard W. Bailey

(Editor's note: Professor Bailey was the author of the unsuccessful motion that the date and place of the 1978 Annual Meeting not be changed. See the report of the 1977 meeting, p. 8.)

In 1976, John Algeo pointed with some alarm to "the discrepancy between the vitality of the field [the study of language variation in America] and the size of our organization" (NADS 8.4, p. 4). The ADS is too small to support three publications, he noted, and he implied that it has been too exclusive to attract a sufficient number of new members. At the time he wrote, ADS had 850 "members"; according to the most recent report of the Treasurer, we have now slipped to 742 members (402 of them are people; 340 are institutions). In short, the discrepancy he identified has increased.

Following Algeo's report, the late President William Van Riper appointed a committee to search for solutions, and at the 1977 annual meeting in Chicago, the chair of the committee, Fred Tarpley, read its report to the assembled membership. Nothing in the report spoke directly to the problems that have kept the ADS from being the professional forum for the most exciting research in language variation. It began and ended with comments on the difficulties of obtaining travel funds to attend meetings, yet (paradoxically) contained a recommendation for one more national meeting for which members will encounter difficulty in finding travel funds. As readers of NADS know, the Society has several regional gatherings at the moment, but its national meeting is held in conjunction with that of the Modern Language Association. The justification for another national meeting at a different time is to remove the leadership of the Society from the distractions of the MLA; the effect of such a step will be to remove the leadership yet farther from the potential membership and guarantee that the American Dialect Society will *not* become a locus for the most exciting new research paradigms in the study of language variation.

The leadership wants the serenity of a separate business meeting—the 30 minutes provided in 1977 was mostly filled by a eulogy and the reading of Tarpley's report—and it has declared that it will get one whether or not the membership at large approves of the idea. It has yet to locate a site for this meeting, but if tradition holds (see NADS 8.3, p. 2), the meeting will be held spontaneously and with insufficient notice.

Only one recommendation from Tarpley's committee requires a vote of the membership: the name of the Society. The argument for the excision of *dialect* from the American Dialect Society ignores the traditions that have persisted since 1889 ("You're just too nostalgic," one member told me); it presumes that ignorance about the technical meaning of *dialect* holds back would-be members and that a change from *dialect* to *language* will raise the membership to at least a thousand. This "solution" seems to me to miss entirely the source of our difficulties as a society, and I predict that a shift to "American Language Society" will produce no more than a boomlet of papers and memberships before the final collapse. By adopting the recommended change, the ADS will be easily (though only briefly) confused with more prosperous groups like the Modern Language Association, the Linguistic Society of America, the International Linguistic Association, the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States, and others of that ilk. In short, it will be one among the many, and when Cassidy completes the *Dictionary of American Regional English* and when Algeo ceases to edit *American Speech*, it will disappear—probably before its centennial.

Why should anybody care? The American Dialect Society could become a forum for the most interesting current research in language variation; it could be tolerant of differing research models; and it could disseminate through its excellent publications the results of work that have intrinsic interest and social value. Will it do so? . . . Why not?

## RESPONSE FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1. ADS was crippled in Chicago because not enough members of the executive committee attended to provide a quorum. Only one committee report was received (by mail); only one regional secretary attended the executive committee meeting.

2. ADS was further crippled by a business meeting limited to thirty minutes before the room had to be vacated.

3. The final sectional meeting of ADS was poorly attended by ADS members able to come to MLA.

4. ADS had little identity at MLA, with members attending ADS sessions if they were not in conflict with other MLA commitments. The sessions were scattered over a three-day period.

5. The proposal of the planning committee would eliminate only the business meeting at MLA and provide the same number of sessions as presently held and permitted by MLA.

6. I would welcome discussion of the proposed name change. The planning committee had received reports that the present name is misunderstood and too limiting, and that non-MLA members rarely participate.

7. I hope we will hear from a large segment of the membership, not just those who find it convenient to come to MLA. I am glad NADS will provide a forum for these important issues.

—Fred Tarpley

## FURTHER COMMENT: UNSEASONABLE MEETING?

*From a letter by Raven I. McDavid, Jr.*

. . . . My chief dubitation is that the change of venue for next year comes on very short notice, and that there doesn't seem to be a clear rationale about the time of the meeting. November would to me seem one of the worst possible times, since we would be running head-to-head against the regionals and the NCTE. But I'm sure this was taken into account. . . .

## CALLS FOR NAMES, NATIONAL AND SOUTH CENTRAL

*May 1* is the deadline for proposals for papers for the national meeting of the American Name Society (New York, December) to be sent to: Fred Tarpley, program chairman, Dept. of Literature and Languages, East Texas State Univ., Commerce, Tex. 75428.

*March 15* is the deadline for 20-minute papers, or abstracts, on all aspects of onomastic studies, to be presented at the Ninth Annual South Central Names Institute, June 15-16. It will be held at East Texas State Univ., under ANS auspices. Fred Tarpley, in his office as director of the South Central Names Institute, again is program chairman. Same name and address for abstracts.

## PRESENT-DAY ENGLISH: CALL FOR PAPERS

"Writing the History of Twentieth Century English" will be the theme of the meeting of the Present Day English Discussion Group at the meeting of the MLA in New York Dec. 27-30. One-page single-spaced abstracts may be sent by *April 10* to Raymond K. O'Cain, Department of English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

**WILLIAM R. VAN RIPER, 1924-1977**

*Remarks by Raven I. McDavid, Jr. at the ADS Annual Meeting, Dec. 29, 1977*

It is an honor, as well as a responsibility, to serve on the Advisory Committee of an important reference work like the *Biographical Dictionary of the Phonetic Sciences*. It is a pleasure to mark the completion of such a project by presenting a copy of the work to the president of one of the sponsoring societies. But it is a personal sorrow to know that he who was to receive the work on behalf of the Society is not here for the occasion.

The *BDPS* has had the cooperation of an advisory board of many distinguished phoneticians; it has received data and biographical sketches from more than two hundred contributors. And among the sponsors is our American Dialect Society, one of the oldest scholarly organizations in the United States.

The ADS has had other associations with the project. Two of its editors—the editor-in-chief Arthur Bronstein and his colleague Lawrence Raphael—are veteran members of the Society; so are two of its Advisory Committee, Alva Davis and me. And our discipline, dialectology, is recognized by many articles—Allen, Atwood and Avis among the letter A alone.

Our sponsorship said several things to the editors: that they had undertaken a worthwhile project; that they were expected to complete it; that the project would reflect favorably on the Society by measuring up to its standards of scholarship. In response to these expectations the editors were careful and thorough.

The sponsorship of the *BDPS* by the ADS also emphasized the long history of contributions from dialectology to the study of phonetics. For evidence of those contributions one may examine the host of entries identifying a scholar as a dialectologist. It also indicates our expectation that dialectology will continue to contribute to phonetics—and vice versa—as new generations of scholars join the profession. And it says to the scholarly community that the study of phonetics is essential to the investigation of language variety. The dictionary that has resulted is something belonging to the sponsoring societies, the contributors, the editorial board and the students who will use it.

As a member of the Advisory Board I was given the pleasant task of presenting a copy of the *Dictionary* to Bob Van Riper, President of the ADS. But Bob died in October. With the approval of the Executive Council of the ADS, Arthur Bronstein—senior editor of the *BDPS*—and I have decided that the ADS copy should go to Bob's wife Bobbe Lou. This gesture recognizes Bob's accomplishments, not only as this year's president of the ADS but as one who had advanced phonetics as a discipline by field work, editing, and teaching. It also recognizes Bobbe Lou's contribution to the work with which Bob's name is associated.

The official record of Bob's career is summarized in the *BDPS*. It is reticent, as Bob always was about himself: his official vita from LSU says of his war service only that he was a first lieutenant in the Air Force and received the Purple Heart. I will add a few personal recollections.

I first met Bob at Michigan in 1951-52, when I was between jobs and he was beginning work on the Ph.D. He was a student of mine in the Michigan Linguistic Institute of 1952, a member of one of the two best classes I have ever taught. His dissertation on postvocalic /-r/ extends Bloch's classic treatment. He gathered the data for the Linguistic Atlas of Oklahoma; final editorial plans are being drafted. His students are already making their marks as scholars and teachers: Ed Callery and Frank LaBan are examples. His publications—not as many as one would wish—are indispensable to the student of American English.

Even more important was his role as a catalyst, a critic, a force for sanity. He worked hard. He insisted on high standards: he was ruthless in evaluating field work, including his own. As a result, he became perhaps the best field worker to use the tape recorder—and comparable to the best of the older tradition. He had an unerring ear for fatuousness—no matter how eloquent, no matter how exalted the reputation of the speaker. To the affairs of the ADS he brought the same critical judgment; he wished his presidency to be marked by a new sense of purpose on the part of the membership. It was his idea to appoint the committee on the state of the ADS, whose report was the principal item of the 1977 business meeting—a report that seems sure to fulfill Bob's hopes.

Most important, he was a friend from whom one could get honest criticism, with whom one could share disappointment and success, to whom one could confide plans and ambitions and dreams—one who would be good company on a fishing trip and an unflinching comrade in a fight. We miss him; but all of us are the richer for having known him.

### DARE QUERIES, SECOND SERIES: MORE DEAD CATS ON THE LINE

Thanks to correspondents [writes Fred Cassidy] who have written about *dead cat on the line*, *battle-hammed*, and the *dearborn wagon*. We are following up your clues. Here are some more desiderata:

**Awendaw** or **owenda** (bread)—a kind of cornmeal spoonbread reported from SC especially but also AB, MD, TN. Pronunciations vary—some stress the first, some the second syllable. Is anyone familiar with this? Did mother or grandmother make it? How did she pronounce it? We assume it's Indian and are checking but it could be something else. All hints solicited.

**Devil's fence**—We have plenty of evidence on *devil's lane*, the disputed area between fences on the boundaries of feuding neighbors. Wayland Hand reports that the fences are *devil's fences* but further evidence would be welcome—date, location, other particulars.

**Dip nose**—Yes, a nose that dips, but none of our 8 informants (5 from WV, one each from PA, NC, OK—so it is probably regional) saw fit to describe *how* it dips or to draw a picture. We visualize Bob Hope—but is this right? Please don't guess; answer only if the term is familiar to you.

**Dips-and-ducks**—what is usually called a *thank-you ma'am*, from the motion of a rider's head when the vehicle goes over a hole in the road (1917 *Dialect Notes* 4.402, Ashtabula, OH). This is the only example we have. Does anyone know it otherwise—where from and when? Two words of similar form and same meaning are *dipsy-doodle* (*American Speech*—but the writer could not recall where in the U.S. he had heard it) and *dippity-doo*, from an Informant in Eureka, CA. We'd like to be able to pin these down more firmly.

**Dirty hearts**—Does anyone know how *dirty hearts* differs from the card game *hearts*? We have twelve examples of it from ten states. Nine of the twelve are Black.

**Flaggit**—evidently an intensifying word, meaning 'very, exceedingly'. From our Harder collection (1954, central-western TN), "plumb messed up, flaggit dirty." The *-it* could be a participial affix, but what's the base? Is anyone else familiar with this?

**Gadfly**—The only evidence we have (1906 *Dialect Notes* 3.137, northwest AK) is "Gadfly, facetious name applied to a small or remote hamlet or railway station." Why this? It's presented not as if it was the name of a specific place, but a type. Even so, the semantic connection with the insect is less than clear. Arkansawyers and Arkansans, please take note.

**Georgia**—as a verb meaning 'to cheat'. We have two examples: 1970 Major *Afro-Amer. Slang*: "Georgiaed, to be misused in any way, similar to what happens in *the Murphy*" [a con game], and 1976 *Harper's Weekly* (TN), "When someone connives to do you out of something . . . he has 'Georgia'd' you." More evidence, especially earlier evidence, needed. Is this chiefly or altogether a Black expression?

**Ghost bush**—reported c1960 by Gordon Wilson from central-south KY as a name for *Yucca filamentosa*—our only quot. Further evidence—when? whence? And why the name? Not found in any of our botanical sources.

**Scoop** (snow)—always said rather than to *shovel* snow, by a former staff member from Maxwell, IA. A student now on staff reports it from the Peoria, IL area. Where else is this current?

**Sugar scoop**—another botanical question. We have one report of this from CA as another name for foam-flower (*Tiarella unifoliata*). Further evidence would be welcome, on use of the name and the reason for it.

**Tutchmunk**—a New England name (c1927) for the red-throated loon, *Gavia stellata*. The second component *-munk* or *-monk* is clearly Algonkian 'loon', but what's the first? Algonkianists, oyez, oyez! Is the name still in use? How current has it been—fully naturalized into American English or still felt as Indian?

Send replies to Professor F. G. Cassidy  
 Dictionary of American Regional English  
 6125 Helen White Hall  
 Madison, Wis. 53706

All contributions used will be acknowledged in *DARE*.

## MARCKWARDT MEMORIAL GIFTS: DOUBLE BENEFITS

The National Endowment for the Humanities has given the University of Chicago \$91,000 for the editing of the Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States, a project initiated by Albert H. Marckwardt and directed by him until his death in 1975. In addition, the NEH has allocated \$55,500 on a gifts-plus-matching basis, by which the NEH matches, dollar for dollar, contributions from other sources. Friends and colleagues of Al Marckwardt are invited to contribute to this project; their contributions will not only be tax-deductible but matched by the NEH. Such contributions should be sent to the LANCs Fund, Division of Humanities, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. 60637, with an indication that they are to be used for matching NEH funds. —Raven I. McDavid, Jr.

Editor, LANCs

## DUES DUE AGAIN AND AGAIN

In 1978 the ADS expects to abolish the once-awesome gap between *publication year* and *calendar year*—hence the enclosure, once again, of a dues notice with this issue. While the Executive Secretary warmly congratulates the membership on their strong financial support, as reflected in the Financial Report (p. 6), he audaciously suggests that all who can manage it pay their dues through *calendar 1978* as soon as possible in order to minimize confusion while two series of *AS* are appearing at the same time (see pp. 4, 7).

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*Newsletter of the  
American Dialect Society*

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**FIRST CLASS**



**To:**