

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS 30.1

Vol. 30, No. 1 January 1998

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send ADS dues (\$35 per year), queries and news to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7117 or (217) 243-3403, e-mail AAllan@aol.com.

ADS Web site: <http://www2.et.byu.edu/~lilliek/ads/index.htm>

ADS-L discussion list: To join, send to Listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu the message:
Sub ADS-L Your Name

FIRST CLASS

From: AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY
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Address Service Requested

REGIONAL MEETINGS, FALL 1998

Rocky Mountain Region

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 8–10; Salt Lake City, Doubletree Hotel.

February 27 is the deadline for 300-word abstracts to Session Chair **Simonie Hodges** (Georgetown Univ.), 2525 Farmcrest Dr. #328, Herndon VA 20171, e-mail simonie@mitchell.hitc.com.

This session showcases papers on various aspects of American dialects. Examples of previous paper topics include: dialects of Utah, the use of formal and informal pronouns "you" in Spanish-speaking cities, Jamaican English in historical plays, and sweet-carbonated-beverage isoglosses in the U.S.

Proposals must be sent on paper and on 3.5" disk (preferably IBM-compatible format). If you would like the disk returned to you, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. You will be notified of the chair's decision by March 15. Complete versions of accepted papers are due to the chair by August 15 (paper and disk copy).

Presenters must be RMMLA members and may not read papers in more than one session.

ADS Regional Secretary 1998–99: **Mary E. Morzinski**, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Membership in RMMLA is \$25 regular, \$15 student. Write RMMLA, Washington State University, P.O. Box 642610, Pullman, WA 99164-2610; phone (509) 335-4198, fax (509) 335-6635 ext. 54198; rmmla@rmmla.wsu.edu; <http://rmmla.wsu.edu/rmmla/guest/aboutrmmla.asp>.

Future meetings: 1999 Oct. 14–16 Santa Fe; 2000 Oct. 12–14 Vancouver.

Midwest Region

In association with MMLA, Nov. 5–7; St. Louis, Regal Riverfront Hotel.

March 8 is the deadline for 150-word abstracts to the meeting chair, Anna Fellegly, Dept. of English, 207 Lind Hall, Univ. of Minnesota, 207 Church St. SE, Minneapolis MN

55455-0134; felle001@maroon.tc.umn.edu. The session theme is open.

ADS Regional Secretary 1997–98: **Beth Lee Simon**, CM 109, Dept. of English and Linguistics, IPFW, Fort Wayne, IN 46805; phone (219) 424-8834; e-mail simon@cvax.ipfw.indiana.edu.

Membership in MMLA is \$25 full and associate professors, \$20 other faculty, \$15 students. Write MMLA, 302 English-Philosophy Bldg., Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331; fax (319) 335-3123; e-mail mmla@uiowa.edu.

Future meetings: 1999 Nov. 4–6 Minneapolis, Marriott City Center; 2000 Nov. 2–4 Kansas City, Missouri, Hyatt Regency Crown Center; 2001 Nov. 1–3 Cleveland, Sheraton City Centre Hotel.

South Central Region

In association with SCMLA, Nov. 12–14; New Orleans, Radisson.

March 15 is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, **Patricia Cukor-Avila**, Dept. of English, Univ. of North Texas, Denton TX 76203; phone (940) 565-4577; fax (940) 565-4355; e-mail pcavila@unt.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1998–99: **Charles B. Martin**, Dept. of English, Univ. of North Texas, P.O. Box 13827, Denton TX 76203-3827; phone (817) 565-2149, e-mail cmartin@facstaff.CAS.unt.edu.

Membership in SCMLA is \$20 full professors, \$15 associate and assistant professors, \$10 instructors and students. Write Jo Hebert, SCMLA, Dept. of English, Texas A&M Univ., College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (409) 845-7041; fax (409) 862-2292; e-mail scmla@acs.tamu.edu; <http://www-english.tamu.edu/scmla>.

Future meetings: 1999 Oct. 28–30 Memphis, Crown Plaza Hotel.

(Please turn to Page 5 for the South Atlantic and other calls for papers.)

Annual Meeting 1999 • Los Angeles, Jan. 7 – 9

ADS will meet with the Linguistic Society of America in Los Angeles, Thursday through Saturday, January 7–9, 1999.

Deadline for proposals: **August 15.** You are encouraged to make a proposal even if you do not have a paper fully developed. Send it to the Executive Secretary (address on cover).

Special topics: Program Chair Ronald Butters states: "As always, we welcome proposals on all aspects of American speech, with special emphasis given for 1999 to papers on (1) literature and dialect, and (2) perceptual dialectology and saliency, including especially issues of imitation and performance."

Audio-visual equipment: We'll provide an overhead projector at all sessions. Other equipment is possible but expensive. If you do need something extra, however, let us know and we'll try to provide it.

Early decision: If you would like early confirmation of your place on the program, please get your proposal to the Executive Secretary by *March 27*.

Hotel: Westin Bonaventure, 404 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles 90071. It's said to be one of the ten most-photographed buildings in the world. You can explore it in the 1995 movie *Nick of Time* or see it at the website www.at-la.com/westinbv/. The special LSA rate for single and double rooms is \$80. For reservations call 1-800-WESTIN-1.

ADS at MLA

Once again we'll also maintain our presence at our old home, the Modern Language Association, which meets in San Francisco Dec. 27–30 this year. Because of MLA's early deadlines, **March 15** is the deadline for abstracts of 20-minute papers to **Michael Adams**, English Dept., Albright Coll., PO Box 15234, Reading PA 19612-5234, michaela@joe.alb.edu.

Any topic may be proposed, but one session is envisioned with a focus on slang, especially the contributions of San Francisco's Peter Tamony. Another proposes as its theme a panel on "language on e-mail and the Internet." For this latter, interactivity is also the mode: no formal reading of papers, but rather a short statement of position or idea or research data, followed by discussion with the audience.

January 1998: Highlights of New York Annual Meeting

Lisa Ann Lane was elected to membership on the Executive Council. . . . Much consideration was given to proposals from potential publishers for our journals, with the hope of making a decision shortly (for the latest information, contact President Walt Wolfram). . . . **William Labov** gave a well-received luncheon talk to a record audience of 90 on "Merging Sociolinguistics and Dialectology." His models for the two complementary approaches are at websites http://www.ling.upenn.edu/phono_atlas/home.html and <http://hyde.park/uga.edu>.

Three Students Honored

ADS President **Walt Wolfram** announces his award of Presidential Honorary Memberships 1998–2001 to **Charles Boberg**, McGill Univ., nominated by Bill Labov; **Gordon Easson**, Univ. of Toronto, nominated by Jack Chambers; and **Julie Kerekes**, Stanford Univ., nominated by John Baugh.

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

Nominations are now invited for next year's three Presidential Honorary Memberships. All that is needed is a letter of recommendation, although supporting material is also welcome. Send nominations to President Wolfram at Dept. of English, North Carolina State Univ., Box 8105, Raleigh NC 27695-8105, wolfram@social.chass.ncsu.edu.

ADS Catches Millennium Bug

As the Year 2000 crawled closer, members and guests of the American Dialect Society on Jan. 9 recognized the looming peril of the "millennium bug" by voting it Word (or Phrase) of the Year 1997.

The "bug" that causes older computer software to think that the year after 1999 is 1900 was a prominent subject of public discussion in 1997. It was also argued that "millennium bug" should be the Society's choice because it was foretold (as the term for 1998) in the recent book *America in So Many Words*.

The final vote, in any case, was 21 for "millennium bug" to 15 for runner-up "-[r]azzi," an aggressive pursuer, as in *parazzi* or *stalkerazzi*.

Before the vote for Word of the Year, the assembly chose winners in these categories:

1. *Most Useful*: tie between "-[r]azzi" and "duh" expression of stupidity. Each received 20 votes in a runoff. Other candidates in the first vote: "office" (verb) to do office work, 4 votes; "Y2K" another name for the "millennium bug," 4 votes.

2. *Most Unnecessary*: "heaven-o" (28 votes) replacement for the greeting *hello* approved by the city council in Kingsville, Texas. Others: "disintermediation" (9 votes) doing away with the intermediary by selling directly from manufacturer to consumer; "yuppie puppy" (3) second generation yuppie; "Cablinasian" (1) ethnic self-description of golfer Tiger Woods, from *Caucasian*, *Black*, *Indian*, *Asian*.

3. *Most Likely to Succeed*: "DVD" (30) Digital Versatile Disk, optical disk technology expected to replace CDs. Others: "handheld" (4) (noun) handheld digital device; "push" (2) automatic delivery of customized Internet content to one's desktop; "be dilberted" (2) to be mistreated or taken advantage of by one's boss.

4. *Most Outrageous*: "Florida flambe" (23) fire caused by Florida electric chair. The other candidate in the runoff vote was "exit bag" (17) bag placed over the head to assist in

suicide. In the first vote: "Prince Albert" (7) ring worn in the head of the penis; "pro-snip" (5) in favor of castration for convicted sex offenders; "robo-roach" (3) cockroach controlled by an electronic backpack.

5. *Most Original*: "prairie dogging" (24) popping up one's head above an office cubicle for the sake of curiosity. Others: "teledildonics" (6) sexual interaction by means of virtual reality; "El Nonsense" (6) illogical association of an event with El Niño; "spamouflage" a non-spam-like header on a spam e-mail message.

6. *Most Euphemistic*: "exit bag" (22). Others: "corrections cocktail" (7) mixture of feces and urine thrown at officers in prisons; "UCE" (6) unsolicited commercial e-mail, that is, spam; "heaven-o" (4).

7. *Brand New* (coined during the year, not previously attested): "El Nonsense" (29). Others: "bird flu" (5) Hong Kong H5N1 avian flu transmissible to humans; "Giggy" (4) *Gigantosaurus carolinii*, dinosaur larger than *T. rex*.

8. *Word of the Year* first vote: "millennium bug" (16); "-[r]azzi" (14); "jitterati" (3) coffee fetishists; "road rage" (3) anger at other motorists; "the bomb" (1) the greatest; "Elvis witness" (1) someone who has seen a missing person after the reported time of disappearance; "virtual" (1) as in reality; "duh" (1).

Categories and the list of nominees were determined earlier in the day at an open meeting of the New Words Committee, chaired by **Wayne Glowka**. The starting point was lists provided by Glowka, **David Barnhart** (editor of the *Barnhart Dictionary Companion*), and **Gareth Branwyn** (contributing editor, *Wired*, and author of *Jargon Watch*).

ADS members are invited to send nominees for 1998 to Glowka at Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville GA 31061; e-mail wglowka@mail.gac.peachnet.edu.

South Atlantic Regional Meeting

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 12–14; Atlanta, Hyatt Regency.

May 1 is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, **Mary Brown Zeigler**, English Dept., Georgia State Univ., Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303; phone (404) 651-2900; e-mail engmez@panther.gsu.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1997–98: **Michael Picone**, Dept. of Romance Languages and Classics, Univ. of Alabama, Box 870246, Tuscaloosa AL 35406-0246; e-mail mpicone@ua1vm.ua.edu.

Nominating Committee: Crawford Feagin, Chair; Connie Eble, Peter Patrick.

Membership in SAMLA is \$25 for individuals, \$15 for students. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693; fax (404) 651-2858; e-mail engmlh@gsusgi2.gsu.edu; www.gsu.edu/~engllm/samla.htm.

Future meetings: 1999 Nov. 11–13 Atlanta, Hyatt Regency; 2000 Chattanooga.

Wolfram for Tamony XIII

Walt Wolfram of North Carolina State University will present the Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture on American Language at 3:45 p.m. Friday, April 24, in Ellis Library Auditorium at the University of Missouri, Columbia. A public reception will be held immediately following at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection offices across the hall.

Wolfram's talk will address the questions: "What are social and ethnic dialects? Why do they exist? Why are they important?"

It is the 13th annual lecture commemorating the gift to the WHMC of the clippings of slang and colloquialisms collected by San Francisco lawyer Peter Tamony (1902–1985).

For further information, contact Nancy Lankford or Sue McCubbin at Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia MO 65201-5149; phone (573) 882-6028; e-mail lankforn@ext.missouri.edu or mccubbis@ext.missouri.edu.

NWAV(E) XXVII

This year's annual conference on New Ways of Analyzing Variation (in English) will be held in Athens, Georgia, at the University of Georgia Oct. 1–4.

Plenary speakers will include **William Labov** and **Salikoko Mufwene**.

Information about submission of abstracts will be forthcoming in March. For further information, please send e-mail to nwave27@linguistics.uga.edu, fax to (706) 542-2897, or write **Bill Kretzschmar**, NWAV(E) 27, Linguistics Program, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-6205. A Web site devoted to the conference should be set up by the time this notice is published, at <http://linguistics.uga.edu/nwave27>.

In the two days preceding NWAV(E) 27, September 29 and 30, there will be a state-of-the-art conference on AAVE, hosted by Professor **Sonja Lanehart**, called "Sociocultural and Historical Contexts of African American Vernacular English." This meeting will feature invited presentations by 14 leading scholars in the field, with ample opportunity for discussion.

Both events will be held at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education on the Georgia campus. When registration materials are available (not yet), it will be possible to register for both events (or either one separately) on the same form.

ADS at NCTE, November

As usual, ADS will sponsor a concurrent session at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, to be held in Nashville Nov. 19–22. "Southern Mountain English" is the theme of the session being organized by **Bethany K. Dumas**, English Dept., Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville TN 37996-0430; phone (423) 974-6965; e-mail dumasb@utk.edu.

For membership and convention information write NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana IL 61801-1096; phone (800) 369-6283 or (217) 328-3870; <http://www.ncte.org>.

ADS at ILA in April: Spanish *se*, Franco-American *th*

ADS-sponsored session at the 43rd Annual Conference of the International Linguistic Association, New York University, April 17-19.

Chair and ADS Northeast Regional Secretary: **Silke Van Ness**, Germanic & Slavic Languages and Literatures, University at Albany, HU 216, SUNY, Albany NY 12222; (518) 442-5191; sv478@cnsvox.albany.edu.

Conference chair: **John R. Costello**, Dept. of Linguistics, New York Univ., 719 Broadway Room 504, New York NY 10003-6860; phone (212) 998-7948; e-mail costellj@is2.nyu.edu.

Registration before March 17 is \$30 ILA members, \$40 others, \$20 student ILA members, \$30 student non-members. After March 17, all categories go up \$10.

ADS SESSION: PANEL B

9:00-11:00 A.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 18

• 9:00-9:25: "Spanish *se* Structures." **Maurice Westmoreland**, University at Albany, SUNY.

The following study will undertake an analysis of the issues of voice, transitivity, and pronominality as motivation for the patterns of meaning and agreement found in Spanish *se* structures. The following provide a few examples of the variety of meanings associated with *se*:

"Juan *se* lava cada día" (John washes himself every day)

"Ellos *se* lavan cada día" (They wash each other every day)

"Juan *se* comió toda la pizza" (John ate up all the pizza)

"Juan *se* durmió a las seis" (John fell asleep at 6)

"Se lo mandé, el paquete" (I mailed him the package)

"Se me cortó el pelo" (I got my hair cut)

"Se me olvidaron los vasos" (I went and forgot the glasses)

"Ya *se* construyeron las casas" (The houses were already built)

The study will focus in particular on those structures categorized as pseudo-reflexive, ergative, detransitivizing, and (ethical) dative, and will argue that current patterns of usage are informed by specific instances of analogy, iconicity, and regrammaticization.

• 9:25-9:50: "The French-Influenced Dialect of Manchester, NH." **Wendy Ryback-Soucy**, Univ. of New Hampshire.

Numerous factors can influence variation in a spoken language, for example, the languages one is continuously exposed to, how mobile one is, and the geographical area one is raised in. This paper presents a study on the French language's influence on Franco-American English in Manchester, New Hampshire.

I show that the Franco-American community of Manchester speaks a distinct variety of American English. The dialectal features can be traced to influence from French, as Manchester has had a strong presence of Franco-Americans dating back to the late 1800s. Speakers who have stronger cultural connections to French and/or are linguistically more French dominant exhibit this resemblance by producing a more French-sounding English. This prediction parallels the findings cited in Nagy et al.'s paper, "On the acquisition of variable phonology in L2."

The two linguistic variables examined:

1. *Th* fricative pronounced either as in English, or as a *t* or *d* stop, because *th* is not a sound that is native to the French language. *Them* may be pronounced as *tem* or *dem*, suggesting French influence.

2. Word-initial *h*, either articulated or deleted, for example in such words as 'air, 'ands, and 'eadache. The French language lacks /h/ in any environment (Janda & Auger 1992), so it is expected that these speakers may not have mastered the rules for its production, and deletion of this sound would indicate French influence.

Both social and linguistic information was obtained. Rather than including a non-French control group, speakers are divided into categories: those that are more-French-oriented and those that are less-French-oriented. The difference between these two groups supports the hypothesis that speakers with more French orientation will have a more French-sounding English. For example, speakers who were involved with Franco-American social groups had 21 percent stops as compared with speakers with no involvement at 7 percent. Also, speakers who grew up in the heavily Franco-American populated west side of Manchester, known as "Little Canada," produced twice as many stops (16 percent) as those living on the east side (8 percent), which is more ethnically diverse.

(Continued on next page)

New Order Amish Women, Early Anabaptists: ADS at ILA (Cont.)

The two linguistic variables were analyzed for 16 speakers, 150 tokens per speaker. Social factors investigated included the amount of involvement in French activities, one's neighborhood, education achieved, occupation, and the use of French. Quantitative data supports my hypothesis that those with more involvement in French culture have a more French-sounding English, even if non-French-speaking.

References

Janda, Richard D. and Julie Auger. 1992. "Quantitative Evidence, Qualitative Hypercorrection, Sociolinguistic Variables—and French Speakers." *Language and Communication* 12.3/4: 195-236.

Nagy, Naomi, Christine Moisset, and Gillian Sankoff. 1995. "On the acquisition of variable phonology in L2." *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: (N) WAVES and MEANS* 3.1:111-126.

• 9:50-10:15: "A New Look at the Role of New Order Amish Women in Language Change." **Silke Van Ness**, University at Albany, SUNY.

This study deals with an incipient change in pronominal anaphora in the Pennsylvania German of the New Order Amish community in Holmes County, Ohio. The paper does not present recent data, but rather takes a new look at data described in an earlier article. Only the pronoun *es* in subject/object position and neuter feminine or zero determiners with feminine names are selected here for discussion.

While the earlier article focused on the description of the observable variation and its distribution over speakers and speaker groups, the present article will suggest some tentative explanations of the observables. In particular, it seeks to assess the role which young Amish women play in language innovation—in comparison with the often described role of females in language innovations in less traditional societies.

Pertinent questions are: 1) Why should young Amish women — of all groups — be in the forefront of language change in the given (tradition-directed) socio-regional unit? 2) Why should this female-initiated language innovation make itself felt in the grammatical core of Pennsylvania German, but not in the other languages of the Amish, i.e. English and Amish High German? 3) Why should, generally, female-initiated semiotic innovations not start in any of the other (nonverbal) signaling

systems of this Amish group, such as dress, hair style etc.?

Answers will be sought in both language-inherent and language-external factors. Ultimately, it will be speculated that the female-initiated innovation in the pronominal anaphora system of Pennsylvania German makes perfect sense in the Amish social network and the Amish role system.

• 10:15-10:40: "The Variable Expression of Possessive Function in an Early Anabaptist Church Register from Eastern France." **Werner Enninger**, Univ. of Essen, Germany.

The paper deals with a church register from the area of Belfort in eastern France. The "Register der Gemeind von Lamä" (AFHAM 1986) records 289 births from 1729 to 1842, 139 baptisms from 1741 to 1835, 49 marriages from 1747 to 1825, and 124 deaths from 1756 to 1834. Of all aspects worthy of attention, the paper focuses on possessive constructions in this Germanophone text corpus.

The formulaic character of records of births, marriages, deaths etc. is bound to hide quite a number of those types of variation which one might hope to find or even elicit in ad-hoc produced speech or writing. However, the invariable propositional matrix of the entries in each list provides an unexpected wealth of unelicited variants of a limited set of variables, such as the possessive function — a phenomenon that has repeatedly attracted attention in studies on the development of German varieties in the US.

The extant variation extends beyond morphological vs. analytical coding of possession into the case system in general (e.g. accusative subjects) and the gender system (dative singular non-feminine article *dem* as well as third person masculine possessive adjective *sein* with female possessors).

The data will be compared to phenomena found in German varieties in the United States. Possible explanations (structural attrition of L1 in language shift situation, foregrounding of dialectal German variants, grammaticalization etc.) will be discussed.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: *American Speech* 45 (1970) to 50.1-2 (1975), 52 (1977) to 72.2 (1997), and *PADS* 51-55, 57, 58, 60-62, 65-70, 72-76. You pay the shipping. **Russell Tabbert**, 9 College Park Road, Grinnell IA 50112; phone (515) 236-7309.

American Dialect Society Constitution

(Adopted Dec. 27, 1971; amended Dec. 27, 1973 and May 15, 1980)

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 chair 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.

ADS 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.

Idioms, E-Discourse, Girls, Scots, Shakespeare: Our New Books

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

Christine Ammer. *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*. Houghton Mifflin, October 1997. 729 pages. Hardcover \$30. ISBN 0-395-72774-X. The most comprehensive collection of idiomatic expressions, some 10,000 verbal phrases (*act up, get down*), figures of speech (*dark horse, blind as a bat*), interjections and formulas (*says who, take care*) and slang (*buy the farm, push the envelope*). Each is defined, illustrated in usage, and dated, with many including additional history. Valuable for learning or teaching English as a second language.

Boyd H. Davis and Jeutonne P. Brewer. *Electronic Discourse: Linguistic Individuals in Virtual Space*. State Univ. of New York Press. 217 pages. Paperback \$16.95 ISBN 0-7914-3476-1. Hardcover \$50.50 ISBN 0-7914-3475-3. The authors created an asynchronous mainframe conference for language and linguistics classes in which students analyzed the language of original newspaper reports of the 1960s civil rights sit-ins. The authors observed how students wrote to each other across a wide range of social and virtual settings, how they built a community within and across campus boundaries, and how they handled conflict while avoiding confrontation on sensitive issues of race and power.

Grzegorz A. Kleparski. *Theory and Practice of Historical Semantics: The Case of Middle English and Early Modern English Synonyms of GIRL/YOUNG WOMAN*. Catholic Univ. of Lublin Press, 1997. 277 pages. \$25. (Copies may be ordered directly from the author at English Dept., Catholic Univ., Al. Raclawickie 14, 20-950 Lublin, Poland.) ISBN 83228-0598-5. The author develops an analysis of the semantic development of a large corpus of Middle English and Early

Modern English (1100-1700) synonyms of *girl/young woman*. An attempt is made to find ME and EModE primary designating expressions. The book also discusses borrowing, the scope of metaphorization, the role of personal names, and animal metaphors.

Ronald K. S. Macaulay. *Standards and Variation in Urban Speech: Examples from Lowland Scots*. John Benjamins, 1997. x + 201 pages. Hardcover Hfl 120. ISBN 90-272-4878-8. Critically examines the notions *vernacular, standard language, Received Pronunciation, social class, and linguistic insecurity*. Uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods with examples from comedians' jokes, dialect poetry, formal and informal interviews, and personal narratives.

Jeffrey McQuain and Stanley Malless. *Coined by Shakespeare: Words & Meanings First Penned by the Bard*. Merriam-Webster, January 1998. xli + 274 pages. Hardcover \$14.95. ISBN 0-87779-353-0. In the "Lighter Side of Language" series. Alphabetically organized essays on several hundred of the 1500 words Shakespeare added to English, from *abstemious* to *zany*. Interspersed with quizzes about Shakespeare's language and plays.

Lewis J. Poteet and Martin Stone. *Plane Talk: Push You, Pull Me—An Aviation Lexicon*. Montreal: Robert Davies. \$9.95 U.S., \$14.95 Canadian. ISBN 1-55207-002-6.

Lewis J. Poteet and Jim Poteet. *Car Talk*. Montreal: Robert Davies. \$9.95 U.S., \$14.95 Canadian. ISBN 1-55207-000-X. A revision of the 1992 *Car & Motorcycle Slang*.

Methods IX Volume Published

Issues and Methods in Dialectology. Edited by Alan R. Thomas, 25 papers from the Ninth International Conference on Methods in Dialectology held in Bangor, Wales in 1996. x + 312 pages. Paper cover. £22 in UK, £23 in mainland Europe, £25 elsewhere from Methods IX, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG, U.K.; fax +01248 382928, e-mail els030@bangor.ac.uk.

Pounce Your Pompey for DARE

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

polecat—An informant in seGA said that this is what he calls “the foamy stuff that has to be dipped off when [cane sugar] syrup is being made.” Does anyone know the word in this sense? Does anyone have any insight into why it should be so called? (It's hard to see any connection with *polecat* “skunk,” but we have not been able to think of any other word this might be a variant or folk-etymology of.)

poley—Reported to mean “rump, backside,” but the writer does not say where or by whom. Has anyone heard this?

polly, polly wad—Two DARE informants (PA, KY) gave this in the sense “a woman's hair done up in a bun.” Does anyone know this?

pompey—This is in the supplement to the *Century Dictionary*, defined “Bulging or sagging in a dangerous degree; said of a floor in a burning building; also, applied to ice when it is in a similar dangerous condition. . . .” They quote a 1904 example of the sagging-floor sense from a New York City newspaper; the only other evidence we have for the soft-ice sense comes from an elderly DARE informant from Brooklyn. Any further evidence, current or historical, would be appreciated.

poor-do—We have a scattering of quotations in which *poor-do* is applied to various cheap or makeshift foods. Is anyone familiar with the word? Is it used generically, or is it applied to a specific dish?

poor man's apple—We have two quotations, one each from KS and OK, which say only that this is “a kind of melon.” Has anyone heard this, and if so, can they tell us what kind?

potato bun—Our only evidence for this compound comes from three PA informants. Can it really be a regional term (or concept)? Is it made with potato water, mashed potatoes, or what?

pounce—Asked for ways of saying “hit somebody hard with the fist,” an elderly GA woman replied, “He pounced him one.” Has anybody heard *pounce* used in this way?

rabbit dew—Reported used by an elderly GA farmer to mean “mist.” There must be more to it than that; can anyone supply a more detailed definition?

rail, out of one's—Reported heard in the sense “outside one's area of knowledge or expertise.” Has anyone else heard this? Is there some coherent metaphor behind it, or is it a blend of “out of one's bailiwick” and “off the rails”?

rail pasture—Reported in 1933 as NE pioneer vocabulary for pasture or corral. Is it still in use? Does it contrast with some other kind of pasture?

railroad daisy—We have three citations for this, all from LA, but the most detailed description says only that it is “a yellow wild flower with a brown center.” Can anyone identify this flower more precisely?

rain—We have two reports from opposite ends of the country (NJ and OR) for this as a name for Christmas-tree tinsel. Is this widespread?

raised gravy—Both the DARE and LAGS surveys turned up scattered instances of this in the South (as well as one example, which may or may not be related, of *raisin*(?) *gravy*), but the comments that were recorded do not make it clear what distinguishes this from other kinds of gravy or explain the sense of *raised*.

ramada—We have plenty of printed quotations, mostly older or referring to the past, for this in the sense of “brush arbor,” and some more recent ones that seem to refer to

(Please turn to Page 12)

Help Wanted: *DARE* Seeks Development Specialist

By Joan Hall

The Dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has generously provided the funds to hire a Development Specialist for *DARE* for three years. We are in the process of advertising the position, and are hopeful that it can be filled sometime this spring. The following ad will appear in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* and local newspapers. If any ADS members know of people who should see this, please pass it along to them.

Development: The Dictionary of American Regional English (see website at <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dare/dare.html>) seeks a Development Specialist to initiate and execute a major fund-raising campaign to carry this renowned project to its conclusion in 12–15 years. Meeting the goal requires the acquisition of substantial new gifts, and the Development Specialist must exhibit the ability to interact at sophisticated levels with major gift candidates.

The work of this position will be coordinated with that of the University of Wisconsin Foundation. Support for the position is guaranteed for three years; continuation will be contingent on success. Duties include performing prospect research and networking to identify and contact prospective donors; writing proposals; establishing a “Friends” organization; maintaining contact with donors.

Applicants must demonstrate excellent speaking and writing skills; have successful history of funds development; exhibit creativity and enthusiasm for the project; work well independently and as part of a team. (Unless confidentiality is requested in writing, information regarding applicants must be released upon request. Finalists cannot be guaranteed confidentiality.) Send cover letter, résumé, and reference list (by March 13) to Joan Houston Hall, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

Search the Ruddle for Rat Dogs: *DARE* Queries

(Continued from Page 11)

more substantial shade-providing structures. How current is this in the Southwest, and what sort of structure does it usually refer to?

ranch-fried potatoes—This was volunteered by a single CA informant, who described a dish of potatoes fried with bacon and onions. Is this an established term? Are the bacon and onions essential, or just the informant’s personal taste?

ranny/ramie—A 1935 article on “Language of the Livestock Mart” says that *rannies* are “common-bred southern calves of poor quality.” A 1936 list of words from the TN mountains defines *ramie* as “young calf.” Any corroborating evidence for either of these—perhaps related—forms would be appreciated.

ratchet—Someone wrote that she had heard this used to mean “front porch,” appar-

ently some time ago in rural GA. Can anyone make any sense of this?

rat dog—This was volunteered by two *LAGS* informants, one of whom said it was also called a *rat tail* and that it is “like a fox feist, but bigger.” Is anyone familiar with this term, and if so, can they give a more illuminating description?

ruddle—A 1963 *Yankee Dictionary*, published in Lynn MA, gives this in the sense “attic.” We got one example in response to the *DARE* questionnaire—from an informant in Lynn MA. Is this known anywhere else? Can anyone supply an earlier citation, or a convincing etymology?

tater raffle—This appears in Brown’s *North Carolina Folklore* defined “light bread” and attributed to western NC. Has anyone heard this? The first element is presumably potato (perhaps in reference to the use of potato yeast?), but what is the sense of *raffle*?