



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR LEXICOGRAPHY

EURALEX NEWSLETTER

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The EURALEX Newsletter

This quarterly Newsletter is intended to include not only official announcements but also news on EURALEX members, their publications, career moves and (it is hoped) their opinions. Please try to support this by sending newsletter contributions to the Secretary at the above address. The deadlines for winter, spring, summer and autumn issues respectively are 15 September, 15 December, 15 March and 15 June annually.

EURALEX – The first decade

“[...] For me, the chief merit of these Proceedings lies in the bringing together of almost all of the major issues facing dictionary compilers and users today ... While LEXeter gives way to EURALEX, let this book document the maturity of lexicography.”

I wrote these words 10 years ago, in the preface of a volume that recorded what started out as the LEXeter '83 Conference and in retrospect became the first EURALEX Congress.

Time to reflect, then, if only briefly, on what has been achieved and what still lies ahead of us. Progress in lexicography was certainly in the air during the early 1980s, and it has gathered momentum as the EURALEX congresses moved on from Britain to Switzerland (1986), Hungary (1988), Spain (1990), Finland (1992) and the Netherlands (1994), as its *Bulletin* (eight issues from 1984 to 1987) became part of the *International Journal of Lexicography* (six more issues from 1988 to 1990 and 12 more since 1990 as *Newsletter*), and as the professional meetings multiplied inside and outside EURALEX. I remember with pleasure the seminars on dictionaries and language learners at Leeds (1985), on the history of lexicography at Exeter (1986), on translation and lexicography at Innsbruck (1987), and workshops on the evaluation, use and compilation of dictionaries at Oxford (1989, 1991, 1993). Wherever I travel (which is a lot these days), I meet people to share memories of these events.

EURALEX has also given material and moral support to deserving individuals and groups (such as the Research Project into Dictionary Use among language learners Europe-wide) and through the Verbatim Award (four since 1990) helped an ever-increasing number of private scholars, young and not so young, to start or complete lexicographic projects. Together with its North American sister association, the DSNA, EURALEX has also backed the double venture 'Lexicographica Series Maior' (over 50 volumes since No. 1, *LEXeter '83 Proceedings*, published in 1984) and 'Lexicographica International Annual' (eight volumes published since 1985) and, of course, the *IJL*, now in its seventh year.

Publications, for me working as an academic at least, are certainly one index of the maturing of the subject (the proceedings of the first five EURALEX congresses alone amount to a staggering 279 papers on 2,640 pages!), but equally important is the quality and spread of coverage of the various topics treated in this literature. And, as I discovered when I analysed the recurring themes of 25 years' lexicographic conferences for the BudaLEX Congress, such exchanges of information can only be effective if we are prepared to listen to one another and if we do not ignore some topics – and languages – in favour of the more popular ones.

The most urgent issue, in my view, is the bridging of the gulf that still exists between practical-commercial and theoretical-scholarly concerns. If we can succeed in the next decade to strengthen both dictionary-making (in terms of such topics as recording/fieldwork, editing/description and publishing/presentation) and dictionary research (in terms of such topics as dictionary history, dictionary typology, dictionary criticism and dictionary use), we shall have done well in less than one generation.

The networks of professional contact and personal friendship that have already been established will be essential to the task of building bridges (between different specialisations, between West and East, and North and South). To them we must add the creation of more and better training facilities, with or without the help of the European Union, and better records of what each of us is doing in the world of lexicographic theory and practice.

Finally, I am not worried about the recent growth of national and local lexicographic societies from Iceland to Israel. I see it rather as a healthy sign of development which I have confidently demanded (even predicted?) in a recent paper:

“We should not be satisfied just with a knowledge about progress in Europe. A world perspective is now needed in lexicography just as in other spheres of human activity, and in this spirit I join those who have attempted surveys of other scenes [...] in hoping for much widened lexicographic horizons.”

Reinhard Hartmann
(first Secretary and fourth President,
member of the EURALEX Executive Board,
1984–1994)

EURALEX IFF membership

The EURALEX International Friendship Fund is an act of solidarity to colleagues in countries with non-convertible currencies who would, otherwise, be unable to afford a EURALEX Membership. Most often, the copy of the *International Journal of Lexicography* is circulated to several members of the same institution.

IFF has proved to be a big success. As of January 1994, we have one or more IFF-members in Albania, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

It is crucial that EURALEX members from more privileged countries make contributions to the IFF. This can be done by sending money to Oxford University Press (see letter of 13 October, sent to all members), e.g. by credit card, or to EURALEX Secretary-Treasurer Ole Norling-Christensen, Account n° 4592 812 185, Den Danske Bank, Copenhagen DK; or Danish GiroBank Account n° 708 0352.

Lexicography in the Czech Republic

The Department of Translation and Interpreting of Charles University in Prague has established a Centre for Computer Work and Lexicography with the assistance of the EC (TEMPUS programme). It is currently working on an English-Czech and Czech-English Dictionary of Ecology, whose first volume is to appear in the spring of 1994. It is also preparing an international project for a Dictionary of Translation Studies, to be compiled with Moscow and Antwerp.

Info: Dr. Zuzana Jettmarova, Filosofické Fakulté University Karlovy, 110 00 Praha 1, Hybernská 3.

The Institute for the Czech Language in Prague announces that the project of a corpus of the Czech language has finally received a national grant for a period of three years. The project is jointly sponsored by the Institute for the Czech Language, the Academy of Sciences, Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno.

The Department of Lexicography and Terminology is currently working on a Dictionary of new words and a Dictionary of verbal valency with a detailed description of about 700 verbs, including the more frequent and polysemous. A second edition of the *Dictionary of Literary Czech* in one volume is being printed (first ed. 1978).

The Department of History of the Czech language is continuing work on the *Dictionary of the Old Czech Language*, and on a dictionary of folk place names.

Info: Dr. Václava Holubová, Institute for the Czech Language, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Letenská 4, 118 51 Praha 1, Czech Republic.

Kharkov Lexicographical Society

EURALEX has received a number of books published by the Society during 1992–93:

V. V. Dubichinskij, S. V. Vakulenko, A. I. Danilenko (eds.): *Sovremennye Problemy Leksikografii. Sbornik Nauchnykh Trudov* [Contemporary Problems of Lexicography. A Collection of Scholarly Works] (pp. 286, 1992).

V. V. Dubichinskij, V. A. Zubareva, S. P. Olejnik: *Russko-Anglijskij Tolkovo-Sochetaemostnyj Slovar' po Bneshneekonomicheskoj Dejatel'nosti* [Russian-English Explanatory-Combinatory Dictionary of Foreign-Economical Activities] (pp. 80, 1992).

V. V. Dubichinskij, S. M. Klebanova: *Kratkij Slovar' Teatral'noj Leksiki* [A Short Dictionary of Theatrical Vocabulary. Russian, English, French, Spanish] (pp. 112, 1993).

V. V. Dubichinskij: *Leksicheskie Paralleli* [Lexical Parallels] (pp. 156, 1993).

On 19–23 April 1993 the Society played host to a First International Conference under the heading “Contemporary Problems of Lexicography”. The 60 participants came from Ukraine, Russia, Sweden, Great Britain, Israel and China. Among the subjects discussed were the methodology of dictionary work, terminology in dictionaries, dictionary typology, national and cultural peculiarities of lexicographic practice; also some problems of historical and computational lexicography were touched upon.

Info: Professor Vladimir V. Dubichinsky, KhLO, 310023, Ukraine Kharkov, ul. Vesnina, 5-a, Propaedeutical Faculty for Foreign Citizens, Kharkov Polytechnical Institute.

Call for Research Materials for the *Oxford English Dictionary*

Many scholars and linguists will be aware that the Oxford University Press is planning a comprehensive revision of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The Chief Editor of the *OED* is hoping to enlist the expertise of the literary and academic community to help in this task. The proposed Revision will build on the work done for the Second Edition of the *OED*, published in 1989. The main achievement of this edition lay in the complete computerization of the text of the original *OED* and its four-volume *Supplement*, which was then integrated into a single database of information about the history of the English language. Some revisions were made to this text – for instance, pronunciations were converted to the International Phonetic Alphabet – and a substantial number of new words were added. But as was made clear in the preliminary matter to the Second Edition, the greater part of the text is still substantially that which was published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by Sir James Murray and his successors. In the words of the Introduction to the Second Edition, ‘the full revision and updating of the Dictionary ... must be regarded as a long-term goal, demanding considerable resources, and therefore to be approached in stages’.

The first of these stages is the collecting together of the vast quantity of historical and linguistic information which has come to light since the publication of the first edition of the *OED*. The early editors drew on a substantial body of learning in compiling the text, but in the light of current knowledge many of their etymologies, definitions, register labels, and first usage dates can be improved upon. Much work has since been done which has added to our understanding of how the English language has developed across the centuries, and numerous antedatings and more modern examples of usage have become available. A great deal of this information has accumulated in the files of the Oxford University Press’s Dictionary department since the beginning of this century, much of it contributed by scholars working with historical texts; further evidence has been or will be uncovered by the *OED*’s researchers working in libraries across the world.

However, the very magnitude of the task of reviewing the *OED* inevitably means that not all this information can be tracked down by the Dictionary’s researchers without the help of the scholars who generated it. Many writers and academics, in the course of their work, have come across and remarked upon earlier examples of usage than those recorded by the *OED*, senses not represented at all, and new etymological and bibliographical information. These findings are often published in footnotes to books and articles, or as appendices, but in the ever-growing body of scholarly literature on texts and textual criticism many of these notes have inevitably failed to find their way into the store of information collected over the years by past and present editors of the Dictionary. The best means of ensuring that such discoveries are taken into account during the proposed revision is for scholars themselves to draw attention to their own work. The Chief Editor is therefore hoping that anyone working on a literary, social, or other historical text who has found a discrepancy between the material with which they are working and an entry in the *OED* will send their comments to the offices of the Dictionary. In particular he would like to hear of any textual material that is likely to modify the dating and status of words and meanings listed in the second edition of the Dictionary. He would also be grateful to receive references to any work in which information has been published which may have a bearing on the proposed revision of the *OED* text. All contributors will be thanked individually, and a file of the names of correspondents who have made substantial contributions will be main-

tained for acknowledgement in the final publication. Suggestions, comments, and details of publications should be sent to

The Chief Editor
Oxford English Dictionary
Oxford University Press
Walton Street
Oxford
OX2 6DP
U.K.

fax no. (Oxford) 0865 267810 (country code 44 865), or emailed to, oed3@oup.co.uk

OED Expert Wins 1994 Shakespeare Prize

Dr Robert Burchfield, chief editor of the Oxford English Dictionary from 1971 to 1984 and one of the world's leading lexicographers, has been awarded this year's Shakespeare Prize for services to literature and the arts.

The prize is given annually by the FVS Foundation of Hamburg to a citizen of the United Kingdom regarded as having made an outstanding contribution to the arts within the framework of Europe's cultural heritage. The award is worth DM 58,000: DM 40,000 in cash and DM 18,000 for a year's scholarship in Germany, the beneficiary to be nominated by the winner.

The citation says that apart from his work on the *OED*, Dr Burchfield has published numerous books about the English language and written specialist articles on a wide range of topics for academic publications, including a review of a new edition of Grimm's dictionary and dissertations on lexicography, English grammar and medieval manuscripts. He became internationally known as chief editor of the *OED* and was appointed CBE in 1975. The citation adds that he is now preparing his contribution to the Cambridge History of the English Language.

Dr Burchfield will receive the prize at a ceremony in Hamburg on May 11 at which the address will be given by Professor Rudolf Haas, chairman of the German-British selection committee who annually decide on the award. For the DM 18,000 scholarship the winner has nominated Mr Mark Willock, who is studying German and History at Oxford University.

Robert William Burchfield was born in Wanganui, New Zealand, on January 27 1923 and educated at Victoria University College in Wellington and Magdalen College Oxford. He has been an academic at Oxford University since 1952 and is Emeritus Fellow in English Language and Literature at St Peter's College there. He lists as his recreations travelling, gardening – and investigating English grammar.

The FVS Foundation was set up by the Anglophile shipowner and grain importer Dr Alfred Toepfer CBE to recognise achievement in literature and the arts. Last year the Shakespeare Prize went to the novelist Julian Barnes. Previous winners have included the conductor Sir Neville Marriner, the film director Sir Richard (now Lord) Attenborough, the playwright Peter Shaffer, the novelist Dame Iris Murdoch, the playwright Tom Stoppard, the ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn and the novelist Graham Greene.

For further information, please contact the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Press Department, 071 824 1358.

Forthcoming Events

1994

5–9 August Kyoto, Japan: COLING-94. Info: Prof. Makoto Nagao, Department of Electrical Engineering, Kyoto University, Yoshida Honmashi Sakyo-ku Kyoto 606 Japan. Fax: 81 75 7511576. E-mail: coling94@pine.kuee.kyoto-u.ac.jp.

9–15 August Vancouver, Canada: 21st Annual Forum of the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States (LACUS). Info: Ruth M. Brend, LACUS Conference Coordinator, 3363 Burbank Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105 USA.

22–26 August Budapest, Hungary: 6th International Congress of Hungarian Linguists on “Lexicography – lexicology”. Info: Dr Szűts L szló, MTA Nyelvtudom nyi Intézet, Szinh z u. 5–9, PO Box 19, Budapest 1250, Hungary. Fax: 36 1 1758285.

25–27 August Turku, Finland: International Conference on Interpretation. Info: Yves Gambier, Turin Yliopisto, Kääntäjänkoulustuslaitos, Tykistökatu 4, SF-20520 Turku, Finland.

30 August–3 September Amsterdam, The Netherlands: 6th International EURALEX Congress. Info: Willy Martin, Lexicologie, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, NL – 1081 HV Amsterdam.

13–15 September, Münster, Germany: International Conference on Lexicology and Lexical Semantics. Info: Edda Weigand, Sprachenzentrum, Bispinghof 3A, D-48143 Münster, Germany.

15–17 September, Leeds, UK: 27th Annual Meeting, British Association for Applied Linguistics (‘Change and Language’). Info: Lynne Cameron, International Education (TESOL), School of Education, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK.

20–24 September, Moscow, Russia: QUALICO ’94, Second International Conference on Quantitative Linguistics. Info: Anatoliy A. Polikarpov, Department of Theoretical and Computational Linguistics, Moscow State University, Moscow, 117899, Russia. Tel: 7 095 9393178. Fax: 7 095 9392622. E-mail: comm-pub@comlab.vega.msk.su.

17–24 October, Buenos Aires, Argentina: 4th Ibero-American Terminology Seminar. Info: SHT, Villa Ocampo, Elortondo 1811, 1643 Beccar, Argentina OR Union Latine, 14 Bd Arago, F-75013 Paris, France.

27–30 December New York, USA: Conference of the Modern Language Association of America. Info: MLA, 10 Astor Place, New York 10003–6981, USA.

1995

19–22 April Maastricht, The Netherlands: Maastricht session of the 2nd international Maastricht – Łódz Duo Colloquium on “Translation and Meaning” (see 1995, 22–24 September for the Łódz session). Info: Drs. Marcel Thelen, Rijkshogeschool Maastricht, Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, P.O. Box 964, 6200 AZ Maastricht, The Netherlands. Tel.: 31 43 466640, 31 43 466471 (direct line). Fax: 31 43 466649.

May Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine: 2nd International Conference on Lexicography. Info: Vladimir Dubichinsky, Kharkov Lexicography Society, Kharkov Polytechnical University, 5a Vesnina St., Kharkov, Ukraine 310023.

9–11 June Copenhagen, Denmark: 3rd Language International Conference on Teaching Translation and Interpreting. Info: Cay Dollerup, Centre for Translation and Lexicography, University of Copenhagen, 96 Njalsgade, DK 2300 Copenhagen S. Tel: 45 3154 2211. Fax: 45 3296 1518.

22–24 September Łódz, Poland: Łódz session of the 2nd international Maastricht – Łódz Duo Colloquium on “Translation and Meaning” (see 1995, 19–22 April for the Maastricht session). Info: Dr. habil. Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, Institute of English Studies, University of Łódz, Al. Kosciuszki 65, 90–514 Łódz, Poland.

Tel.: 48 42 366337. Fax: 48 42 366337, 48 42 366872. Telex: 886291 UL PL. e-mail: ZAJEANFA at plunlo51.bitnet.

27–30 December New York, USA: Conference of the Modern Language Association of America. Info: MLA, 10 Astor Place, New York 10003–6981, USA.

1996

4–9 August Jyväskylä, Finland: (11th) World Congress of the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA). Info: Prof. Kari Sajavaara, Department of English, University of Jyväskylä, SF-40100 Jyväskylä, Finland.