Vol. 22, No. 1 January 1990

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send ADS dues ($20 per year), queries and news to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Dept., MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7049.
CALLS FOR PAPERS: 1990 REGIONAL MEETINGS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING in association with RMMLA, Oct. 18-20; Salt Lake City.

April 2 is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, Bates Hoffer, English Department, Trinity University, San Antonio TX 78284. ADS Regional Secretary 1989-90: Grant W. Smith, English Dept., Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney WA 99004.

Membership in RMMLA is $15 regular, $10 student. Write RMMLA Executive Director Charles G. Davis, Dept. of English, Boise State Univ., Boise ID 83725; phone (208) 385-3426.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING in association with SCMLA, October 25-27; San Antonio, Radisson Gunter Hotel.

March 16 is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, Guillermo Bartelt, Dept. of English, California State University, Northridge CA 91330; phone (818) 885-2011, secretary (818) 885-3431, home (818) 885-9665. ADS Regional Secretary 1990-91: Charles B. Martin, Dept. of English, University of North Texas, P.O. Box 13827, Denton TX 76203-3827; phone (817) 565-2149.

Membership in SCMLA is $15 regular, $5 student. Write SCMLA Executive Director Richard D. Critchfield, Dept. of English, Texas A&M Univ., College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (409) 962-7165.

Midwest Regional Meeting in association with MMLA, Nov. 1-3; Kansas City, Missouri, Hyatt Regency at Crown Center.

ADS session Thursday afternoon, November 1.

April 2 is the deadline for two copies of abstracts to be sent to the meeting chair, Miriam Meyers, Metropolitan State University, 2000 West 21st St., Minneapolis MN 55405. ADS Regional Secretary: Donald W. Larmouth, Academic Affairs, LC-805, Univ. of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay WI 54301-7001.

Membership in MMLA is $15 full and associate professors, $12 other faculty, $8 students. Write MMLA, 302 English/Philosophy Bldg., Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331.


SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING in association with SAMLA, Nov. 15-17; Tampa, Florida.

May 1 is the deadline for one-page abstracts to the meeting chair, Cynthia Bernstein, Dept. of English, 9030 Haley Center, Auburn University, Auburn University AL 36849-5203. She is also ADS Regional Secretary 1990-91.

Membership in SAMLA ($12 regular, $5 student) is required. Write SAMLA, CB 3530, 120 Dey Hall, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 27599-3530; phone (919) 962-7165.


PDE Call for Papers

March 23 is the deadline to submit abstracts for the Present-Day English Discussion Group at MLA in Chicago this December. Topic: Vernacular and Popular Forms and Functions of Present-Day English. Send abstracts to Connie Eble, English Dept., CB#3520 Greenlaw Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 27599-3520; phone (919) 962-0469, 967-7365. Must be paid member of MLA by April 1.

Midwest Nomination

The Midwest needs a new Regional Secretary. Serving a two-year renewable term, the Regional Secretary sees to the scheduling every year of a regional meeting in association with the meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association. The Midwest secretary has also arranged an Annual Dinner at a choice local restaurant after the meeting.

Send nominations and applications to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf.

For many years the Midwest has been secretaried by a nonpareil of efficiency and perspicacity, Donald Larmouth. He is also an excellent salmon chef. His successor does not need to possess all his virtues.
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
ADS ANNUAL MEETING 1990
December 27–30
CHICAGO

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS:

MARCH 19!

OPTIONS: 1. An independent ADS meeting on Sunday, Dec. 30 at a site to be chosen—another in our series of magnificent hotels, if possible.

2. At the Modern Language Association meeting, Hyatt Regency Chicago or Marriott Chicago Downtown. Speakers must be MLA members by April 1 and must pay MLA registration fees.

Send abstracts to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover). You are encouraged to make a proposal even if you do not have a topic fully developed.

Please specify your preference of MLA or the independent meeting. If you have no strong preference, let the program chair (Vice President Michael Linn) assign you a place. Also indicate any audio-visual equipment you will need.

Meeting with LSA One Week Later

Abstracts are also welcome for our customary session at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Please note that this time LSA meets a week later than MLA, although in the same city: January 3-6 at the Chicago Hilton, with an alluring room rate of $53.

May 7 is the deadline for proposals for this session. Send them to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf. Please mention any audio-visual equipment you will need. Chair for the meeting is Marvin Ching of Memphis State University.

Language and Law

A special session on language and the law is under consideration for the LSA meeting time. So is a possible newsletter. If you are interested in either, write Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf for further information.
OUR SUMMER MEETING: CONGRESS IN BAMBERG, GERMANY

The summer meeting of the ADS will take place in the country where everything else is happening these days—Germany. We are co-sponsors of the International Congress of Dialectologists, to be held at the University of Bamberg, July 29–August 4.

Four plenary papers will be given. They will be translated in English, French and German:


“Probleme und Methoden der Dialetkometrie: Geolinguistik in globaler Perspektive.” (Problems and methods of dialectometry: geolinguistics in global perspective.) HANS GÖBL, Salzburg, Austria.

“Dialektveränderung aus der Perspektive der kommunikativen Dialektologie.” (Dialect change from the perspective of communicative dialectology.) JENŐ KISS, Budapest.

“Grandes tendances de la géolinguistique romane.” (Major trends in romance geolinguistics.) MARIE-ROSE SIMONI-AUREMBOU, PARIS.

An additional 170 papers will be offered in parallel sessions. Another main session will demonstrate computer hardware and software, tentatively including a speaking linguistic atlas.

Registration is DM 70 for full participation, DM 20 for accompanying persons, to be paid by May 1. Write the conference organizer, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Viereck, Universitat Bamberg, An der Universitat 9, D-8600 Bamberg, West Germany. Phone (0951) 863-457 or 458; Telefax 0951/863-301.

Housing is available through the Fremdenverkehrsamt of the city of Bamberg. Use the form on the facing page.

The International Congress is the successor to six triennial conferences on methods in dialectology held in Canada and, most recently, in Wales.

Grants for Travel Abroad

March 1 is the postmark deadline for travel grant applications for meetings abroad. The grants are offered by the American Council of Learned Societies, of which ADS is a constituent member.

The competitively-awarded grants amount to not less than half of the most economical air fare—between $500 and $1000, depending on location. Funds are paid when the awardee submits a report after the meeting.

Applicants must hold the Ph.D. and be citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Preference is given to those who present papers. Applications are encouraged from young scholars and those who have not held ACLS travel grants in the past.

Inquiries should state the highest academic degree held and date received; country of citizenship or permanent legal residence; academic or other position, and field of specialization. They should also indicate the name, date, place, and sponsorship of the meeting and give a brief description of the applicant’s scholarly interests and proposed role in the meeting.

Write Travel Grant Office, ACLS, 228 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017-3398.

Besides Bamberg in Europe

“The New Medium”: 17th International Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing Conference and 10th International Conference on Computers and the Humanities, University of Siegen, West Germany, June 5–9. For information write the Conference Organiser, Prof. Dr. Helmut Schanze, Universität Gesamthochschule Siegen, Postfach 101240, D-5900 Siegen, West Germany; phone (0271) 740-4110.

Seventeenth International Systemic Congress, University of Stirling, Scotland, July 4–7. Focus on developments in Systemic and other functional theories of language, computational linguistics, and issues in applied linguistics and foreign language teaching. Write 17-ISC 1990, Martin Davies, Department of English Studies, University of Stirling, Scotland FK9 4LA; home phone +44 786 822193.

Last Midwest Call for Essays

Tim Frazer is still looking for a few good essays for his collection on Midwestern English variation. Write him at Dept. of English, Western Illinois University, Macomb IL 61455.
Copy these forms to reserve rooms for the Bamberg Congress
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF DIALECTOLOGISTS JULY 29 - AUGUST 4, 1990

Herewith I ask to reserve:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>category</th>
<th>single room</th>
<th>double room</th>
<th>date of arrival</th>
<th>date of departure</th>
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<td>A (running water)</td>
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The prices listed include room, breakfast, service and value-added tax.

Arrival by
☐ car ☐ rail at about ______ hours

date signature

If no room in desired category is available we accept:
☐ a lower category
☐ a higher category
☐ accommodation within 20 km of Bamberg

All requests for accommodation are dealt with in order of receipt, independent of other events. Therefore it is also in your interest to book as soon as possible. The Fremdenverkehrsamt only acts as agent and cannot take any responsibility.

Post Card

Fremdenverkehrsamt
der Stadt Bamberg
Postfach 110 153
D-8600 Bamberg-11
On the 28th of December, 1989, something like a century after its forefathers first gathered, the Executive Council of the American Dialect Society met in the comfortably appointed Boardroom of the Radisson Park Terrace Hotel in Washington, D.C. It has recently become a tradition to provide palatable (though unspiritous) beverages and something to eat—this time a fresh fruit and cheese tray—so it was not until 21 minutes after the scheduled 8 p.m. starting time that President Thomas Creswell called the meeting to order.

Whether lured by the prospect of mental or bodily refreshment, 18 members attended the open meeting, including a bare (though decently clothed) majority of Council members: Creswell, Past President Richard Bailey, David Barnhart, Mary Miller, and Allan Metcalf.

The Council took these actions:

1. Heard from the Executive Secretary that income and expenses for 1989 were about as anticipated. Approved an overall budget of $20,000 in expenses for 1990, to be balanced by expected income of about $20,000. Details of the budget and of the past year’s finances are to be provided by the Executive Secretary to Council members for approval as soon as they are ready. A full financial report will also appear in the May Newsletter. A formal audit covering the years 1988 and 1989 is also to be undertaken once the financial report for 1989 is finished.

2. Approved a dues increase to $25 a year, and a corresponding increase in Life Membership to $500 a year, effective 1991. (Members may pay for Life Membership at the old $400 rate until December 31, 1990.)

3. Approved Distinguished Scholar Awards for five members: Audrey M. Duckert, Einar Haugen, Virginia McDavid, James McMillan, and Lee Pederson. They were nominated by a committee consisting of two previous award winners, Frederic G. Cassidy and Allen Walker Read. (Other Distinguished Scholars, named at the December 1986 meeting, are Harold Allen, E. Bagby Atwood, Margaret Bryant, Hans Kurath, and Raven I. McDavid, Jr.)

4. Authorized the Executive Secretary to sign a new contract with the University of Alabama Press for the publication of American Speech, once Editor Ronald Butters and the Press have reached agreement on details regarding deadlines and proofreading. Butters noted “great improvement” in production arrangements with the Press after the latter’s appointment of Ellen Stein as in-house editor for the journal.

5. Discussed the report of Mary Miller, chair of the Centennial Committee on Archives, regarding establishment of a repository for dialect materials—materials which in the past have sometimes been orphaned by the death or retirement of the collector. Two prospects were interested. One was the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri, Columbia, which in 1986 provided a home for the Peter Tamony collection. The other was the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, which in 1984 made a place for the Miles Hanley collection of Linguistic Atlas recordings. Miller recommended in favor of the Library of Congress, and recommended further that a new committee be constituted to discuss arrangements. The Council voted to ask the Executive Secretary to negotiate possible terms with Alan Jabbour, director of the Center.

6. Approved the following new appointments: Charles Martin as South Central Regional Secretary; Cynthia Bernstein as South Atlantic Regional Secretary; Sharon Ash, Walter Edwards, Patricia Nichols, and Herbert Paper to the American Speech advisory board.

Heard from William Kretzschmar, editor of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States, of the resignation of two members of the advisory committee: William Moulton and Herbert Penzl, and of the appointment of two new members to serve in their stead: Guy Bailey and Edgar Schneider.

7. Heard the request of Donald Lance to relinquish the chair of the Committee on Teaching. At President Creswell’s request, Lance agreed to serve one more year while a successor is sought. (The Executive Secretary will be glad to hear nominations and volunteers.)

8. Appointed Dennis Baron to chair an ADS ses-
sion at the NCTE meeting in Atlanta, November 17; and Marvin Ching to chair an ADS session at the LSA meeting in Chicago, January 3-6, 1991.

9. Heard from Michael Montgomery that a volume of Centennial Usage Studies, edited by him and Greta D. Little and sponsored by the Committee on Usage, is now organized; 16 of the 25 proposed papers have been accepted.

10. Heard from Donald Lance that the manuscript for a volume on teaching about language variation was submitted in late October for the Modern Language Association series on teaching. No decision had been returned by MLA.

11. Heard from Stewart Kingsbury a report that the Dictionary of American Proverbs based on Margaret Bryant’s ADS collection is on schedule and should be completed by December 30, 1990 for publication by Oxford University Press.

12. Discussed John Algeo’s report for the Centennial Publication Committee of nine projects in various stages of completion. Approved his proposal to authorize a Centennial Series of publications to appear over the next five years, each book to bear an inscription in its front matter to this effect: “This book is a publication in the Centennial Series of the American Dialect Society in celebration of the beginning of its second century of research into language variation in America.” After some discussion, the Council accepted responsibility for approving publications in the Centennial Series; manuscripts are to be sent to the Executive Secretary.

13. Heard from PADS editor Dennis Baron that two manuscripts are ready for copy editing: a volume on Sea Island Creole by Irma Cunningham and a collection on legal and ethical issues in surreptitious recording, with papers by Donald Larmouth and Tom and Carmen Murray, and an introduction by Bethany Dumas. Other manuscripts, he said, are coming in momentarily. He is looking for a managing editor and would welcome nominations or volunteers.

14. As a fitting conclusion to its Centennial convocation, the Council voted its thanks to Mary Ritchie Key for her hard work over the past three years in developing the many Centennial activities and celebrations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m., with some refreshments still waiting to be consumed.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

At 8:15 on the Centennial morning of December 30, 1989, some 20 members met in the Terrace Room West of the Radisson Park Plaza to conduct this business:

1. Hearing the Executive Secretary’s summary of the actions of the Executive Council two nights before.

2. Electing by voice vote without dissent the Nominating Committee’s nominee for Executive Council member 1990-1993, Dennis Preston of Eastern Michigan University.

3. Hearing from editor Ronald Butters that American Speech is on schedule. He has plenty of Miscellany on hand but welcomes pieces of article length.

4. Hearing Regional Secretary Donald Larmouth on the Midwest Regional Meeting: Attendance was modest, perhaps owing to a schedule change; papers were good.

5. Hearing Donald Lance’s announcement of relinquishing the chair of the Teaching Committee in the coming year. (See Item 7 on the preceding page.)

6. Hearing President Creswell’s report of two successful independent centennial conferences, at Berkeley and at Denton, Texas, as well as the NWAVE conference, supported by contributions to the centennial fund. Creswell thanked all of those whose donations supported Centennial activities. Butters invited ADS members to write him (English Department, Duke Univ., Durham NC 27706) for free copies of NWAVE abstracts.

7. Hearing Michael Montgomery on the progress of the centennial volume of usage studies co-edited by Greta D. Little. They expect to add ten or twelve more essays to this list of accepted papers:

   JOHN ALGEO, Pan-Atlantic Usage Guidance.

   CYNTHIA BERNSTEIN, Drug Usage among High School Students in Silsbee, Texas: A Study of the Preterite.

   TOM CRESWELL, Dictionary Recognition of Developing Forms: The Case of Snuck.

(Please turn to Page 8)
CONNIE EBLE, Slang and Usage.
ED FINEGAN, Grammatical and Rhetorical Prescriptions: How Arbitrary and How Literate?
W. NELSON FRANCIS, More on Proximity Concord.

JAMES McMILLAN, Vice President and President: Syntax and Semantics.
NATALIE MAYNOR, The Language of Electronic Mail: Written Speech?
CHARLES F. MEYER, Studying Usage in Computer Corpora.
WALTER MEYERS, Usage Items in Current Handbooks of Composition.
RICHARD REDFERN, Is “Between You and I” Good English?
JOHN STACZEK, Social Uses of Possessives in English.

RESEARCH: A CENTENNIAL TOME

At the centennial celebration, the ADS Centennial Research Committee weighed in with an anthology to be offered to the University of Pennsylvania Press for publication. Dennis R. Preston, chair of the committee and editor of the anthology, presented a handsomely bound and grandly autographed manuscript copy of the volume to the Society at the Annual Luncheon; with the assistance of Donna Christian and Walt Wolfram’s delivery service, the Executive Secretary now has it in safekeeping.

These are the contents of An Anthology Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the American Dialect Society:

I. AREA STUDIES
1. Area lexicon: the making of DARE—FREDERIC G. CASSIDY.
3. The historical and cultural interpretation of dialect—W. NELSON FRANCIS.
4. Some applications of mathematical and statistical models in dialect geography—DENNIS GIRARD and DONALD W. LARMOUTH.
5. Sociolinguistic dialectology—J.K. CHAMBERS.

II. COMMUNITY STUDIES
6. Adapting dialectology: the conduct of community language studies—JOHN BAUGH.
7. Identifying and interpreting variables—WALT WOLFRAM.
8. The quantitative analysis of linguistic variation—GREGORY R. GUY.

III. GROUP STUDIES
9. Pidgin-creole studies in the Americas—JOHN R. RICKFORD.
10. Language contact and linguistic variation—SHANA POLLOCK.
11. A perspective on African-American English—GUY BAILEY.
12. Gender—PENELOPE ECKERT.
13. Professional varieties—WILLIAM M. O'BARR.

IV. SPECIAL TOPICS
14. Varieties of discourse—JOHN J. GUMPERZ.
15. Language attitudes—WALACE E. LAMBERT.
16. Folk dialectology—DENNIS R. PRESTON.
17. Varieties of performance—CHARLES BRIGGS.

Appendix: Resources for research—MICHAEL D. LINN.

MLA Language & Society

March 15 is the deadline for proposing papers for the Language and Society Division at the MLA Annual Meeting in Chicago this December. The theme is Private Codes/Public Discourse, which allows for a wide variety of topics.

Send 200-word abstracts to Timothy Frazer, Dept. of English, Western Illinois University, Macomb IL 61455. Participants must be members of MLA by April 1.
Now is always now, but once in a century now is also a centennial. So it was that the annual scholarly, collegial, and celebratory activities of the American Dialect Society in December 1989 etched themselves perhaps more than usual in memory. The Bicentennial Historian of the Society, as yet unborn (would we were prophetic enough to commemorate the birth 30 or 40 years hence!), will undoubtedly ask her or his computer (if such ancient devices still exist) to search the microchip containing ADS archives for information about the Centennial Meeting of 1989, just as we look in Dialect Notes, Vol. I, for the story of our founders. Here then, for posterity as well as for the nonce, are notes on the afternoon when

The American Dialect Society and Harvard University Press request the pleasure of your company at a celebration of the Society's centennial and of the publication of its Dictionary of American Regional English Friday, December 29, 1989

Radisson Park Terrace Hotel
1515 Rhode Island Ave. NW (Scott Circle)
Washington, D.C.

At 4:00 p.m., fittingly, the celebration began with what scholars do when they are being scholars: the reading of papers. In memory of Harold B. Allen, three scholars spoke on topics exemplifying the Society's current range of interests. John Algeo, busy relegating the language of England to mere Briticism, contrasted British and American mandative constructions; Roger Shuy, courted frequently as an expert witness, gave half a dozen examples of the use of dialect as evidence in criminal trials; and Virginia McDavid, pursuing an interest Harold Allen had initiated, analyzed Linguistic Atlas records of the Midwest to find male-female differences in grammatical usage.

For those papers, the Terrace Room West had a full audience of 50. For the celebration that followed, 20 more stood in.

President Thomas J. Creswell (to give Tom's formal appellation on so dignified an occasion) noted this being the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution and the American government, as well as our own hundred years—with nearly 600 individual members from 45 states, most provinces of Canada, and 19 other countries, especially Japan, West Germany, and England, as well as several hundred institutional members. ADS members, he said, have served on the staffs of all American dictionaries published in the 20th century, and in many cases have been editors in chief; they have written and published thousands of scholarly articles and monographs, and hundreds of books. They have made a notable contribution to education: Two former members were presidents of the National Council of Teachers of English, and Harold Allen founded the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Then it was the turn of Joan Hall, associate editor of the Dictionary of American Regional English. She announced that D and E had been sent to the Harvard Press a week earlier, and F G H would be ready soon, for the publication of Volume II in spring 1991.

Hall. Not every scholarly society reaches its hundreddth birthday, so this is an important, momentous, and perhaps even solemn occasion. Because of that, I thought it appropriate to begin this gathering with a hymn.

[Dick Knowles, University of Wisconsin, Madison, sang "There is Nothing Like a DARE." The lyrics, by John Algeo, were published in the January 1986 Newsletter.] Because this is an academic convocation—we are all scholars, teachers, students—it also seems appropriate to have some of the trappings of academia. Where would we be without the pop quiz? Yes, we do have a quiz. [Readers of NADS are invited to take the quiz themselves, on the next page, and try to win a copy of Volume II.]

Since this is a centennial celebration, reminiscences are certainly in order. No one, of course, goes back to the very beginnings, and Audrey Duckert is going to deal with those in her talk tomorrow anyway. So what I'd like you to do is to cast your minds back only a quarter of a century to the beginnings of DARE. Picture, if you will, the Wisconsin Union Terrace on a beautiful summer's day: a blue sky, fluffy white clouds, lovely Lake Mendota with its
complement of sailboats, canoes, and swimmers
(probably no wind surfers then), and a cold beer in
hand. Frederic Cassidy, you were there.

* * *

CASSIDY. DARE—the acronym was the work of
Audrey Duckert and me. We had published
together PADS 20, a first attempt at what became the
DARE Questionnaire. We had received a grant of
funds to start the fieldwork, and the next thing to do

DARE QUIZ

From the forthcoming Volume II of the Diction­
ary of American Regional English.
Can you match the columns? Give it a try, because
the best score will win a free copy of Volume II. In
case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the
winner, whose name will be announced in the May
Newsletter. Send your entry (this page or a copy) to
Joan Hall, Associate Editor, DARE, 6125 Helen
White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison WI 53706.

1. fodder horse ______ a. the letter Z
2. hooligan ______ b. dragonfly
3. hot-dish supper ______ c. bustle about
4. fever worm ______ d. flexible ice
5. hunyak ______ e. mythical character
6. flax ______ f. moonshine liquor
7. ellenyard ______ g. from outside
8. fool killer ______ h. candle fish
9. evener ______ i. worthless dog or
person
10. fiddle-britches ______ j. before dawn
11. gam ______ k. doubletree
12. igg ______ l. walking stick
13. helicopter ______ m. pitch-in
14. dishwasher diarrhoea ______ n. wooly bear
15. hickory bender ______ o. heavy downpour
16. forty-rod ______ p. immigrant laborer
17. huff-juff ______ q. tangerine
18. gobbler’s knob ______ r. cold-shoulder
19. izzard ______ s. Orion’s belt
20. fowl-crow ______ t. fried bread-dough
21. glove orange ______ u. sociable chat
22. egg-sucker ______ v. smart aleck
23. fotch-on ______ w. imaginary kitchen
ailment
24. frog-strangler ______ x. boondocks

was to settle on a name for the Dictionary. The
Society’s traditionally accepted name had been
“American Dialect Dictionary,” parallel to Joseph
Wright’s “English Dialect Dictionary”—but Harold
Wentworth had preempted this: we couldn’t use it. I
think we got the word “Regional” from Hans
Kurath’s use, and it does fit the American scene, I
think, better than “Dialect.” So Audrey and I, at a
table on the Wisconsin Union terrace, under the trees,
each with a glass of good Wisconsin beer, and stirred
by the power of acronymy, tried what we could do.
We rejected “Dictionary of Regional American Eng­
lish”—the acronym would have been “DRAE”—a
vehicle far too slow and clumsy for what we had in
mind. But DARE suited our plans and our mood of
exhilaration—so, “Prost!” DARE it became.

Our first grant of money came in 1965 from the
then U.S. Office of Education. The National Endow­
ments for the Arts and Humanities did not yet exist.
As a government agency supporting an unusual type
of project, the Office of Education was careful to
keep an eye on us. When we were well started, with
field workers out all over the country and an office
staff preparing the materials for computer input, the
Office of Education sent two inspectors or observers,
rather sober men, to look us over. They came, asked
questions, said little. It was a nervous time: without
that grant we would have folded. But by good luck,
Harold Allen, one of our Advisory Board, happened
to be in Madison, and when the inspectors were
through, he took them in hand, refreshed them at a
local caravansary, and explained what an important
piece of scholarship we had in hand and how well we
were doing it. We owe many thanks to Harold and his
rightly vaunted powers of persuasion. The grant was
renewed.

* * *

HALL. Grants! Ah, grants. The search for grants
has occasioned both the highest highs and the lowest
lows for members of the DARE staff. UW regula­
tions require that all staff on “soft” money be hired or
renewed only when there is at least enough money for
a full year’s funding. When there isn’t that much
money, we receive a “letter of terminal appoint­
ment,” the academic staff equivalent of a pink slip.

Whenever our finances have sunk that low, Fred
Cassidy has appended a personal note to the letter
expressing his confidence that we would find the money somewhere, and asking staff not to worry. I confess that his confidence has sometimes been greater than other staff members'. I remember one winter day in 1981 when we were all extremely worried about our future. Late in the afternoon a phone call came from Jim Morris at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, saying that the foundation had agreed to give us a three-year grant. As soon as the day's work was done, we all trooped over to Porta Bella, a campus-area "caravansary," and FGC sprung for a bottle of champagne. That consumed, we dug in our pockets and found enough for another bottle! That was certainly one of the most exhilarating moments in our collective history, and we've been extremely grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their understanding of our project and their continuing support.

We have had some other angels as well. A woman in the Northeast who also understands lexicography (and who wants to remain anonymous) has come to our rescue on a number of dark occasions. And through it all, the National Endowment for the Humanities has been steadfast in its support. Several individuals there have been particularly helpful to us. First, George Farr gave us his enthusiasm, advice, and moral support. When he transferred to another division within NEH, Dorothy Wartenberg stepped in and graciously offered both useful advice and constructive criticisms. And when she retired, Helen Aguera picked up the baton and continued the tradition of guidance and moral support. Helen is with us this afternoon, and will say a few words on behalf of NEH.

Aguera spoke of coming to the Endowment in 1979, when DARE was already a household word and had been since 1971. DARE, she said, was used as justification for establishing a category of reference materials for grants.

Hall. Lest people think of lexicography as art only, and not as science, let me say that we have also had some support from the National Science Foundation. NSF has been helpful not only in giving us some money, but also in providing a means of self-evaluation. It is NSF policy to show reviewers' comments (anonymously) to applicants. That can be both gratifying and humbling, and we have experienced both emotions. Sometimes we simply have to agree to disagree with our critics, knowing that we will never bring them to our point of view. Other times, however, remarks by critics point out places where we have simply not explained ourselves as well as we might, and we use these criticisms to make our objectives and methods clearer the next time. So we are grateful to NSF on both counts.

How did we get all the data that could be both so artfully and so scientifically treated? Two phrases are operative here: Fieldworkers and word-wagons.

Cassidy. The word-wagons! We began the fieldwork using heavy-duty camper wagons fully equipped for living anywhere. As we said, they had "everything but a shower and flush toilet." One classically minded scholar, whose name I unfortunately forget, suggested we call them "logomobiles"—but we rejected this hybrid: they remained just plain "word-wagons." The first lot set off from Madison on November 1, 1965: Ben Crane to Mississippi, Reino Maki to Oklahoma; later, Ruth Porter to Florida—all warm places.

That was in the bad days of the civil rights troubles: it was a matter of suspicion for a student to be driving in Mississippi with a Wisconsin license. Since Ben Crane's speech was pure Alabama and he was a disarmingly sociable guy, we sent him to Mississippi. All went well with one exception: the redneck director of a state park where Ben was camping drove him out because his informant was Black. Ben had to find another informant.

Reino Maki was a good man but he got lonely and tried to have his wife and small child in the word-wagon with him. There just wasn't room enough—it didn't last—crowding was no aid to efficient fieldwork. He had to learn to work alone.

Ruth Porter had hardly been outside of Massachusetts before discovering another world in the Florida panhandle. On one occasion she found an ideal informant, a mechanic working on an offshore oil rig. His speech was so good that she wanted to tape-record it. He was more than willing and came one evening to her motel room, dressed in his best, slicked up and plentifully perfumed, urgently invit-
ing her to come out to the oil rig, where he could show her everything and answer all her questions. But Ruth tended to business. She fixed the door open, sat him down, and taped him. He surely was disappointed not to be able to show off that oil rig, but, as Ruth wrote afterwards, “Anything for DARE—or almost anything.”

The only accident that occurred with the word-wagons came when David Goldberg was forced off the highway in Oregon by a snow plow, and his wagon rolled over. Nothing daunted, while it was being repaired David rented a bicycle and continued fieldwork—so he did not fall seriously behind.

* * *

HALL. Being run out of a state park, enticed by an oil worker, run off a road by a snowplow—there were adventures in doing fieldwork. One fieldworker is here today to take us back to 1967 and let us know what it was like on the road for DARE.

August Rubrecht, now in the English Department at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, told a story which was picked up by Ellen Coughlin for the Jan. 17 Chronicle of Higher Education (Page A6):

One former field worker recalled approaching a potential informant in the South. By way of explaining to her what he wanted, he mentioned a few local expressions he had heard.

She agreed to help but warned him not to use one of the phrases because it wasn’t very polite.

“Which one?” he asked.

“I can’t tell you,” she said.

* * *

HALL. It wasn’t only fieldworkers who had adventures: our own bibliographer had some of her own, hot on the trail of the bettywood tree.

CASSIDY. The bettywood saga? Bourbon County, Kentucky, is chiefly famous for strong drink, but in DARE’s book it’s famous for the bettywood tree. See Volume I! After much labor and head-breaking the bettywood tree is not yet certainly identified. The name appears about 1786 in records of surveys in Bourbon County, where surveyors often marked bettywoods as corner trees from which to take their measurements. But never once do these records conclusively identify the bettywood.

Our bibliographer, Goldye Mohr, a librarian who had retired at 70 and then joined the DARE staff, was asked to track bettywood down, since her southern Indiana home was close to Bourbon County. She checked through all the County records, consulted with the woman who had worked in those records for many years, but to no avail. Corner trees named in 1798 included sycamore, elm, sugar tree, buckeye, hickory—and four bettywoods. Others named later were ash, beech, box elder, cherry, walnut, and at least 13 bettywoods. It certainly seems that the bettywood was a different tree from any of these.

As to language clues, the closest name is buttonwood, but that is a sycamore; there is also the possibility of betula, the Latin genus name of birch, the only common tree not mentioned among the others, though there are plenty of birches in Bourbon County. On one exploratory visit, Mrs. Mohr, hiking through noted rattlesnake territory, found that the area had been converted to a park and the old bettywood cut down. On another visit, she found that two bettywoods had been bulldozed out to make a parking space for a motel. So Volume I of DARE had to go to press with the problem unsolved. Further evidence has come in since then in favor of birch—perhaps some latinizing surveyor called the tree betula-wood, and others made it bettywood. It may be significant that the Gaelic word for the birch tree is beithe [Dwelle]—Could that surveyor have been a botanizing Irishman? It would be some satisfaction if in the last Volume of DARE, where a supplement is planned, we could at last authoritatively identify the bettywood tree.

* * *

HALL. It’s a long way from the bayous of Louisiana and the bettywoods of Kentucky to the urban sophistication of Cambridge, Massachusetts. So how did the collectors of words and tales connect with the folks who would ultimately publish them?

CASSIDY. How did DARE and the Belknap Press meet each other? The hero of the story was Howard Mumford Jones. I had known Howard Jones when he was in the English Department faculty at Ann Arbor and I a callow grad student (1931). Howard had formed an amateur theatrical group, mostly faculty, dedicated to production of Restoration drama,
which he called “Nell Gwynne’s Players.” Risqué stuff, in those days, but Howard kept the production nominally private, and got the President and sundry Deans to sponsor the group. I did parts in a couple of plays—in any case, I got to know Howard pretty well, despite my humble station.

When he came to Madison in 1971 to give a lecture, having heard of DARE, he made me a visit. At the time it seemed mildly inquisitorial but in the end he asked whether I had a publisher. I had not. “Let me see what I can do,” said Howard, and went back to Cambridge. His magic worked—within a few days I had a phone call and shortly afterward a contract. This was tremendous relief to DARE, which had felt like a homeless orphan. I signed the contract happily and the Press did wonders for Volume I, bringing out an attractive book which has gone to five printings.

* * *

HALL. Howard Mumford Jones was indeed a hero. But so was Maud Wilcox, Chief Editor at the Press until very recently. A more patient editor I can’t imagine. I shudder to think of the disappointments we caused her when, more than once, we thought we could meet a particular deadline, only to find that it was not going to be possible if we were to be as careful as we wanted to be. She was wonderful throughout. Unfortunately, Maud can’t be here today; but one of her colleagues, Jennifer Snodgrass, can.

Snodgrass read these:

**VERSES**

Let us all drink a toast to Fred Cassidy,
A man of prodigious sagacity.
If you’ve had any share
In producing his DARE
You’ll honor his sheer pertinacity.

So huzzah to our DAREdevil Fred
And to all the teamwork he’s led.
Both we at the Press
And the whole ADS
Take pride in DARE and its stunning success
And salute the project’s Chief Ed.

—MAUD WILCOX

HALL. Once Volume I was published, we were dependent on good publicity. We were fortunate in the timing—the volume was out in plenty of time for Christmas giving. And on the 15th of December, 1985, CBS News aired a piece by Bruce Morton, in which he touted DARE as just the thing for those people who already have everything. Someone apparently thought Bowen Northrup had everything—he got two copies of DARE for Christmas! And his interest in the book prompted him to write about DARE for the Wall Street Journal the next spring. The timing then was good too—the article appeared the week before Father’s Day, and we got calls from all over the country asking where the book could be found: “It’s perfect for my father!”

But one of our best publicists was someone who had been plugging DARE for years in his column “On Language” in the New York Times Magazine. When Volume I was published he titled his column, “DARE is here!” William Safire, we will always be grateful for that.

Safire enlivened the crowded and stuffy room by saying he had come over to find how to spell and pronounce Romanian. The embassy has Ro-, but the Times has Ru-; “we’re in a time warp now.”

* * *

HALL. Keeping up the interest in DARE, both among readers and funders, is a continuing process. One tack we have taken recently is to piggyback on someone else’s success. Most of you have doubtless seen Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker’s wonderful video American Tongues. When that project was completed, they had some extra footage, including an interview with Fred Cassidy. They put it together, along with part of the Bruce Morton CBS piece and some scenes from American Tongues, to produce a short promotional video for DARE. This we’re using as part of our current fundraising efforts; because we’re running out of time, we will show it during the reception following this meeting.

Another symbol of our keeping up to date is our increased use of computers not only for our mapping programs, but also for editorial procedures. One of our editors, Jean Patau, is here today, and during the reception will be demonstrating some of the current procedures by which editors can call up maps to


check on regional and social distributions of terms. We started out on a solemn note, and before I turn the program back to Tom Creswell and Donna Christian, I would like to end on an equally solemn note.

_Dick Knowles sang a verse of Cassidy's "The Modern Linguistician."_ Copies are available—well, from Joan Hall at DARE, I suppose.

* * *

_Donna Christian_ provided the lagniappe that concluded the ceremonies: copies of a Centennial Commemorative Cassette and accompanying booklet. The hour-long cassette consists of a dozen excerpts from the Miles Hanley aluminum disk recordings made in the early 1930s and presented to the Library of Congress by the ADS in 1984. Ten of the speakers were interviewed for the Linguistic Atlas of New England; the other two are linguists Bernard Bloch and Edward Sapir.

The May Newsletter will provide further information on the cassette and how to obtain copies.

* * *

Hungry and thirsty, the crowd of celebrants then moved next door, where a dialectological feast had been prepared by special arrangement with the Radisson's chef and with the co-sponsorship of Harvard University Press. This was the menu of regional foods, complete with maps:

- Peanuts (or pinders, goobers, groundnuts, ground peas)
- Brats and kielbasa
- Golumpki or halushky (cabbage rolls)
- Submarine sandwich (or hoagie, hero, grinder, poor boy, Cuban)
- Crab cakes
- Lefse with cream cheese and ham
- Green peppers (or bell peppers, mangoes)
- Boston brown bread
- Lebkuche
- Hermit cookies
- Kringle.

**Greetings from Japan**

_Congratulations on the hundredth anniversary of the American Dialect Society. May the next century see a continued success in the field of dialectology._

—_Dialectological Circle of Japan_  
FUJIWARA (YOICHI)

**Algeo to Tamonize in April**

_"The Briticisms Are Coming! How British English Is Creeping into America" will be John Algeo’s topic Thursday, April 12 for the Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture at the University of Missouri, Columbia._

The talk will be given at 3:45 p.m. in the Ellis Library Auditorium. A reception will be held immediately afterwards in the offices of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, where materials from the Tamony collection will be on display.

This is the fifth annual lecture in the memorial series for Peter Tamony, late of San Francisco. Tamony’s voluminous files of clippings and notes on American English are now housed in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

The public is invited. For further information write Randy Roberts or Nancy Lankford at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65201; phone (314) 882-6028.

**James W. Downer, Jr. 1914-1989**

_After a brief illness, Jim Downer died in Ann Arbor on March 30, 1989. Born to an academic family in Waco, Texas, Jim began graduate studies at the University of Michigan following naval service in World War II. A student of Hans Kurath’s, he was for a time assistant editor at the Middle English Dictionary, but most of his career was as a teacher at Michigan of Old English and of a wide array of courses in English linguistics._

_His dissertation, “Features of New England Rustic Pronunciation in James Russell Lowell’s Biglow Papers” (1958), was supervised by Kurath. When work on the Linguistic Atlas of the North Central States was resumed, he was named to its advisory board. Many present or former ADS members were his colleagues or students: Richard W. Bailey, Dennis Baron, Martin Chase, Nancy Dorian, James W. Hartman, Judith Johnson, Ann Hollingsworth Pitts, James Nattinger, Donald B. Sands, Mary Wallum, and H. Rex Wilson. They, and many others, remember him as a fine scholar and an extraordinary teacher and mentor._

—_Richard W. Bailey_
Nominees Sought for Offices
This year the Nominating Committee must come up with candidates for three positions: Vice President 1991-92, succeeding to the presidency in 1993-94; member of the Executive Council 1991-94; member of the Nominating Committee 1991-92.

Suggestions are welcome, as are expressions of willingness to serve. The Nominating Committee chair, Past President Tom Clark, is out of the country this spring, but you may write one of the other members: Past President Richard W. Bailey, English Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 48109, or elected member Lawrence M. Davis, Dept. of English, Ball State University, Muncie IN 47306-0460.

Centennial Gifts Continue
Since last September, with the Centennial near its apogee, nearly three dozen blue-ribboned ADS members have contributed a total of $1167 to the Centennial Fund. The Society is grateful to the following for these contributions:

- $700, Allen Walker Read
- $200, John Algeo
- $30, Irving Lewis Allen, Norman F. Roberts
- $25, A. Murray Kinloch, Donald M. Lance, Dagna Simpson, Alan R. Slotkin
- $20, C. Richard Beam
- $15, Joan H. Hall, Miriam Meyers
- $5, Jerome S. Fortinsky, Patricia Harn Harris, Greta D. Little, Brenna E. Lorenz, Richard Markley, William McClellan, Randy Roberts, C. Steven Short
- $3, Jacob L. Ornstein-Galicia

President Honors Available
With the new year comes a new call for nominations for Presidential Honorary Memberships.

These complimentary four-year memberships are awarded each year to outstanding students, graduate or undergraduate, to encourage them to be active in our field and in the Society.

To propose a student, write a letter of nomination to ADS President Thomas J. Creswell at 447 E. Furness Road, Michigan City IN 46360. Please include a sample of the student’s work, if possible.

Presidential Honorary Members for 1990, announced at the Centennial Annual Luncheon, are Vivian Brown and Jan Tillery of Texas A&M University, nominated by Guy Bailey, and Chris Brooks of Western Kentucky University, nominated by Lesa Dill.

Only three Presidential Honorary Memberships are awarded each year. Write now!

Call for Papers: NCTE
March 19 is the deadline for proposing papers for an ADS-sponsored session Nov. 17 or 18 at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English in Atlanta.

Write ADS meeting chair Dennis Baron, Dept. of English, University of Illinois, 608 S. Wright St., Urbana, Illinois 61801; phone (217) 333-3192.

Summer Seminar: Cultural Pluralism
An NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will have the theme “Cultural Pluralism and National Integration in Comparative Perspective.”

The director, Crawford Young, encourages linguists to apply, especially those interested in language problems of multicultural nations.

The seminar will explore cultural pluralism—understood as social affinities and solidarities based on ethnicity, language, race, caste or region—within the political setting of the contemporary state. All disciplines and regional specializations are welcome.

Tim Frazer of Western Illinois University attended Young’s seminar in 1983 and writes that “it was a rewarding experience, truly interdisciplinary.”

March 1 is the deadline to apply. For applications and further information, write M. Crawford Young, Dept. of Political Science, North Hall, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison WI 53711; phone (608) 263-2040.
NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS

If you have recently published a book, send pertinent information to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover), and we’ll mention it here.

Reinhold Aman, editor. Maledicta 10 (1988-89). Published February 1990. $19.50 ($20.50 outside the U.S.) from Reinhold Aman, Maledicta Press, 331 South Greenfield Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186-6492. Articles on graffiti, medical slang, pet names for body parts, offensive rock band names, swearing in Ulster dialect, slurs in dictionaries, and offensive language in Arabic, Armenian, Georgian (USSR), and Swahili.


