



DICTIONARY SOCIETY
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DSNA

NEWSLETTER

250th Anniversary of Johnson's Dictionary and a Brand-New DVD to Help Celebrate It

This is the 250th anniversary of the publication of Samuel Johnson's A Dictionary of the English Language. Certainly a cause for celebration, and one of the notable events in this line is a digital edition of this famous dictionary as a single DVD, published by Octavo, at a cost of \$50. It is also available as three CDs. It is appropriate that David Vancil, curator of the Cordell Collection (and writer of "The Cordell Corner", a regular feature of this Newsletter), should write a technical description and review of it. David's article begins below. — Ed.

Contained in two PDF files of approximately two gigabytes apiece on a DVD, Johnson's famous folio dictionary displays in the normal view as full color images of facing pages of the open book, including the visible binding and a bordering inch or more outside the book. Published by Octavo, the dictionary text will display in Acrobat Reader 3.0 and above and will run on Windows, MAC OS, UNIX, and Linux platforms. Because of the features available in them, Acrobat Reader 6.0 and above are strongly recommended. It is Octavo's philosophy to present its stock of rare items as viewable two-dimensional artifacts approximating the original as closely as possible and yet taking advantage of technology to make them useful for research purposes.

In the case of some small books, such as Shakespeare's quartos, a copy held by a particular collection can be published on one CD or DVD both as high-definition, individual JPEG images and a PDF, in an inclusive Facsimile Research Edition. These all-in-one versions often cost less than \$100, providing many examples of the same text to researchers without the inconvenience and expense of traveling hither and yon.

DSNA XV

We hope you have all registered for the 15th biennial meeting of our Society, which takes place in Boston, June 9 – 11 this year. We also hope you have reserved your accommodation; Boston is a very expensive city, so you will want to take advantage of the special rates offered. Check the web site: <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dsna/DSNABoston-Mtg.html> for further information. For a preliminary schedule of papers to be presented, please see p. 3.

In other instances, Octavo provides two versions of a particular copy of a work, one as an Octavo Editions PDF publication and the other as an Octavo Research Facsimile publication of 300 dpi JPEGs only. The need for a two-version approach is more often than not a consequence of the massiveness of the work. Such is the case with the Johnson work. The Octavo Editions version is \$50, while the multi-disc facsimile version is a hefty \$1,750. Either can be ordered from the Octavo web site, which has the convenient URL of <http://www.octavo.com>

The dictionary digitized in this instance was a copy belonging to Richard Warren, a physician both to Johnson and Boswell. Interestingly, it is two volumes bound as three and differs in several ways, according to information found in PDF front matter, from J.D. Fleeman's extensive description of the same 1755 edition in his remarkable *A Bibliography of the Works of Samuel Johnson*, 2 vols., 2000.

The Warren dictionary is housed in the Warnock Library. As a bonus, Octavo has appended a digital copy of the 1747 plan of the dictionary in its so-called second-state (the one with the dedication removed) from the holdings of the Library of Congress.

The dictionary is introduced by lively and informative essays written by Eric Korn and Ian Jackson. The Octavo editorial staff provides additional essays of a factual kind.

Octavo advises copying the two PDFs onto a hard drive. I concur, as I achieved markedly better performance in my searches after doing so. I used versions 6.0 and 7.0 Acrobat Reader. They performed almost identically, by which I mean quite well.

I experimented with accessing these large PDFs on two separate PCs, but even my slower work laptop, utilizing a modest 1,600 megahertz Intel mobile CPU and 512 MBs of RAM, performed well on the hard-drive-resident PDFs. Rendered searchable in the PDFs are Johnson's defined words and the Octavo-supplied articles at front and end of the DVD. Such cost-cutting searching restrictions undoubtedly kept the two PDFs from overflowing a single DVD.

Searching for a specific word with the Acrobat "find" function is the slowest approach, particularly since Acrobat

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News of Members

Val Dumond has released her new book, *Just Words — The Us and Them Thing*, about the words we choose to define Us and Them. Published in January by Muddy Puddle Press of Tacoma, WA, the book was featured at the March Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association conference in Seattle, WA, and at Wordstock in April in Portland, OR. *Just Words* increases awareness of language that is sexist, racist, ageist, classist and ableist, and offers a 1000-word glossary of alternative terms. Val reports that she now has a web site: www.valdumond.com

Bryan Garner is the editor in chief of the 8th edition of *Black's Law Dictionary*, published by Thomson-West in 2004. This edition is greatly expanded from the previous one, with more than 17,000 new headwords added. He also had two major works published in 2003: the 2nd edition of *Garner's Modern American Usage* (Oxford U. Press) and a 95-page chapter, "Grammar and Usage," for the 15th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Cynthia Hallen represented DSNA at the inauguration of President Young at the University of Utah on April 15th.

Michael Hancher's article on Nathan Bailey, the subject of a presentation to the DSNA conference in 2001, has appeared in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 60 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 3: 268-70. His DSNA presentation in 2003, "Familiar Quotations," was published in the *Harvard Library Bulletin* n.s. 14 (2003 [2004]): 13-53. It concerns the compilation and publication of John Bartlett's *Collection of Familiar Quotations* (Cambridge, Mass., 1855).

Last year, **Erin McKean** was appointed editor in chief of *The New Oxford American Dictionary*. Just this month, the appointment has borne fruit with the publication of the 2nd edition of this dictionary. □

Editor's Notes

Your DSNA has a new column, on the collection and appreciation of dictionaries. We welcome Jeremiah Farrell, emeritus in mathematics at Butler University in Indianapolis, as our new columnist. He has been collecting dictionaries for many years. His motto, he says, is "there's always room for one more dictionary." Mr. Farrell's very interesting introductory column is found on page 5. We hope this is the first of many articles he will write for the *Newsletter*.



Erratum: in the last issue, in News of Members, we reported that Reinhard Hartmann had recently published vol. 3 of a work on lexicography. In fact, the three volumes of the work, entitled *Lexicography: Critical Concepts*, were published together by Routledge in 2003. We regret the error.

— Victoria Neufeldt

Johnson on DVD. Continued from page 1

Reader continues to comb through the PDF looking for other instances after finding the word. Page thumbnails and bookmarks have been provided, however, and they offer more efficient means of finding one's way among the trees of this wonderful forest of words. I personally found it easiest to navigate with bookmarks. The page thumbnails and bookmarks span both volumes of the dictionary and the plan, so searching using either method is seamless and seemingly instantaneous.

Printing without first zooming in on a portion of a single page is almost pointless. The result will usually be tiny text, for which a magnifying glass would be needed for viewing. In Acrobat 6 and 7, the user can print the current view and obtain good results of a zoomed-in portion of the page. Other options are to use the graphics or text highlighting tools. Octavo claims that zooming up to 300% on the DVD and 200% on the CD are possible.

Here's another tidbit of technical information. I ran an experiment to export the captured words in the PDFs as text files from an available command both in Acrobat 6 and 7. Unfortunately, there was an anomaly in the first PDF, as it stopped exporting data at the word "Juvenility," one page short of the entire list of I's and J's. The second PDF, containing L-Z, performed flawlessly. It was thrilling to see so many of the words Johnson had defined listed.

The color PDFs in the low-cost Octavo Editions version are of such high quality that the viewer can see the chain lines on the paper. It is too bad that for printing text, it isn't possible to switch to black and white, since the result would be clearer. But the color fidelity is incredible. As for achieving the best printing results, I found that I liked the results better from an ink-jet than a laser printer.

The two Octavo versions of the dictionary are not the only digital versions to have been created. In 1996, Cambridge University produced a much more expensive edition on CD, containing both the first and fourth folio editions of the dictionary, the fourth edition being the last that Johnson contributed to personally. While I have not seen it myself, it purports to allow more extensive searches and to show side-by-side comparisons of definitions in the two editions, but the cost of this work is beyond the reach of most individuals or institutions. At \$50, no one should complain of the cost of the Octavo Editions version of Johnson's magnificent achievement as being excessive.

— David Vancil

DSNA XV, Boston

Preliminary Schedule of Papers

Thursday, June 9

Practical Lexicography I

- 8:00 am **Ian Brookes** Painting the Forth Bridge: Coping with Obsolescence in a Monolingual English Dictionary
- 8:25 **Janet DeCesaris** and **Paz Battaner** Zero Derivation and the Order of Senses
- 8:50 **Don McCreary** Lumpers vs. Splitters: An Old Issue Revisited
- 9:15 **Wendalyn Nichols** and **Erin McKean** Corpus-based Lexicography: What's the Difference?
- 9:40 **Ron R. Butters** and **Sarah Hilliard** The Dictionary Treatment of Similitives

History of Dictionaries I

- 10:20 **R.W. McConchie** Dis- and the Dictionaries: The Introduction of the Prefix dis- into Middle English
- 10:45 **David Micklethwait** The Beauty of Books and the Fascination of Fascicles
- 11:10 **Jason Mosser** The History of Literary Reference Works
- 11:35 **Michael Hancher** The Murray-Marshall Correspondence

Special Issues

- 1:30 pm **Natalya L. Yermiya** J.T. Shipley's Dictionary of Word Origins : a Look of a Foreign Learner
- 1:55 **Mirosława Podhajecka** Russian Loanwords and the 'Hard Word' Tradition in English Lexicography
- 2:20 **Inam Ullah** Torwali: Lexical Database of The Torwali-English-Urdu Dictionary Project
- 2:45 **Thora van Male** Haute Couture in the Dictionary

History of Dictionaries II

- 3:30 **Fabienne Baidier** French Historical Dictionaries
- 3:55 **Monique Cormier** The Reception of Abel Boyer's Royal Dictionary
- 4:20 **Anne Dykstra** Taboo Words and the Lexicon Frisicum (1872)
- 4:45 **Aline Francœur** and **Monique Cormier** Dictionary Abridgment in the 17th and 18th Centuries: the Case of French-English/English-French Dictionaries

Friday, June 10

Practical Lexicography II

- 8:00 am **Barbara Ann Kipfer** Using Learner's Dictionaries for Young Native Speakers
- 8:25 **Gerald Cohen** Origin of the Term 'Hot Dog' — Milestone in a Research Project
- 8:50 **Victoria Neufeldt** An Adventure in Dictionary Making

- 9:15 **Charlotte Brewer** Gender in the OED
- 9:40 **Elizabeth Knowles** Comparative Levity: the Later History of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations

History of Dictionaries III

- 10:20 **David Eick** The Querelle des Dictionnaires: Antoine Furetière vs. the French Academy
- 10:45 **Lisa Berglund** "Familiar talk": Hester Lynch Piozzi and Female Synonymy
- 11:10 **Anatoly Liberman** Samuel Johnson's Etymologies in the Context of his Time
- 11:35 **Chris Pearce** Samuel Johnson's Use of "Corruption" as a Linguistic Heuristic

Saturday, June 11

Computers and Lexicography

- 8:00 am **Deborah Anderson** How to Help Make Online Dictionaries More Accessible (with Unicode)
- 8:25 **Win Carus** Vector-Based Models of Meaning and Their Application in Lexicography
- 8:50 **Orin Hargraves** and **Kenneth Litkowski** Characterizing Prepositions for a Natural Language Processing System
- 9:15 **Margareta Kastberg Sjöblom** Dictionary Phraseology and Lexicostatistical Techniques
- 9:40 **Erin McKean** Who Uses Web Dictionaries (and Why)?

Lexicography, the Law, and Congress

- 10:20 **Michael Adams** and **Jennifer Westerhaus Adams** Vulgarity, Dictionaries, and American Trademark Law
- 10:45 **Paul Healey** The Use of Dictionaries in Judicial Decision-Making
- 11:10 **August Imholtz** Glossaries and Spelling Reform Proposals: Two Kinds of Lexicographical Sources in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set

Jargon, Slang, Amelioration, and Place Names

- 1:30 pm **Grant Barrett** What Happened to the Lexicon of Trade Jargon ?
- 1:55 **Malina M. Nielson** and **Cynthia Hallen** Defining Emily Dickinson's Place Names
- 2:20 **Karen Stollznow** When Opposites Attract: The Re-appropriation and Amelioration of Words in Australian English
- 2:45 **Jesse Sheidlower** Implicit and Explicit Definitions of "Slang" in Black-Oriented Dictionaries

The meeting will end with a lively and informative Forum on Usage, from 3:15 till 5 pm. It will be open to the public. □

Cordell Corner

by David Vancil

The promised revision of the Cordell Collection Post-1900 database is well underway. The approach in this project is to enhance the existing records of the 2,669 titles so that all the pertinent information on the title page appears. In addition, whereas the original project depended on current American Library Association-adopted cataloging rules used throughout the English-speaking world, this time around we are identifying the initial compiler of a particular title. This phase should be completed this summer and be available for viewing and searching.

But what about searching for subsequent compilers or editors of later editions and additional compilers of the first and subsequent editions? In a standard online catalog, a researcher could put in the name of any of several compilers and in most instances retrieve the item, assuming the cataloger who prepared the record included everyone's name. Utilizing a single-table approach in Microsoft Access and the particular interface available to us, this kind of searching isn't currently possible in our database, but it could be if we made further enhancements.

Therefore, I have added a field for the names of additional contributors to the book at hand. In this way, the database user will be able to search on the name of anyone mentioned on the title page or revealed in consulted secondary sources as having something to do with the overall compilation or editing of a particular wordbook.

This project will be a pilot for the upgrading of the Cordell Collection Pre-1901 database, which is more than twice as large as the Post-1900 portion. Also, there are more issues to contend with in this part of the collection. Will we want to go back and add the diacritics which were either too difficult or impossible to accomplish in the DOS computing world? Will we want to add yet another field to allow searching on non-normalized Latin language title pages? What about non-Roman alphabets? And what about searching for languages separately from subjects? My answer to these self-imposed questions: eventually. These kind of upgrades are labor intensive and require staff members who are knowledgeable enough to make correct decisions. Since we depend on student assistants for much of this kind of work, we have to wait for the right person to come along. Therefore, the lengthening of titles and the addition of other contributors in a new database field will be undertaken first, as these steps may be accomplished more easily than some others. Unless something unforeseen or urgent occurs, an enhancement project will probably get underway in the next academic year.

Online Cataloging Project

The online cataloging project, which has so far produced about 500 records, continues to languish. A metadata librarian has been added to the library staff, which has allowed the special collections cataloger to return to cataloging the Cordell Collection, at least through the summer months. While it would seem preferable to focus on

completing the searchable online cataloging, in all honesty, specialized databases such as the evolving Cordell Collection databases can serve the needs of anyone doing research in ways an online catalog may be unable to do.

For example, the 250th anniversary of Johnson's 1755 *A Dictionary of the English Language* has just rolled around. As a consequence of our significant holdings of all kinds of Johnson dictionaries, I am currently doing background work on an article I was asked to write on the "miniature dictionaries" in the collection. My first task has been to identify the smaller dictionaries in the collection, which were marketed in terms of their size and portability. In the Pre-1901 database, a special term has been added to any dictionary record which meets this criterion. In an online catalog, only dictionaries specifically identified as miniature on the title page or according to cataloging rules would be identified. Since only a couple of Johnson dictionaries actually qualify as true miniatures, relying on an online catalog to identify all of them would undoubtedly be shortsighted. That's why we still need bibliographers and the convenience of specialized, searchable databases. So it appears that we cannot abandon any of our word-book databases if we are going to continue to serve the needs of the scholarly community.

Cordell Fellowships

I am pleased to announce that DSNA members Mira Podhajecka and Roderick McConchie are slated to visit Terre Haute as Cordell fellows after the DSNA meeting in Boston. The Cordell Fellowship Fund has continued to produce enough interest to support one or two researchers per year. For those of you who have made use of the fellowship, I want you to know that, when funds are available, we are now providing additional financial support for weekends. As a consequence, I have revised the application slightly to allow more latitude. In addition, until it becomes a problem, the deadline has been eliminated. We will be glad to receive applications at any time of year. However, we learn of available funds shortly after the first of the calendar year, so it is from this information that limits are learned. In other words, individuals applying later in the calendar year may find fewer adequate funding opportunities, depending on the support provided in previous months to other applicants.

Finances

On another note concerning finances, I must alert the membership that budgeted funds for acquisitions and conservation continue to be unavailable. However, I have been able to create a fund entitled "Special Collections Account," which I am using to purchase books and do repairs. I am putting all unspecified donations into this account as well as any I have been able to generate from solicitation. I wish I could join you in Boston, but travel funds have been in short supply. I'll see you in Chicago in 2007, if not before!

Johnson vs. Webster in re the U.S. Constitution

The American Dialect Society's e-mail discussion list recently had a discussion of the question of whether U.S. judges quote Samuel Johnson more often than Noah Webster for interpreting the constitution of the United States. A claim to this effect was made in an article on Samuel Johnson by Henry Hitchings in the *Financial Times* of April 1, 2005. The matter was discussed by several posters, and one, ADS member John Baker, a securities lawyer in Washington, DC and an amateur philologist and lexicophile, did some research and sent in his results.

What Hitchings said in his article was this: "Perhaps the most curious feature of the dictionary's afterlife is that, Webster's intervention notwithstanding, it continues to have a place in American law. When the US Constitution was drawn up in 1789, Johnson's was the prevailing authority on the English language. As a result, US lawyers turn to Johnson to be sure of correctly interpreting their Constitution. It is strange to reflect that, as long as the Constitution remains intact, Johnson's dictionary will have a role to play in US law."

Here is John Baker's posting to the ADS-L, printed with his permission: "I took a look at which dictionaries actually do get cited in the Supreme Court opinions of the past half-century, using some simple searches on Westlaw. These are not definitive numbers, but they give a good idea of relative frequency.

"There were 12 citations of Johnson's *Dictionary*, the earliest of which was in 1988, which was around the time that conservative lawyers and judges started emphasizing "original intent" in interpreting the constitution. However, these citations typically are accompanied by citations of other early dictionaries, such as those of Bailey, Sheridan, and Webster, and occasionally by citations of modern dictionaries.

"The *Oxford English Dictionary* was cited 47 times, a number dwarfed by the 135 citations to *Webster's Third*. It will come as no surprise to lawyers that *Black's Law Dictionary* was the champion with 165 citations. Of course, most of these citations were for terms in modern statutes, not the constitution.

"There are 27 citations to *Webster's American Dictionary*. Most of these are to the 1828 edition and used for constitutional interpretation, but some are to the 1860 or the 1889 edition, and even some of the 1828 citations are for the meaning of early statutes. Still, I think that the claim that U.S. judges and lawyers prefer Johnson to Webster is disproved." □

A Collector's Comments

by Jeremiah Farrell

The British Royal Mint (www.royalmint.com) will issue in early April 2005 a proof set that will contain a 50-pence coin commemorating the 250th anniversary of Samuel Johnson's landmark folio dictionary. Tom Phillips' design replicates the typeface used in that dictionary. This is the first coin that I am aware of that celebrates any dictionary and for collectors like myself it is an acquisition we must have.

My collection of dictionaries started over 30 years ago, spurred by my interest in word puzzles and games — especially crossword puzzles. Those initial 80 odd tomes have now grown to over 2,500 dictionaries. Like Warren N. Cordell who started the Indiana State University collection, had I known what I was getting into perhaps I would have had second thoughts about collecting. My good friend David Vancil, curator of ISU's Cordell Collection, now must attempt to secure all dictionaries and ISU currently has more than 12,000 volumes. I, on the other hand, must limit myself to first editions only, because of the expense involved. For instance, I have every Johnson first from the two volume folio to the miniatures (probably some 25 volumes in all). Websters, Baileys, and most of the other 17th, 18th, and 19th century lexicographers are represented as well.

But I am most proud of my slang collection. By "slang" I loosely include dictionaries of cant, colloquialisms, dialects, regionalisms, and obscenities. These works comprise about one-fourth of my total collection. They date from the 17th century to modern times.

Two other important publication events are scheduled for 2005 that will be of interest. Oxford University Press has taken over from Random House the issuing of Jonathan E. Lighter's third volume of the *Historical Dictionary of American Slang* (ISBN 0195174186). Members of the DSNA will no doubt be aware of the fine scholarship involved in this work that is now nearly two decades in the making.

Also, Taylor and Francis Books of London has promised this year Eric Partridge's *The New Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (webmaster.books@tandf.co.uk). This succeeds editor Paul Beale's eighth edition of Partridge's major work. The new editors are listed as Tom Dalzell (American) and Terry Victor (British). I also collect all works and ephemera of Eric Honeywell Partridge (1894-1979) so this promised dictionary will be most welcome indeed. □

Publications of Lexicographical Interest

Books Received by DSNA through April 2005

- American Heritage Science Dictionary*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.
- Honrubia, José Luis Cifuentes, & Carmen Marimón Llorca (Coordinadores). *Estudios de Lingüística: el verbo*. Universidad de Alicante, 2004.
- González, Ana María Cano, Jean Germain & Dieter Kremer. *Dictionnaire historique de l'anthroponymie romane Patronymica Romanica (PatRom). Volume II/1: L'homme et les parties du corps humain (première partie)*. Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag, 2004.
- Onart, Adnan Adam. *Turkish: A Dictionary of Delights*. Karlsruhe: ZKM/Center for Art and Media, 2004.
- Lexicographica Series Major** (Tübingen: Max Niemeyer Verlag):
- Coleman, Julie, & Anne McDermott. *Historical Dictionaries and Historical Dictionary Research: Papers from the International Conference on Historical Lexicography and Lexicology, at the University of Leicester, 2002*. Series Maior 123, 2004.
- Gottlieb, Henrik, Jens Erik Mogensen, & Arne Zettersten. *Symposium on Lexicography XI: Proceedings of the Eleventh International Symposium on Lexicography May 2-4, 2002 at the University of Copenhagen*. Series Maior, 2005.

Other Recent Publications

- Britton, A. Scott. *Guaraní–English/English–Guaraní Concise Dictionary*. Hippocrene Books, 2005.
- McNeil, Robert & William Cran. *Do You Speak American?: A companion to the PBS television series*. Doubleday (Random House), 2005.
- Morris, Evan. *From Altoids to Zima: the Surprising Stories behind 125 Famous Brand Names*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004.
- Stavans, Ilan. *Dictionary Days: A Defining Passion*. Graywolf (distrib. by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York, NY) 2005.
- Word Histories and Mysteries*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004
- Word Origins ...and How We Know Them*. Anatoly Liberman, Oxford U. Press, 2005. □

Members' Classified

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Dr. Henry G. Burger's binary add-on is the only full-language branching dictionary:

To hunt & pursue = To hound.

To pursue & attack = To bulldog, etc.

Hardcover, \$149.00. Foreign, add \$6. Free brochure.
www.wordtree.com Wordtree®, 10876 Bradshaw W58,
Overland Park, KS 66210-1148, U.S.A.

Web sites of Lexicographical Interest

David Wilton's web site of word origins contains histories of words and phrases selected because "their origins are inherently interesting or because some bit of folklore, sometimes true and sometimes false, is associated with the origin." The site currently contains about 400 entries. A separate part of this project is a dictionary of business vocabulary. It aims at "collecting and publishing reference citations of slang and jargon used in high tech industries." The two URLs are:

<http://www.wordorigins.org>

<http://www.biztechdictionary.com/dict.html>

Great Books Online is a rich source of information, including texts in the areas of reference, verse, fiction, and nonfiction.

<http://www.bartleby.com>

The "Double-Tongued Word Wrestler" is edited and administered by member Grant Barrett. He says it "records undocumented or under-documented words from the fringes of English. It focuses upon slang, jargon, and other niche categories which include new, foreign, hybrid, archaic, obsolete, and rare words. Special attention is paid to the lending and borrowing of words between the various Englishes and other languages, even where a word is not a fully naturalized citizen in its new language."

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

Member Barry Popik, well known for his research into first occurrences and origins of words and phrases, also has his own web site, where he posts the results of his research. It is named for his first big achievement, together with member Gerald Cohen, of tracing New York's nickname, "The Big Apple."

<http://www.barrypopik.com>

A searchable electronic version of Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* of 1828 is available at this site: <http://www.christiansoup.com/>

A later edition, identified on the web site as *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, G.&C. Merriam Co., 1913, edited by Noah Porter, can be found at http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/ARTFL/forms_unrest/webster.form.html □

\$100,000 / YEAR GUARANTEED

for sales-entrepreneur
to print and market
new fast-selling

User's® Webster Dictionary
with proven track record.

Full particulars at
www.paikeday.net

New Preposition Database Project

Member Ken Litkowski announces that his company, CL Research, has begun a database project called The Preposition Project (TPP), (<http://www.clres.com/prepositions.html>). He writes, "It is designed to create a publicly available comprehensive database of prepositions. Each of 847 preposition senses for 373 prepositions (including phrasal prepositions) will be described by a semantic role and syntactic and semantic properties of its complement and attachment point. Each sense will be linked to (1) its definition in the *Oxford Dictionary of English*, (2) its syntactic function and meaning in Quirk's *Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, (3) other prepositions filling a similar semantic role, (4) FrameNet frames and frame elements, and (5) other syntactic forms in which the semantic role may be realized.

"The database is being constructed by first tagging instances from FrameNet's database with ODE senses. The Preposition Project generates a considerable amount of data based on the disambiguation tagging for further analysis of preposition behavior. The project is currently in its earliest stages and will be undergoing rapid change as issues emerge."

Members interested in offering assistance can reach him at CL Research, 9208 Gue Road, Damascus, MD 20872-1025; Tel. 301-482-0237; e-mail ken@clres.com □

International Society of Historical Lexicography and Lexicology

The ISHLL is a three-year-old society that should be of interest to members of DSNA. It is a society of scholars interested in the history of the dictionary, the making of historical dictionaries, and historical lexicology. It grew out of an international conference on historical lexicography and lexicology held in England in the summer of 2002. A second conference was held last year in Italy. The proceedings of the first conference, *Historical Dictionaries and Historical Dictionary Research*, edited by Julie Coleman and Anne McDermott, were published in 2004 by Niemeyer. The third conference is planned for 2006, from the 21st to the 23rd of June, in Leiden, The Netherlands.

To subscribe to the society's mailing list, send an e-mail to listserv@le.ac.uk, with the following content:
subscribe ishll Your Name

Subscribers to this list will receive information about the upcoming conference and may also receive information about other relevant events and publications. The society also has an e-mail discussion list. To subscribe, send an e-mail to the same address as for the mailing list, but with this content:

subscribe hllnet Your Name

Membership in the society is currently free. The society's web site is found at:

<http://www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/ishll.html> □

Calendar

Methods XII, 12th International Conference on Methods in Dialectology, **August 1-5, 2005**, Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB, Canada. Theme: Innovative Approaches in Dialectology, addressing recent theoretical and methodological trends. A sub-theme, Identity and Contact, highlights language contact situations such as those found in New Brunswick. Invited speakers: J.K. Chambers, U. of Toronto; Jacques Durand, U. de Toulouse-LeMirail; Hans Goebel, U. Salzburg; Natalie Schilling-Estes, Georgetown University.

Web site: <http://www.upei.ca/methodsxii>

E-mail: methodsxii@umoncton.ca

Phone: (506) 858-4057 Fax: (506) 858-4568

Methods XII Organizing Committee: Centre de recherche en linguistique appliquée, Faculté des arts et des sciences sociales, Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB, CANADA E1A 3E9.

6th International School in Lexicography, Ivanovo State University, Russia, **September 12-15, 2005**. Theme: Semantics, Lexicography, and Terminography in Russian, American, and Other Cultures. Guest-lecturer of the conference is Prof. Heribert Picht, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. The sessions are: Cognitive Linguistics, Terminography and Lexicography; Non-verbal Communication in Different Cultures; Dictionary in the New Millennium; Projects of New Dictionaries; American Studies. The working languages of the conference are Russian and English. Publication of conference proceedings is planned. Contact: Conference Manager Katerina A. Shaposhnikova, tel.: +7 (0932) 37 54 02; e-mail: lexico2005@ivanovo.ac.ru or kar-pova@interline.ivanovo.ru
Fax: +7 (0932) 32 66 00.

Or write to Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Vice-Rector, Head of English Philology Department, Prof., Dr. Olga Karpova, Ivanovo State University, English Philology Department, Ermak St., 39, Ivanovo, 153025, Russia.

2006

International Linguistic Association, 51st annual conference, York University, Toronto, Canada, **March 31-April 2, 2006**. Theme: Words and Their Histories. Papers are invited, especially on the conference theme, but any subject in theoretical and applied linguistics also welcome. Send abstracts to conference coordinator and chair, Sheila Embleton. Deadline for receipt of abstracts is January 6, 2006. For more information on abstract requirements, etc., contact her at embleton@YorkU.CA. For registration information: Johanna J. Woltjer j.woltjer@earthlink.net.

International Society of Historical Lexicography and Lexicology, 3rd conference, Leiden, The Netherlands, **June 21-23, 2006**. For more information as it becomes available, see the society's web site; the URL is given in the preceding column on this page. □

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Publishing Information

The *DSNA Newsletter* is published two or three times a year: Spring and/or Summer, and Fall. The editor is Victoria Neufeldt. News of members and other items of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send **all Newsletter correspondence**, copy for ads, items for publication, etc. to the editor.

Victoria Neufeldt, Editor

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