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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 Carla Mareello at the above address. The deadlines for winter (December), spring (March), summer (June), and autumn (September) issues are respectively 15 September, 15 December, 15 March, and 15 June annually.

The EURALEX Web Site

The URL of the EURALEX web site is <http://www.ims.uni-stuttgart.de/euralex>.

Morton Benson (1924–1998)

Professor Morton Benson was a Slavonicist, a lexicographer, and a friend of mine. His *Dictionary of Russian Personal Names* (3rd edition 1992, Cambridge University Press), his dictionaries of English and SerboCroatian (latest editions Prosveta and Cambridge University Press), and his *Russian-English Dictionary of Verbal Collocations* (written with his wife Evelyn and published by John Benjamins) are justly celebrated. His *Lexicographic Description of English*, *BB1 Dictionary of English Word Combinations*, and *Using the BBI* (all published by Benjamins, all written with Evelyn and me, the last with Richard Young as well) show him as a lexicographer keen not only to understand the discipline he taught at the University of Pennsylvania and elsewhere but also to use it to help people learning and teaching English.

Morton combined the ability to apply ideas practicably with the resilient energetic optimism required to get a project off the ground. Working in the great tradition of Igor Mel'čuk and Franz Josef Hausmann, he realized the importance of lexical and morpho-syntactic combinations, focussed on some

of the most useful types, understood where best in a dictionary to display them, enlisted the help of enthusiastic colleagues to create the corresponding dictionaries – and then had the guts to fight for the publication of the results against the short-sighted entrenched self-serving conservatism of so much of today's reference-publishing establishment, who would have told Murray, Grimm, Littré, Girard, Roget, and Hornby to cool their heels. If since it was 'highly commended' by the English-Speaking Union in 1987, BBI can have come to be regarded today as 'a traditional collocational dictionary' (Fontenelle, *IJL* (1997) 10/4, 281), I cannot forget that but for Morton's ceaseless championing of it and the Benjamins' understanding, it might well never have been published at all!

Morton inspired me to keep fighting, too. It is a privilege to have known him and worked with him.

Robert Ilson

Minutes of the EURALEX Biennial General Meeting, held in Liège on August 8, 1998

The President, Henri Béjoint, opened the meeting, which was attended by approximately 40 members. The president welcomed all present.

The following agenda was agreed:

1. Minutes of the 1996 General meeting and matters arising from these minutes
2. Reports
3. Membership fees 1999–2000
4. Next congress(es)
5. *IJL*
6. Elections to the Executive Board
7. Appointment of auditors
8. Comments and suggestions to the Board
9. Date and place of next meeting

1. Minutes of the 1996 General Meeting (Göteborg)

The minutes were published in the EURALEX Newsletter Winter 1996 (*IJL* 9/4). They were approved without amendments or comments.

2. Reports

2.1 President's Report

The President reported good news, since the membership had increased by 11 people. The web site and the mailing list (euralex@ims.uni-stuttgart.de), the creation of which had been agreed in Göteborg, have now been fully operational for two years thanks to Ulrich Heid and his collaborators in Stuttgart (Oliver Christ and Anja Hofmann). Membership leaflets have been produced by Rosamund Moon and are distributed at conferences. They will soon be translated into French, German, and Czech, and made available on the association's web site.

The President informed the audience that EURALEX had given support to three events: the Third International Symposium on Phraseology in Stuttgart (April 1998), the First International Conference on Language Resources (LREC) in Granada (May 1998), and the SENSEVAL workshop (Sussex, September 1998). Members are reminded that EURALEX can give moral support to relevant initiatives in the field of lexicography, and also financial support in the form of seed money which is paid back after the event. If possible, EURALEX sponsorship should be publicized more widely.

The President announced that a select Bibliography of Phraseology had been compiled and made available on the EURALEX web site by Rosamund Moon on the basis of Tony Cowie and Peter Howarth's bibliography (with an appendix by Gloria Corpas Pastor) published in IJL (9/1, 38–51), with additional material and input from František Čermák, Attila Cserép, Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij, Thierry Fontenelle, and Rosamund Moon.

The President was pleased to announce that closer links had been recreated with the Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA). The President of the DSNA, Edward Gates, had attended the congress in Liège and DSNA publications had been displayed at the book exhibition. In return, it had been agreed that EURALEX would also be allowed to display material at the next DSNA meeting in Berkeley in May 1998.

It was announced that proceedings of previous congresses were still available and that the web site would contain information about how to buy such copies. A proposal was also made by the President to offer a EURALEX scholarship to young scholars/researchers, which would for instance enable them to attend EURALEX conferences (the details will be clarified and announced later).

The President acknowledged the birth of another sister association, ASIALEX, whose secretary, Ami Chi, had attended the Liège congress.

The President then informed the audience that sadly Morton Benson had passed away in June 1998. An outstanding lexicographer, Morton Benson was especially famous for his contribution to the BBI Dictionary of English Collocations. The President offered EURALEX's condolences to his family and friends. [See obituary in this newsletter – Eds.]

Le Président prit ensuite la parole en français pour rappeler qu'une de ses ambitions avait été d'attirer plus de représentants français à EURALEX. Il devait constater qu'avec une douzaine de participants français, le succès n'était que mitigé, en dépit des efforts faits par les organisateurs d'EURALEX '98 pour informer la communauté lexicographique française (circulaires et informations en français, université francophone...). De nombreux efforts seront encore nécessaires afin de sensibiliser les intéressés de la francophonie à l'existence d'EURALEX et de ses congrès où le français est une langue officielle bienvenue, comme en témoignent la dizaine de présentations faites dans cette langue à Liège.

2.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Krista Varantola, the Secretary-Treasurer, reported on the situation of EURALEX's finances. Membership has increased by 11, which means that the

Association now has 290 ordinary members. There are currently 20 International Friendship Fund members (15 in 1996, 16 in 1997) and more applications have been received, which, it is hoped, will encourage regular members (and others) to contribute to the IFF initiative. The breakdown looks as follows:

EURALEX MEMBERS

Copies of the IJL

1995	1996	1997
358	335	349

Membership	1996	1997
Ordinary members	279	290
Institutional members (2 copies)	20	21
IFF members	15	16
Honorary members	1	1

IFF members per country	1997	1998
Albania	2	2
Bulgaria	1	1
China	1	1
Czech Republic	1	1
Estonia	1	1
Hungary	2	2
Latvia	1	1
Lithuania	1	1
Russia	5	7
South Africa	—	2
Yugoslavia	1	1
Total	16	20

EURALEX Accounts and Balance 1997

Currency: FIM (8.5 FIM = 1 GBP)

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Revenues

Membership fees	21,897.16 FM
Other revenue	—
Interest	<u>1,955.92 FIM</u>
	23,853.08 FIM

Expenses	
Board meetings	12,372.35 FIM
Administration	14,541.49 FIM
OUP: IJL	— FIM
Sponsorship	— FIM
Congress 1998	15,724.00 FIM
	<u>42,637.84 FIM</u>
Profit/loss preliminary	18,784.76 FIM
Currency adjustment	14,589.24 FIM
Profit/Loss adjusted	<u>4,195.52 FIM</u>

BALANCE SHEET	31.12.1996	31.12.1997
Assets		
Lloyds Bank (1)	84,357.61 FIM	100,638.64 FIM
Lloyds Bank (2)	21,614.60 FIM	6,959.63 FIM
Merita Bank	29,614.56 FIM	21,377.17 FIM
Outstanding accounts	<u>-1,075.29 FIM</u>	<u>-1,075.29 FIM</u>
	134,511.48 FIM	127,900.15 FIM
Liabilities		
Verbatim Award	7,624.62 FIM	9,079.02 FIM
IFF	23,200.00 FIM	7,586.19 FIM
EURALEX Net Capital	<u>103,686.86 FIM</u>	<u>111,234.94 FIM</u>
	134,511.48 FIM	127,900.15 FIM

As can be seen, the EURALEX net capital has increased. Expenses are mainly due to the seed money, which was provided to the Liège congress organizers but will be paid back after the congress (this accounts for the difference in the Lloyds Bank (2) account between 1996 and 1997). One other thing to note is that the money received from the Hornby Trust – to help people who had financial problems with attending the Göteborg congress – had been given to EURALEX before being transferred to the organizers (see difference for the IFF account between 1996 and 1997). The situation will be different in the next report since in 1998 the Hornby Trust sponsorship was given to the Liège organizers directly. The administration costs in the table above reflect the production costs of the membership leaflets as well as the creation and maintenance of the web site. Fluctuations in the value of the pound also account for differences in the figures given in FIM (e.g. the Lloyds Bank (1) account in 1996 and 1997). The accounts were audited by Raija Kaila before being presented to the General Meeting. They were approved unanimously.

The Secretary-Treasurer also reported on the Thematic Network Programme (TNP) funded by the European Language Council (ELC). One of the sub-groups of the TNP is of special interest to EURALEX since it is concerned with dictionaries and is chaired by Reinhard Hartmann (Exeter). The underlying idea is to promote dictionary awareness in language institutions and the President of the sub-committee is currently collecting information on universit-

ies and institutes which provide courses on dictionary use. A status report on lexicography in the various participating countries has been drafted and evidence on best practice in dictionary skills has been collected. The aim is to compile a final report which will contain recommendations. A conference was organized at the University of Lille to present preliminary results and another conference will be organized in Finland at the end of this 3-year project.

3. Membership fees 1999–2000

The Secretary-Treasurer reminded the audience that, in 1996, the General Assembly had decided to bear the increase in rates for the *International Journal of Lexicography* and that membership fees had remained unchanged for 1997–1998 (£30 for ordinary members). This meant that EURALEX had to pay £24.50 instead of £22 to provide its members with a subscription to IJL. However, because administration costs for highly specialized journals keep rising, OUP has now decided to increase the subscription price to £28.50 for ordinary members, which means that EURALEX would start making losses if the membership fee remained unchanged. The Executive Board therefore proposed increasing membership fees to £34 (US \$56) for ordinary members and to £83 (US \$138) for institutional members (who receive two copies of IJL). This suggestion was approved unanimously.

4. International Journal of Lexicography

The President thanked Robert Ilson for his work in making IJL a successful, high-quality journal, and he thanked Tony Cowie, the new editor, for taking over, wishing him well with his new mission.

5. Next congresses

The President announced that the next (9th) international congress of EURALEX will take place in Stuttgart. An offer has been received from Reinhard Hartmann, who was also the founding father of EURALEX, to organize the 10th congress in Exeter in 2002. Ulrich Heid, the organizer of the 2000 congress, gave a few details about the congress in Stuttgart. It will run from 8 to 12 August 2000, immediately after the COLING congress to be held in Luxembourg. An e-mail address will soon be available, and the EURALEX web site will be used to host all the details relating to the congress. Topics will include the traditional domains covered at EURALEX congresses: that is, dictionary use, the dictionary-making process, phraseology, etc. A number of topical forums and pre-congress workshops might be organized to address specific issues such as phraseology, the creation of NLP lexicons, tools for corpus lexicography, the creation of historical dictionaries, and the teaching of monolingual lexicography. Members should contact the organizers if they wish to put forward proposals.

6. Elections to the Executive Board (1998–2000)

The President briefly explained the system: 1. list all nominations, with proposers and seconders; 2. vote by show of hands if only two candidates for a post, by written ballot if more. All members of EURALEX are eligible to be nominated, provided they have expressed their willingness (in person or in writing), and only EURALEX members are allowed to vote. The following elections were made:

President:	Ole Norling-Christensen (nominated ex officio in capacity as Vice-President)
Vice-President:	Krista Varantola
Secretary-Treasurer:	Proposed: H. Béjoint; Seconded: U. Heid Thierry Fontenelle
Ass. Secretary-Treasurer:	Proposed: O. Norling-Christensen; Seconded: R. Moon Ulrich Heid
	Proposed: K. Varantola; Seconded: M. Gellerstam

Henri Béjoint's appointment to the 1998–2000 Board, ex officio as retiring President, was announced. The following nominations were made for the five remaining places on the Executive Board:

František Čermák	Proposed: V. Schmiedtova; Seconded: R. Blatná
Marie-Hélène Corréard	P: A. Kilgarriff; S: R.E. Allen
Martin Gellerstam	P: R. Moon; S: C. Marelo
Carla Marelo	P: Th. Fontenelle; S: O. Norling-Christensen
Rosamund Moon	P: F. Čermák; S: Th. Fontenelle
Petek Kurtböke	P: T. Magay; S: J. Williams

The results of the vote were: Čermák 28, Corréard 26, Gellerstam 25, Marelo 33, Moon 35, Kurtböke 13. Čermák, Corréard, Gellerstam, Marelo, and Moon were duly elected to the Board.

7. Appointment of Auditor

Krista Varantola suggested keeping the same auditor since the Treasury will provisionally stay in Finland. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Raija Kaila to review the accounts officially.

8. Comments and suggestions to the Board

Tamás Magay asked whether it would be possible to hold the General Meeting in the middle of the conference, instead of organizing it at the very end of the congress, on Saturday afternoon, as had always been the case so far. This would allow and encourage more people to participate. The next organizer will investigate this possibility. Liz Potter suggested that a questionnaire could be circulated to ask participants for feedback. Alternatively, an announcement could be circulated, e.g. via the mailing list, to ask for suggestions for the next congress. The Executive Board announced that it had received an offer from

Tim Gluckman (Köln) to set up a newsgroup for lexicographers on his own web site. It was decided that this offer would be examined at the next Executive Board meeting, but that efforts should not be duplicated since EURALEX already has an operational mailing list (to be moderated by Ulrich Heid) and an official web site. Ilan Kerneman suggested working with sister associations to set up a big international project to promote the use of dictionaries in schools. Cooperation with sister associations such as AFRILEX and ASIALEX is rather limited, however. Ulrich Heid promised the EURALEX web site would be updated to include links to the AFRILEX site (there are already pointers to the AUSTRALEX and DSNAL web sites). Patrick Hanks asked whether the Board could encourage the development of shared resources, especially since, even though English is well served in this respect, other languages are much less well served. He therefore suggested an active cooperation with funders to share lexical resources, especially corpora. Henri Béjoint pointed out that EURALEX had not been inactive in the field and that several of its Board members actively participated in initiatives such as the TNP project (Krista Varantola), the TELRI association which developed parallel corpora in 15 languages (František Čermák), or the EU-funded PAROLE/SIMPLE projects which develop corpora and lexica for all official EU languages (Ole Norling-Christensen). Ulrich Heid also reminded the audience that the web site contained pointers to available resources.

9. Date and place of next meeting

The next Biennial General Meeting of the Association will take place in Stuttgart, Germany, during the Tenth International Congress (8–12 August 2000).

Henri Béjoint then closed the meeting by thanking the local organizers, the Programme Committee, the referees, the chairs, the people in charge of the tutorials (Michela Clari, Jeremy Butterfield, Alain Reichling), the plenary speakers (Marie-Hélène Corréard, Tony Cowie, Gregory Grefenstette), the publishers who had participated in the book exhibition, the sponsors (the European Commission (DGXIII), the Hornby Trust, which helped a number of people from East-European countries to attend the congress by donating £2,000, Cambridge University Press, the University of Liège and its 'Interface Université-Entreprise', le Cercle Belgo-Néerlandais, le Service de la Langue française du Ministère de la Communauté française de Belgique), the university staff, and the students who had provided the organizers with most valuable help, and, of course, all those who had read papers or simply attended the congress.

Thierry Fontenelle, Minutes Secretary

Forthcoming events

February

5–6, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium: symposium 'Contrastive Linguistics and Translation Studies: Empirical Approaches'. Topics include: contrastive

lexicology (in particular, contrastive phraseology), bilingual/multilingual lexicography, contrastive semantics, contrastive syntax, contrastive pragmatics, compiling and exploiting bilingual/multilingual computerised corpora, software tools for the analysis of bilingual corpora, bilingual corpora and automatic/computer-aided translation. Info: Sylviane Granger, Centre for English Corpus Linguistics, Université Catholique de Louvain, Place Blaise Pascal 1, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. E-mail: granger@lige.ucl.ac.be. Web site: <http://www.fltr.ucl.ac.be/FLTR/GERM/ContraEngl.htm>

April

14–17, Newcastle upon Tyne, England: 2nd International Symposium on Bilingualism. Info: Mrs Gillian Cavagan, ISB Organising Committee, Department of Speech, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, UK. Fax +44 191 2226518. E-mail: gillian.cavagan@newcastle.ac.uk. Web site: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/~nspeech/isb2.htm>

May

27–29, Berkeley, USA: XIIth Biennial Meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America. Info: DSN 1999, Department of Linguistics, Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA. E-mail: dsna@trill.berkeley.edu. Web site: <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dsna/i/index.html>.

August

2–6, Tokyo, Japan: 12th World Conference of Applied Linguistics (AILA '99). Web site: <http://langue.hyper.chubu.ac.jp/jacet/AILA99/>.

6–10, Mons-Hainaut, Belgium: XV World Congress of the International Federation of Translators (FIT). Web site: <http://fit.ml.org/congress/i/index.html>.