

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

# NADS 15.3

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Vol. 15, No. 3

September 1983

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Report on our Journals .....	Page 2
Last Call: Nominate a Student .....	2
Seeking a Pacific Secretary .....	3
Nominations and Appointments .....	3
The Library of Congress Has an Aid .....	3
Calendar of Fall Meetings .....	4
Rocky Mountain Region, October .....	4
South Central Region, October .....	4
South Atlantic Region, October .....	5
Northeast Region Premiere, October ...	6
Midwest Region, November .....	7
NCTE, November .....	8
ADS Annual Meeting, December .....	9
Special Guide to the Big Apple .....	11
A Grimm Tale .....	13
Acres & Princes: Presidential Address ...	15
Our New Books .....	19
An English Language Exhibit .....	20
DARE Queries No. 18: Leftover B-Cs ...	21
Public Questions, New and Old .....	21
Here's Our Constitution .....	25
And Bylaws .....	26
Gigantic Sale .....	28

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*NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members and subscribers. Send ADS dues (\$20 per year), queries and news to the editor and executive secretary, Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.*

From:

**American Dialect Society**

Allan Metcalf, Executive Secretary

English Department

MacMurray College

Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

**FIRST CLASS**

To:

## PUBLICATIONS COMING, SLOW BUT SURE

*Publications of the American Dialect Society* Nos. 70 and 71, promised to ADS members for 1983, will be coming out later than planned. Estimated publication date for No. 70, Norman Heap's *Word List from Bucks County, Pa.*, is January 1984; No. 71, Raoul Smith's *Jonathan Fisher, Early American Linguist*, a substantial volume, will not appear until the latter half of 1984. Both, however, will automatically be sent to 1983 members when published. In linking these volumes to 1983 membership, your secretary underestimated the complexities of production. Our publisher, Alabama Press, is giving its usual efficient attention to manuscripts when we manage to get them ready.

*American Speech*, meanwhile, remains on schedule. Vol. 58, No. 2 was sent out at the end of July, and No. 3 should go out late next month. No. 4 will appear in January — and then in 1984 we return to being fully on schedule.

To whet your appetite, here is a partial menu for those forthcoming issues:

No. 3, Fall 1983: "The Lecturer's OK" by Harry Levin and Deborah Gray; "Black and White Speaking in the Rural South: The Pronominal System" by Patricia Nichols; "Movie Words" by Fred Shapiro; "Informant Selection in Dialectology" by Michael Linn; "A 19th Century Illinois Dialect" by Charles Fenno; reviews of the *Second Barnhart*

*Dictionary of New Words* and Labov's *Locating Language in Time and Space*, and a Miscellany article on spelling errors by James Sledd.

No. 4, Winter 1983: "The Intensive Prefix *ker-*" by F.G. Cassidy, "The Relationship of Gullah and Bahamian" by John Holm, "Origins of Even-Stephen" by T.G. Hahn, "Linguistic Survey of the Ottawa Valley" by Ian Pringle and Enoch Padolsky, "Unexpected Byproducts of Fieldwork" by Roger Shuy, and "Among the New Words" by Mary Gray Porter and I. Willis Russell.

## LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Do you have a promising student, graduate or undergraduate, whose interest in American English should be encouraged? If so, you can nominate that student before the October 1 postmark deadline for one of the three new Presidential Honorary Memberships in the ADS, to be awarded for the first time in 1984.

As of Sept. 1, there were no nominations, so your candidate might have a good chance. Just send a letter explaining the candidate's virtues to ADS president A. Murray Kinloch, English Dept., Univ. of New Brunswick, Bag Service No. 45555, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 6E5, Canada. As authorized by the Executive Council last December, he will make the selections. Samples of the student's work and other supporting materials may be attached.

## ADDITIONS TO THE DIRECTORY

See NADS 14.2 for the latest full directory of individual ADS members.

- BENABDI, Linda C., 1413 N. Jefferson St., Arlington, Va. 22205  
 BENSON, Morton, 219 Myrtle Ave., Havertown, Pa. 19083 (Univ. of Pennsylvania)  
 BREWSTER, Seward B., Edson Drive, Augusta, Maine 04336  
 CREAMER, Thomas, 6619 Westmoreland Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912  
 GILE, Mrs. W.E., 875 Donner Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108  
 JONES, Nancy N., Dept. of English, North Lake College, 5001 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving, Tex. 75062  
 KATO, Kazuo, Iwate Medical Univ., 16-1 Honcho-dori 3-chome, Morioka-shi 020, Japan  
 KLEIN, Richard M., Dept. of Psychology, Adelphi Univ., Garden City, L.I., N.Y. 11530  
 LEDERER, Susan Marietta, 45 East 74th St., New York, N.Y. 10021  
 NEUFELDT, Victoria E., Gage Publishing, 164 Commander Blvd., Agincourt, Ont. M1S 3C7, Canada  
 PERANTEAU, Paul M., John Benjamins North America, One Buttonwood Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19130  
 PICKENS, William G., English and Linguistics Dept., Morehouse Coll., 830 Westview Dr., Atlanta, Ga. 30314  
 PICKERING, Stephen, The New York Times, Tenth Floor, 229 West 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10036  
 RICHARDSON, Gina, 3004 Lee Highway, Apt. D-321, Arlington, Va. 22201  
 SCHIFFRIN, Deborah, Dept. of Linguistics, Georgetown Univ., Washington, D.C. 20057  
 THOMAS, Irene D., 474 Nyes Place, Laguna Beach, Calif. 92651

## PACIFIC SECRETARY SOUGHT

Mary Ritchie Key, Pacific Coast Regional Secretary, is stepping down from her ADS position to devote more time to her eye-opening studies of vocabulary correspondence between widely separated languages. The ADS Executive Council will therefore this December be appointing a successor to the Pacific Coast regional secretaryship, encompassing the territory from Vancouver to San Diego. A Regional Secretary's chief assignment is to arrange an annual regional meeting, often but not necessarily in association with the regional affiliate of the MLA. Nominations and suggestions will be welcome; please send them to ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf.

## CRIES, CHANTS, & PITCHES AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Come on, folks, find it here: *Street Cries, Auction Chants, and Carnival Pitches and Routines in the Recorded Collections of the Archive of Folk Culture*, 15 full pages from our friends at the Library of Congress, is yours free for the asking. Just write Archive of Folk Culture, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 and ask for LC Folk Archive Finding Aid No. 1, compiled by Amanda Dargan. Also available is a *Guide to the Collections of Recorded Folk Music and Folklore in the Library of Congress*.

The Finding Aid lists recordings made between 1937 and 1979, in places like Charleston and Edisto Island, S.C.; Shreveport, La.; Murray, Ky.; Pettigrew, Ark.; State College, Pa., and Leeds, England.

It includes street cries: "Get your Journal paper," "Rag, any old rag," "Now I got shad, ain't you glad," "Shark's head don't need no gravy," "Fresh peanuts is the best of all."

Barking: "Hey cauliflower cheap today," "Come on girls a little alive today," "Come on, Vava, juicy oranges."

Also of interest are the technical definitions of *auction chant*, *barking*, *inside lecture*, *pitch*, and *street cry* on the first page of the Finding Aid.

Getting copies of the actual recordings is a more expensive proposition. The copying rate is \$35 per hour of actual recording time plus a half hour for setup time, so a 90-minute cassette would cost \$70. If you

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

With ADS officers serving two-year terms continuing in 1984, the Nominating Committee (Virginia McDavid, chair; Marvin Carmony, Mary Ritchie Key) had only one nomination to make this year: Executive Council member 1984-86. Their choice is *Thomas Creswell*, Chicago State University, emeritus (author of *Usage in Dictionaries and Dictionaries of Usage*, PADS 63-64).

Additional nominations may be made with the signatures of at least ten current members, the nominating petition to reach the Executive Secretary by Dec. 15. Elections will take place at the Annual Business Meeting Dec. 30.

happen to be at the Library of Congress, however (for example at the 1984 ADS Annual Meeting), you can listen for free.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Consulting by U.S. and Canadian mail, and with the advice of the relevant committee chairs and editors, the Executive Council and President have recently made the following appointments:

Chair of the Committee on New Words, Mary Gray Porter, Univ. of Alabama; vice chair, I. Willis Russell, Univ. of Alabama, emeritus.

Vice chair of the Committee on Non-English Dialects, Anthony B. House, Univ. of New Brunswick.

Members of the Committee on Usage: Dennis Baron, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana; Marvin K.L. Ching, Memphis State Univ.

Assistant Editor of *American Speech* 1983 and 1984-85, replacing Murray Kinloch: Charles Clay Doyle, Univ. of Georgia. Editorial Advisory Board of *American Speech* 1984-86: John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia; Donna Christian, Center for Applied Linguistics; A. Murray Kinloch, Univ. of New Brunswick; Riley B. Smith, Bloomsburg State Coll.

ADS Delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies 1984-87: John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia.

# CALENDAR OF ADS MEETINGS

**October 20-22: Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting** in association with RMMLA. American Graduate School of International Management, Glendale Campus, Phoenix, Ariz.

Chair: Cordell A. Briggs, Loma Linda Univ., Riverside, Calif. Regional secretary: Grant W. Smith, Eastern Washington Univ.

## Papers:

□ New Mexico dialects of English. Lynn Beene, Univ. of New Mexico.

This paper organizes data and adds more recent information about isoglosses in the state.

□ "Frontier Dialect in the Novels of Conrad Richter." Paul Friesen, Rockmont Coll.

The dialect of the American frontier is effectively reproduced in Richter's 15 novels.

□ "The Anglicization of Spanish Loan Words in Texas English: Evidence from Place Names." Gary N. Underwood, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

The vast majority of Anglicized pronunciations by Anglo Texans can be accounted for by a small number of normal phonological changes common to almost any borrowing situation.

□ "The South Carolina Pee Dee: Regional and Local Folk Speech." Catherine D. Hurst, Univ. of South Carolina.

Examines phonological, grammatical and lexical features of the folk language before the mid-20th century.

**October 28: South Central Regional Meeting** in association with SCMLA. Hyatt Regency, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Chair: William Evans, Louisiana State Univ. Regional secretary: Scott Baird, Trinity Univ., San Antonio, Tex.

7:30-10:00 p.m., Texas Ballroom A.

## Program:

□ "Ambiglossia: Linguistic Variation Among Afro-Americans." Doris O. Ginn, Jackson State Univ.

Afro-Americans are speakers of an ethnic dialect unique in the United States. The social structure and domains of the dialect represent a particular variety of language that is understandable and relevant only to sharers of the experiences and settings generating that variety. The unique situation of language use to deceive, conceal or alienate without shifting to another language has been identified and coined by the writer as *ambiglossia*. All expressions reflect the structures

and lexicon of standard American English, but with different semantic rules and applications.

□ "Code-Switching in Cajun French." Jill Brody and Janelle Jackson, Louisiana State Univ.

As the matrix language within which Cajun French is spoken, English has had great influence upon this Louisiana dialect of French. Work on code-switching has contributed to a typology: 1) situational, 2) metaphorical, 3) conversational, 3.1) intimate, and 3.2) emblematic. This typology is revised and refined in view of data from switching into English from Cajun French. The category *emblematic*, in which single nouns and tags are lumped together, is further subdivided into the categories 3.2.1) transitional, consisting of transitions and connectives; 3.2.2) single word, further subdivided into word classes; and 3.2.3) expletives.

□ "The Jefferson *Jimplecute*: How a Scottish Dialect Word Became the Name of a Texas Newspaper." Fred Tarpley, East Texas State Univ.

The *Jimplecute* was first published in 1848. Random coinage is implied in the story that the editor picked up a handful of plied type and spelled *Jimplecute*. It has been suggested that the letters represent the town motto: "Join Industry, Manufacturing, Planting, Labor, Energy, Capital, (In) Unity Together Everlastingly." Arkansas dialect studies have recorded *jimplecute* as the name of a mythical animal. However, citations in Scottish dialect dictionaries indicate that the name was based on a new American meaning given a word imported from northern England and Scotland.

□ Business session: election of officers.

□ "Switches to English or Spanish: Does it Matter?" Rodolfo Jacobson, Univ. of Texas, San Antonio.

The Mexican-American bilingual engages in intrasentential and intersentential code-switching when embedding words, phrases or clauses into sentences and sentences into larger units of discourse, Spanish into English or English into Spanish. This paper describes the frequency of these two directions of intrasentential code-switching and examines the messages conveyed as one language is chosen as frame for the other. Code-switching seems to suggest the presence of two registers dependent upon specific intra-ethnic settings.

□ "Dialect Study in the Mass Media: Problems and Procedures." Merrell Knighten, Louisiana State Univ., Shreveport.

Successful treatment of dialect study through a

newspaper column requires a careful balancing of light tone and scholarly methodology; but the result can be a broadening of the scholar's audience, unusual opportunities for community service, and access to a diverse body of information otherwise unobtainable.

**October 28-30: South Atlantic Regional Meeting** in association with SAMLA. Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta.

(For SAMLA membership, registration and housing information write Donald Kay, executive director, Drawer CA, University, Ala. 35486.)

Chair: Karl Nicholas, Western Carolina Univ. Regional secretary: Jeutonne P. Brewer, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Nominating committee: Crawford Feagin, Univ. of Virginia, Falls Church Regional Center; Michael Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina; Carole P. Hines (chair), Old Dominion Univ.

Papers:

□ "The Present Tense of *Be* in Southern Black Speech." Guy Bailey, Texas A&M Univ., and Natalie Maynor, Mississippi State Univ.

Scholars who claim a creole origin for black speech claim that black speech uses un conjugated or invariant *be* to mark a distributive aspect, and that this invariant *be* contrasts systematically with *is*, *am*, *are* and zero forms. Further, they claim that distributive *be* does not exist in white speech. Recent research on Southern speech (e.g. Bailey and Marvin Bassett, "Invariant *Be* in the Lower South," forthcoming in *Language Variety in the South*, U. of Alabama Press) has demonstrated that the second claim is false. The first claim, however, remains a matter of some debate.

Scholars have tended to isolate and analyze particular features of the present tense system (e.g. deletion and *be*) rather than the system as a whole. This paper attempts to rectify these shortcomings by analyzing the function, meaning, and person-number distribution of all instances of all forms of the present tense of *be* (*am*, *is*, *are*, *be*,  $\emptyset$ ) in 20 tape-recorded interviews with blacks in Texas and Mississippi. These interviews, which provide about 2500 tokens of the various forms of *be*, tentatively suggest that the contrast between *be* and other present forms has been overstated.

While invariant *be* is often used for actions distributed in time, it is also used for momentary actions and continuous states and actions; further, other present tense forms are used in the same ways. What is more remarkable is the scarcity of *are* in the data, replaced by invariant *be* and zero forms. The higher percentage of *be* in place of *are* is much like what Bailey (1981) found in Early Modern English.

□ "Introspection — Yes." James Sledd, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

In the journal *Language* in 1955 and again in 1966, I presented materials from some Southern dialects under the rubrics of breaking and umlaut. Though the materials helped to destroy the grossly schematized Trager-Smith phonology, traditional dialectologists otherwise generally ignored my findings, creolists (led by J.L. Dillard) misrepresented them, and Labov was later to use them as an example of the dangers of introspection.

What in fact the materials prove is that the methods of traditional dialectology are not adapted to discover such systematic phonetic conditioning and that refusing the evidence of introspection handicaps the investigator quite unnecessarily. In this paper, I return to the subject with additional evidence.

□ "Southern American English: Yet a Part of the Whole." Juanita Williamson, LeMoyne-Owen Coll.

On a recent national television show (April 1983), Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina was asked whether he thought he had any chance of being elected when so many people (presumably non-Southerners) couldn't understand his Southern speech. The attitude indicated by the questioner is one that is widespread in the United States: that somehow Southern speech isn't quite English and that it couldn't really have sprung from British English as Northern and Midwestern speech surely have.

Like all other varieties of American English, Southern American English has its roots in British English, even most of the forms assigned to the speech of Blacks, which, having been used first by those who settled the South and later by their descendants, "rubbed off" on the slaves in their midst. This can be clearly shown by examining a number of phonological, morphological, and syntactic features, among them the loss of final consonants in final consonant clusters, the -s less third person singular form, the  $\emptyset$  possessive form, the use of *be* finite, the use of the  $\emptyset$  copula, the question order in embedded questions. Some of these remain in standard Southern speech; others have lost their acceptability in educated speech.

□ "The Southern Drawl as a Research Problem." Michael Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina.

The "Southern drawl," the appearance of an offglide or offglides after stressed vowels, has long been identified popularly as a prominent feature of Southern speech. Despite this, it has been the subject of very little linguistic analysis (only Wise 1933 and Sledd 1966 come to mind). Standard sources such as PEAS provide little evidence for it and no evidence at all for the extreme degrees of the drawl. Wise and Sledd describe, despite the extremely fine phonetic notation recorded in the

Linguistic Atlas interviews. On the other hand, most Southerners agree intuitively on the three degrees of the drawl Wise describes: *bed* /bed/ → [bɛəd], [bejəd], [beɪjəd]. Why is there no systematically recorded evidence for this?

This paper hypothesizes that the Southern drawl is a feature not of typical speech but of a special register we might call (after Richardson 1982) "exaggerated Southern" that Southerners can choose to adopt to assert a regional identity when speaking to a person from another region. Linguistic evidence for this comes from the almost universal appearance of the drawl in exaggerated contexts such as anecdotes and popular press books on Southern English for non-Southerners. This paper proposes that a speaker's use or non-use of the drawl can best be explained by the sociopsychological point of view known as accommodation theory.

**October 29: Northeast Regional Meeting**, the first in years. CUNY Graduate Center, 42nd Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, New York City. There will probably be a small registration fee. For further information write David K. Barnhart, ADS Northeast Regional Secretary, Lexik House Publishers, P.O. Box 247, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516, phone (915) 265-2822. 1:00-3:20 p.m.

Papers:

□ "An Approach to Reconstructing Colonial English." Jacob Bennett, Univ. of Maine, Orono.

Very little, if indeed anything at all, is known about the English language as it existed originally in this country. To get at the origins I propose a twofold approach. First, there should be an in-depth synchronic study of our relic areas before much more levelling takes place, and second, the origins in England should be carefully examined.

I have worked rather intensively with the dialect situation in what is perhaps the richest relic area in the country, that is, Maine. This paper consists chiefly of a demonstration of my approach to reconstructing Colonial English. For "informants" I will use the Maine regionalist, George Savary Wasson (see *American Speech* Summer 1974 and Summer 1979), and also a 15th century lexicographer, the author of the *Promptorium Parvulorum*, the latter from Norfolk, a stronghold of English Puritanism. Surprisingly, many of the dialectal forms found in the Maine writer are also found in the 15th century Norfolk writer, and both works contain forms listed in the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*.

□ "Double-prepositioning in New York's Catskill Mountains." H. William Birns, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania.

New York's Catskill Mountains are generally considered part of the Hudson Valley dialect area. While some similarities in lexical items support this view, my research indicates the possibility of a clear distinction. The best evidence, so far, of this distinction is the use of prepositions by Catskill native speakers. Throughout the northeast, speakers use *to* rather than *at* and double prepositions such as *over to* to indicate both direction and motion. Catskill speakers seem to have generalized this northern feature to produce double prepositions that do not denote direction and motion.

My study is based on analysis of 13 taped conversations made for a regional folklife project.

□ "The French Language of New England." Robert N. Rioux, Univ. of Maine, Orono.

Inspired by the work of Gaston Dulong of Laval Universite, I began, in 1974, with the help of six Franco-American students, a long-range study to find out what is really said by the speakers of French in New England. Some 47 tapes, concerning the vocabulary of the exterior and interior of the house, were made over a two-year period. Three years were spent listening to these tapes and making a phonetic analysis of them. The tapes also contain free conversations, folklore, anecdotes, jokes, and songs.

Classification on 3x5 cards and a computer program supplied the following information and conclusions:

1. The French of New England is regional in that it is not standard French; not classical French; not a pure patois, and not a corrupted form of standard French.
2. It has borrowed from the American language.
3. Many of the pronunciations, words and expressions are or were used in the western and northwestern provinces of France.
4. In certain respects, this French appears archaic and dialectal.
5. Conclusion: This French of New England is nothing more than a regional variant of standard French.

2:00 p.m.: 20-minute break

□ "Gender Clues in Selected Print Advertisements." Judith I. Schwartz, Queens College, CUNY.

Twenty-two print advertisements, half directed to men and half to women, of personal grooming products were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively for differences in the ways the language of the ads signals female and male gender. Differences were found in the frequency of gender pronouns and nouns, surface syntactic features, and the presence of words and phrases judged by raters to signal gender. The complex nexus of phonological, syntactic and semantic cues that denote and connote gender in English is adroitly yet unobtrusively employed in advertisements to attract either a male or female audience.



□ "Black English, Gullah, and Bahamian." John A. Holm, Hunter College, CUNY.

□ "Slang of Union Soldiers from Bucks County, Pa. During the Civil War." (A preview of PADS 70.) Norman A. Heap, Trenton State College.

The letters and diaries written by these soldiers are full of the impressions of young men suddenly cast into a situation where society seems to have reversed its requirements. Rural Bucks County, just north of Philadelphia, provided security and flexibility in daily life within a clear pattern of moral standards. The Army imposed physical hardships and regimentation with a complete lack of moral standards. Fighting, drinking, gambling, stealing, swearing, and disrespect for authority assume more importance than does the combat training.

Service slang enriches the vocabulary and gives the diary and letter writing the desired air of dash and worldliness: *bite the dust, bull pen, cuss in, cuss out, doughboy, dough face, fizzle, fracas, grub, half seas over, hell, knappy, mum, nussin, ossifer, parly, peace commisstoner, calico, red tape, routing up, salt hoss, shooting iron, short order, skedaddle, slapjack, snooze, sweat box, tight, to a T, tote, traps, turn in, Uncle, Uncle Sam, Yank*. Some terms are standard Army vocabulary for that time: *bounty jumper, bunk* (v.), *double quck, forage, gum blanket, musket, ranche, sutler, uncar*.

**November 3: Midwest Regional Meeting** in association with MMLA. Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis.

For information on MMLA membership, registration and housing, write MMLA, 423 EPB, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City 52242.

*Advance reservations requested for the dinner. See below.*

Chair: Beverly Olson Flanigan, Ohio Univ.  
Regional secretary: Donald W. Larmouth, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay.  
1:30 p.m. Papers:

□ "Some Sounds of St. Louis: A Social and Stylistic Appraisal." Thomas Murray, Ohio State Univ.

Dialect geographers frequently position St. Louis as occurring exactly on the boundary separating the North Midland and South Midland dialect areas. An analysis of almost 500 hours of tape recordings (gathered largely through ethnographic means, and encompassing all socioeconomic levels and age groups) suggests that, at least sociolinguistically and stylistically, most St. Louisans identify more strongly with the North than the South. I will discuss the often-homophonous vowels in, for example, *lord* and *lard*, the intrusion of *r* into *wash*, *washer*, and so on, the popular *s/z* alternants in *grease* and *greasy*, as well as mention more briefly

the final vowels in *sundae* and *Missouri* and the initial vowel in *egg(s)*.

□ "Sayings About a Person Who Seems to You Very Stupid." Luanne von Schneidmesser, DARE, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.

In answering DARE's two questions about "a person who seems to you very stupid," the first one asking for completion of the phrase "He hasn't sense enough to —," the second one for "He doesn't know —," informants give over 500 different responses, including variants. Everything from "nothing" to "anything" was reported. To the first question well over half of the informants responded with some form of removing oneself from the rain. To the second question responses with "beans," used by close to one-third of the informants, were the most numerous, ranging from the simple answer to those with extensions such as "beans when the bag is open," "spilt beans from coffee," and "beans from apple butter."

Whereas in our region we may not have sense enough to "pour or pound sand down a rathole," south of us they don't have enough sense to "pour piss or water out of a boot." Not all of the expressions for these two questions are regional, of course, but a surprising number are.

□ "Literary Dialect as a Characterizing Device." Jules Zanger, Southern Illinois Univ., Edwardsville.

Literary dialect has as one of its functions the creation of the illusion of actual speech patterns of real speakers. Another function of literary dialect, and one generally overlooked, is its effect as a characterizing device, linking the dialect speakers to broad social stereotypes, and consequently attributing to them qualities and characteristics not dramatized in the fiction. This linkage establishes their relationships to other members of the fictional community and to the reader.

□ "Usage Panel Notes in the *American Heritage Dictionary*, Second Edition (1982)." Virginia McDavid and Thomas J. Creswell, Chicago State Univ.

This second of three papers (see NADS 15.2, p. 7 for the first) begins with a comparison of the numbers of notes in the AHD1 and AHD2. Editorial claims for AHD2 are that there are over 400 new usage notes. Actually, in AHD1 there are a total of 502 Usage Notes; in AHD2 there are 388. In AHD1 there are Usage Panel votes on 247 questions, in AHD2 on 122. Of these 122 votes in AHD2, only 20 are new, that is, deal with questions not dealt with by the Panel in AHD1. Some editorial modification is present, but essentially there are the same judgments on the same problems for approximately 100 notes.

The paper then proceeds to a study of the actual votes on the 122 questions, analyzing these by number of notes and number of problems. The

number of votes is broken down by medium and by style. The questions on which there are votes are then analyzed by type of problem: diction, idiom, grammar, word formation. Differences in the ways of reporting Panel opinions are presented, including the use of percentages as opposed to words like "majority" and the presence or absence of comments by Panel members.

□ "The Moralistic View of Usage." Gary N. Underwood, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

(Same abstract as for "Three Perspectives on Usage" presented at the ADS-DSNA Summer Meeting. For text see NADS 15.2, p. 4.)

□ "On the Nature of American Dialectal Theory." Jay Robert Reese, East Tennessee State Univ.

American dialectologists have perceived their principal role to be the gathering and presentation of data; therefore they have been more concerned with methodological than with theoretical questions. But with the completion of the linguistic atlas studies, the availability of large quantities of unanalyzed material and the restriction of funds for large-scale field projects, the future role of the dialectologist must shift more and more from the gatherer of data to its analyzer. It now becomes important that we as dialectologists engage in vigorous debate on the theoretical principles underlying our discipline.

This paper explores some of the major aspects of the linguistic theories underlying current dialectal thought and investigations, especially in regard to how such principles influence methodology, analysis of data, and dialect classification. It first establishes the roots of current dialect theory in pre-descriptive linguistics. Second, it examines the theoretical and methodological modifications of linguistic-geographic thought by social dialectologists. Third, it examines the strengths and limitations of dialect investigations founded on such principles. Fourth, it shows how modern dialectologists could benefit from a closer relationship with current analytical linguistic theory, especially in terms of phonology and syntax.

3:30 p.m.: Break

3:45 p.m.: Invited paper

□ "Sex Differences in the Dialects of the Upper Midwest: Structures and Attitudes." Harold B. Allen, Univ. of Minnesota, emeritus.

4:30 p.m.: Break

4:40 p.m.: Symposium

□ "Problems in Selection and Classification of Informants in Dialectology." Virginia McDavid, Chicago State Univ., and Michael D. Linn, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth.

5:20 p.m.: Business meeting

5:30 p.m.: Adjournment

7 p.m.: Dinner at Pronto Ristorante, five blocks from the Leamington. Please make advance reservations by writing Donald W. Larmouth, Communication Processes, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wis. 54302. He needs to notify the restaurant a week in advance so we can be sure of a dessert by Milan's premier pastry chef.

The Pronto is a top-quality northern Italian restaurant (Bolognese cooking with light sauces, not spaghetti with meatballs), with an excellent range in both selection and prices. On the low-cost side, with a pasta as the main course, the cost would be around \$16 per person, including antipasto, dessert and wine. With another entree (veal, scampi, etc.), the average price goes up to about \$20. A full Italian meal with antipasto, pasta, meat course, salad, wine and dessert would cost about \$26. The chef, Vittorio, will prepare a special dessert for the group. Ordering will be a la carte, so the full range of possibilities is open to all.

9:15 p.m.: Informal social hour in honor of Harold Allen, Leamington Hotel, Donald Larmouth's suite. All in attendance at the meeting are invited.

Nov. 19: NCTE annual meeting, Denver Convention Center, Denver. For information on membership, registration and housing, write NCTE, 1111 Kenyon Rd., Urbana, Ill. 61801.

ADS-sponsored session: No. B 21, Saturday, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

Chair, Bethany Dumas, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville. Associate chair, Allan Metcalf, MacMurray College, ADS executive secretary.

Program: "American Dialects in the New English Curriculum."

□ "Southern Mountain Dialects." Jay Robert Reese, East Tennessee State Univ.

□ "Black English." Geneva Smitherman, Wayne State Univ.

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**AN HONORARY DEGREE**, Doctor of Humane Letters, was awarded by the University of Alabama in May 1982 to ADS member, most recently PADS managing editor, James B. McMillan. In presenting him, I. Willis Russell said, "Dr. McMillan's bibliography is able evidence of a mind that never ceases to ask questions, to unsettle common assumptions."



**ANNUAL MEETING 1983**

**Dec. 27-30:** ADS Annual Meeting in association with MLA. Hilton and Sheraton Center Hotels, New York City.

There is no ADS registration fee. For MLA membership, registration and housing information write MLA, 62 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.

**Luncheon:** Friday, Dec. 30, 1:00 p.m., Escargot Restaurant, 47 West 55th St. The cuisine is essentially French. Price \$18, all inclusive, for a meal of soup du jour, beef bourgignon or chicken, vegetable, potato, dessert; coffee, tea or milk; and a glass of wine. *December 10* is the deadline for sending reservation requests (with payment, and choice of beef or chicken) to: David K. Barnhart, Lexik House Publishers, P.O. Box 247, Cold Spring, N.Y. 10516, office phone (914) 265-2822.

**Luncheon speaker:** Allen Walker Read, on "Personalities that Guided the Study of American English, 1926-1945."

MLA has arranged with American Airlines for Super Saver rates with no minimum stay requirements. Call the AA Convention Desk, (800) 433-1790, in Texas (800) 792-1160, and request MLA star number 5183.

**Thursday, Dec. 29**

□ 8:30-9:45 a.m.: ADS Executive Council. Hilton 534. (Open to members.)

□ 12 noon-1:15 p.m.: ADS-sponsored Special Session on Needed Research in American English (MLA Session 434). Hilton 549. (Third in a series held every 20 years; see PADS 41 for reports of the first two.)

**Chair:** Thomas L. Clark, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, ADS vice president.

□ **Linguistic Geography:** Raven I. McDavid, Jr., Univ. of Chicago, emeritus.

□ **New Words:** I. Willis Russell, Univ. of Alabama, emeritus.

□ **Regionalisms:** Frederic G. Cassidy, *Dictionary of American Regional English*, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.

□ **Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings:** Kelsie B. Harder, State University Coll., Potsdam, N.Y.

□ **Usage:** John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia.

□ **Non-English Dialects:** Juergen Eichhoff, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.

□ **Computer Needs:** William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., Univ. of Wisconsin, Whitewater.

(1:45-3:00 p.m.): "Linguistics and Literary Onomastics," American Name Society, MLA Session 473, Hilton 549.)

□ 3:30-4:45 p.m.: *ADS Annual Meeting I: Papers (MLA Session 530). Hilton 504.*

**Chair:** Marvin Carmony, Indiana State Univ., *ADS past president.*

□ "A Discriminant Analysis of the Field Records of the Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest." Michael D. Linn, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth.

Traditionally, linguistic geographers have not been concerned with classifying individual speakers but have instead drawn isoglosses and heteroglosses of individual items to establish dialect boundaries. This method was used effectively on the East Coast, but as speech boundaries have been extended westward, they have tended to break down. Houck, reporting on the speech of Johnson County, Iowa, asserted that "while dialect mixture occurs, there is no central tendency for Northern or Midland response items to occur more frequently, thus indicating once again dialect homogeneity" (*Folia Linguistica* 1[1967]: 91).

In response, Allen argued that "the fact that on both sides of a boundary there are persons whose own idiolects manifest dialect mixture does not render invalid the inference that the boundary exists. At most, it raises the possibility of another definition of dialect based on the distribution of individuals rather than on the distribution of language features" (*Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest*, Vol. I [Minneapolis, 1973], p. 124).

This paper examines the speech patterns of the Upper Midwest in light of Allen's suggestion. The responses of the 208 informants in Allen's field records are examined by means of a discriminant analysis. The results, by creating a composite of idiolects, support Allen's placement of the major Northern-Midland dialect boundary in the Upper Midwest. Further, it provides a list of phonological, lexical and syntactic items that economically classify individual speakers.

□ "Linguistic Jargon: Its Relation to Specialists' and Non-specialists' Perceptions about the Structure of Language." Kathryn Riley, Louisiana State Univ.

The terminology used in Chomskyan transformational syntax is of interest for several reasons: 1) the technical vocabularies in "Standard Theory" and "Extended Standard Theory" differ significantly from each other in their predominant

features; 2) the different lexicons used in these two theoretical frameworks reveal insights into how linguists working within ST and EST view their respective goals; and 3) the technical jargon of both theories affects the way non-linguists perceive claims linguists make about the structure of language.

1) The ST lexicon consists largely of terms associated with process, movement, and growth; its predominant feature is its organic quality. For example, terms such as *kernel*, *tree*, *pruning*, and *node* suggest biological forms. In contrast, the EST lexicon, though retaining many terms associated with ST, abounds with jargon related to stasis and restriction (e.g. *condition*, *binding*, *barrier*, *government*).

2) The organic terms in ST reflect that framework's rejection of the taxonomic structuralist approach. The vocabulary of ST is congruent with the view that language is a complex psychological phenomenon whose features cannot be adequately captured by surface forms. EST, on the other hand, which is largely an attempt to characterize the universality behind this complexity, has as a prescribed goal the restriction of an all-too-powerful grammar. Its use of static and restrictive terms reinforces this reorientation.

3) Researchers in fields such as composition, literary criticism, and anthropology have often analogized from ST to their own disciplines. In doing so, they have tended to misinterpret ST vocabulary and hence the ST model. The most pervasive example of such misinterpretation is the use of *generate* as a synonym for *create* or *produce*. Another misconception is that the term *deep structure* describes some universal level of meaning, which progresses through *transformations* to a language-specific level of *surface structure*. Non-linguists, in short, tend to view the ST as a model of human language production, quite possibly because the ST lexicon draws upon organic terms that have counterparts in non-technical fields. While EST has not yet filtered down into many non-linguistic fields, we may predict the continued (mis)use of its terms by non-linguists.

□ "The Question of Uniformity in Australian English Phonology." Gary N. Underwood, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

The most persistent theme in the description of Australian English is its uniformity. The claim of uniformity, however, has been maintained only by disregarding as irrelevant all evidence of variation in vocabulary, morphology, and syntax, by disregarding the speech of Aborigines and "migrants" (Australians of non-Anglo or non-Aboriginal ancestry), and by specifying that, in order to be recognized as variation, phonological differences must be phonemic.

AE has consistently been subjected to a unitary phonemic analysis derived from Daniel Jones'

cardinal vowel system. If analyzed from the perspective of another taxonomic system, AE quickly loses its unity, since different phonemic systems must be postulated for various groups of speakers. If the analysis of AE presupposes the existence of underlying systematic phonemes, different lects have to be recognized, since different phonological rules must be formulated for variant realizations of a single systematic phoneme. Perhaps most significant is the fact that, given the conventional analysis of AE vowels, the claim of uniformity is not true, since all speakers do not have identical vowel inventories.

(6:30 p.m.: American Name Society dinner, Warwick Hotel.)

Friday, Dec. 30

□ 8:30-9:45 a.m.: ADS Annual Meeting II: Business Meeting (MLA Session 638).

Chair: A. Murray Kinloch, Univ. of New Brunswick, ADS president

□ This is not just pro forma! Reports of officers, committees, regional secretaries provide a comprehensive review of the year. There will be opportunity for response and discussion.

(10:15-11:30 a.m.: American Name Society, MLA Session 665, Hilton 504.)

(12 noon-1:15 p.m., American Name Society, MLA Session 689), Hilton 504.)

□ 1:00-3:00 p.m.: ADS Luncheon

Speaker: Allen Walker Read, emeritus, Columbia Univ.: "The Personalities That Guided the Study of American English, 1926-1945."

## NHC SEEKS SUGGESTIONS

In its five years of existence, the National Humanities Center at Research Triangle Park, N.C., has developed a successful fellowship program and sponsored conferences and seminars on topics in the humanities. It also distributes a radio program on the humanities to over 250 commercial and public stations nationwide.

In an effort to continue to be responsive to the needs of humanistic scholarship and to establish closer relations with members of learned societies, the Center invites scholars in the humanities to suggest activities that might complement its programs.

Please write to John O'Connor, Assistant Director for Programs, NHC, 7 Alexander Dr., Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709.

## THE NEW YORK SCENE: A DIALECTOLOGIST'S GUIDE

By Arthur J. Bronstein

*(These notes on the host city of the 1983 Annual Meeting were specially prepared for ADS visitors by Professor Bronstein of the Ph.D. Program in Linguistics, Graduate School, CUNY.)*

New York City continues to be the place to visit. It has abundant theatre opportunities (Broadway, off-Broadway, off-off-Broadway); some of the country's most famous Museums (Art, Natural History, Modern Art, Primitive Art, Frick, Guggenheim); two magnificent Botanical Gardens; all kinds of restaurants (some world famous), counted in the thousands; the New York Philharmonic, the American Symphony, the Metropolitan and the New York City Operas; the Joffrey, American, and NYC Ballet companies, among others.

NYC is still the largest retail outlet in the country (Macy's on 34th Street is the country's largest store); it is the home of over 35 colleges and universities, the center of the garment, clothing design, publishing, printing, and financial industries.

Four of the city's five boroughs have over a million residents each (Brooklyn has 2,600,000 at present). We've the country's largest (and noisiest?) subway system, the most hospitals, hotels, movie houses, schools, taxis, parks, bridges, and tunnels in any one city, as is expected.

If all this leads to a "So what!" on your part, then please know that NYC is also a linguist's and dialectologist's paradise. You can hear, in this one city, more native speakers of languages other than English than in any other city in the world. NYC remains a major gateway for large numbers of permanent visitors as well as college and university students from Europe, the Subcontinent, Africa, the Middle East, the Orient, Central and South America, and the islands of the Atlantic Ocean. Students come to our many colleges to study English (as a second language) and to enroll in undergraduate and graduate programs in all disciplines. All these arrivals to our city ride our buses and trains, and shop in our

and their stores, talking their own languages as well as many "flavored" varieties (at least for first-generation immigrants) of NYC English.

Many gravitate to the varied ethnic centers of their native compatriots throughout the city — small, concentrated communities of Japanese, Puerto Rican, German, Armenian, Jewish, Russian, Italian, Chinese, Vietnamese -Americans with grocery stores, shops and restaurants "transferred" from elsewhere. If you keep in mind that over two million NYC residents are foreign-born (over one-quarter of the total), you will realize what such figures mean to a school system that must educate all the city's children (including those who arrive speaking different languages), the social services that serve all residents, and the other public, business, industrial and retail organizations that cater to a city's needs.

So — if you want to hear many foreign languages and practice languages spoken by your neighbors or your grand- or great-grand- parents or studied in schools, New York City can be a very large and effective Berlitz School, an incomparable chance for your ears and articulatory systems.

It can also be a dialectologist's dreamplace. NYC remains the one major subdialect area in the Northeast corridor. You will recall it was the sixth subarea of the Northeast in Kurath's and Kurath & McDavid's Atlas volumes on the geography of words and pronunciation. Continued study corroborates the city's uniqueness in the Atlantic states, the only metropolitan area so identified. I note for you some items that make NYC's dialect unique. The sources listed at the end of this essay will provide much more.

First, throw out the idea that most New Yorkers sound like the stereotypes made famous in earlier movies and books — the uneducated, vulgar, nonstandard speakers whose grammar, limited lexicon, and distorted vowels suggested that most New

Yorkers were poorly educated or almost illiterate people who had never heard of Thomas Wolfe, Ernest Hemingway, Eugene O'Neill, William Shakespeare, Jean Paul Sartre, Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud. Recall that NYC is the cultural harbor of this country. It is not so only because of tourists who visit — New Yorkers are the students in the colleges; New Yorkers attend the ballet, recitals, theatre; they read the country's largest newspaper and the *New York Review of Books*; they write the columns and essays in major magazines and, and, and. . . .

If you walk through our neighborhoods, you may hear (and see) that our children play *potsy* on the sidewalks (for your "hopscotch"); they call your "dragonflies" *darning needles* (shades of the garment industry!); their mothers never buy "clear-seed peaches" (these are *freestones* to us), and our supermarkets sell us *cottage cheese* or *pot cheese* — never "curd —," "Dutch —," or "clabber —."

If you eat in your hotel restaurant, order *pancakes* or *string beans*; if you tell your waiter you want "flannel-cakes" or "snap beans," he'll stare at your ignorance. Tell him you like your eggs *pan-fried* (we don't use "spiders").

If you travel to Queens (Kurath and McDavid shouldn't have left it out of metropolitan NYC in their *PEAS*) to some of the snowy *sliding pon(d)s* (your "slides"), you'll see our children [hɑrɪŋ], not [h3rɪŋ], to get on *ltne* (not "in line") to go *belly-wopptng* (we don't "belly-bump" outside the Turkish, Greek, or Armenian restaurants). And if you visit our elementary schools, you'll note that NYC teachers use *oaktag* on bulletin boards (F. Cassidy's *DARE* will show it).

NYC has some special pronunciations, too. The City is historically, typically *r*-less, like much of eastern New England and the South. We have, however, begun to notice a steady increase in the use of postvowel /r/ forms, especially among younger speakers. Labov noted such in his detailed study of the social strata of NYC speech, as have others (Bronstein, Hubbell, Austerlitz,

Frank). Where post-vowel /r/ is lost, it is typically replaced by non-syllabic schwa [kəə, fəə, pəə]; preconsonantly its loss may lengthen the previous vowel [θ3:d, kə:d, fə:m].

*Law* and *lore* are homonyms. *Hard* and *hot*, *cart* and *cot*, *charm* and *John* have contrasting vowels for many, who retract and lengthen the vowels in the first words of each pair while the vowels in the second words remain lower and slightly fronter. Not all NYC speakers so retract, of course, but all *r*-less speakers will lengthen or offglide the vowels in those words.

Many NYC speakers raise (and offglide) the long vowels in *bag*, *half*, *sad*, *dance*, so that we've a clearly different vowel in each of the pairs *bag-back*, *half-hat*, *cab-cap*, *grass-wrack*. The vowel in the latter words of each pair is not only shorter, it is lower in the front vowel system. Thus *bad* and *bared* can be homophones for many in NYC.

We will *marry merry Mary* with three different vowels; the /o/ of *note* and *so* is often fronted when we speak (not sing); and as in other *r*-less areas of the East (or London) you will hear an unhistorical /r/ in *idear of* or *lawr and order*; *cot* and *caught* contrast; *oral* and *aural* do not; we don't eat [brɪndʒəz] in the [fɒrɒst], since we find such pronunciations [hɑrɪdlɪ] strange.

Don't wince if you hear an occasional [3ɪ<3] for *turn* or *first*; that form is really not peculiar to NYC anyway. It appears in Newark and Jersey City as well as in upstate New York (in middle-class as well as lower-class speech, and even in upper-class older speakers), although it is becoming a relic form. If you're from certain sections of the South where it is not uncommon, it won't seem at all strange. The shift to [3ɪ], making *Boyd* and *bird* almost homophonous (the range can be [3ɪ-ɔɪ-ʌɪ-ɒɪ]), is probably traceable to early modern English forms and not to speakers of uneducated English, as any educated dialectologist knows!

Come to the annual meeting in NYC this winter; delight in the language and dialect varieties you will hear; eat some of the best prepared French, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, Russian,

Chinese, Thai, Jewish, Soul food in the world, while you hear so many languages and dialects. Go to all the concerts, operas, ballets, recitals, museums you can (in between papers); and after your visit, plan another to hear and do all you couldn't in 1983. We love having you visit! Enjoy!

## **YAKO GRIMM, ADS DETECTIVE**

### *The Sidewalks of New York*

Tongues of cloud licked at the upper floors of skyscrapers in the December matinee gloom. Tongues of children echoed shrilly from distant sliding ponds and games of potsy. Tongues of the world's five continents floated in animated excerpts to the ears of a small man in a large gray coat standing quietly on a Manhattan street. From time to time he would smile at a particular exchange, extract a notebook and pencil from an inside pocket, and write a line of phonetic symbols.

Behind him a younger, taller man, in an even more capacious gray coat, read the gold lettering on the notebook's black leather cover:

**YAKO GRIMM**  
F.A.D.S.

The observer nudged a pudgy companion and nodded towards Grimm. The companion moved only his eyes, closed them once in acknowledgment, then resumed idly looking up at the black letters on the yellow theater marquee:

**A MUSICAL COMEDY**  
**MY WORD!**

**BASED ON THE DICTIONARY OF**  
**AMERICAN REGIONAL ENGLISH**

A long tongue of a waiting line extended from the theater door, incorporating Grimm and his two watchers before turning the corner out of sight.

Pending from the cloud overhead, a snowflake detached itself and fluttered down to land conspicuously on Grimm's notebook. He brushed it off, put away the notebook, glanced with another smile at the sign above the theater, and reached absently in a capacious coat pocket, pulling out a large golden object — a disk about three inches in diameter. With a broad smile now,

Grimm scrutinized his treasure; his outwardly indifferent companions were equally intent.

It was a gleaming medal, engraved on one side with a large ornate O.K., surrounded by the legend "American Dialect Society \* 1889." Turning it over, Grimm traced reflectively with his ungloved finger on the other side a curiously angular and distorted map of the United States circled by the legend, "We DARE \* To Study American English."

Before he could slip the medal back in his pocket, the tall man behind him moved swiftly and tapped his shoulder. "Will you hold my coat and let me borrow that coin, buddy?" he asked, and suiting his action to his words, left Grimm with his arms full of overcoat and his hands empty.

Grimm stared. Beneath the overcoat, the tall man wore a T shirt depicting a larged winged insect. "Buzz, buzz," said the borrower, with a wild smile, and heedless of the cold he stepped out in the street, jostling both Grimm and his fellow watcher.

Facing the queue, whose faces had turned towards him, the tall man began tossing the golden medal from hand to hand with the ease of an experienced juggler. From a pocket he drew one ball, then another, then yet another, and tossed them too. The medal and the balls seemed to float in the air under his deft handling.

Then the balls vanished one at a time; the medal came to rest in the tall man's outstretched hand. He gestured with it towards Grimm — but before returning it to him and claiming his coat, he took a bite out of it. Beneath the golden surface this medal was chocolate.

"But it was bronze!" Grimm said, frowning at the smiling juggler. "It's the Great Seal of the American Dialect Society, awarded with my elevation to Fellow of the American Dialect Society this afternoon. Tradition and lore of the FADS demand that the medal be bronze. This — this edible — has taken a bite out of my honor."

"Tradition and law indeed!" laughed the tall man. "The law of fads says that medals will be chocolate now."

"Ladies and gentlemen!" he continued, turning to the increasingly attentive crowd. "I admit that I found an irresistibly delicious morsel in the hands of this gentleman. I admit I love chocolate. And I hereby offer my last \$5 in payment for the bite I took.

"I am an unemployed actor, a newcomer to your town from the mesas of East Texas. I wear this darned needle on my T shirt to assert my determination to buzz about until I attract the attention of an employer. Standing outside this theater, I was seized by the impulse to demonstrate my talent — if not by playing Chinese handball, then by juggling. I reached for the nearest shiny object; you know the rest. I deserve not your accusation, but your applause."

"Officer!" called Grimm to an armed man in blue who had been edging nearer. "There goes a gross imposter. A Texan? A Texan might call a dragonfly a *snake doctor* or *mosquito hawk*, but not a *darning needle*. Texas has *mesas*, but not in the east. (For this, see E. Bagby Atwood, *The Regional Vocabulary of Texas*, U. of Texas Press 1962.) Only a New Yorker (or a reader of NADS) would know of Chinese handball. Only a New Yorker would think I meant *law* when I said *lore*.

"You want to be clapped, do you? Officer, clap that man in irony!"

But before the policeman could respond, the tall man had leaped and dodged his smiling way around the corner. Grimm looked glum.

At that moment the line began moving towards the theater doors. Sensing a movement behind him, Grimm turned to see his stolid neighbor take a step in the opposite direction, a conspicuous parcel in his hand. Taking no chances this time, Grimm lunged at the short man and held him tightly by the collar.

"Look in that container, officer," he called.

"That's my sack lunch," the man protested as the policeman approached. "Is there any law that says you have to wait on line if you change your mind about seeing a show?"

"I'm just a newcomer from Oklahoma.

Wait till I get that travel agent who sold me on the friendly Big Apple!"

"Another imposter!" exclaimed Grimm. "Another New Yorker in disguise!"

"It's remotely possible that an Oklahoman would speak of a paper *bag* instead of a *sack*," he declared grimly, pulling the September 1983 NADS from his pocket and waving it at the astonished criminal, "but only a New Yorker would stand on line."

"He'd be tough as brass if he's telling the truth about his lunch," agreed the policeman. "This bag lunch of his is nothing but a brass flannel cake."

"My word!" exclaimed Grimm, staring at both policeman and criminal as the latter was led away in handcuffs. Recovering himself, Grimm smiled at his medal, pocketed it carefully, and walked into the warm theater.

## ADS PUBLICATIONS BASK IN ALABAMA ACCORD

Contributors to *American Speech* will get free offprints instead of having to pay for them. Readers of NADS will learn the contents of forthcoming issues of *American Speech* and the latest word on the publication schedule for PADS. ADS members can buy *Dialect Notes* and back issues of PADS at tremendous savings.

These are some of the early results of the June meeting of ADS editors Ron Butters (*American Speech*) and Jim Hartman (PADS) and executive secretary Allan Metcalf in Tuscaloosa at the new offices of the University of Alabama Press. Equally important will be the long-range benefits of mutual acquaintance with the Alabama staff, including Director Malcolm MacDonald, Business Manager Linda Sanford, Production Manager Mike Burton, Marketing Director Dan Ross, Promotion Assistant Rubye Taylor.

The Alabama Press provided warm Southern hospitality. So, as an added benefit, did distinguished ADS members Jim McMillan, long-time managing editor of PADS, and I. Willis Russell, known for new words. Also joining in the discussions was the new on-the-spot managing editor of PADS, Virginia Foscoe.



## THE ADS, 'ACRES OF DIAMONDS,' AND THE PRINCES OF SERENDIP

By Marvin Carmony

(Remarks at the first annual ADS Luncheon, Los Angeles, Dec. 30, 1982)

Five years before the American Dialect Society was founded in Boston in 1889, a distinctive new university was established in another eastern city. This new school, it is said, was built upon an unusual foundation, a single characteristically American message that embodied the impulse and raised the money to start a quite American institution.

In this motivational classic, the story was told of a poor farmer who had worked his own field without much success for years and who had finally given up and left in despair to seek his fortune in a far land. Another farmer came along who gave more attention to the soil, noticing in particular the bright pieces of a strange substance that lay in the fields. That glittering material was diamonds. The defeated farmer had been walking and toiling over acres of diamonds, a virtually immeasurably valuable field — and had not realized it.

As you perhaps know, the lecturer who told this story was Russell H. Conwell of Philadelphia, the founder of Temple University, which opened in 1884 as a working people's school. The message of "Acres of Diamonds" was plain enough: the people of Philadelphia and of every Philadelphia in the country should cultivate their own fields. Opportunity was where one was. Wealth — intellectual, spiritual, financial — was on every hand and need not be sought elsewhere.

Whether the founders of the American Dialect Society were "touched" by Russell Conwell and "Acres of Diamonds" is a matter of speculation as far as I am concerned. It is likely, I think, that they were more influenced by other equally American and better-known advocates of the contributing, active life — Ralph Waldo Emerson, say, and William James.

It seems clear, however, that the founders of the Society understood the point that Conwell hammered at for much of his adult

life: it is not necessary to leave one's surroundings to make a contribution to society; look about you; find something at hand to do. Their interest was in understanding the American language in its richness and variety, and in preserving a record of its progression as the country grew and changed — a worthy goal and one more radical a near-century ago than it seems today.

Even a casual pre-centennial glance at the results of ADS-inspired work is enough to demonstrate that the field of American English scholarship has been cultivated vigorously during the past nine decades, particularly since World War II. Harold Allen's discussion of regional dialect studies from 1945 to 1974 in *American Speech* for Fall-Winter 1977 and Lee Pederson's examination of American pronunciation since 1945, appearing in the same issue, tell much of the impressive story. The work of the past eight years not covered and the present vitality of the Society are known to all of us. It is apparent that we have been and still are in a period of substantial productivity in American English studies.

With 1983 at hand, however, the year for a fresh consideration of needed research [in the Special Session at the 1983 Annual Meeting], I want to raise two questions about our future work and then think about their answers with you for a little while. First, what is the larger meaning, what is the larger purpose of our past work and of that which we may be undertaking in the rest of the decade and the century? Out of that consideration can come the second question: What alteration of course, if any, might make sense?

What indeed is the larger meaning of our work? One answer that comes to mind is implicit in another question, one posed some 200 years ago by J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, in his *Letters from an American Farmer*: "What then is the American, this new man?" The past and present members of our society and profession have contributed generously to the mountainous

response to de Crevecoeur's question. And one significant place where that contribution appears, not surprisingly, is in the field of cultural geography. It is here, I think, and in the broader field of American studies that de Crevecoeur's question and the larger purpose of our work are being answered in a most interesting way.

It should not surprise us that linguistic geography occupies a prominent and crucial place in cultural geography. It must be so. Perhaps the reason is suggested by Charles F. Hockett's laconic and provocative comment in his book, *Man's Place in Nature*: "Linguistics without anthropology is sterile; anthropology without linguistics is blind."

We might agree that "anthropology without linguistics is blind" and with its transfer to our discussion: "cultural geography without linguistic geography is blind." But the other part of Hockett's observation — "linguistics without anthropology is sterile" — does it carry over with full force into the relationship between linguistic geography and cultural geography?

It seems to me that the connection is strong enough to suggest: 1) we ought to do our work in the context of an enlarged understanding of its significance in cultural geography and with a solid understanding of cultural geography itself; and 2) we should consider using our broadened comprehension and appreciation of American culture as the basis for research projects in cultural geography at large.

I realize that many of our members may already have come to this conclusion. I hope that you who have will be tolerant and supportive of my tardy remarks. And perhaps others will come to agree with us.

The steps by which we might gain the understanding and do the work just outlined are natural enough. The first is suggested by an observation that Martin Marty of the University of Chicago made recently about the educative process, in which he made use of two words with the same root. Our students, he said, should *reconnotter* several different fields of study

and then become *connoisseurs* of some aspect of one of them. Both words are rooted in *knowing*, but knowing in different ways.

Any linguistic geographer, any student of American English not familiar with cultural geography beyond his own part of it, will find plenty of interest to reconnoiter. A good place to start is Wilbur Zelinsky's *Cultural Geography of the United States*. This study was the first of its kind, is brief but comprehensive, and comes with both a substantial theoretical base and a very useful bibliography. Zelinsky points to basic works in geography and cultural geography, and a follow-up of his annotated list of references will provide a great deal of insight into the general field. Zelinsky is interesting and vigorous. (We could profit from inviting him to present a paper to the Society.)

Both his book and Raymond Gastil's fine *Cultural Regions of the United States* delineate and discuss the regions of the country and the components and reasoning utilized in arriving at the demarcations, including settlement history (where we are relatively strong), dialect geography (where the geographers need better information), and the geography of political affiliations, religion, economics, social well-being, place names and so on.

Most of all, both books provoke, encourage, compel further studies. They represent only a start. I should add here mention of a new work that I have not as yet read, one that demonstrates this point. It is *This Remarkable Continent: An Atlas of U.S. and Canadian Society and Cultures*, edited by Zelinsky.

There are dozens of works mentioned either in Zelinsky or Gastil or both or in works that they themselves mention that are worthy of study. One little gem was written by an author familiar to the many members of the Dialect Society who are interested in place names. If you haven't already done so, read George Stewart's *American Ways of Life*. And Stewart's *U.S. 40*, a pictorial and written essay on the National Road.

I recommend as well one work mentioned in none of these places, a relatively new,

popular treatment of American cultural geography, Joel Garreau's *The Nine Nations of North America*. Imitative of John Gunther's *Inside U.S.A.* and making use of the various regions of the country and of Daniel Elazar's work and a good many other sources barely footnoted, *The Nine Nations of North America* shifts criteria at will to establish a cultural geography of the country and the continent that is more forced than forceful, more sensational and sophomoric than sound — but it is, above all, interesting. And its many readers have demonstrated that the American public is interested in such an approach to our culture.

I remarked earlier that the steps outlined to implement the proposal suggested here were quite natural. I think so. For example, before long in your reading you will recognize what you have known all along, that you have an inexhaustible diamond-field to work in. And at about the same time you may very well begin to use some of the resources you've come upon to assist you in getting at problems and projects that you are already at work on. This has been my experience.

I had been working toward an understanding of Indiana's spatial patterning of dialects and settlement history for a considerable time, obtaining some answers and raising not a few questions. The situation was something like this: Probably the most authoritative study of American dialects had assigned the lower two-thirds or so of Indiana to the South Midland, most of what was left to the North Midland, and a narrow band of top tier counties to the Northern dialect. Since these boundaries were extended from the east and were continued through Illinois, they seemed to carry special weight in Indiana.

My own study of Atlas records, focused only on Indiana items, pretty well substantiated these assignments. But a fine-meshed large-checklist survey and a number of small studies were somewhat at odds with this interpretation. And, more important for my remarks here, my

assessment of the culture of the state gave me confidence that only the Southern quarter of the state — probably not all of it — should be considered South Midland. There were also anomalies and subtleties and questions of various sorts.

So it was that a few years before I encountered much if any of the rest of the field of cultural geography, I was at work trying to make better sense of Hoosier dialects and to gain a better understanding of Hoosier culture. I had moved into cultural geography without realizing how much had been written that I could have been bringing to bear upon my own projects. Though still left with much to learn and much to do, I can express confidence in the value of doing our work — all of it — in an awareness of cultural geography.

Before I try to buttress this observation with a few details, I want to consider two other matters briefly. First, I don't want to leave the impression that dialectology appears to be theoretically and methodologically moribund. It is not. Like some of you, I know something about and am appreciative of the potential and real place of computer-assisted analyses of dialects, which have been utilized for more than a decade. I am also aware of the interesting and valuable work represented by William Labov's *Locating Language in Time and Space*, in which the emphasis is upon establishing boundary conditions. Becoming familiar with and competent in such methodologies and their results is our privilege and obligation. Regardless of the direction our own projects take, such work will need to be a part of our ongoing preparation.

This is the place for a second parenthetical observation. It is evident that the states (and the provinces) are arbitrary masses of land in some ways and are not, except in an instance or two, actually cultural entities. This fact didn't prevent our colleagues in place names from doing their work state by state, and not without reason. Even if rarely so culturally (Utah is close to it), the states are historically, legally, constitutionally, statistically *organic*

entitles. Howard Odum has called them "the warp and woof of the federal fabric . . . the multiples of the cumulative nation. . . ." They are, he said, "articulate individualists, jealous of their rights, prideful of their heritage, conscious of their autonomy."

All in all, it makes sense to use these attributes and the wealth of available information to plot the development and present geography of state cultures — and smaller units, even counties. Incidentally, doing so would be a way of using and improving upon the remarkable state guides produced during the Great Depression under the WPA Federal Writers Program. State and regional cultural geographies would be a natural for one of the current NEH programs, which "supports projects that foster understanding and knowledge of the history and customs of regions and communities in the U.S., particularly projects which draw upon various disciplines in the humanities."

But to return to the Indiana story. A bit about one part of the project will serve as the coda of my remarks today. The available scholarship that can be applied to a cultural geography of a state comes from many fields and is sufficient in itself to account for much of the information needed. But doing such a project necessitates having firsthand information as well.

Part of the answer is to get around the territory at every opportunity, something that my work permits too little of. I have traveled the state partly by car, partly by electronics, using the amateur radio bands. An additional approach has been to enlist the help of others in doing some of the legwork and fieldwork and in serving as participants. As in my research on Indiana place names some years ago, my colleagues in amateur radio in virtually all of the 92 counties have made a telling contribution to the development of significant data about their state. In pursuing the spatial distribution of various cultural components, they have counted barns by roof types (Glassie), ascertained the setting of present and past courthouses (Kniffen), surveyed restaurants and menus for the

presence and popularity of certain foods such as grits, and responded to a number of questions about Hoosier character and manners, dialects, vernacular regions, best and worst features, needed changes in state policies and attitudes, and a number of other matters.

In a subsequent questionnaire, some 30 of the most active participants were provided with an Indiana map showing the counties and were asked to draw in their own impressions of the breakdown of the state into sections (if such be the case) where the people's ways seemed clearly to differ. They were also invited to explain their mapping, if they wished. The lines that the participants drew and the explanations that they offered demonstrated a noteworthy degree of awareness of the notion of cultural variation.

Where are these lines? Was the most frequently drawn line about two-thirds the way up from the Ohio River, matching an authoritative linguistic view of the state, or was it on or near U.S. 40/I-70, supporting the long-held notion that there are two Indianas, northern and southern? Neither place.

The first choice was a line in the shape of a shallow *v* drawn across the state from Vincennes to Ohio County, close to Cincinnati. Evidence offered in support of this line was largely impressionistic but not unimpressive, and it is complemented by more solid evidence, as I have already suggested. The Calumet area was recognized, and there was some support for a boundary line perhaps 60-75 miles south from Lake Michigan, running eastward to Ft. Wayne.

No one drew a boundary line across the middle of the state along I-70 and U.S. 40, an omission which suggests that the central part of Indiana, with an Indianapolis rising higher and higher above the cornfields and growing steadily in influence, is increasingly felt to be something more than the point marking the backwaters of Northern and Southern cultures.

All this would be useful enough. But one reaction was quite unexpected. A somewhat

apologetic respondent from southwestern Indiana, claiming not to know the state as a whole, drew a highly detailed map of southwest Indiana culture and provided an explanation of it that is so compelling as to suggest the value of trying out a microanalysis as a follow-up to the initial approach.

This pleasant experience of looking for one thing and finding — in this instance — something else of value has a familiar name, serendipity. You may recall that Horace Walpole coined the word from the title of an old fairy tale, *The Three Princes of Serendip*.

As these royal people traveled about, they seemed always to fall into situations and circumstances that turned out better than they had in mind at the outset. Their good fortune grew out of two qualities: first, they went to the trouble of leaving comfortable and familiar surroundings and set out on journeys. This is the opposite principle and one complementary to that invoked by Russell Conwell's "Acres of Diamonds." It may well be as powerful a truth. In getting away they made for themselves an environment far richer in creative possibilities than staying at home provided them. Second, they had sense enough to see chances for the improvement of their situation in the unexpected turn of events.

For us to travel the short distance through the field of cultural geography and of American studies will surely enrich the environment in which we labor, teach, and write. And good and desirable things are just as certain to happen to us if we keep our eyes and minds open.

If my emphasis here has seemed parochial or at best nationalistic, take heart: perhaps one of the effects, serendipitous or no, of working along these lines may be that as we become more and more acquainted with and understanding of our great country, we may find ourselves increasingly attentive to, at home in, and in love with the world. I think so. I pray so. As Norman Cousins remarked in his *Human Options*, "Such a world as ours needs all the thought and attention it can get."

## NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS

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

The ADS' publisher, University of Alabama Press, has sent out an announcement of new books in linguistics, language and dialect studies, with a half-price sale of older books ending Nov. 11, 1983. If you didn't get a copy, write them at P.O. Box 2877, University, Ala. 35486. See also the advertisement in this *Newsletter* for Alabama's special Back Issue Sale of *Dialect Notes* and *PADS*.

*Charles-James N. Bailey* and *Karl Maroldt*. *Grundzuge der Englischen Phonetologie: Allgemeine Systematik*. Working Papers in Linguistics, Institut für Linguistik der Technischen Universität Berlin 16. (Order from Universitätsbibliothek der Technischen Universität Berlin, Abteilung Publikationen, Strasse des 17. Juni 135, D-1000 Berlin 12, West Germany.) August 1983. ca. DM 16. Tested in class use for eight years. Ch. 5 gives a complete set of ordered rules for varieties of English generally spoken by cultivated speakers in the Anglo-Saxon countries. Designed to be suitable for Southern States English.

*Charles-James N. Bailey*. *Wrights [sic] and Wrongs in Teaching English: a Vademecum*. Working Papers . . . der Technischen Universität Berlin 17. (For address see above.) August 1983. 417 pp. ca. DM 25. Chapters include: Disadvantages of inadequate phonetic transcriptions in dialectology, phonetological explanation, and language teaching; Markedness reversal and the pragmatic principle of reading between the lines in the presence of marked usages; Diagnosing knowledge of English.

*John J. Bergen* and *Garland D. Bills*, eds. *Spanish and Portuguese in Social Context*. Georgetown University Press (Intercultural Center, Room 111, Washington, D.C. 20057), summer 1983. Includes studies of the social contact of Spanish and Portuguese with English in the United States.

*Lawrence M. Davis*. *English Dialectology*:

An Introduction. Univ. of Alabama Press, 1983. 192 pp. Cloth \$19.75, paper \$9.95. A survey of major works in regional and social dialectology in the 1970s, including linguistic atlas projects in the United States and Britain, Labov's work in sociolinguistics and its influence, and the controversy over Black English. Includes critical reviews of statistical methods employed.

Winfred P. Lehmann and Yakov Malkiel, eds. Perspectives on Historical Linguistics. Amsterdam: John Benjamins (One Buttonwood Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19130, USA), 1982. xii & 379 pages. Bound \$40. Papers from a 1979 conference, emphasizing semantics. Authors include ADS members William Labov and Elizabeth Traugott.

Mish, Frederic C., ed. Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary. Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, June 1983. 1,568 pages. Hardbound \$13.95, \$14.95, \$15.95. 160,000 entries. Gives dates of first recorded use of words; usage essays for words often misused, confused or disputed.

Urdang, Laurence, ed. Idioms and Phrases Index. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1983. 3 vols., xxii & 1,691 pages. \$150. Over 400,000 entries for over 140,000 expressions of two or more words, referring readers to definitions in more than 30 English-language dictionaries.

Urdang, Laurence, ed. Loanwords Index. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1983. 482 pages. Entries for 14,000 words, referring readers to definitions in 19 dictionaries. A separate section lists loanwords according to the 80 languages of origin.

Urdang, Laurence, ed. -Ologies & -Isms, A Thematic Dictionary. 3rd ed. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1983. 368 pages.

Urdang, Laurence, ed. Mosby's Medical & Nursing Dictionary. 3rd ed. C.V. Mosby Co., 1983.

Urdang, Laurence and Frank R. Abate, eds. Fine and Applied Arts Terms Index. Gale Research Co., 1983. Terms used by museums, art galleries and auction galleries in the English-speaking world, and by artists, artisans and designers, covering art objects, styles, periods, production

techniques and materials. Gathered from standard reference books and auction catalogs. With a descriptive bibliography of sources.

Urdang, Laurence and Frank R. Abate, eds. Literary, Rhetorical and Linguistics Terms Index. Gale Research Co., 1983. 305 pages. With a descriptive bibliography of sources.

## THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON EXHIBIT

A Linguistic Atlas field record, a DARE map, illustrations from *How to Speak Southern, Talkin and Testifyin: The Language of Black America*, and (Hawaiian) *Pidgin To Da Max*, with books like the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*, *The Social Stratification of English in New York City*, *Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect*, *A Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles* — 27 items in all — comprised just the North American section of an exhibition at the University of Bamberg, West Germany, in May and June.

This may be the first time in history that the English language has been accorded an exhibit of its own. The exhibit's title (translated) was "English: Forms and Functions of a World Language," and it was put together by ADS member Wolfgang Vlereck (professor and holder of the *Lehrstuhl für Englische Sprachwissenschaft und Mediavistik*) and Sebastian Koppl of the Bamberg university library.

For those who could not attend the exhibit (and who can read German), a handsome profusely illustrated 190-page catalog is available. With its essays, exhibits and bibliographies, it is a useful introduction in its own right to the study of English. The chapter on English in North America is written by ADS member Edgar Schneider.

Copies of *Englisch: Formen und Funktionen einer Weltsprache* are available in paper covers at DM 15 from Universitätsbibliothek Bamberg, Franz Ludwig-Str. 7a, D-8600 Bamberg, West Germany.



## DARE THIRSTS FOR BUG JUICE

A VERY few leftovers in the letter B and some in C; we can still get these into galleys now being corrected. As before, please send comments to Prof. F.G. Cassidy, *Dictionary of American Regional English*, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, Wis. 53706. And thanks for the many former contributions!

**buckeye** — A type of cheap candy. Is this a reference to the nut, the tree, a native Ohloan, or something else? Where and when was it in use?

**budge** — A fit of nervousness; used 1904 by Ellen Glasgow. A Virginia expression, by her good authority, but we have no other evidence for it. Is it known otherwise or elsewhere? Still used, or remembered?

**bug juice** — A word hovering between folk and slang use, and developing new applications, but of uncertain regionality. We have some evidence but need much more. It originally referred to bad whiskey and has been transferred to cheap soft drinks and to gasoline for jalopies, all non-literal meanings. Literal meanings are the innards of bugs (grasshoppers, etc.) squeezed out by experimenting children, and, more recently, the mess of squashed insects that builds up on windshields and headlights. Most recently: sprays used on agricultural crops or to keep mosquitoes and other pests at bay. It goes back to the 1850s and flourished in the 1920s. What is its status now?

**buttermilk land** — We have two quotes from Indiana, 1843. It was a type of marsh or "spouty" land — presumably resembling buttermilk in some way. Is the term still in use or still remembered? What was the significance of "buttermilk"?

**candy rice** — Used by Julia Peterkin for "pink and white candies that looked like rice grains" and were scattered all over cakes. It sounds like *sprinkles* or *jimmies*. Is this still in use?

**Chinese handball** — We have only two reports, both from New York City, but apparently of two distinct games. Both are played outdoors, one like regular handball

using "any convenient wall," the other played on the sidewalk with some kind of countdown using "king," "queen," "jack," etc. Does anyone still play them? Where and how?

**coodle** — Evidently a variant of *cooter*, a turtle. Our only example is from *Green, Virginia Folk Speech*, 1899. Is it known elsewhere or still current anywhere?

**creep** — A stool, from Farmer, 1889, who gives it as a Pennsylvania word. We have been unable to trace it otherwise, but it's the kind of word that may still be in daily use, seemingly too commonplace to notice.

**creep-mouse** — A tickling game played with a small child, making it laugh by moving the fingers rapidly on its body as if a mouse were running over it. We have only one example: *Green, Virginia Folk Speech*, 1899.

**chicken rain** — We have one good quote from southern Indiana: it's a light rain that does not last. Why this name? How does rain affect chickens? Or is that a false track?

## THE INQUIRING PUBLIC

The last *Newsletter* had scarcely any room for answers to the questions from the public (and ADS members) published in January. Here the answers are, with thanks to the ADS members who provided them and apologies for the delay in publication.

Q 1. "I am writing a book, and would like to know how to write English with a black or Negro dialect and also Spanish (Cuban) dialect."

A. First question: Who is the intended audience? Children? Adults? Blacks and Cuban Americans? Or a general adult audience? The writing must be understood by that audience.

Second: Is the writer writing as I, in the voice of this dialect, as Twain did in *Huckleberry Finn*? That's the hardest job of all, and I would strongly discourage any but a pro from attempting it.

Third: Is this a dialect the writer is utterly familiar with? It's easy to condescend, easy to misunderstand.

Fourth: Look at some masterworks and

best sellers. Great and even good authors do unexpected things to get the effect of dialect. They are never literal. Twain, for example, on Page 1: "It was rough living in the house all the time . . . , so when I couldn't stand it no longer. . . ." He uses the typical double negative *couldn't* — *no*. But he writes *living*, although Huck and most Americans pronounce it *livin'*. And Huck probably didn't pronounce the *d* in *couldn't*.

In sum: Take care. — Ethel Grodzins Romm, Roosevelt Island, N.Y.

Q 2. "Do you know of any published source of information on the preparation of linguistic maps?"

I think the best course is your own observation of how other people have presented their work. If you are using symbols such as *o*, *x*, *+* to mark the location of particular items, keep the symbols simple; limit your symbols to no more than three. If you have three related items and they all come together in some location, do three maps, one for each symbol. In my *Vocabulary Change* (1971), Map 13, p. 323, you will see that I tried to use a clear disc, a black disc, and a half black half clear disc, this latter to show where two items occurred side by side. The half black half clear disc is a mess at the scale used. Instead of individual symbols, you can use shading to mark the general area in which items occur, or you can use labeled lines. See *Vocabulary Change*, pp. 356-7. The word geographies of various parts of the United States will give ample instances.

Draw your own symbols using plastic templates which you can find in stationery or art stores. Do not use the plastic symbols that are sold in sheets. They are easy to stick on and they pop off with just as much ease.

If you plan to publish your maps, consider your versions as working sheets; let a professional cartographer do the final copy for you unless you have had considerable experience as a draftsman (-woman). — Gordon R. Wood, Collinsville, Ill.

Q 3. What is the origin of *alakazam*?

A. As a vaudeville stage and carnival (Carny) usage it appears to have been analogous with *Hocus-pocus*, *Abracadabra*,

*Piff-paff-poom* and other words and phrases in the vocabulary of amateur and professional magicians and prestidigitators: "Now you see it, now you don't."

The list of hits written by Cole and the Johnson Brothers (probably a black group, circa 1900-1910) includes "The Countess of Alagazam." (Edward B. Marks, *They All Sang*, New York 1934, p. 100).

In *American Speech* 6.4 (April 1931): 312 is a linguistic note by C.P. Mason from the *New York News* of March 2, 1930: "According to News Investigator William McGarth, it means 'Good Hunting, eh, what?' " and is used in "the numerous local medicine shows which are taking in large wads of sucker money in exchange for small packages of cheap laxatives, or small pamphlets on sex, psychology, character analysis and the stars. . . ."

With a sexual meaning, from the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, April 24, 1951, p. 13: After 1-Night Stand Elmer Sitts Alone (headline). The whirlwind courtship of Elmer Sitts . . . with Elmer and Gladys it was just slam, bam, Alakazam! Timber! This is it! and so on.

Movie advertised in the *San Francisco Examiner*, Aug. 25, 1961: "Wham! Bam! Here come the 13 fabulous, hilarious miracles of Alakazam the Great! Full-length Cartoon Feature in Color," a film that was popular with children. — All citations by Peter Tamony, San Francisco.

And in the ADS' *Dialect Notes* 4 (1916): 271, "A Word-List from Nebraska" by Louise Pound:

*alagazam*, adj. "fine, excellent." "The jelly was *alagazam*." — John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia.

Q 5. What's the best grammar of Southern American?

A. It does not exist, if you consider the problem as a descriptive linguist might write it. That is, you would need a grammar with at least a phonemic range that accounted for the differences between Southern mountain and Southern plain-piedmont as well as among the Negro speakers. It would contain something of the difference in vocabularies between the *you-*

uns and you-all groups. A sketch of that grammar is Raven McDavid's "American English Dialects" in W.N. Francis, *The Structure of American English* (1958), pp. 521-7. — G.R. Wood.

Q 6. "Has anyone done any research into the way Yiddish has permeated American speech?"

A. The questioner should be aware of the work of two scholars: Sol Steinmetz, who is currently preparing a book on the subject (address Clarence Barnhart, Inc., Box 250, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708), and David Gold, whose output on the subject will ultimately be extensive (see e.g. the December 1982 issue of *Comments on Etymology*) (address 1610 Eshkol Tower, Univ. of Haifa, Mount Carmel, Haifa 31 999, Israel. — Gerald Cohen, Univ. of Missouri, Rolla.

For an overview of the Yiddish contribution to American English, see the section titled "The Jews" in *I hear America Talking* by Stuart Berg Flexner (1976). But if you'd like to become a *mav'n* on the subject, and have a delightful time doing so, get *The Joys of Yiddish* by Leo Rosten (1968). Both books are available in paperback. — Richard B. Murto, Fuchu-shi, Japan.

A big brouhaha when Rosten's *Joys of Yiddish* came out that it was a bad book about Yiddish, but Rosten explained it was a book about the English language. Very very funny. For specific words, send \$5 for a subscription to Gerald Cohen's compulsively readable *Comments on Etymology* (Humanities Dept., Univ. of Missouri, Rolla, Mo. 65401), covering all languages, with items on Yiddish. — E.G. Romm.

Caveat: Scholars of Yiddish hold Rosten's work (including his more recent *Hooray for Yiddish*) in very low esteem, occasionally in sheer contempt. — G. Cohen.

Q 7. Are there similar organizations to ADS in other English-speaking countries like Australia, England, Jamaica, Scotland?

A. For the Caribbean there is the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, with members from the entire Caribbean, Britain, United States. Write Dr. Lawrence Carrington,

School of Education, U.W.I., St. Augustine, Trinidad W.I. (F.G. Cassidy, *DARE*, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.)

Q 9. "My company is interested in finding sample tapes of American English dialects, for purposes of computer speech recognition development."

A. I have some tapes made a decade ago of native white speakers in parts of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, using the Pictorial Linguistic Interview Manual. That means there are extensive samples of the pronunciations of single words and short word groups as well as samples of extensive conversation. — Dr. Gordon R. Wood, 12 Briarcliffe Dr., Collinsville, Ill. 62234.

Q 10. References on so-called "Elizabethan dialects" spoken in isolated coastal areas along the Atlantic coast.

A. See Grace Tomkinson, "Shakespeare in Newfoundland," *Dalhousie Review* 20 (1940): 60-70. — W. Kirwin, Memorial Univ., Newfoundland.

Q 12. Information about *DARE*.

A. Write the *DARE* office — address on Page 21.

Q 13. Legal language.

A. I write a bimonthly column on writing for *California Lawyer*, published by the California Bar Assn. for its members. . . . A very good book on the history of legal language is David Mellinkoff, *The Language of the Law*, 1963. — E.G. Romm.

Q 15. Information about "Arp talk," a disguising language that inserts "arp" after the first consonant of a word, or at the start if the word begins with a vowel: "talk and" becomes "tarpalk arpan." Spoken in Port Washington, Wis. in the 1950s.

A. I never heard of Arp talk, but it's formed exactly like Obby Dobby Tob'alk (Talk), used by teenagers in the 1950s, maybe late 40s, in Springfield, Mass. My kid sister was fluent in it. That is, Mob'y kob'id sob'is-tob'er wob'as flob'u-ob'ent ob'in ob'it. — E.G. Romm.

Q 16. "Toogoodoo," name of the home plantation of Francis Yonge on Yonge's Island (ex-Orange Island) in the 1730s.

A. This was a hapax legomena. The inquirer's script actually read *Toogooloo*, a well-known name that graces a famous college, and that is said to be Cherokee for "Forks of the River." — *ed.*

Q 17. "I am tired of hearing people, often Easterners, refer to Middle Western speech with terms like 'flat' or 'twang,' which are almost always used disparagingly. Can you refer me to a book or article or an ADS member so that I can learn more about neutral ways to describe a Middle Western or Massachusetts or Alabama accent or pronunciation?"

A. Read the essay on American pronunciation in Vol. 1 of *DARE*, to be published next year. In the meanwhile, get in touch with the author of that essay, James Hartman, English Dept., Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan. 66045. — F.G. Cassidy, *DARE*.

You are caught between the devil of custom and the deep blue sea of linguistic jargon. If you want to use such terms as *glottal stop*, then linguistic jargon has to be your choice. Otherwise you'll have to content yourself with the fact that people who speak one dialect (New Joisey for instance) look down on the Southern drawl. — G.R. Wood.

Q 20. Recordings of Gullah.

A. Albert H. Stoddard, *Folklore of the United States: Animal Tales Told in the Gullah Dialect*, ed. Duncan Emrich. Library of Congress Division of Music Recording Laboratory, AAFS L44, LC Catalog No. R55-457. — Charles Clay Doyle, Univ. of Georgia.

Other Library of Congress recordings include AFS 11,475: Gullah tales, spirituals and street cries from Charleston, S.C., 10" reel of tape accessioned June 1959.

Q 22. "I am researching the families of Free People of Color in North Carolina through 1864. During the reserarch, I have encountered the terms *Free People of Color*, *Free Issues*, and *Mustee*. I am interested in the varied meanings of these terms. . . ."

Q 23. "I am especially interested in the methodology in compiling regional dictionaries and wordlists. Can you recommend any readings?"

Q 24. A simple checklist of features distinguishing one region of the country from another, for use by a non-expert in identifying where a person comes from.

A. If readers know of a list that is comprehensive, precise, and easy to use, the editor would be grateful to hear about it. This is one of the most frequent inquiries. Some features that come to mind are:

1. The *r* after vowels, as in *park*, *born*, *further*. Most of the United States pronounces this *r*, but not eastern New England, New York City (sometimes), and the deep South.

2. The long "I" sound as in *I*, *like*, *time*, *rise*. In most parts of the country this is an "ah-ee" diphthong, but in the Southeast and Southwest the "-ee" is lost.

3. Short *e* before *n*, as in *pen*, *men*. If it sounds the same as the short *i* in *pin*, the speaker is from the Southeast or Southwest.

4. The last consonant in *greasy*. In the North and West, it has an *s* sound; in the middle and southern parts of the country east of the Rockies, it has a *z* sound.

5. *Y'all* in talking to one or more person indicates the Southeast, extending into Texas. Northerners may say "you all" as two distinct words, but it's not the same thing.

More detailed lists appear in Roger W. Shuy, *Discovering American Dialects* (Champaign, Ill.: National Council of Teachers of English).

Q 25. "What acid tests may be used to distinguish a highly proficient non-native speaker of any dialect of English from a native, proficient or not? This writer would appreciate help in collecting such tests for a special study of the term *native speaker*. Contributors will receive a copy of the complete bibliography or collection when assembled." Thomas M. Paikeday, 1776 Chalkdene Grove, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 2C3, Canada.

**HALF A CENTURY AGO** (in December 1932, to be exact), the first speaker at the Annual Meeting of the American Dialect Society was Allen Walker Read. His talk, "British Recognition of American Speech in the Eighteenth Century," appeared in the ADS

Journal *Dialect Notes* (VI: 313-34) exactly 50 years ago. At that time Read became *Dialect Notes*' most prolific author, following his first article with "Boucher's Linguistic Pastoral of Colonial Maryland" (VI: 353-60) and "Noah Webster as a Euphemist" (VI: 385-91), reporting Webster's omission of such words as *womb*, *stink*, *suck* in his version of the Bible.

In this year of 1983, who is the speaker at the ADS annual luncheon? Allen Walker Read, of course, telling us of the personalities that guided the study of American English, 1926-1945.

## ADS CONSTITUTION

### I. NAME

The name of this association is the American Dialect Society.

### II. PURPOSE

The American Dialect Society is organized in the interest of the academic community and not for profit. Its object is the study of the English language in North America, together with other languages or dialects of other languages influencing it or influenced by it.

### III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to all persons interested in the object of the Society. Members are in good standing if they have paid dues for the current calendar year.

2. Dues are established by the Executive Council and are for the calendar year.

3. A person may become a life member by paying an amount set by the Executive Council. A life member shall be exempt from further payment of dues.

4. After retirement, a person who has been a member of the Society for 20 years may become an emeritus member with the privileges of voting, presenting papers, and receiving the Newsletter.

### IV. ANNUAL MEETING

The Society shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as the Executive Council shall determine. The Business Meeting shall be held during the annual meeting. Those members in good standing present at the Business Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

### V. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Society shall be a Vice President, a President, and a Past President. Each shall hold office for two years beginning at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which the Vice President is elected.

2. The Vice President shall serve as the chairman of the program committee for the annual meeting, shall perform the functions of the President during the latter's absence or inability to serve, and shall succeed to the Presidency.

3. The President shall preside at the annual meeting and at meetings of the Executive Council. The President, or an appointed delegate, shall represent the Society in appropriate official functions. The President shall work with the Executive Secretary to promote the interests of the Society, and shall succeed to the Past Presidency.

4. The Past President shall act as the liaison officer between the Society and the regional secretaries and at the annual meeting shall report upon their activities.

### VI. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. There shall be an Executive Council, composed of the three officers, the Executive Secretary, the delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, and four members-at-large, each elected by members in good standing present at the annual meeting, for a term of four years, one post falling vacant each year.

2. The Executive Council shall convene at the annual meeting and at such other times as may be desirable and convenient. No member of the Executive Council may be represented by a proxy. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

3. When necessary, vote upon an immediate matter may be taken by means of a mail ballot to be distributed by the Executive Secretary. For a mail vote five affirmatives shall be required for passage.

4. The Executive Council shall direct the activities of the Society within the general policies determined by the membership.

5. The Executive Council shall appoint an

Executive Secretary under such arrangements as the situation may require. The Executive Secretary shall have the functions of a secretary-treasurer and shall serve as secretary of the annual meeting and of the meetings of the Executive Council. The Executive Secretary shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed. An audit of the Executive Secretary's financial records shall be made annually by an auditor appointed by the President, and the results reported at the annual meeting. At the annual meeting the Executive Secretary shall propose to the Executive Council a budget for the succeeding year, which the Council shall approve with such modifications as it deems appropriate.

6. The Executive Council shall fill any vacancy occurring between business sessions.

#### VII. ELECTIONS

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the two immediate Past Presidents, and one member elected by the Society at an Annual Business Meeting for a two-year term. The senior Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee.

2. Not less than 90 days before the annual meeting the Nominating Committee shall report to the Executive Secretary its nominees. Within 30 days of receiving this report the Executive Secretary shall inform the Society membership by mail or through the Newsletter of the Committee's nominations. Additional nominations may be made by a petition signed by at least ten members in good standing, to be received by the Executive Secretary not later than 15 days before the annual meeting. Elections shall occur during the annual meeting.

#### VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Any resolution on political or social matters not clearly and immediately related to the purpose of the Society shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the members in good standing. A majority of those voting within the time limit set by the Executive Council shall prevail.

#### IX. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this constitution must be approved by five

members of the Executive Council or submitted in a petition to the Executive Secretary 60 days prior to the annual meeting. The petition must be signed by at least ten members in good standing. The amendment shall be discussed and may be amended at the annual meeting and then submitted to a referendum by mail of the members in good standing. A majority of those voting shall prevail.

#### BYLAWS

##### I. PUBLICATIONS

1. The Executive Council shall appoint the editors of the Society's publications. Each shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed. After consultation with and upon the advice of the editors, the Executive Council may appoint associate or assistant editors. Each shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed. After consultation with and upon the advice of the respective editors, the Executive Council shall appoint a publications committee for the *Publication of the American Dialect Society* of three members serving three-year terms, one to be appointed each year, and an Editorial Advisory Committee for *American Speech* of twelve members serving three-year terms, four to be appointed each year.

2. Copyrights and reprint rights are covered by contracts drawn up by the Executive Council and executed jointly by the editor and the Executive Secretary.

3. Each editor shall make an annual report in person to the Executive Council. A written copy of such report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary.

##### II. COMMITTEES

1. The standing research committees of the Society shall be as follows: Regionalisms and Linguistic Geography, Usage, Non-English Dialects, New Words, and Proverbial Sayings. Members and chairs of these committees shall be appointed annually by the President with the advice of the Executive Council. Chairs of standing committees shall report on the committees' activities at the annual meeting.

2. Ad hoc committees for the execution of particular tasks may be set up by vote of the



Executive Council or the annual business meeting. Members and chairs of such committees shall be determined as are those of the standing committees.

### III. REGIONAL MEETINGS

1. The Executive Council may authorize the holding of regional meetings of the Society. Such regional meetings may be held during the conventions of the regional associations affiliated with the Modern Language Association or of the Canadian Linguistic Association or upon such other occasion as may seem desirable.

2. To facilitate the holding of regional meetings the Executive Council shall appoint regional secretaries, one for Canada and one for each region in which there is an affiliate of the Modern Language Association. Regional secretaries shall hold office for two years and may be reappointed. They shall have the responsibility of providing liaison with the Canadian Linguistic Association, the regional Modern Language Association affiliate, or any other appropriate organization in their region. They shall plan the program for the regional meeting with the assistance and counsel of the regional chairs or they may initiate, or cooperate in, such arrangements for a cosponsored meeting as regional circumstances may require.

3. At the regional meeting the Society members in good standing who are present shall elect a chair whose responsibility will be to preside at the next annual meeting and to assist the regional secretary in planning the program.

4. At least 30 days before the annual meeting each regional secretary shall report to the Past President the regional program and other relevant information. The Executive Council may invite regional secretaries to report in person at a Council meeting in order to consider matters of regional import.

### IV. DELEGATES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. At the appropriate time the Executive Council shall appoint a member to serve the customary four-year term as the Society's delegate to the American Council of Learned

Societies. Such a delegate may not serve two consecutive terms.

2. The Executive Council may appoint delegates to other learned societies whose purposes are consonant with that of the American Dialect Society. Such delegates shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed.

### V. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority of members in good standing present at an annual meeting.

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