NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS
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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, AAllan@aol.com. Erin Klee, administrative assistant.

ADS Annual membership for 2002 is $40, students $25; plus $10 outside the United States. Write Cindy Foltz, Journals Fulfillment, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660; phone 1-888-387-5765 or 919-687-3613; fax 1-919-688-2615; cfoltz@dukeupress.edu.

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
Programs for Regional Meetings, Fall 2002

Rocky Mountain

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 10–12; Scottsdale, Arizona, Chaparral Suites Resort Hotel.

Chair: Mary Morzinski, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse.


ADS Regional Secretary 2002-2003: Mary E. Morzinski, Dept. of English, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse WI 54601; phone (608) 785-8300; morzinsk.mary@uwlaux.edu.

Registration by Oct. 1 is $75 faculty and $55 student, including one ticket to Friday’s luncheon banquet. Membership in RMMLA is $30 individual, $20 student. Write RMMLA, Washington State Univ., P.O. Box 642610, Pullman WA 99164-2610; rmmla@wsu.edu; http://rmmla.wsu.edu/; phone (509) 335-4198; fax (509) 335-6635 ext. 54198.


South Central

In association with SCMLA, Oct. 31–Nov. 2; Austin, Texas, Omni Austin Downtown Hotel. ADS session Saturday, Nov. 2, 12:45–2:15 p.m.

Chair: Shelisa Theus, Louisiana State Univ.-Baton Rouge.


ADS Regional Secretary 2002-2003: Michael R. Dressman, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Houston-Downtown, One Main Street, Houston TX 77002; phone (713) 221-8009; dressmanm@uhd.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 (979) 845-7041; fax (979) 862-2292; www-english.tamu.edu/scmla/; scmla@tamu.edu.


Midwest

In association with MMLA, Nov. 8–10; Minneapolis, Marriott City Center.

“New Research in Dialect Study.” Chair: Beth Lee Simon, Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ., Fort Wayne.

1. “Language Variation and Change in the Urban Midwest: The Case of St. Louis, Missouri.” Thomas E. Murray, Kansas State Univ.

St. Louis, though located in the central Midland, is complex dialectally. Nevertheless, over the last 50 years most dialectologists and sociolinguists have identified the area as primarily a Northern or Northern/North Midland speech island in a sea of Southern and especially South Midland forms. This essay questions whether the city’s strong affinity for the Northern/North Midland dialect continues into the 21st century. Small pieces of evidence presented over the last generation have shown that different phonological, grammatical, and lexical features are shifting both toward and away from a Northern/North Midland standard. More comprehensive evidence from a dialectological/sociolinguistic survey completed in 1982-83 and replicated in 2001, however, suggests that overall the Northern/North Midland standard has been not only preserved, but greatly strengthened.


Workers in traditional American auto factories have followed a specific set of conventions, using scripts laid out in their United Auto Worker union contracts. Talk with supervisors is direct and adversarial, the legacy of over sixty years of conflict between union and management. In contrast, Japanese-owned auto factories in the US work to promote the team concept, with the idea that labor and management will work together to minimize waste, estab-

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Final Call for Papers: Atlanta, January 2003

Friday, August 16 is the deadline for proposals for our annual meeting January 2–5 in Atlanta. (In the two weeks before the deadline, your Executive Secretary will be away from his office. He’ll be back on Wednesday, Aug. 14 and happy to respond then to your messages and proposals, and he’ll be around through the end of July if you have something to send earlier.) Please note these specifications:

Abstracts should be 150–300 words long. Send them by e-mail to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf at AAllan@aol.com. Or send by postal mail four copies of the abstract, with your name on an accompanying note but not on the abstract, to Allan Metcalf, English Dept., MacMurray College, Jacksonville Illinois 62650-2590. Sessions on special topics are encouraged, but an abstract must be submitted for each speaker and abstracts will be judged individually, not collectively.

We will provide an overhead projector for all speakers. If you want an audiotape player, you must request it with your proposal. All other AV equipment is very costly, so please be prepared to do without it.

Proposals will be judged anonymously by a committee of ADS vice president and program chair Michael Montgomery and two colleagues. If your proposal is accepted, you’ll be asked for an abstract of no more than 200 words for the LSA program.

Venue: With our host the Linguistic Society of America at the Atlanta Hilton, 255 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303. Rooms at the rate of $69 (single) and $79 (double) may be reserved by calling (800) 445-8667 or (404) 695-2000 and requesting the group rate for the Linguistic Society. ADS members will be expected to register with LSA: $70 before Dec. 2, $85 afterwards. See the LSA website: www.lsadc.org.

As usual, we’ll have a luncheon, a Bring-Your-Own-Book exhibit and reception, and a vote on Words of the Year. Send WOTY nominations any time to New Words Committee Chair Wayne Glowka, Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville GA 31061, wglowka@mail.gcsu.edu.; or to David Barnhart, PO Box 2018, Hyde Park NY 12538, Barnhart@highlands.com.


ADS at MLA

At the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in New York City, Dec. 27–30, ADS tentatively will have two sessions, arranged by Michael Adams of Albright College.

First session: “Sound, Meaning, and All That Jazz.” Chair, Anne L. Curzan, U. of Michigan.


Second session: “Fashions and Self-Fashioning in Current American Speech.” Chair, Anne Marie Hamilton.

1. “Rhetoric from Burbs to Zines.” Mary Blockley, U. of Texas, Austin.


Nominations Still Welcome

This year the ADS Nominating Committee will propose nominees for vice president (succeeding to the presidency after two years), the Executive Council (a four-year term), and the Nominating Committee itself (a two-year term).

The committee will conduct its deliberations later this summer. Suggestions are welcome. Send them to the committee chair, past ADS president Walt Wolfram, English Department, North Carolina State University, Box 8105, Raleigh NC 27695-8105, wolfram@social.chass.ncsu.edu. Or communicate with the other members of the committee: Ronald Butters, RonButters@aol.com, or Joan Houston Hall, jdhall@facstaff.wisc.edu.
lish high quality, and make the workers’ jobs more efficient. The traditional shop floor management supervisor is replaced by a union worker who becomes team leader. The grievance system becomes the concern resolution process.

The purpose of this paper is to contrast the shop talk scripts which emerge from the two different approaches. Data sources include interviews with workers from American and Japanese owned-plants in Flint and Lansing, Michigan as well as written materials from the plants including contracts, employee handbooks and newsletters. Preliminary results reveal that terminology variation does reflect differences in the way workers are treated in the contrasted firms.


Linguistic research on Deitsch (a.k.a. Pennsylvania German) from the mid-20th century delineated distinct dialect regions among nonplain (i.e., not Amish or Old Order Mennonite) speakers within Pennsylvania (Buffington 1939, Seifert 1971 and 2001, Reed and Seifert 1954). Today, as the number of nonplain speakers dwindles, the growing majority of Deitsch speakers are members of plain (mostly Amish) communities located in the Midwest. In spite of a history in the region which spans two centuries and a dozen states, the Deitsch spoken across the Midwest is remarkably homogeneous especially with respect to the variation in southeastern Pennsylvania (Hartman Keiser 2002).

This paper shows that an historic and continuing notion of portable community (Reschly 2000) has led to the diffusion in the Midwest of a salient bundle of lexical and phonological features that mark off the Midwest from Pennsylvania. Interviews with speakers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa provide the linguistic data and demonstrate the psychological reality of a Midwestern identity for Amish in the region.


Identity, language ideology, social class, and discourse interact to affect language variation and change in Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula. The corpus consists of 70 interviews conducted in 2000 and 2002 with speakers ranging from age 12 to 92 and representing major ethnic groups in the area: Finnish-, French Canadian-, German-, Slovenian-, and Cornish-American. One of the most salient features of the dialect is the “dropping” of the preposition to and the article the in locative phrases, for example: Let’s go mall and I was going post office. Results demonstrate that frequency of the phrase structure correlates with local identity, attitude about the dialect, and social class. Together these factors influence not only variation, but also change of the dialect.
Dialect and Discourse in the Steel City: A March Workshop

By Laine Towey, David Platt, and Emma Rehm

Students in the Professional Writing program at Carnegie Mellon University

On March 22 - 24, 2002, twenty dialectologists and sociolinguists, historians, cultural geographers, and cultural conservators/curators from Pittsburgh and elsewhere came together at Carnegie Mellon University to lay the groundwork for an investigation of the dialect of the city of Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania. Led by Barbara Johnstone, Professor of Rhetoric and Linguistics at Carnegie Mellon, and Scott Kiesling, Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh, the group sought to explore how local language might be connected with local culture, topography, and history and local expressions of race, class, and gender. Faculty development funding from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University made the workshop possible.

The varied backgrounds and interests of the conference attendees were made clear on the first day, when each spoke about their interest in Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh speech and raised questions that they were interested in exploring. Some spoke of linguistic characteristics, others brought up issues of performance and cultural representation, while others talked about the history of class consciousness and other sources of identity. Linguists pointed out that there are few aspects of Pittsburgh speech that are unique to the city itself.

On the second day, small-group discussions addressed issues like “founder effects,” seen by many as essential to understanding the persistence of Scotch-Irish words and structures in Pittsburgh speech. The question of the relationship between working-class white Pittsburgh speech and African-American speech in Pittsburgh was also addressed.

Location and place also were central themes. Attendees discussed whether it would be possible to identify an exact boundary where Pittsburgh speech begins and ends, raising issues concerning the nature of boundaries and the role of place in dialect. Still other linguists brought up issues of performance, and how it may be linked to an increased commercialization of Pittsburgh speech.

Research suggesting that Pittsburgh speech is associated with masculinity was also discussed. Many cultural experts pointed out that the city has often been seen in a male light due to its industrial history. The fact that the local dialect is strongly associated with the working class was also of interest. The pride that many working-class Pittsburghers take in their city and, at least under certain circumstances, in their dialect was noted and related to issues of performance and commodification.

On the final day of the workshop, the participants each gave recommendations about ways to further study Pittsburgh speech. Suggestions included descriptive work including interviews and larger-scale survey work, in the context of attention to performances and projections of gender and class, community and place. Conferences stressed the value of interdisciplinary consultation in the planning of sociolinguistic work. Johnstone and Kiesling are grateful for the generosity of all the participants in sharing their time and expertise.

Uppsala to Host Conference on European Variation in 2003

ADS member Angela Karstadt, now of Gävle University College near Uppsala, calls our attention to the call for papers for ICLaVE 2, the Second International Conference on Language Variation in Europe, to be held June 12-14, 2003, at Uppsala University, Sweden.

September 1 is the deadline for workshop proposals; October 1 for paper or poster presentations.

At the website www.nordiska.uu.se/ICLaVE2, both in Swedish and English, NADS readers can find details on conference registration (including instructions for on-line registration), the deadlines for submitting abstracts, and information about travel to Uppsala, among other conference-related topics. Members of the local organizing committee welcome further questions; their email address is: ICLaVE2@nordiska.uu.se

You can also reach the committee by old-fashioned postal mail: ICLaVE 2, Uppsala University, Department of Scandinavian Languages, Box 527, SE-751 20 Uppsala, Sweden.
Remembering John D’Arms, Expanding Fellowships at ACLS

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 2-4, PHILADELPHIA
By Joan H. Hall, ADS Delegate

This year’s meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies was filled, as usual, with thought-provoking talks and discussion, the Charles Homer Haskins Lecture by an eminent scholar, and a public session devoted to the future of the humanities. But this year’s sessions were also different, as each speaker movingly paid tribute to the Council’s late President, John H. D’Arms.

With John’s unexpected illness last fall and his death in January, the Council in general and the Board in particular became painfully aware of the magnitude of his contributions to the organization. The search for his successor is widely regarded as an attempt to “replace the irreplaceable.” Graciously serving as Interim President is Francis Oakley, former Chair of the ACLS Board.

While John’s initiatives at ACLS were wide ranging, probably the most important for American scholars were his highly successful efforts to increase the number and scope of fellowships. The core Fellowship Program, which provides support for each stage of the scholarly career beyond the Ph.D., was significantly expanded both in numbers and sizes of grants. In addition, two other programs were added: the Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship Program helps untenured faculty members position themselves within their fields of research; the Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship Program supports recently tenured faculty who are pursuing long-term, ambitious projects. For details about applying for any of these, see the Council’s web site at http://www.acls.org/welcome.htm.

At the program session addressing “The Changing Academy: Community or Marketplace?” speakers Thomas Weiss, Pauline Yu, and Marjorie Garber considered the roles of citizenship and voluntarism in today’s changing university. As traditional humanistic disciplines become more inter- and multidisciplinary (or even anti- and post-disciplinary), where will scholars’ loyalties lie? Where will their voluntarism be directed? Will we see more “interested altruism” or “coercive voluntarism?” (Many of you received an ACLS survey last year that was designed to analyze the functioning of societies such as ADS. One of the most compelling findings was that people join societies such as ours primarily to feel connected and to have a sense of solidarity with other scholars. Voluntarism in these contexts seems likely to thrive. Is there a committee you’d like to serve on?)

Saturday’s public session was devoted to “John H. D’Arms and the Humanities: His Achievements, Our Future Course.” Speakers Nancy Cantor, Barbara DeConcini, W. Robert Connor, Patricia Limerick, and Neil Rudenstine reflected both personally and professionally on their relationships with John and on his contributions not just as ACLS President, but also as teacher and historian.

Following a longstanding tradition, the luncheon speaker was the Chairman of NEH. For most of us this was the first opportunity to hear Bruce Cole, who was sworn in only a few months ago. Remarkably generally on the Endowment and its purposes, he noted that the state of the humanities has implications for the state of our union: humanities tell us who we are as a people and why our country is worth fighting for.

And following another ACLS tradition, the Haskins lecture, “A life of Learning,” was delivered on Friday night. This year’s speaker was Henry A. Millon, Dean Emeritus of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art. His remarkable career included architectural research in Italy; the discovery of a model of St. Peter’s, which led to a major exhibit on Michelangelo as an architect; teaching at MIT; establishing the center for postdoctoral study of art at the National Gallery; systematic cataloging of architectural drawings in libraries and archives; and the continuing development of databases of artists, art, and architecture.

ALLEN WALKER READ

2002 happens to be not only the year of publication of AWR’s greatest hits in PADS 86, edited by Richard W. Bailey, but also the diamond jubilee of his ADS membership. He joined in 1927, 75 years ago. The next issue of NADS will have some tributes on this occasion; everyone is welcome to contribute.
U.S. Mexicans, Belfast, Sign Language: Our New Books

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

Sandra R. Schecter and Robert Bayley. Language as Cultural Practice: Mexicanos en el Norte. Lawrence Erlbaum, May 2002. 224 pages. Hardcover $55, ISBN 0-8058-3533-4; paperback $24.50, ISBN 0-808-3534-2. An ethnographic account of language socialization practices in Mexican-background families in California and Texas. The book illustrates a variety of cases where language is used by speakers to choose between alternative self-definitions and where language interacts differentially with other defining categories such as ethnicity, gender, and class. Using a framework emerging from their selection of two distinct localities with differing demographic features, the authors compare patterns of meaning suggested by the use of Spanish and English in speech and literacy activities and by the symbolic importance ascribed by families and societal institutions to the maintenance and use of the two languages.

Belfast Studies in Language, Culture and Politics: a series edited by John M. Kirk and Dónall P. Ó Baoill. Available by mail from Dr John M. Kirk, School of English, Queen’s University Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland; j.m.kirk@qub.ac.uk, www.bslcp.com. Postage and packing is an additional £2.00 per title. Payment may be made by Visa and MasterCard. Please provide number, expiry date, and billing address of the cardholder.

1: Language and Politics: Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and Scotland. December 2001. ISBN 0-85389-791-3 £9.50. Seventeen articles from a symposium held 12 August 2000 at Queen’s University Belfast. Six of the articles deal with the Belfast Good Friday Agreement of 1998, which recognized the importance of language in Northern Ireland by creating for it one of the six North-South Implementation Bodies.


Methods XI: Finland, Aug. 5–9

Our own Dennis Preston is one of the five plenary speakers at the Eleventh International Conference on Methods in Dialectology, to be held Aug. 5–9 at the University of Joensuu, Finland. His topic is "Dialects across Internal Boundaries: Acquisition, Loss, and Bi- and Multidialectalism."

The program includes more than 200 papers, workshop presentations and posters. A major workshop on recording and analyzing linguistic data begins Sunday, Aug. 5 and continues through Tuesday. As usual, ADS supports the conference with a contribution of $500.

Full information is available on the conference website www.joensuu.fi/fld/methodsxi/index.html. Or write Methods XI Organising Committee, Department of English, University of Joensuu, P.O. Box 111, FIN-80101 Joensuu, Finland.
Volume IV of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* is on Harvard University Press's fall list. (Check it out at http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog/CASDI4.html.) The 1040-page volume includes 607 maps. According to chief editor Joan Houston Hall, it will have 6,570 entries with a total of 9,322 senses.

In the next NADS, we should be able to announce a discount for ADS members from the list price of $89.95. Meanwhile, to whet your appetite, here are a few tantalizing tidbits provided by the DARE staff. Match them with the appropriate responses on the right, send a copy by August 30 to Joan H. Hall, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison WI, 53706, and vie for a free copy of Volume IV. If you’re the first with all the correct answers (or the highest number of them), we’ll send the book to you. The winner’s name and the correct answers will appear in the next issue of NADS.

1. parrain  a. To spoil, treat too well.
2. peewink  b. A failed firecracker that is broken open and lit.
3. pencil point  c. A runty animal.
4. pin-basket  d. Lopsided, askew, out of line.
5. piroot  e. A gruel thickened with bread.
6. pomper  f. To go quickly.
7. pushency  g. A card game.
8. quisutsch  h. A spring peeper.
9. ragged lady  i. A false loosestrife.
10. relievo  j. A mischievous little scamp.
11. ribble off  k. An out-of-the-way place.
12. ridgeback  l. A type of pasta.
13. risk  m. A team hiding game.
14. robin’s nest  n. To recite by rote.
15. runaround  o. Coho salmon.
17. Sally Lunn  q. A swelling on a finger.
18. sancho  r. Urgent necessity.
19. schnickelfritz  s. A cornflower.
22. sewage inspector  v. A rich yeast bread.
23. sheepshead  w. A godfather.
24. shoo-shoo  x. The youngest child in a family.
25. skilligalee  y. The common carp.
26. skyhoot  z. To whirl around.