
NAAHoLS NEWSLETTER

The North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences

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NAAHoLS at LSA

The 2014 NAAHoLS annual meeting will again be held in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America, the American Dialect Society, the American Name Society, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, and the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics. Plenary speakers this year include Susan Goldin-Meadow (University of Chicago), Richard Larson (Stoney Brook University), and Ellen Kaisse (University of Washington).

The meeting will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, between 2-5 January, 2014. Further details about the meeting are provided in this edition of the newsletter. We are excited about this year's schedule of presentations, and we hope to see you in Minneapolis!

This year's NAAHoLS program will take place at the Minneapolis Hilton, during the afternoon on Friday (3 January), and all day on Saturday (4 January).

The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday (4 January). If there are any items you wish to place on the meeting agenda, please let us know in advance.

For further information, contact: David Boe, Department of English, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855; (906) 227-2677; dboe@nmu.edu

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NAAHoLS Program (Minneapolis, 2014)

Friday, 3 January
Afternoon

Linguists and Their Activities

Room: Symphony Ballroom IV

Chair: Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)

- 2:00 *Giedrius Subačius (University of Illinois-Chicago)*: Creation of the Lithuanian alphabetical order
- 2:30 *Margaret Thomas (Boston College)*: In what language did Roman Jakobson “speak six languages, all of them in Russian”?
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 *Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute of Integral Studies)*: Language and consciousness: The perennial relevance of Benjamin Lee Whorf
- 3:45 *Sali A. Tagliamonte (University of Toronto)*: Making waves: The story of variationist sociolinguistics

Saturday, 4 January
Morning

Linguistic Places and Theories

Room: Symphony Ballroom IV

Chair: Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute of Integral Studies)

- 9:30 *David Boe (Northern Michigan University)*: Ferdinand de Saussure’s theory of anagrams revisited
- 10:00 *Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin)*: Towards a historiography of “morphologically conditioned sound changes”
- 10:30 *Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)*: Creating a pedagogical paradigm: The “declensions” of Nahuatl

11:00 – 12:00 **Business Meeting, NAAHoLS**

**Saturday, 4 January
Afternoon**

**Special Topics in the History of American Linguistics over the Past 90 Years
(Part of a co-sponsored symposium celebrating of the 90th anniversary of the LSA)**

Room: Grand Ballroom E

Chair: David Boe (Northern Michigan University)

2:00 *Frederick Newmeyer (University of Washington):* History of the LSA

2:30 *Margaret Thomas (Boston College):* Women in the field, 1924-2014

3:00 *Julia Falk (La Jolla, CA):* The LSA Institute over the years

3:30 Break

4:00 *Hope C. Dawson and Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University):* Language and other LSA publications since the 1920s

4:30 *Lindsay Whaley (Dartmouth College):* Linguists' work with endangered languages

NAAHoLS Abstracts (Minneapolis, 2014)

David Boe (Northern Michigan University)

Ferdinand de Saussure's theory of anagrams revisited

From 1906-1909, during the same time that he was teaching his iconic "Courses in General Linguistics," the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) was also working on another language-oriented project: his almost obsessive interest in the study of alleged anagrams in early Latin poetry. Determined that classical poetry contained intentionally hidden themes revealed through rearrangements of words or letters, Saussure filled over 100 hundred notebooks with his findings (though nothing of this was ever published), before concluding that these anagrams had to be chance occurrences. This presentation will revisit Saussure's *other* academic interest related to the study of language.

Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)

Creating a pedagogical paradigm: The "declensions" of Nahuatl

This paper examines the use of the terms "case" and "declension" in eight colonial-era missionary grammars of Nahuatl. A study of the description of grammatical case and the interplay of the terms "case" and "declension" in these grammars shows that missionary linguists' understanding of the function of case within a language varied widely, while the term "declension" took on a unique meaning within colonial Nahuatl scholarship and was used as a tool for teaching plural formation. This analysis shows the importance of considering local context in linguistic historiography, and particularly the importance of contextualizing the terms used by missionary linguists.

Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin)
Towards a historiography of “morphologically conditioned sound changes”

While the Neogrammarians argued that sound change was exclusively conditioned by phonetic/phonological factors, some generativists rejected this claim starting in the 1960s, contending instead that sound change could also be morphologically conditioned. The development of this idea can be traced to a number of factors, including (1) the increasing application of generative linguistics to historical linguistics and (2) the increasing emphasis within phonology on rules over representations. Moreover, some earlier scholars had tentatively noted the possible connection between morphology and sound change, indicating that the idea was simultaneously cutting-edge and old-fashioned.

Giedrius Subačius (University of Illinois-Chicago)
Creation of the Lithuanian alphabetical order

Ferdinand Nesselmann attempted a reform of the Latin alphabet for Lithuanian (1851), arranging sounds instead of the letters. Nesselmann was the first to advance <Y> in the alphabetical order and to place it with <I>. August Schleicher supported this merger, and many other authors followed. Additionally, they fused the position of diacritical vowel letters with the plain ones: <A, Ȧ>, <E, Ė, È>, <I, İ, Y>, <U, U̇, Ū>. Today, the alphabetical order of Lithuanian is hybrid: the consonants and plain vowels are organized as letters, but the diacritical vowel letters and <Y> are alphabetized according to their pronunciation.

Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute for Integral Studies)
Language and consciousness: The perennial relevance of Benjamin Lee Whorf

Benjamin Lee Whorf (1887-1941) wrote “Language, Mind, and Reality” at the end of his life and published it in *The Theosophist*, the journal of the Theosophical Society. This essay summed up themes that Whorf developed in three other essays: “Science and Linguistics” (1940), “Linguistics as an Exact Science” (1940), and “Languages and Logic” (1941). In these essays, Whorf presented a radically fresh vision for linguists that drew upon his extensive readings in Eastern texts as well as in areas outside traditional linguistics. In that his work, especially in his final years, foreshadowed current studies in consciousness, Whorf remains relevant.

Sali A. Tagliamonte (University of Toronto)
Making waves: The story of variationist sociolinguistics

This presentation introduces a forthcoming book on the history of Variationist Sociolinguistics, which employs the classic “Sociolinguistic Interview” as the method of research. To date, over 40 famous Sociolinguists have been interviewed, bringing to the fore an extraordinary candid body of materials about the dawn and development of the field. I will outline the main themes emerging from the personal narratives and some of the problems in reconstructing the story of the field. The end product will synthesize research, fieldwork, and teaching experience, but will also bring to the fore a surprisingly collective philosophy of life in relationship to intellectual practice.

Margaret Thomas (Boston College)
In what language did Roman Jakobson “speak six languages, all of them in Russian”?

The Russian philologist Roman Jakobson (1896–1982) was unusually effective in spreading his ideas through interpersonal communication. Renský (1977) remarked on Jakobson’s “uncanny ability to connect”: to synthesize ideas, span institutions, cross disciplinary and cultural boundaries, and above all, to connect with other people; Součková (1976) noted the unique language mixture shared by the 1920s Prague Linguistic Circle, where Jakobson was an animating spirit. This presentation analyzes audiotapes of Jakobson’s lectures, to show how he exploited his multilingualism as a rhetorical device to further his communicative ends, paradoxically using his status as a linguistic outsider to exercise an “uncanny ability to connect”.

Special Topics in the History of American Linguistics over the Past 90 Years

Hope C. Dawson & Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University)

Language and other LSA publications since the 1920s

The journal *Language* has always been the mainstay of the LSA's publications, and, within the academic lifetime of most current LSA members, has been relatively unchanged. The journal's contents, frequency, look, and even its cover have been mostly the same throughout its nearly ninety years of existence. Such observations grant LSA publications an appearance of stability, and may therefore make the changes now taking place — involving, for example, a shift to an electronic version of *Language*, the naming of an Executive Editor to support the Editor, and the sponsorship of new journals — seem to be dramatic and significant. A closer look at the history of LSA publications, however, reveals an ongoing interplay of stability and change, the current changes simply being the most recent chapter in the story. In this presentation we sketch the history of these publications, exploring in particular two ways in which both stability and change are evident: the leadership, and the publications themselves. There have been only seven Editors of *Language* over its ninety-year history, but changes have come elsewhere in the leadership structure, from the early days of the Committee on Publications, to the current boards of Associate Editors. With regard to publications, *Language* itself has appeared on a quarterly basis since 1925, but the publishing of additional materials has seen changes, from dissertations and monographs in earlier years to co-journals and online-only sections of *Language* now. A detailed picture shows a history of adaptation to changes in the field of linguistics itself.

Julia Falk (La Jolla, CA)

The LSA Institute over the years

When the LSA approved the first two Linguistic Institutes for 1928 and 1929, it did so with a caveat that remained in place for many years: 'Provided always, that the Linguistic Society incur no financial obligations therein'. The Institutes' longtime administrator, Professor Edgar Sturtevant of Yale University, rallied supporters to pledge their own funds to an endowment. Costs, however, were — and continue to be — borne primarily by host universities. Courses offered at the early Institutes reflected the historical interests of the majority of LSA members, with most classes devoted to older languages and their historical development and comparison. But introducing the linguistic community to leading-edge topics has been a hallmark of nearly every Institute over the years — descriptivism in the 1930s, the analysis and teaching of uncommonly taught languages in the 1940s, the rise of psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics in the 1950s, the ascendancy of transformational grammar in the 1960s. Whatever subjects are being pursued in the classrooms during any particular session, however, senior linguists and linguistics students alike find that the informality of this unique summer program enhances discussion, debate, cooperation, and collegiality, especially important in the decades before frequent-flyer miles and the internet made contact and communication as accessible as they are today. Public lectures, workshops, concurrent conferences, topic-oriented lunch-time discussions, and pub gatherings all have a long history at the Institutes and, for many in attendance, it is these that lead to our best insights and our fondest memories.

Frederick Newmeyer (University of Washington)

History of the LSA

This talk outlines the history of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), intermingling hard statistics (e.g., membership figures) with little anecdotes. I begin with the 'Call' — the appeal to found a new society devoted to the scientific study of language. I outline the reasons why the signers of the Call found it desirable to create the LSA, as well as the difficulties (professional and personal) involved in bringing the Society about. I then touch on some of the most interesting aspects of LSA history: the creation of the summer institutes, the difficulties in keeping its head above water during the depression, and the steps taken to facilitate fieldwork in Amerindian communities. I go on to discuss the LSA's contribution to the war effort in the 1940s and treat the explosion of the field (and therefore the Society) in the post-war years. The talk concludes with some remarks about the current state of the Society, in particular the reasons for the recent decline in membership and the challenges to the LSA and other societies posed by the near universal availability of on-line resources.

Margaret Thomas (Boston College)
Women in the field, 1924-2014

Women committed to the study of language have participated in the LSA throughout its history: from the 31 who came forward to be counted as among the 274 ‘Foundation Members’ (Falk 1994); through those who were active in the first 60 years of the LSA when the office of President was only twice held by a woman; to the present-day ongoing analysis of gender-based inequities within the field, and the efforts to redress those inequities initiated by Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics. This presentation explores (1) how, over the 90-year history of the Society, women language scholars became self-conscious of themselves and of each other as members of a specific gender-based population within the LSA, and (2) what effect that self-consciousness has had on the Society in general. I examine both discipline-internal factors, which grew up inside of the LSA and led women to recognize that they shared professional goals and experiences with other women linguists, and general social-historical factors that acted on the LSA from the outside, which encouraged women language scholars to define themselves (either formally or informally) as members of an identifiable group.

Lindsay Whaley (Dartmouth College)
Linguists’ work with endangered languages

Though the label “endangered languages” has become common just in the last several decades, research on languages with a declining speaker base or a relatively small number of speakers has been a regular component of American linguistics for over a century. In the early 20th century, the pioneering work of Boas, Sapir, Bloomfield (all of whom went on to serve as presidents of the Linguistic Society of America), as well as others, established the importance of fieldwork on lesser-studied languages, and this tradition has carried on to the present. Within this tradition two changes are discernable over time. First, there is increasing attention given to endangered languages spoken outside of the Americas. Second, by the end of the 20th century, an explicit mandate emerges, both within the LSA and elsewhere, to document endangered languages and to work in partnership with the speakers of the languages to promote their continued use.

Upcoming Conferences

Colloquium of the Henry Sweet Society of Linguistic Ideas

Nottingham, England (3 July 2014)

The 2014 Colloquium of the Henry Sweet Society of Linguistic Ideas will take place at the University of Nottingham, in combination with the conference *Connecting Cultures?: An International Conference on the History of Teaching and Learning Second/Foreign Languages, 1500-2000* (2-5 July 2014, University of Nottingham).

While the conference as a whole has a theme, as usual contributions on any aspect of the history of linguistics are welcome and will be programmed together on Thursday, July 3rd as a 1-day Colloquium. The Henry Sweet Society’s Annual General Meeting will also take place on July 3rd. It will be possible either to attend the whole conference or to register for the 1-day Colloquium only.

Deadline for abstracts: Please send proposals for papers on any aspect of the history of linguistic ideas to historyofmfl@nottingham.ac.uk by December 1, 2013. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words.

Linguistic Society of America: 88th Annual Meeting

Minneapolis, Minnesota: 2-5 January 2014

The 2014 NAAHoLS meeting will again be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, and the American Dialect Society, the American Name Society, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, & the Association for Linguistic Evidence.

The 88th Annual LSA meeting will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota between 2-5 January 2014. As usual, we are anticipating an interesting schedule of NAAHoLS presentations, and we hope to see you in Minneapolis!

The upcoming NAAHoLS program is anticipated to take place at the Minneapolis Hilton, on Friday (3 January) and on Saturday (4 January). The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held in the late morning on Saturday. If there are any items you wish to place on the meeting agenda, please let us know in advance.

Hotel Accommodations

The Hilton Minneapolis (1001 Marquette Avenue South; 612-376-1000) has negotiated a special room rate for those attending the 2014 LSA Annual Meeting.

Hotel reservations are now available on-line and by telephone.

The special LSA room rates for the 2014 Annual Meeting are:

Single/Double: \$99/night, with a charge of \$20 for an additional person.

Advance Registration

Everyone attending the meeting is expected to register. Compliance is important for keeping LSA fees affordable. Only those who register will be allowed to present papers, use the Job Placement Service, or attend plenary presentations. **LSA (or NAAHoLS) members planning on attending the Annual Meeting may preregister on-line beginning September 1, 2013.**

Preregistration fees for the 2014 Annual Meeting are (through December 15):

Regular LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$190.00

Student LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$70.00

Non-Member (Individual): \$290.00

Non-Member (Student): \$115.00

On-site fees will be higher.

Recent Publications

HISTORIOGRAPHIA LINGUISTICA 40:3 (2013)

ARTICLES / AUFSÄTZE

- Bernard Ycart (Grenoble): Letter Counting: A stem cell for cryptology, quantitative linguistics, and statistics 303
- Jeffrey Wollock (New York): John Bulwer (1606–1656) and Some British and French Contemporaries 331
- Margaret Thomas (Chestnut Hill, Mass.): Otto Jespersen and “The Woman”, then and now. 377
- Barbara Kaltz (Freiburg im Breisgau): Zwischen den Stühlen: Paul Lévy (1887–1962) und die französische Germanistik in der ersten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts 409
- Cynthia A. Barnhart (Burbank, Calif.): A Little-Known Aspect of Leonard Bloomfield’s Linguistics: The story of *Let’s Read* (1961) 433

REVIEW ARTICLE / RAPPORT CRITIQUE / FORSCHUNGSBERICHT

- Michael Losonsky (Fort Collins, Colorado): Lenz on Locke on Language 477

REVIEWS / COMPTES RENDUS / BESPRECHUNGEN

- Manuela Callipo, *Dionisio Trace e la tradizione grammaticale* (Roma, 2011), reviewed by Andreas Schmidhauser (Los Angeles) 489
- Mark Amsler, *Affective Literacies: Writing and Multilingualism in the Late Middle Ages* (Turnhout, 2012), reviewed by Louis G. Kelly (Cambridge) 493
- Céline Hervet, *De l’imagination à l’entendement: La puissance du langage chez Spinoza* (Paris, 2012), reviewed by Anthony J. Klijnsmit (Amsterdam) 499
- Susan Rennie, *Jamieson’s Dictionary of Scots: The story of the first historical dictionary of the Scots language* (Oxford, 2012), reviewed by John Considine (Edmonton) 507
- Wilhelm von Humboldt, *Südamerikanische Grammatiken*. Ed. by Manfred Ringmacher & Ute Tintemann (Paderborn, 2011), reviewed by James Underhill (Rouen) 512
- Uwe Meves, *Deutsche Philologie an den preußischen Universitäten im 19. Jahrhundert: Dokumente zum Institutionalisierungsprozess*, 2 vols. (Berlin & New York 2011), rezensiert von Céline Trautmann-Waller (Paris) 520
- Gerrold van der Stroom, *Jac. van Ginneken onder vuur: Over eigentijdse en naoorlogse kritiek op de taalkundige J.J.A. van Ginneken S.J. (1877–1945)* (Amsterdam & Münster, 2012), rezensiert von Toon Van Hal (Leuven) 524
- Koerner’s Korner 531

NAAHoLS 2013 DUES

Yearly Membership: \$20 (US)

Lifetime Membership: \$250 (US)

Please make your check out to "NAAHoLS" and send it to: David Boe,
Department of English, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855.

Members from outside the United States: Our treasurer regrets that we are no longer able to accept checks written in currencies other than US Dollars. The cost of bank exchange is more than the cost of membership. We ask that those members send a check written on a US bank or pay their dues by some other means that arrives in US Dollars. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____