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Reader’s Digest Trust Grant

The European Association for Lexicography acknowledges with gratitude and pride the grant of £1,800 made to it in February by The Reader’s Digest Trust (UK). The grant will be used to defray the costs of publishing and distributing The EURALEX Bulletin for 1990 and 1991.

Like the recent Verbatim Award (announced in The Bulletin 6/2 Winter 1989), this grant by The Reader’s Digest Trust is an indication of confidence in the efforts of EURALEX to raise the standards and status of the profession of lexicography.

Mellon Foundation Supports International Text Encoding Project with $100,000 Grant

The Association for Computers and the Humanities, the Association for Computational Linguistics, and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing are pleased to announce that The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a two-year $100,000 grant to support the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI). The TEI, which is jointly sponsored by these three organizations, is a major international project to develop guidelines for the preparation and exchange of machine-readable texts for scholarly research and to satisfy a broad range of uses by the language industries.

The project is being undertaken in response to the pressing need for a common text encoding scheme, demonstrated by the present chaotic diversity of formats now in use. The availability of these guidelines will make it possible for research groups to share data collections, which are both costly and time-consuming to develop.

Over 50 scholars from North America, Europe, and the Middle East are involved in TEI’s effort to create sets of tags for marking features of texts. The tags, coded in the framework provided by the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), will provide the means to mark physical features of text such as character sets and page layout. They will also provide discipline-specific tag sets to mark the results of research on the text, such as the analysis of sentence syntax or the identification of the metrical structure of verse.

Representatives of 15 scholarly and professional organizations form an Advisory Board for the TEI, in order to ensure that all of the needs and interests of the research community are adequately addressed.

The planning phase of this project was inaugurated by a $20,000 grant from the United States National Endowment for the Humanities, which later awarded a $185,000 grant to implement the first two years of a four-year work plan to produce the encoding guidelines. The TEI has also received a $100,000 grant from the European Economic Community.

Information from: Nancy M. Ide, Department of Computer Science, Box 520 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, USA.
A Proposal for the Formation of an Australasian Dictionary Society

A number of Australians and New Zealanders interested in lexicography are members of the European Association for Lexicography (Euralex) or the older Dictionary Society of North America, or both, and know something of what an individual can gain from the contacts and meetings available to members. The possibility of an Australasian, or Pacific, grouping has been aired from time to time and, as a result of several informal meetings, a steering committee has been formed to engage in preliminary planning. Members of the Committee who represent a range of Australian and Pacific language interests, are:

- David Blair, Macquarie University
- Tamsin Donaldson, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies
- Bill Ramson, Australian National Dictionary Centre
- Roland Sussex, University of Queensland
- Darrell Tryon, Australian National University

A draft constitution has been drawn up and the steering committee will prepare policy documents to be considered at a proposed inaugural meeting of the Society, timed to coincide with the end on conferences of the Australian Linguistic Society and the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia, to be held at Macquarie in September 1990. Further information from Bill Ramson, Australian National Dictionary Centre, Kingsley Street Cottage, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 2601. Tel: (062) 49 2615.

MLA Discussion Group on Lexicography

Frank Abate (Omnigraphics)

The MLA’s Discussion Group on Lexicography met on Friday, 29 December 1989 in Washington D.C. More than forty were in attendance for this 15th annual meeting (we believe it to be the longest-running annual lexicographic meeting), including some of the outstanding figures in American lexicography – Clarence and David Barnhart, Allen Walker Read, Fred Cassidy, Victoria Neufeldt, Arthur Bronstein, and Dick Bailey, to name but a few.

Papers by John Algeo (‘A Dictionary of Briticisms: Why?’), Robert K. Barnhart (‘The Significance of Dating in an Etymological Dictionary’), and Stuart Flexner (‘Second Thoughts on the New Random House Unabridged’) were followed by lively discussion. Chairman Garland Cannon, who organized this distinguished panel of speakers, was unable to attend owing to illness, so Frank Abate filled in for him.

The papers and discussion were followed by a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Discussion Group (members Frank Abate, Garland Cannon, Fred Dolezal, Tom Creamer, and David Barnhart). Prof. Allan Metcalf of MacMurray College, Jacksonville, IL was elected as the new member of the committee. He will chair the Discussion Group’s meeting in 1993.
The next session, chaired by Fred Dolezal, will be held during the MLA meetings in Chicago, 27–30 December 1990. More details on program participants will be forthcoming. Contact Prof. Dolezal at the English Department, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 U.S.A.

International Symposium ‘Vocabulary and Applied Linguistics’

*Université Lumière, Lyon, 29–30 September 1989*

Pierre Arnaud and Henri Béjoint

An International Symposium on ‘Vocabulary and Applied Linguistics’ was held at the University Lumière, Lyon (France), 29–30 September 1989 (see *Euralex Bulletin*, Vol. 6 No. 1, pp. 8–9). Attended by 90 participants from 12 countries, the colloquium concentrated on theoretical and practical aspects of the acquisition of lexical items in a foreign language.


The Proceedings will be published entirely in English. For information, write to Pierre Arnaud or Henri Béjoint, C.R.T.T., Université Lumière-Lyon 2, 86, rue Pasteur, 69365, Lyon Cedex 7, France.
Minutes of The General Meeting held at TOT, Budapest, on September 9, 1988

The President, Professor Noel Osselton, took the chair, and the meeting was attended by approximately 85 people. Apologies were received from M. Alain Rey. The President welcomed all who were present, pointing out that the membership offered to BUDALEX participants began on September 10, 1988 and ran until March 31, 1989. The President explained briefly the procedure laid down for General Meetings, and the draft Agenda was agreed.

1 Minutes of General Meeting at Zürilex 1986: approved.

2 President's Report

This had been posted and was taken as read. The President reported a flourishing period of thriving membership and successful and well-attended conferences. He referred particularly to the joint membership scheme which had been set up with the Dictionary Society of North America, to the benefit of both organizations, to the links between EURALEX and the International Journal of Lexicography, whose editor Robert Ilson is a member of the Executive Board, and to the recent arrangement with the Oxford University Press to publish the Association's Bulletin in conjunction with the new Journal. The President concluded by thanking all his colleagues for their support and enthusiasm during his term of office.

2 Secretary's Report

This had also been posted. The Secretary made his report under three main heads: meetings, publications and membership.

Meetings: the Executive Board had met six times in the two-year period under review, in Zürich, London, Innsbruck, Durham, Paris and Budapest. The Congress Sub-Committee had met thrice.

Publications: the Association had successfully encouraged publications of various kinds. The Proceedings of the Zürilex '86 Congress had been edited by M. Snell-Hornby and published earlier this year by A. Francke, Tubingen. The same editor was also responsible for the Proceedings of the EURALEX Colloquium on Translation and Lexicography, Innsbruck 1987, which are now in print. Nine issues of the EURALEX Bulletin had appeared, 4 volumes of 2 numbers each produced at Exeter between 1984-87, and Vol. 5 No. 1 published by Oxford University Press as part of the new International Journal of Lexicography. The first two issues of Vol. 1 of the IJL, which is supported by both EURALEX and DSNA, had appeared in 1988. EURALEX also supported the Lexicographica series published by Niemeyer in Tübingen. Volumes 1, 2 and 3 (1985 to 1987) of the International Annual had appeared, and the 1988 volume is in print. Over 20 volumes had been published in the supplementary Series Maior.

Membership: the EURALEX membership list was despatched annually to members, and the latest (June 1988) showed 344 members from 43 countries within and outside Europe, with a system of Regional Representatives in 22 of these countries. A scheme of linked membership with the DSNA had been instituted; there were occasional links with other bodies, as reported from time to time in the Bulletin, and...
the Association had also formed two informal working groups, on (i) Computers
and (ii) Translation.

Wider issues: the administration and finances of EURALEX were sound, relations
within the Association and with outsiders are cordial, and activities steadily increasing.
The Secretary suggested that further thought was needed on the system of regional
representation, and members should be aware that as the Executive Board membership
became more truly international the cost of travel and clerical services might increase.
He commended to their attention the idea for monitoring research and training in
lexicography on a European scale, and of drawing up a register of members’
specializations as a useful step towards an international directory of the field.

3 Treasurer’s Report
Again, this had been posted and the Treasurer mentioned only the salient points. In
the past two years the Association had built up a comfortable balance, mainly thanks
to the subsidies of time, materials and travel funding contributed by the institutions to
which Board Members belong. The Association was moving towards financial
autonomy, and the Treasurer predicted that this could be achieved over the next five
years if the current prudent approach to spending were maintained by the Board. The
arrangements for payment of subscriptions were on the whole working well, assisted
by the link with the DSNA, designed to minimise currency conversion charges.

The Balance Sheet with Statement of Accounts, covering the period September
1st, 1986 –August 31st, 1988, had been circulated and was approved by the meeting.
This showed a total revenue of £7946.98 and an expenditure of £5943.25, giving a
balance of £2003.73; of this, £1491.27 was held in a Deposit Account, £512.46 in a
Current Account, and £200 as Cash in Hand. EURALEX was currently holding
£578.74 on behalf of the DSNA, while the DSNA was holding £316.52 on behalf of
EURALEX.

There was some discussion on ways in which subscriptions might be paid by
members living in non-convertible currency areas, and the following suggestions
were made:
1 best: pay in convertible currency;
2 second best: send subscription in local currency to local Regional Representative
who if currency is convertible forwards these funds to the Treasurer, and if not
holds them locally against future EURALEX purposes in that country;
3 last resort: discuss arrangements such as accepting subscription payment in the
form of books for EURALEX archives, or simply dispensing members from
payment of subscriptions.

This matter was referred to the incoming Executive Board.

4 Membership
The Board proposed a rise in subscriptions as follows, to take effect from April 1st,
1989:-

Associate Memberships from £4 to £5 per annum
Full Membership from £8 to £10 per annum
Institutional Membership from £25 to £30 per annum.

This was approved unanimously.

5 Election of New Executive Board
The following elections were made, all unopposed:

President      A. Zampolli  Ex officio, unopposed.
Vice-President  R. R. K. Hartmann  Proposed: C. Marello Seconded: R. Spears
Secretary       B. T. S. Atkins  Proposed: F. E. Knowles Seconded: H. Wekker
Treasurer       F. E. Knowles  Proposed: G. Stein Seconded: R. Hartmann
8 Future Developments in EURALEX
The following comments and suggestions were made:

(a) relating to general activities of the Association
(i) M. Benson (USA): that EURALEX should sponsor a group devoted to the description of phraseology; supported by M. I. Umakhodzaev (USSR), who suggested an informal group within EURALEX to look at idioms as a lexicographical task; supported by H. Malige-Klappenbach (GDR). M. Füredi (Hungary) suggested devising a format which would allow people to exchange data.
(ii) G. Stein (FRG): that EURALEX should do something to develop dictionary criticism; she pointed out the need for more knowledgeable reviews in learned journals as elsewhere; supported by C. Nimmo (UK) and many members; a suggestion was made that a subgroup should be formed to develop guidelines for reviewing various types of dictionary; the President proposed that there might be a section at the next Congress devoted to dictionary reviewing.
(iii) R. Ilson (UK): that EURALEX should set up a Bureau of Standards to judge the quality of dictionaries and establish lexicographical standards; P. W. Hanks (UK) and many others objected to this.
(iv) R. Ilson (UK): that EURALEX should set up standardized examinations and award diplomas to lexicographers who meet minimum standards of achievement.
(v) R. Ilson (UK): that under the auspices of EURALEX a collection be made for eventual publication of pages from dictionaries and other reference works; he asked whether EURALEX should limit itself to organizing conferences, suggesting that it should support with equal vigour other types of activity.
(vi) V. P. Berkov (USSR) reminded the Congress of the suggestion made in his plenary lecture of a commission to work on bilingual dictionary standards, and urged EURALEX to further this proposal.
(vii) R. McConchie (Australia) urged better dissemination of EURALEX information in Australia.
(viii) R. Hartmann (UK) spoke against setting up committees unless they were vital, and asked members to send him data for the handbook of lexicography that he is compiling.
(ix) R. Moon (UK) urged smaller EURALEX meetings between Congresses, and offered to organize a symposium on corpus-based lexicography in the spring of 1990, with the object of reporting on and assessing monolingual corpus-based projects, and of studying ways in which such lexicography may be used.

(b) relating to the next EURALEX Congress
(i) F. J. Hausmann (FRG): that a debate should be organized on the subject of published dictionaries which arouse strong reactions, eg Collins Cobuild or the Explanatory Combinatorial Dictionary of I. Mel'čuk.
(ii) P. W. Hanks (UK): that the motion for the next Presidential Debate should be along the following lines: ‘that the business of a lexicographical association
is to promote lexicographical practice rather than linguistic or 'lexicological theory'.

(iii) B. T. S. Atkins (UK): that there should be many more joint papers presented by practical lexicographers working with theoreticians; lexicographers could be asked to identify some of their major problems; linguists could then select a problem and its author and work with him/her to produce a paper in which the theoretical part offered some specific lexicographical application.

(iv) P. W. Hanks (UK): that there should be more workshops at the next Congress. J. Whitcut (UK) urged the next Congress Committee to have many fewer sessions of people reading papers, and to devise more seminars and workshops in which members may take an active part; this was supported by many members.

(v) H. Bühler (Austria) suggested the teaching of dictionary use as a topic for discussion.

(vi) G. Stein (FRG): that one of the themes of the next Congress should be the bilingual dictionary; this received much support.

9 1990 Congress
The President reported two offers of venue, one in Spain and one at Pisa in Italy. The matter was referred to the new Executive Board.

10 Any Other Business
(a) A. Bronstein (USA) suggested a more formal association between EURALEX and the new International Journal of Lexicography, whereby members of the Association should automatically receive the Journal. This was referred to the new Executive Board for decision.

(b) M. Neighbour Parent (USA & Japan): that there should be more formal links between the Association and Japan; this was referred to the new Executive Board for decision. The President commented that perhaps the name of the Association, containing as it did the word 'European', was too restrictive for the international body that it had become.

The President expressed the Association's and his own thanks to the Executive Board for their enthusiastic cooperation during his term of office, and in particular thanked the retiring Secretary, Dr. Hartmann, who had contributed so much to the founding of EURALEX and to establishing it as the truly international organization that it is. Professor Stein expressed the Association's gratitude for all the President himself had done for EURALEX, not only in the past two years, but since its inception.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

B. T. S. Atkins
Minutes Secretary

News of Members

The Cambridge University Press has announced that it is preparing to publish the Third Editions of Morton Benson's SerboCroatian-English and English-SerboCroatian Dictionary. The new editions, each containing some 60,000 headwords, will appear in July, 1990. Both dictionaries were last updated in 1988.
Forthcoming Events 1990–91

David Blair (Macquarie), Reinhard Hartmann (Exeter), R. F. Ilson (UCL)


26–27 June 1990 Lisbon: Congress on Lexicography and Lexicology. Info: Maria Teresa Limo, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Departamento de Estudos Linguísticos, Avenida de Berna 24, 1000 Lisboa, Portugal

9–13 July 1990 Barcelona: International Pragmatics Conference. Info: University of Antwerp (Linguistics – IPA), Universiteitsplein 1, B-2610 Wilrijk, Belgium


28 August–1 September 1990 Benalmádena (Málaga): (4th) EURALEX International Congress. Info: (Academic Programme) Prof. Manuel Alvar, Celex, Sancha de Lara, 11–4 Derecha, 29015 Málaga, Spain; (Other Matters) EURALEX–VOX Congress Secretariat, c/o Viajes Ibería Congresos, Avda. Diagonal 523, 08029–Barcelona, Spain

6–8 September 1990 Chiba: (29th) Annual JACET Convention. Info: Shoichi Ishikawa, The Japan Association of College English Teachers (JACET), No. 2, Kagurazaka 1-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162, Japan


20–22 September 1990 Łódź: (2nd Part of) Colloquium on Translation and Meaning. Info: Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, University of Łódź (English), Kościauszki 65, PL-90514 Łódź. Poland

21–23 September 1990 Sheffield: Language and Computers. Info: Moira Monteith, Sheffield City Polytechnic (English), 36 Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield S10 2BP, U.K.

15–18 October 1990 Jerusalem: International Conference on Language Revival. Info:
Riva Peshin, Division for Adult Education, Ministry of Education and Culture, 20 Mamilla Street, 91911 Jerusalem, Israel

29–30 October 1990 Waterloo: (6th) Annual Conference of Waterloo Centre for the New Oxford English Dictionary: Electronic Text Research. Info: F. Tompa, UW Centre for the New OED and Text Research, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1, Canada (or: newoed@waterloo.edu)

21–24 November 1990 Montréal: Colloque international sur les industries de la langue: perspective des années 1990. Info: Mme. Edith Girard, Secrétariat du Colloque, Office de la langue française, Case postale 316, Tour de la Place Victoria, Montréal (Québec), H4Z 1GB, Canada


30 September–1 October 1991 Oxford: (7th) Annual Conference of Waterloo Centre for the New Oxford English Dictionary. Info: UW Centre for the New OED and Text Research, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1, Canada (or: newoed@waterloo.edu)

Notes

Material for The EURALEX Bulletin should be submitted in duplicate.

Publications received by the editor of The EURALEX Bulletin are eligible for review or listing in The International Journal of Lexicography.

Individual members of EURALEX, or of the Dictionary Society of North America, are entitled to subscribe to The International Journal of Lexicography for half the stipulated price.