

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS 32.1

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January 2000

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send news and queries to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7117 or (217) 243-3403, e-mail AAllan@aol.com. Annual membership is \$35, students \$20; plus \$5 outside the United States. See back page for membership address.

ADS Web site (Grant Barrett, webmaster):

<http://www.americandialect.org/>

ADS-L discussion list: To join, send to listserv@listserv.uga.edu the message:

Sub ADS-L Your Name

From:

AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY
Allan Metcalf, Executive Secretary

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Address Service Requested

FIRST CLASS

Rocky Mountain

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 12-14; Boise, Idaho, Doubletree Hotel.

March 1 is the deadline for 300-word abstracts plus 50-word descriptions to the session chair, **Glenn A. Martinez**, Dept. of Languages, Kenyon College, Gambier OH 43022; martinezg@kenyon.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 2000-2001: **Mary E. Morzinski**, Dept. of English, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse WI 54601; phone (609) 785-8300, fax (608) 785-8301; morzinsk@mail.uwlax.edu.

Membership in RMMLA is \$30 individual, \$20 student. Write RMMLA, Washington State Univ., P.O. Box 642610, Pullman WA 99164-2610; rmmla@rmmla.wsu.edu; <http://rmmla.wsu.edu/rmmla/>; phone (509) 335-4198, fax (509) 335-6635 ext. 54198.

Future meeting: 2001 Oct. 11-13 Vancouver, Sheraton Wall Centre.

South Central

In association with SCMLA, Nov. 9-11; San Antonio, Camberley Gunter Hotel.

March 15 is the deadline for abstracts of 250 words or less to the meeting chair, **Lori Boykin**, West Texas A&M Univ., Dept. of English and Modern Languages, WTAMU Box 60908, Canyon TX 79016-0001; lboykin@mail.wtamu.edu.

All proposals on language varieties and language change will be considered. Proposals related to the convention theme "Teaching Languages and Literatures: Histories, Practices, and Speculations" are encouraged.

ADS Regional Secretary 1999-2000: **Charles B. Martin**, Dept. of English, Univ. of North Texas, P.O. Box 13827, Denton TX 76203-3827; phone (817) 565-2149, cmartin@facstaff.CAS.unt.edu.

Membership in SCMLA is \$30 full professors, \$25 associate and assistant professors, \$20 instructors and students. Write SCMLA Membership Secretary, Texas A&M Univ., Dept. of English, College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (409) 845-7041; fax (409) 862-2292; <http://www-english.tamu.edu/scmla/>; scmla@tamu.edu.

Future Meeting: 2001 Nov. 1-3; Tulsa, Doubletree Hotel.

Midwest

In association with MMLA, Nov. 2-4; Kansas City, Missouri, Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

March 6 is the deadline for 100-250 word abstracts to the meeting chair, **Beth Simon**, Dept. of English and Linguistics, IPFW, Fort Wayne IN 46805-1499; fax (219) 481-6985; simon@ipfw.edu. E-mail submissions are preferred.

ADS Regional Secretary 1999-2000: **Beth Lee Simon**.

Registration is \$40 regular (includes 18 papers), \$50 joint (includes 18 papers), and \$20 special (no papers). Membership in MMLA is \$25 full and associate professors, \$20 other faculty, \$15 students. Write MMLA, 302 English-Philosophy Bldg., U. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331; mmla@uiowa.edu; <http://www.uiowa.edu/~mmla/>.

Future meeting: 2001 Nov. 1-3 Cleveland, Sheraton City Centre Hotel.

South Atlantic

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 10-12; Birmingham, AL, Sheraton Civic Center.

March 31 is the deadline for abstracts of 250 words or less to the meeting chair, **Margaret Lee**, Dept. of English, Hampton Univ., Hampton VA 23668; mlee303@yahoo.com.

Proposals related to the convention theme, language of cross-cultural communication, including, but not limited to topics on second and foreign language learning or teaching and communication across ethnic and gender lines are encouraged.

ADS Regional Secretary 1999-2000: **Michael Picone**, Dept. of Romance Languages and Classics, Univ. of Alabama, Box 870246, Tuscaloosa AL 35406-0246; mpicone@bama.ua.edu. Executive Committee: **Peter Patrick**, Univ. of Essex, **Natalie Schilling-Estes**, Georgetown Univ., **Guy Bailey**, Univ. of Texas-San Antonio.

Membership in SAMLA is \$35 individual, \$25 student. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693; www.samla.org; samla@samla.org.

Future meetings: 2001 Nov. 8-10 Atlanta, Peachtree Plaza; 2002 Nov. 15-17 Baltimore, Omni Inner Harbor; 2003 Nov. 6-8 Atlanta, Marriott.

Annual Meeting 2001: First Call

So maybe we didn't enter the new millennium in January 2000. All right, then, you still have a chance to celebrate it in style at the ADS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. January 4–7, 2001.

August 14 is our deadline for proposals. Send them to Executive Secretary **Allan Metcalf**, preferably by e-mail: AAllan@aol.com. We're flexible about length and format. If your proposal is accepted, you'll be asked for an abstract of no more than 200 words for the LSA program, and that will suffice for us.

All proposals will be reviewed by **Dennis Preston**, our Vice President and program chair. If you have an idea for a special session or something out of the ordinary, don't wait till the deadline to get in touch with him: preston@pilot.msu.edu.

Hotel: As before, we will be guests of the Linguistic Society of America, expected to pay their registration but also entitled to their special hotel rates: \$99 single or double at the Grand Hyatt Washington (1000 H Street NW, Washington Center, Washington, DC 20001; (202) 582-1234, fax (202) 637-4781). You're welcome to make your reservation now.

Future LSA-ADS meetings: 2002 Jan. 3–6 San Francisco, Hyatt Regency; 2003 Jan. 2–5 TBA; 2004 Jan. 8–11 Boston, Sheraton.

Call for ADS at MLA

March 15 is the deadline for abstracts of papers for ADS sessions at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in Washington, D.C. this Dec. 27–30. The suggested topic is "Teaching American English," but abstracts on other topics will be considered too. Send abstracts to ADS program chair **Michael Adams**, Dept. of English, Albright College, P.O. Box 15234, Reading, PA 19612-5234; or MAdams1448@aol.com. Papers about teaching American English or teaching about it, in courses about American English or the English language, literature courses, composition courses, or materials for such courses at any educational level will be most welcome.

Committee Invites Nominations

For terms of office starting in 2001, the ADS Nominating Committee will be proposing candidates for vice president (succeeding to the presidency two years later), Executive Council member, and Nominating Committee member at large. Suggestions are welcome, either of others or of your own willingness to serve.

Send your ideas to the committee chair, past ADS President **Lawrence M. Davis**, Dept. of English, Wichita State Univ., Wichita KS 67260-0014, davis@wsuhub.uc.twsu.edu. Or communicate with the other members of the committee: Past President **Walt Wolfram**, North Carolina State U., or elected member **Natalie Maynor**, Mississippi State U.

Lexicography at MLA

March 15 is also the deadline for proposals for the Lexicography session at MLA with the theme "Words on the Web": using the Internet or World-Wide Web to research words and assessing the resources for word research available on the Internet or World-Wide Web. Send one-page abstracts to **Joe Pickett**, Executive Editor, Dictionaries, Houghton Mifflin Co., 222 Berkeley St., Boston MA 02116; (617) 351-5104; Joe_Pickett@hmco.com.

Lance on Mo. for Tamony XV

Donald M. Lance, professor emeritus of English at the University of Missouri-Columbia, will deliver the 15th annual Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture on American Language. He will explain "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Word *Missouri*—and a Lot More" at 3:45 p.m. Friday, April 21, in Ellis Library Auditorium on the Columbia campus. A reception will follow in the quarters of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, where items from the Tamony collection will be on display.

The lecture commemorates the gift to the Collection of the voluminous clippings of slang and colloquialisms collected by Peter Tamony of San Francisco during his long life (1902–1985).

For further information, contact Nancy Lankford, associate director, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia MO 65201–5149; phone (573) 882-6028; LankfordN@umsystem.edu.

Council Enjoys T, Hears Duke, Makes Appointments

Reports on T-shirts and the new publishing arrangement with Duke University Press were the highlights of the January 7, 2000 meeting of the ADS Executive Council in Parlor G of the Palmer House, Chicago. All nine voting members of the Council were present, along with eight other ADS members. Council meetings are open to all members of the society.

President **Ronald Butters** (Duke U.) presided as Vice President **Dennis Preston** (Michigan State U.) reported success in sales of this year's ADS T-shirt featuring **Louise Pound**, and as **Debra Kaufman**, Journals Editorial/Administrative Manager of Duke University Press, presented a report on the financial results of our first year of collaboration.

In 1999, the Duke Press provided net revenue to ADS of \$9,892 from memberships and other income. Since it was a transitional year, it's too early to know what level of income to anticipate in the future.

In other business, the Council approved:

1. Reappointments of regional secretaries for two-year terms 2000–2001: Rocky Mountain, **Mary Morzinski** (U. of Wisconsin, La Crosse); South Central, **Charles B. Martin** (U. of North Texas); Northeast, **Silke Van Ness** (SUNY Albany).
2. Reappointment of **Lawrence M. Davis**

(Wichita State U.) for three-year term 2000–03 as trustee of the Hans Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, as recommended by Editor William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.

3. Appointments to the *American Speech* advisory board for three-year terms, as recommended by Editor Connie Eble: **Richard W. Bailey** (U. of Michigan), **Ellen Johnson** (U. of Georgia), **Rudolph Troike** (U. of Arizona), and **Erik Thomas** (North Carolina State U.).

4. Appointment of **Michael Adams** (Albright Coll.) to organize our sessions at MLA in December 2001 (he had already been appointed to organize ADS sessions at the 2000 meeting). A successor will be sought to organize ADS sessions at MLA in 2002.

5. Allocation of \$300 to support the NWAV meeting Oct. 5–8, 2000 at Michigan State University. ADS Vice President **Dennis Preston** is organizer of the conference.

6. Endorsement of the Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute 2003 in East Lansing, Michigan, and appointment of **Dennis Preston** (organizer of that institute) to chair an ADS session at that meeting. See <http://nwav.lin.msu.edu>.

7. Allocation of \$1100 for **Grant Barrett's** costs in maintaining the ADS website and its archives.



SENIOR MOMENT: The three stooges—oops, judges—of the ADS session on Words of the Year, Decade, Century, and Millennium confer during the vote on Most Unnecessary Word of 1999. Left to right: Allan Metcalf, David Barnhart, Wayne Glowka. See story on next page. (Photo by Julia Huttar Bailey.)

Y2K, Web, Jazz, She Are Winning Words

Looking back at the year, decade, century, and millennium in January 2000, we made these choices:

Word of the Year 1999 was "Y2K."

Word of the 1990s Decade was "Web."

Word of the Twentieth Century was "jazz."

Word of the past Millennium was "she," edging out "science" by a runoff vote of 35 to 27.

Yes, "she," the feminine pronoun. Before the year 1000, there was no "she" in English, just "heo," which singular females had to share with plurals of all genders because it meant "they" as well. In the twelfth century, however, "she" appeared, and "she" has been with us ever since. "She" may derive from the Old English feminine demonstrative pronoun *seo* or *sio*, or from Viking invasions.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*:

"... the phonetic development of various dialects had in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries rendered the pronouns *he* (masc.) and *heo* (fem.) almost or wholly indistinguishable in pronunciation. There was therefore, where these dialects were spoken, a strong motive for using the unambiguous feminine demonstrative instead of the feminine personal pronoun. Further, the districts in which *she* or *sho* first appears in the place of *heo* are marked by the abundance of Scandinavian elements in the dialect and place-names; and in Old Norse the demonstrative pronoun (of all genders) is often used as a personal pronoun."

The words were chosen at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago on January 7, 2000, during the ADS annual meeting. About 70 members and friends of the Society were present to discuss and vote on nominees selected earlier in the day.

Voting began with Words of the Year 1999. These words were chosen in particular categories, with approximate votes for each:

Most Useful: "dot-com" (32), company operating on the Web. Other nominees: "Y2K" (28), "fatigue" (0) as in millennium fatigue, Clinton fatigue.

Most Unnecessary: "Milly" (28), dance for the millennium commissioned by the city of Chicago. Others: "compassionate conservative" (28), political label of Presidential candidate George W. Bush; "birdosaur" (22), a flying dinosaur; "millennium fatigue" (4).

Most Likely to Succeed: "dot-com" (31) company doing business on the World-Wide Web. Others: "portal" (9) entry site to the Web, "e-tail" (7) retail

business conducted on the Web, "baby Bills" (2) companies that Bill Gates' Microsoft might dissolve into as a result of the government's antitrust lawsuit.

Most Outrageous: "humanitarian intervention" (29) military force used for humanitarian purposes. Others: "denim defense" (16) victim's wearing of tight jeans, which require victim's cooperation in removing, as defense against a rape charge; "compassionate conservative" (12); "Acela" (1), Amtrak trademark for new service.

Most Original: "cybersquat" (32) to register a Web address intending to sell it at a profit. Others: "HMO+" (21) covered by a bad health maintenance organization, analogous to "HIV positive"; "coffeezilla" (3) very strong coffee; "logobeef" (3) student slang for something thrown over a high balcony.

Most Euphemistic: "compassionate conservative" (28). Others: "Your call is very important to us" (22) answering machine message, "humanitarian intervention" (13), "possum-rider" (3) student slang for person indiscriminate with sexual partners, "m'kay" (2) *South Park* movie substitute for F-word.

Brand New (not attested in previous years): "Pokémania" (33) obsession with Pokémon. Others: "mousetrapping" (19) blocking exit from a Website, "trench coat mafia" (0) purported clique of students at Columbine High School, Colorado.

It took only one vote to choose "Y2K" as Word of the Year. Of the final nominees, "Y2K" got 55 votes, "dot-com" 5, "cybersquat" 2, and "Pokémania" 0.

For Word of the Decade, "Web" received 45 votes, the prefix "e-" 10, "way" meaning "yes" 4, the prefix "Franken" meaning "genetically modified" as in "Frankenfood" 2, "ethnic cleansing" 0, and "senior moment" 0.

For Word of the Century, "jazz" got 50 votes to about 12 for runner-up "DNA." Also in the running were the slang "cool" (10), "media" (9), "T-shirt" (7), "teenager" (6), "acronym" (4), "teddy bear" (3), "World War" (2), and "melting pot" (0).

For Word of the Millennium, other candidates were the article "the" (16), "OK" (13), "freedom" (7), "book" (4), "human" (3), "justice" (1), "truth" (1), "language" (1), "government" (1), "news" (0), "nature" (0), "history" (0), and "go" (0).

ADS Program at ILA, Washington, April 7–8

An ADS-sponsored session of four talks will be part of the 45th annual conference of the International Linguistic Association April 7–8 at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The conference theme is Language Contact/Language Change.

Registration is \$45 for ILA members, \$55 for non-members. See <http://www.cla.sc.edu/SIP/faculty/Holt/ILA2000/mainschedule.html> or write Conference Secretary Ms. Johanna Woltjer, 511 West 112 Street # 14, New York NY 10025-1634; phone (212) 749-3366; ilaconf.woltjer@gte.net.

ADS-sponsored Session 8: Saturday, April 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Georgetown University, Intercultural Center 113. Chair: ADS Northeast Regional Secretary **Silke Van Ness**, University at Albany, SUNY.

1. "Mill Villagers and Farmers: Dialect and Economics in a Small Southern Town." **Elizabeth McNair-Du Pree**, University of Chicago.

In this paper I report on a sociolinguistic pilot study of dialect change in Griffin, Georgia, a textile mill town southwest of Atlanta. I am investigating local dialect and culture patterns in the context of "cultural contours" (Kurath 1949; Pederson 1986), and trying to uncover phonological patterns in two groups of the working class: the mill workers and the farmers. I am also verifying Bailey's (1997) hypothesis that current stereotypical features of Southern White American vernacular Englishes probably developed recently and do not still reflect original settlement patterns as Kurath claimed.

The examination of two linguistic features from a sample of mill and rural workers indicates that the occupational distinction of "mill" versus "agriculture" is significant among white middle-age and older adults, that r-lessness may be an older feature than monophthongization of /ai/, and that speakers are participating in a leveling process resulting in an identifiably "Southern" dialect.

2. "Chinook Jargon Redivivus." **Barbara Harris**, Univ. of Victoria, British Columbia.

Chinook Jargon, the trade language of the Pacific Northwest, has for many years been regarded as at best moribund, and at worst a "dead pidgin," surviving mainly on maps and in scattered lexical items in

the language of the area, especially in the usage of older speakers. But in recent years, especially in the last decade, there has been a noticeable resurgence of interest in the Jargon. I propose to investigate the reasons why so many people in the Northwest have become interested in this particular linguistic phenomenon and the growing influence of the Grande Ronde dialect of CJ on the general usage.

3. "Adjective Placement in Spanish: Patterns, Approximations, Anomalies." **Maurice Westmoreland**, University at Albany, SUNY.

As modern Spanish has evolved from Latin, preferred word order patterns have slowly evolved from OV to VO. The shift from a head-modifier pattern associated with an OV ordering to a modifier-head pattern associated with a VO ordering would seem to imply an eventual shift in adjective placement from post-nominal to pre-nominal position. The following study will survey NP modifier placement patterns, from instances where a given placement is obligatory, to instances where variable placement entails a shift in meaning, to instances where placement is variable and a difference in meaning is less clearly defined.

4. "Absence of Distinctive Agreement Markers: Language Change?" **E. A. Martínez-Gibson**, College of Charleston.

Norm-oriented grammars of Spanish insist on the use of agreement markers for a great number of constructions. In this study I will analyze the distinctive agreement markers in the spoken Spanish of three different groups: 1) native Spanish speakers from Spain, 2) semi-native Hispanic speakers from the United States, and 3) second-language learners of Spanish from the United States.

While normative grammars of Spanish prescribe the marking of agreement, by contrast, all three groups of Spanish speakers discussed here diverge from that norm, though to a different degree.

HAZEN ELECTED—As proposed by the Nominating Committee, **Kirk Hazen** of West Virginia University was elected at the ADS Annual Meeting to serve on the Executive Council for the years 2000–2003.

Our New Books: Fads, Human Rights, England, Myths

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

Paul Dickson. *From Elvis to E-Mail: Trends, Events, and Trivia from the Postwar Era to the End of the Century.* Riverside, Connecticut: Federal Street Press, Jan. 2000. ISBN 1-892859-09-2. Hardcover \$9.98. Words, numbers, slogans, fads, buttons and bumper stickers year by year since 1945. Revised through 1999.

Paul Dickson. *The Official Rules and Explanations.* Federal Street Press, Jan. 2000. ISBN 1-892859-10-6. Hardcover \$9.98. Revision of book first published in 1978.

G.M. Story, **W.J. Kirwin**, and J.D.A. Widdowson. *Dictionary of Newfoundland English Online.* Based on the second print edition, 1990. <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/dictionary/default.html>. Headwords and any word or phrase in the alphabetical listing can be easily searched.

Miklós Kontra. *Közérdekű nyelvészet* (Popular Linguistics). Budapest, Hungary: Osiris Kiadó, 1999. 162 pages. ISBN 963-379-710-7. Articles on bilingualism, the contact varieties of Hungarian, language-in-education-based discrimination and Gypsy unemployment, the spread of English in Hungary, "English Only" and its curious connection to "Slovak Only," and the damage caused by Hungarian prescriptivists to Hungarian-language instruction in minority schools in neighboring countries.

Miklós Kontra, Robert Phillipson, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, and Tibor Várady. *Language: A Right and a Resource: Approaching Linguistic Human Rights.* Budapest, Hungary: Central European University Press, 1999. 350 pages. ISBN 963-9116-63-7 (cloth) \$49.95; 963-9116-64-5 (paperback) \$23.95. This study broadens the knowledge of the important role of language in minority rights and in struggles for linguistic human rights. The book explores the interactions of linguistic diversity, biodiversity, and the free market and human rights.

William Safire. *Spread the Word.* Times Books, Random House, 1999. xiii+283 pages. ISBN 0-8129-3253-6, Hardcover \$25.95. The eleventh col-

lection of "On Language" columns from *The New York Times Magazine* examines the evolution of current phrases, verbal trends, and the origins of colloquialisms. Organized alphabetically by topic, with added comments from readers like ADS members John Algeo, Frederic Cassidy, David Barnhart, Robert Barnhart, and Joan Hall, among others.

Peter Trudgill. *The Dialects of England.* 2nd edition. Malden: Blackwell, 1999. x + 154 pages. ISBN 0 631 21815 7. Paperback \$ 20. Also in hardcover. In this new, revised and extended edition, the author now includes phonetic symbols. There is also a new prognostic map for English dialects in the coming century, and a discussion of "Estuary English."

Laurie Bauer and **Peter Trudgill**, eds. *Language Myths.* New York: Penguin, 1998. xviii + 189 pages. ISBN 014 02 6023 4. Everything which everybody knows about language and languages which, however, is quite wrong (or is it?): some languages are faster than others; bad grammar is slovenly; Italian is beautiful; they speak Shakespearean in the Appalachians; America is ruining English; and much more. All the usual suspects: Montgomery, Wolfram, Milroy, Chambers, Preston, Algeo—plus some new and exciting authors.

Three Students Honored

ADS President **Ronald Butters** announced his award of Presidential Honorary Memberships 2000–2003 to **Betsy Erin Evans**, Michigan State Univ., nominated by Dennis Preston; **Susan Tamasi**, Univ. of Georgia, nominated by William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., and **Alyssa Wulf**, now Univ. of California, Berkeley, nominated by Ceil Lucas.

The four-year complimentary memberships are intended to encourage interest and participation in our field by outstanding students.

Any member may nominate a graduate or undergraduate student for next year's Presidential Honorary Memberships. All that is needed is a letter of recommendation, although supporting material is also welcome. Send nominations to Butters at English Dept., Duke Univ., Box 90018, Durham NC 27708-0018, RonButters@aol.com.

DARE Seeks Scions, Sermon Tacks, Service Cars

If you can help with any of the following words, please send your information (including date and place of use) to DARE Associate Editor Joan Hall at 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison WI 53706, or by e-mail at jdhall@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Now that you have the Index to Volume III of *DARE* (thanks to *PADS* 82), you'll want to have *DARE* itself on your shelf. In case you don't, until Feb. 29 you can get all three volumes from Harvard University Press for just \$157.50, compared to the usual price of \$75 each. You can call toll free at 1-800-726-3244 (all day, every day), but must mention that *DARE* is item 320 on page 35 of the "Big Spring Sale" catalog. (Yes, that's last year's very extended Spring Sale.)

re(i)bie, ribey—"lanky, scrawny." This Scots dialect word appears in two Appalachian sources. Does anyone else know it?

ribble off—"To recite quickly, by rote." Apparently a variant of the Scots dialect reeble. We have two examples (1900 and 1925), both from ME. Is this still in use?

rough-winged hawk, ruffed-wing hawk—These otherwise unattested bird names came from two New England informants. Has anyone heard either of these terms, and if so, can they identify or describe the hawk referred to?

scaper—"A rascal, critter, varmint." We have quotes from AL, GA, and FL; the earliest is 1933, but M. M. Mathews recalled it from his boyhood around the turn of the century. We would like more data on its distribution (and earlier evidence, if possible).

schnockered—"Thoroughly drunk." Our scattered evidence suggests that this may be a regional variant of snockered, but we need more data.

scion—Is anyone familiar with this in senses OTHER THAN "a slip for grafting or planting" or the literary metaphor "a descendant"? What about variant pronunciations such as scient or science? Or use as a verb, as in "to science a road" meaning to clear it of brush?

scorch—Is anyone familiar with this word or its derivatives used in reference to extreme cold or its effects? We have a few examples of scorcher meaning "a period of very cold weather; a killing

frost" and single instances of scorched "damaged by frost" and scorching cold "very cold."

scraunch, scranch, scronch—"To crush, crunch."

The OED (which spells this scranch but indicates a pronunciation rhyming with launch) labels it "Obs. exc. Dial."; we have scattered examples, the latest (1934) being a metaphorical use reported as Black student slang from PA. We would like to know if it is still in use, and if so, how widespread it is. PLEASE, only forms with the vowels of cot or caught; we have plenty of evidence for scrunch!

scrog—"A wind-stunted tree; fig, something fouled up"; scrogged up "fouled up, cobbled together." A single source reports these senses from ME; can anyone confirm them?

scutz-work—This variant of *scut work* appears in a recent novel; has anyone heard it?

sermon tack—"two-pronged" paper fastener." We have a single report from NY.

service car—"taxicab." A single OK informant reported this as old-fashioned but still in use; we have no other US evidence. (A similar sense is apparently common in Australia and New Zealand.)

short thigh—The LAGS survey elicited three instances of this collocation, two in reference to poultry, one to a person. A DE glossary gives the similar phrase short joint "chicken thigh." Has anyone heard either of these? Is the short thigh really the same thing as the usual thigh, and if so, what is the implied long thigh?

Membership & Dues

Membership in the American Dialect Society brings you our journal *American Speech* with its monograph supplement *Publication of the American Dialect Society*, not to mention this newsletter three times a year. Dues for 2000 are still \$35, students \$20, plus \$5 extra for members outside the United States. Life Membership is available for \$700. Address:

Marsha Emmons, Journals Fulfillment, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660; phone 1-888-387-5687 or 919-687-3617; fax 1-919-688-2615; mwe326@duke.edu.