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Volume 10, Number 2

May 1978

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PAPERS WANTED FOR ADS INDEPENDENCE DAYS

The newly independent Annual Meeting of the ADS, with committee meetings, invited speakers, volunteered papers and the annual Business Meeting, will be held in Washington, D.C. Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 2 through 4, announced ADS President A. Hood Roberts.

September 15 is now the deadline—giving members the whole summer to prepare—to send *abstracts of papers* to ADS Vice President John Algeo, English Dept., Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602.

“The two big days are Friday and Saturday,” Roberts explained. “We are planning to have time for all ADS committees to meet Thursday morning.” The committee meetings will be open.

Thursday, Nov. 2 is also the date of the ADS Midwest Regional Meeting in Minneapolis. If this results in a conflict for members who wish to discuss matters with committees, they should let the committee chairmen know, Roberts said.

Meeting conjointly will be the seventh annual colloquium on New Ways of Analyzing Variation at Georgetown University. This group, under the leadership of Roger Shuy, has had attendance between 90 and 200 at recent meetings, including “a relatively strong international component,” Roberts said.

PAPERS FOR THE MLA MEETING – SECOND AND LAST CALL

The notice in the February *NADS* was neither urgent nor prominent, and the response was correspondingly low. Now for more urgency:

The ADS *will meet* with the MLA as usual (Dec. 27-30, New York). From MLA the ADS has an allocation of *just as much program time* as in the past, and hopes for more elbow room than last year. Thus the ADS has *just as much need for papers* for the MLA-associated meeting as in previous years.

But, reports John Algeo, *not enough* have been sent to him. He makes an urgent appeal for members to *send him abstracts* (his address is in the second paragraph of the preceding story) *as soon as possible*.

“We need ‘em now,” he said.

SUMMER MEETING: OPEN ARMS, OPEN MOUTHS

Nobody bothered to send abstracts to Dennis Baron for the ADS Summer Meeting July 27, but it will take place anyhow—as an informal open discussion. With Baron as leader or convener, the meeting will start at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 27 in 124 Burrill Hall at the Urbana campus of the University of Illinois.

During this time the University will be host to the LSA Linguistic Institute. The LSA summer meeting will take place there July 28-30, and the Dictionary Society of North America (see p. 15) will hold a special meeting there on the same day as the ADS.

Members are invited to attend and bring up any topic they choose. To make sure there will be a place for a particular topic or presentation, it might be prudent to get in touch with Baron beforehand. His address is English Dept., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801. His telephone at the University is (217) 333-0401; at home, (217) 384-1683.

The *Newsletter of the American Dialect Society* is published 3 or 4 times a year and sent to all ADS members and subscribers. This is Vol. 10, No. 2, May 1978. Next issue intended for September 1978, but despite good intentions it will probably appear in October. Send editorial correspondence and back issue requests to: Allan Metcalf, editor, English Dept., MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill. 62650. Send ADS dues (\$15 annually) and all other correspondence concerning the Society to: H. R. Wilson, Executive Secretary, English Dept., Univ. of Western Ontario, London, Ont., Canada N6A 3K7.

THANKS FOR NOTICING, GOOD SPORTS

By H. Rex Wilson

Response to dues notices has been very good, although, as quite a few individual members know, the Executive Secretary has had to be rather persistent. Response to the notice enclosed in *NADS 10.1* was about 50 per cent. About 200 members were reminded at the end of March and of these 100 had to be signalled again; half of these have responded at this writing.

Under our new publishing arrangements a hard-nosed policy is, regrettably, necessary, because for each volume of *American Speech* in the new series we must pay *in advance*. The old series must be paid for at the same time. Our three publications typically consume \$12 of the \$15 annual dues. This leaves very little margin for carrying members in arrears, and, indeed, we must have dues paid in advance so that *we* may pay in advance.

Thanks to the sportsmanship of many individuals, and virtually all institutions, in paying through 1978, we are now in a sufficiently comfortable financial situation to offer accommodation to those who are paid only through publication year 1976. Such members should be planning ahead to make two double payments so that they may be up to date in 1980.

Dues notices will appear regularly in the first number of the *Newsletter* each year. Members responding to this will do a considerable service to the Society. The estimated cost of those 300 reminders is \$60.00 — there go *four* memberships!

CORRECTION FOR THE DIRECTORY OF ADS OFFICERS (NADS 10.1)

President: A. Hood Roberts
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Canada: H. Rex Wilson (whose address appears elsewhere in this issue)

PACIFIC COAST REGIONAL MEETING: MAY 6, 1978

In association with the annual meeting of the California Linguistics Association, the ADS Pacific Coast Regional Meeting took place May 6 at California State University, Northridge. Patricia C. Nichols of San Jose State University presided; Mary Ritchie Key of the University of California, Irvine is the regional secretary.

Beatriz Lavandera of Stanford was the invited speaker; her topic was "On the Functionality of Linguistic Variation." The program also included a special report on the Linguistic Survey of British Columbia by R. J. Gregg of the University of British Columbia.

Five other papers were on the program:

"Linguistic Variation in Afro-American Fiction" by Elizabeth C. Traugott, Stanford Univ. In "A Theory of Literary Dialect," written in 1950 and revised in 1970, Ives argues that most American dialect writers "were acutely aware that they were depicting something peculiar, something different from their own conception of the 'standard' language. . . ." Similarly, Labov has suggested that nonstandard varieties are usually represented in stereotypic ways because the author wants to heighten or enrich the local flavor of speech. Some, including Shuy, have shown that dialect variation can be used in subtle, non-stereotypic ways that capture and indeed heighten strategies of interaction in everyday discourse. But the situation in which the standard language is "peculiar" has barely been explored.

I will discuss excerpts from two novels written by Afro-American writers, both using representations of Vernacular Black English, to demonstrate both the importance of recognizing and responding to variability in "minority" literature, and to explore some of the problems that arise in turning the tables on Ives' perspective.

In the dialogue Hurston uses features of VBE style-shifting startlingly close to those found by Labov, Wolfram, and others in everyday speech. A major problem in minority literature is how to express an authentic voice in a first person narrative form that is acceptable to "standard English readers." Hurston sidesteps the problem by having the heroine Janie's first person narrative reported by a narrator whose voice is standard English. Writing 40 years later, Young has partially solved the problem by developing a quasi-VBE narrative style, many of the features of which are "eye dialect," but some of which are phonological and syntactic too. The variety used in the narrative is virtually stereotypic, but the dialogue is variable.

Investigations of texts like those of Hurston and Young call for a total reassessment of most current views of dialect in literature.

"Variation in a Written Dialect — The Case of Middle English Plural Formation" by Susan Shepherd, Stanford Univ. Is it possible to look at phonological or morphological variation in written texts of dialects or languages no longer spoken, for purposes of comparison with spoken language? I hope to show, through an analysis of plural formation in late Middle English, that this is indeed possible.

During the 1400's plural formation of nouns in English was changing. Earlier, most plural nouns had been formed by adding *-en*. Gradually *-Vs* (some vowel, usually /e/ or /y/, plus /s/), which seemed to vary with *-s* in certain environments, came to be used most frequently. The plural of *mater* 'matter' sometimes occurred as *materys*, sometimes as *maters*. Both *personys* and *persons* 'persons' were used. By the late 1500's *-s* was used consistently, except where modern English continues to use *-es* (after sibilants). In order to study the variation between *-Vs* and *-s* (which had previously been considered random), plural nouns in the letters of John Paston III (covering the period from 1460-1500) were collected and analyzed. Several factor groups were established and a variable rule analysis was done. The nouns were classified according to origin of the word, preceding and following environments, number of syllables in the word, morphological ending and

time period. Origin and morphological ending were used because many of the words that seemed to be first to take an *-s* plural were of French origin, and ended in either agentive *-er* (and *-our*) or *-ion*.

Results indicate that this type of study of variation can be done and is productive. The relative influence of each factor on the form of the plural can be determined and will be discussed.

"Dialectology in the Seventeenth Century" by Fred Brongelman, California State Univ., Fresno. The dialects of England aroused considerable interest and controversy among the linguistic scientists of England in the seventeenth century. Most authors of dictionaries, school texts, and scholarly grammars at least refer to the English spoken outside upperclass London — as a bad example to schoolchildren, as evidence of earlier stages of the language, or by way of illustration to ideas being explored in grammar and phonetics. On the one hand, the majority of scholars saw as part of their task the standardization and enrichment of English. Thus dialect study was a means of identifying likely errors and assisting schoolchildren to avoid them. On the other hand, dialect fanciers and partisans put together collections of material mainly of antiquarian (or polemical) interest.

John Ray's *Collection of Words not Generally Used* (1674) brings together word lists from what were clearly considered well-defined dialect areas of seventeenth-century England. It is mainly of antiquarian interest. Alexander Hume's *Of the Orthographie and Congruitie of the Britan Tongue* (1617) is, on the other hand, a proposal for an English spelling reform that would reflect Scottish pronunciation as well as it did that of the south. Most other publications on the English language of the period make at least passing reference to dialect.

This paper attempts to bring together from this extensive collection of references the following general information: What were considered dialect areas of England? What features were considered important in identifying dialects? What attitudes are implied and expressed regarding the dialects outside London and the people who spoke them? What distinctions were made between regional and social dialect and between dialect and register?

"Variation in the Definitions of Social Space and Their Consequences" by Elizabeth Krainer, Stanford Univ. Social class, ethnic identity and sex are three of the many axes along which social space may be defined and divided. All such axes are of course different substantiations of the one underlying differential of power and privilege in any given society; yet each axis has its own dynamics of process, rules and consequences for members and nonmembers.

Social class can be defined within a static stratified model, where individuals are rank-ordered according to external characteristics and are presumed to have some degree of choice over their own rank. Alternatively, social class can be treated as a dynamic process of power relationships, within which the class membership of each individual is defined by the process, not by the individual's choice. The difference here between type and degree of control over one's own social class membership carries important consequences for theories of language change, acquisition, and interaction. Work done by Labov (1972a,b), Sankoff and Laberge (forthcoming), and Gumperz (1974, 1977, 1978) will be discussed from this perspective.

Also, whenever sociolinguistic research makes crucial use of the family unit in the analysis of variation, the problem arises of assigning class membership to the family as a single unit, and is complicated by sexism in society. Nichols (1976) has questioned the validity of using only the male head of household's characteristics as the means of determining the class membership of the family as a unit. Diversity of class-defining characteristics, and possible subsequent diversity of linguistic behavior must not be glossed over by over-

simplified classification techniques.

"The Black English Modal *Come*" by Arthur Spears, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz. Given the significant body of literature on Black English, it is somewhat surprising that the modal *come* has gone unanalyzed and apparently unmentioned. It is distinct from the formally identical verb of motion both syntactically and semantically. It is never inflected although the verb of motion is (particularly by standard dialect speakers) and is temporally restricted to the nonfuture. Its meaning, which has basically to do with the expression of the speaker's disapproval of what is expressed by its "complement," is unrelated to any notion of motion, as shown by the following example, which does not permit a motion interpretation:

We was sittin' there talkin' and she come tellin' me I was crazy.

Modals in other English dialects, unlike *come*, are overwhelmingly epistemic and/or deontic. Furthermore, none are formally related to verbs of motion. Consequently, the facts pertaining to *come* raise interesting questions of a diachronic nature concerning how such a modal came to exist in Black English and what it may tell us about creoles and decreolization.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION: 1977 REPORT

By Bates Hoffer, Trinity University

The Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting of the American Dialect Society took place October 20, 1977. It was held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Meeting in Las Vegas, at the invitation of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. The meeting consisted of a paper and a panel.

The paper, read by James Evans of Pan American University, was titled "Language used in roles of young female characters, old timers, Mexicans, and Indians in dime novels of the Southwest."

The panel consisted of Thomas Clark, University of Nevada at Las Vegas; Robert Hausmann, University of Montana, and Gary Underwood, University of Texas, Austin. Bates Hoffer of Trinity University presided and moderated, while Don Nilsen of Arizona State University was the invited commenter. The panel topic was "Is dialectology a part of sociolinguistics?" The audience of 25 heard a lively discussion on the problems of keeping dialectology viable in the face of a sociolinguistics which seems to appropriate all subjects and the disdain of theoretical linguistics.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION: 1977 ANNUAL REPORT

By Curt M. Rulon, Regional Secretary

The seventh annual regional meeting of the American Dialect Society in conjunction with the South Central Modern Language Association was held Friday, Oct. 28, 1977, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Jupiter Room of the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, Ark. Fred Tarpley of East Texas State Univ. presided, and Curt M. Rulon of North Texas State Univ. served as secretary at the meeting attended by 33 people.

The following papers were presented:

1. "The Pronunciation of "r" in Arkansas" by Gary N. Underwood, Univ. of Texas at Austin. The distribution of postvocalic "r" as revealed in the Arkansas Language Survey offers no empirical support for any of the traditional dialect boundaries drawn through the state.

[Abstracts of the other four papers, by Peter L. DeRose, Robert Hackenberg, Charlotte Ingman and Diana Mae Sims, appeared in NADS 9.3 (Oct. 1977), pp. 9-10.]

At the business meeting, Tom Woodell (Univ. of Houston) presented the report of the nominating committee, proposing Nancy Jones (Northlake Community Coll., Irving,

Tex.) as chairperson for the 1978 meeting in Houston; she was elected unanimously. Curt M. Rulon will serve as (regional) secretary for the group for the next two years.

METHODS THE THIRD: GAPPERS STILL WANTED

Wearing his hat as Coordinator III, Rex Wilson has announced the preliminary program for the Third International Conference on Methods in Dialectology, to be held at his University of Western Ontario August 1 through 9.

One panel, that on "Bridging the Gap Between Atlas Dialectology and Sociolinguistics" scheduled for 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3 and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, is not yet complete. Interested participants or those with suggestions concerning participants should communicate directly with Prof. Jacob Ornstein, 332 Claremont Dr., El Paso, Tex. 79912.

Suggestions for special interest groups to meet in the evenings will also be welcome. These should be sent to Wilson at the English Dept., Univ. of Western Ontario, London, Ont., Canada N6A 3K7.

Evenings and the two-day weekend break may be put to cultural advantage, Wilson remarks, by attending Shakespeare performances at the Stratford Festival, a 45-minute drive away, or the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, somewhat more distant.

Registration for the conference is \$20, but it may be paid in debased Canadian funds. This fee covers the opening luncheon Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Student residence rooms are available at \$16 per person per night, single, and \$11.50 per person per night, double. Bed and breakfast are included. Write to Wilson about housing and registration.

This is the tentative program:

Tuesday, Aug. 1: 7 to 10 p.m., registration.

Wednesday, Aug. 2: 9:30 a.m. to noon: "Publication of Basic Materials in Linguistic Geography" by Raven I. McDavid, Jr., Univ. of Chicago. "List Manuscript Publication" by Raymond O'Cain, Univ. of South Carolina (with Raven I. McDavid, Jr., George Dorrell and Sarah Sanders). "A Tape-Recorded Survey of Hiberno-English Speech" by Michael Barry, Queen's University, Belfast (with Phillip Tilling, The New University of Ulster and Brendan Adams, Ulster Folk Museum).

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.: Opening luncheon.

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.: "Demographic Analysis and Regional Dialect Surveys in Canada: Data Collection and Use" by Enoch Padolsky, Carleton Univ. "The Relevance of Ethnic Identification in Informant Selection" by Ian Pringle, Carleton Univ.

Thursday, Aug. 3: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: "Toward a Sociolinguistic Marking System" by Jacob Ornstein, Univ. of Texas, El Paso. "Cluster Analysis and the Generation of Sociolinguistic Hypotheses" by Joan Beal, Univ. of Newcastle upon Tyne. "Representing Dependencies in the Structure of Linguistic Variation" by John Pellows, Univ. of Newcastle upon Tyne (with Val Jones).

2 to 5 p.m.: "Methodology of the Sociolinguistic Survey of Victoria, B.C." by Henry J. Warkentyne, Univ. of Victoria. "Sociopsychological Variables as Predictors of Linguistic Variants" by Barbara Harris, Univ. of Victoria (with Roberta Stevenson). Panel, "Bridging the Gap Between Atlas Dialectology and Sociolinguistics" with Jacob Ornstein, Bethany Dumas, Univ. of Tennessee, and Peter Wright, Univ. of Salford.

Friday, Aug. 4: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Second session, panel on "Bridging the Gap." "Dialect and Bilingual Communities" by Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu. "Method Modification in a Language Survey" by Thomas Clark, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas.

2 to 5 p.m.: "Determining the Linguistic Variables of Interdialectal Intelligibility" by Klaus Hameyer, Norfolk State Coll. "Identifying Subregional Dialects" by Robert Gregg,

Univ. of British Columbia. "Idiolectal Analysis in Close Mesh Dialect Studies" by Takeshi Shibata, Univ. of Tokyo.

Monday, Aug. 7: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: "Old English Dialects: Methodology Reconsidered" by Thomas E. Toon, Univ. of Michigan. "An Approach to the Study of the Kentish Dialect of Old English" by Lance Reemtsma, Univ. of Toronto. "On the Usefulness of Modern English Dialect Characteristics in Middle English Dialect Research" by Dieter Bähr, Freie Univ., Berlin.

2 to 5 p.m.: "Methodology of Informant Selection in Dialectology" by Michael D. Linn, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth (with Thomas Bacig). "Reading Passages and Informal Speech" by Margaret M. Murdoch, Univ. of British Columbia. "The Dialects of Modern Hebrew" by Lawrence Davis, Univ. of Haifa.

Tuesday, Aug. 8: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: "Quantification of Regional Variation: Measurement and Representation of Linguistic Distances" by Mogens Baumann Larsen, Aalborg Universitetscenter. "Dialectologie et Ordinateur" by Gaston Dulong, Laval Univ. "The Computer in Dialect Mapping" by Alan Thomas, Univ. Coll. of North Wales.

2 to 5 p.m.: "Interactive Computer Programs for Sorting and Mapping Dialect Data" by Earl Herrick, Texas A and I Univ. "Guidelines for Analyzing Multiple-Source Dialects" by Bates Hoffer, Trinity Univ., San Antonio.

Wednesday, Aug. 9: 9 a.m., planning and evaluation meeting.

NEW MIDWESTERN JOURNAL SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, SEEKS CONTRIBUTIONS

The *Midwestern Journal of Language and Folklore*, edited by Marvin Carmony and Ronald Baker of Indiana State University, seeks both subscribers and writers, especially on what Carmony calls "the language side of our publication." Volume 3 gives the language side its due: 3.1 (spring 1977) consists of Carmony's "The Regional Vocabulary of Terre Haute," and 3.2 (fall 1977) includes a brief historical survey of "Relationships Between Folklore and Dialectology" by Joseph P. Goodwin as well as "Cursing and Its Euphemisms: Power, Irreverence, and the Unpardonable Sin" by Sandra K. D. Stahl.

Subscriptions are \$3 for one year (two issues), \$7.50 for three years; back issues are \$1.50 each, \$7.50 for the entire three volumes. Whether subscriptions or papers for publication, all correspondence should be addressed to Ronald L. Baker, editor, *Midwestern Journal of Language and Folklore*, English Dept., Indiana State Univ., Terre Haute, Ind. 47809.

ADS MEMBER EDITS NEW JOURNAL

Richard E. Wood of Plymouth State College is editor of a new journal, *Language Problems and Language Planning*, which began publication last year. It is published by Mouton under its new parent company, Walter de Gruyter, Inc.

Volume 1 (1977) of the "international, interdisciplinary journal devoted to human language as a world-wide social and political problem" began with a symposium on "Language Problems and Language Planning in the British Isles." Contributors include Father Andrew M. Greeley, Robert N. St. Clair, Glenn Gilbert, Michael Hechter and Paul R. Brass.

Subscriptions (\$12 annually for three issues) should be sent to Walter de Gruyter, Inc., 3 Westchester Plaza, Elmsford, N.Y. 10523. Manuscripts (two copies, with return postage) may be submitted to the editor, Richard E. Wood, Boyd Hall, Plymouth State Coll. of the Univ. of New Hampshire, Plymouth, N.H. 03264. Manuscripts are anonymously reviewed. Preference is given to comparative, cross-cultural, international, and policy-related work; authors of case studies are encouraged to explore their broader theoretical and practical significance.

WE, THE DIALECTOLOGISTS: CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

As adopted Dec. 27, 1971 and amended Dec. 27, 1973

CONSTITUTION**I. NAME**

The name of this association is the American Dialect Society.

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.

III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to all persons interested in the object of the Society. A member is in good standing if he has paid to cover the current publications of the Society.
2. Dues are established by the Executive Council and are for the calendar year.
3. A person may become a life member by paying an amount set by the Executive Council. A life member shall be exempt from further payment of dues.
4. Nonvoting institutional memberships shall be available to nonprofit institutions and agencies, the dues to be set by the Executive Council.

IV. ANNUAL MEETING

The Society shall hold an Annual Meeting at such time and place as the Executive Council shall determine. The Business Meeting shall be held during the Annual Meeting. Those members in good standing present at the Business Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

V. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Society shall be a Vice President, a President, and a Past President. Each shall hold office for one year beginning at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which the Vice President is elected.
2. The Vice President shall serve as the chairman of the program committee for the Annual Meeting, shall perform the functions of the President during the latter's absence or inability to serve, and shall succeed to the Presidency at the expiration of his term.
3. The President shall preside at the Annual Meeting and at meetings of the Executive Council. He, or his appointed delegate, shall represent the Society in appropriate official functions. He shall work with the Executive Secretary to promote the interests of the Society. At the expiration of his term he shall succeed to the Past Presidency.
4. The Past President shall act as the liaison officer between the Society and the regional secretaries and at the Annual Meeting shall report upon their activities.

VI. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. There shall be an Executive Council, composed of the three officers, the delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, and four members-at-large, each elected by members in good standing present at the annual meeting, for a term of four years, one post falling vacant each year.
2. The Executive Council shall convene during the Annual Meeting and at such other times as may be desirable and convenient. No member of the Executive Council may be represented by a proxy. Five members shall constitute a quorum.
3. When necessary, vote upon an immediate matter may be taken by means of a mail ballot to be distributed by the Executive Secretary. For a mail vote five affirmatives shall be required for passage.
4. The Executive Council shall direct the activities of the Society within the general

policies determined by the membership.

5. The Executive Council shall appoint an Executive Secretary under such arrangements as the situation may require. The Executive Secretary shall have the functions of a secretary-treasurer and shall serve as secretary of the Annual Meeting and of the meetings of the Executive Council. He is an *ex officio* member of the Executive Council.

6. The Executive Council shall fill any vacancy occurring between business sessions in the Nominating Committee or the liaison to the ACLS.

VII. ELECTIONS

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the two immediate Past Presidents, and one member elected by the Society at the Annual Business Meeting. The chairman of the Nominating Committee shall be chosen from among the three members of the Nominating Committee.

2. Not later than September 1 the Nominating Committee shall declare to the Executive Secretary its nominees; and the Executive Secretary shall so inform the Society membership by mail or through the Newsletter no later than October 15. Additional nominations may be made by a petition signed by at least ten members in good standing, such petition to be received by the Executive Secretary by December 10. Election shall occur during the Annual Meeting.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Any resolution on political or social matters not clearly and immediately related to the purpose of the Society shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the members in good standing. A majority of those voting within the time limit set by the Executive Council shall prevail.

IX. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this constitution must be approved by five members of the Executive Council or submitted in a petition to the Executive Secretary sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting. The petition must be signed by at least ten members in good standing. The amendment shall be discussed and may be amended at the Annual Meeting and then submitted to a referendum by mail of the members in good standing. A majority of those voting shall prevail.

BYLAWS

I. PUBLICATIONS

1. The Executive Council shall appoint the editor of *PADS*, whose term of office shall be five years, and shall be subject to renewal once. After consultation with and upon the advice of the editor, the Executive Council may appoint an associate editor when such appointment is considered desirable. After consultation with and upon the advice of the editor, the Executive Council shall appoint a publications committee of not fewer than three members for the purpose of advising the editor upon submitted manuscripts and matters of policy. Copyrights and reprint rights are covered by a contract drawn up by the Executive Council and executed jointly by the editor and the Executive Secretary.

2. The Executive Council shall appoint the editor of any other journal that may be authorized by the Society. His term likewise shall extend for no more than five years, but it may not be concurrent with that of the editor of *PADS*. In cooperation with the editor, the Executive Council shall appoint such associate and special editors as the journal may require.

3. The editor of *PADS*, and the editor of any other serial publication of the Society, shall make an annual report in person to the Executive Council. A written copy of such report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary.

II. COMMITTEES

1. The standing research committees of the Society shall be as follows: Regionalisms and Linguistic Geography, Place Names, Usage, Non-English Dialects, New Words, and Proverbial Sayings. Members and chairmen of these committees shall be appointed by the President with the advice of the Executive Council.

2. *Ad hoc* committees for the execution of particular tasks may be set up by vote of the Executive Council or the annual business meeting. Members and chairmen of such committees shall be determined as are those of the standing committees.

III. REGIONAL MEETINGS

1. The Executive Council may authorize the holding of regional meetings of the Society. Such regional meetings may be held during the conventions of the regional associations affiliated with the Modern Language Association or of the Canadian Linguistic Association or upon such other occasion as may seem desirable.

2. To facilitate the holding of regional meetings the Executive Secretary shall appoint regional secretaries, one for Canada and one for each region in which there is an affiliate of the Modern Language Association. A regional secretary shall hold office for a term of three years, which shall be subject to one renewal.

a. He shall have the responsibility of providing liaison with the Canadian Linguistic Association, the regional Modern Language Association affiliate, or any other appropriate organization in his region. He shall plan the program for the regional meeting with the assistance and counsel of the regional chairman or he may initiate, or cooperate in, such arrangements for a cosponsored meeting as regional circumstances may require.

b. A regional meeting is a meeting with attendance open to members and non-members of the Society but with program participation limited to members. It may be held independently or in conjunction with the meeting of another organization. In either case, it shall be designated a regional meeting of the American Dialect Society.

c. A cosponsored meeting is one held in conjunction with the meeting of another organization but with either attendance or program participation, or both attendance and program participation, limited to members of the organization. Program participants in a cosponsored meeting shall also be members of the Society. Such a meeting may occur as a related meeting or as a meeting of a regular section of that organization. In either case, it shall be designated a meeting cosponsored by the organization and the American Dialect Society.

3. At the regional meeting the Society members in good standing who are present shall elect a chairman whose responsibility will be to preside at the next annual meeting and to assist the regional secretary in planning the program.

4. Not later than December 1 each regional secretary shall report to the Past President the regional program and other relevant information. The Executive Council may invite regional secretaries to report in person at a Council meeting in order to consider matters of regional import.

IV. ACLS DELEGATE

At the appropriate time the Executive Council shall appoint a member to serve the customary four-year term as the Society's delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. Such a delegate shall not be eligible to reappointment.

V. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority of members in good standing present at an annual meeting.

WANTED . . . *Language*, Vols. 35 to 50, and *Linguistic Inquiry*, Vols. 1 and 2. Write Mauricio Carvalho, 18 Milton St., Edinburgh EH8 8HF, Scotland.

DINGBATS FOR YOUNG READERS: DARE QUERIES, THIRD SERIES

"We have had some responses but not as many as we would like," writes Fred Cassidy in a recent letter. "Perhaps our readers are too young or perhaps the items we ask about are too obscure." This is his third series of inquiries:

DARE thanks correspondents who have supplied information about our Queries in the past two issues of *NADS*. We still need more on most of those items. Here are some others:

Hackydam. A pseudo-place: "The 106-degree temperature, said a native, was not as hot as hell; it was as hot as hackydam—four miles below." (*Time* 5 July 1954.) This is our only quot. The writer was from Todd Co., Kentucky. Has anyone heard this? Where? When? Any explanation of *hackydam*?

Cackany. You maple-sugar folks may know this—listed in *Dialect Notes* 1901: "Wax of maple sugar; also homemade molasses candy in small lump, to be held in fingers; something like all-day suckers, but without stick"—Seneca Co., N.Y. This is our only evidence but it looks like something that was once commonplace. Any confirmatory evidence? Source of the word (perhaps Indian)?

After. In the sense of *from*, as nearly as we can see from the following quots: It was the "best book I ever read after." (1824 *Knight Letters*, Kentucky.) "Thet ol' woman's the best cook I ever et atter" (1926 *Dialect Notes* 5—Ozarks). Other examples? Any hints as to source or parallels?

Money cat. We have this from eleven informants as a synonym for *calico cat* and *tortoiseshell cat*. If the term is familiar to you, please comment on: sex of the cat, whether the term is used outside New England, reason for 'money'. We have some quots from books too, but would like direct evidence from users.

Dingbat. From examples on hand, the oldest dingbat is apparently a drink (1838 *Boston Morning Post*). Travelers are expected, for refreshment, to "take a 'Quaker' before they start, apply a 'Ding Bat' at Providence," etc. Has anyone met this sense elsewhere? Apparently it's no longer current.

Eastern sleigh. A Maryland informant says this was formerly used on mountains in sporting events, that it was about twenty feet long, with "drivers"—people steering?—both front and rear. (Like a fire department ladder wagon?) It sounds like a New England two-bob sled, but we'd like more definite description from anyone familiar with the term.

Baby's breath. Said to be a kind of cloud—and one may easily visualize it. But does any reader know the term? Where used? How common?

Fade barn. From North Carolina—our only instance, and without any clear explanation of what kind of barn it may be. If you know the term, please elucidate: meaning, place, time, currency, any other relevant details.

Dish kettle. For this we have many instances but a difference of opinion as to the size and uses of the utensil itself. Has it changed meaning? What current use has it, if any? Please describe and explain.

Backed up. Constipated; reported only from Kentucky and Tennessee. We have the feeling that, like the condition, the phrase should be current elsewhere, unless it has been driven out by euphemism or advertising for cathartics. Further evidence?

Hack. Two senses still not clear. First, meaning a cock-fight—we have one example, 1939, Orlando, Florida. Was it current elsewhere? Dates? Second, perhaps an altogether different word, meaning an evil spell: one example, 1962, from North Carolina—synonym of *curse*, *hoodoo*. What source? Is this a back-formation from *hex*, taken as a plur-

al, or is it derived from another sense of *hack*? But the main question is, how current: where, when, and by whom used.

Cabbage peas. South Atlantic people please note—our evidence is from the Carolinas and Florida, but we don't know for certain what kind of pea (or bean) this is, or the reason for 'cabbage'. Also one example of *cabbage-head peas* (Fla.)—is this the same pea?

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

All contributions will be acknowledged in *DARE*.

LANGUAGE ARCHIVING BY COMPUTER: THE CALM WAY

By Donald Sherman

The Stanford University Computer Archive of Language Materials (CALM) is a long-range research project whose purpose is to develop useful applications of computer technologies (hardware and software) to data storage and retrieval problems in language-related fields. Currently, the major efforts of CALM are focused on three areas: 1) collection of a large (ten million word) data base of printed English, based on newspaper texts produced by wire service organizations; 2) identification and acquisition of corpora of spoken English, and 3) development of linguistically useful data base processing programs and concordance/citation retrieval services.

There are two ways in which CALM may be relevant for dialectology and the study of language variation. The first is to search the data files already in CALM (such as the Brown University corpus) for citations which exemplify particular lexical items, phrases or syntactic patterns, and especially for material which may illustrate contrastive or variational usages. Explicitly identifiable words, phrases or constructions can be specified as the object of a search/retrieval request, including the definition of limiting contexts.

A second way in which CALM can be used to support dialect research is as an aid in computerizing large corpora of tape-recorded interviews and conversations, such as those described for the LAGS project by Lee Pederson in *AS* 49. If an Optical Character Reader (OCR) typing element is used in the final transcription of the audio tapes, this transcript can be converted directly into a computer processable form without any further rekeying. CALM already has a system of programs which can create a linguistically structured data base from the raw material of such transcripts (provided sentence boundaries are clearly marked); programs to assist in proofreading and data editing and correction are also available.

Once an acceptably error-free file has been achieved, word indexes (forward, reverse and rank-order) can be produced and the file is ready for search and retrieval operations and for the generation of concordance/citation printouts. (Depending on the volume of the results, either hard copy or microfiche can be created.)

In terms of future directions and capabilities for CALM, it would be helpful to assess the potential interest of dialectologists in using such a system, either remotely at Stanford or at their own universities. In particular we would like to initiate a small number of pilot projects in order to test the adequacy of our existing stock of programs and of our hardware facilities. Interested parties are invited to contact: Donald Sherman, Project Coordinator, CALM, Linguistics Dept., Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. 94305.

[A fuller description of CALM may be found in Sherman's article, "A Computer Archive of Language Materials," *Computing in the Humanities: Proceedings of ICCH/3*, ed. J. S. North (Waterloo, Canada: Univ. of Waterloo Press, 1977), pp. 283-94.]

MODERN INSTANCES: COMMITTEE ON PROVERBIAL SAYINGS 1977 REPORT

By *Margaret M. Bryant*

The collecting of proverbial sayings. The chairman continues to go through folklore journals, putting all proverbial sayings found on slips and then Xeroxing each article from the separate issues.

The chairman can report that the computerizing of the proverbial sayings begun in 1976 continues at the University of Northern Michigan Data Center through the help of Dr. Stewart A. Kingsbury, director of U.S. Place Name Survey and Dialect Studies in the Upper Peninsula, Michigan.

In July 1977, Margaret M. Bryant, the chairman, delivered 102 boxes of the ADS proverb collection to Stewart A. Kingsbury at Northern Michigan University, who placed the some 250,000 proverbs in the custody of Helvi Walkonen, Head Librarian, Northern Michigan University.

Since then, the test sample of some 15,000 proverbs of the American Dialect Society have been key-punched and stored on magnetic tape. A sample print-out of the present input is being made and will be forwarded to the Chairman, Committee on Proverbial Sayings of the American Dialect Society. Another sample of this print-out will accompany an NEH grant proposal for key-punching and printing a rough concordance of all the 250,000+ proverbs in the ADS collection.

In addition to the NEH proposal, Dr. Kingsbury has submitted a request for a half-year sabbatical leave and a summer research grant to Northern Michigan University so that he can devote the summer and fall semester to the task of preparing the concordance. Upon completion of the first stage of the editing process, consultations with the individual members of the ADS Committee on Proverbial Sayings will be made through the Chairman, Margaret M. Bryant, as to the best way to proceed toward an *ADS Dictionary of American Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings*.

In addition to the computerization work described in the foregoing, Dr. Kingsbury has inventoried the boxes of proverbs and compiled a list of major contributors according to states, which is being forwarded to the Chairman, Dr. Margaret M. Bryant. This inventory will aid in the difficult task of establishing the credits for contributors to the ADS proverb concordance. A recent contribution of Western Kansas proverbs has been received from Prof. S.J. Sackett, Fort Hays State College, Hays, Kansas. In addition, a small private contribution of Minnesota proverbs has been received from Dr. Malcolm A. McCannel, M.D., Minneapolis. Finally, Prof. David Callow, University of Detroit, has contacted Prof. Kingsbury on computerizing Michigan folklore, including some proverbs, which will share with ADS' Michigan collection. Dave Callow is the president of the Michigan Folklore Society.

The Committee consists of: Harold B. Allen (Minnesota, emeritus), Ernest R. Cox (Florida, emeritus), Byrd H. Granger (Arizona), Herbert Halpert (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's), Wayland D. Hand (California, Los Angeles, emeritus), Muriel J. Hughes (Vermont, emeritus), Thelma G. James (Wayne State, emeritus), Lorena E. Kemp (West Virginia State College), Stewart A. Kingsbury (Northern Michigan), William E. Koch (Kansas State), Maria Leach (Barrington, Nova Scotia), James B. McMillan (Alabama), Alton C. Morris (Florida, emeritus), T.M. Pearce (New Mexico, emeritus), Henry A. Person (Washington), W. Edson Richmond (Indiana), G.M. Story (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's), and Margaret M. Bryant (Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, emeritus), chairman.

ADS CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF 1978

- July 27: SUMMER MEETING, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana (Dennis Baron)
 Oct. 19-21: SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING, Houston (Curt Rulon)
 Oct. 26-28: ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING, Phoenix (John Sharp)
 Nov. 2: MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING, Minneapolis (Donald Lance)
 Nov. 2-4: ANNUAL MEETING, Washington, D.C. (John Algeo)
 November: NCTE MEETING, Kansas City (Raven McDavid)
 Nov. 9-11: SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING, Atlanta (Connie Eble)
 Dec. 27-30: MLA MEETING, New York (John Algeo)

FOR THE RECORD: A COMMENT ON CHANGING NAME AND PLACE

From a letter to the editor:

... I would like to register my disagreement with the idea of changing the name of the ADS. I do agree with separating from the MLA meetings, at least the huge annual meeting. What about meeting with the LSA? I like the idea of meeting with the N-WAVE group in Washington, at least once.

—Crawford Feagin

HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS ABSTRACTS INVITED

“Sociolinguistics and historical linguistics” is one topic for which a special session may be arranged, if interest warrants, at the Fourth International Conference on Historical Linguistics, to be held at Stanford University March 26-30, 1979. Other sessions may deal with typology, universals, and historical reconstruction; and the relevance of language acquisition and language loss to the theory of language change.

Abstracts are invited, however, on any topic within the domain of historical linguistics. Talks should last 20 minutes. September 10 is the deadline for sending five copies of 300-word abstracts, with a brief bibliography, to Elizabeth Closs Traugott, Chairwoman, ICHL IV, Linguistics Dept., Stanford Univ., Stanford, Calif. 94305.

FOR LEXICOGRAPHERS, THE WORD IS SOCIETY

By Edward Gates

Three years ago the Dictionary Society of North America was formed to bring together people interested in fostering scholarly and professional activities relating to dictionaries. Members give papers on the making, critique, history, collection, and use of dictionaries at biennial meetings. The first regular meeting was held at Indiana State University in June 1977; the second will be held at the University of Western Ontario in 1979.

A special meeting, at which editors of dictionaries in progress or recently published will speak, will be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, this July 27—in association with the LSA summer meeting and the ADS summer meeting. Prof. F. G. Cassidy will speak on *DARE*.

The Society publishes a Newsletter two or three times a year with news of the Society, dictionaries or lexicographic research in progress, recent papers about dictionaries presented at conferences, upcoming events of lexicographic interest, and queries. An annual journal is planned, to contain articles, notes, and queries on the making, critique, use, collection and history of dictionaries, reviews of dictionaries and books of lexicographic interest, and bibliographies. Editor of the Newsletter and the first issue of the journal (as yet unnamed) is Edward Gates, professor of English at Indiana State University.

Regular membership for 1978-79 is \$10; there are also joint, student, retired and institutional rates. To join the Society or learn more about it, write Donald Hobar, Secretary-Treasurer, DSN, Continuing Education, Indiana State Univ., Terre Haute, Ind. 47809.

*Newsletter of the
American Dialect Society*

From: Allan Metcalf
English Department
MacMurray College
Jacksonville, Illinois
62650

FIRST CLASS

To: