

Announcing the XVIIth Biennial Meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America

All members of the Dictionary Society of North America are invited to participate in the Society's XVIIth Biennial Meeting to be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, from Wednesday, 27 May 2009 through Saturday, 30 May 2009.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Even at this early stage of planning, the program is full of exciting events.

- The conference will open with a reception on Wednesday evening;
- Plenary sessions will begin the following morning and continue through late Saturday afternoon;
- On Thursday, 28 May, the Lilly Library, Indiana University's rare book and manuscript library, will open an exhibit of dictionaries reflecting language contact from around the world (missionary dictionaries, explorers' dictionaries, imperial dictionaries, etc.). Breon Mitchell, director of the Lilly and a private collector of dictionaries will introduce the exhibit to the Society, and, after members have viewed the exhibit, the Lilly will host the Society at a reception to celebrate the opening.
- On Friday, the Society will travel to Indiana State University to visit the Cordell Collection, a remarkable collection of dictionaries and lexicographical material closely associated with the Society. Through the offices of David Vancil, curator of the collection, the Indiana State University Foundation will host a reception and the conference banquet following our tour of the collection.
- There will be a full schedule of papers on Saturday (to make up for our Friday excursion), and the conference will close with an evening reception.

ARRANGEMENTS: Indiana University is a delightful place to visit in late spring and its facilities outstanding for small conferences like ours.

- Shuttle service from the Indianapolis airport to the Indiana Memorial Union in the heart of the university's campus is frequent, relatively inexpensive, and easily arranged;
- Blocks of rooms are being held at the hotel in the Indiana Memorial Union and in a residence hall within easy walking distance to the Union, where all sessions and other meetings related to the conference will be held, with the exception of those specified above (the Lilly Library is close to the Union, and buses for our trip to the Cordell Collection will meet us at the Union steps);
- Because we are still seeking subsidy for the conference, the registration fee has not yet been set. About the fee: there is good news and bad news. The bad news is that, in spite of attempts to keep the costs down (we are still attempting), the fee is likely to be somewhat higher than in past years, certainly over \$100. The good news is that, thanks to the Indiana State University Foundation's generous gift of our banquet, there will be no additional charge for the banquet, so the total cost of

attending the conference will be less than in the recent past. Student members will be able to attend the conference at a significantly reduced fee; non-members attending the conference will become members when they register, by paying a somewhat higher fee including membership dues.

- We will open registration in January, and it will be easy to register online, with a credit card for payment, through Indiana University Conference Services (checks may also be sent through the mail, and registration will be possible on site, as well, at a slightly higher fee). All details regarding registration and accommodation, as well as travel to Bloomington, will be available on the conference Webpage, which will be available through the DSNA Website (<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dsna>).

ABSTRACTS: Those who wish to present a paper at the conference should send an abstract of no more than 300 words to Michael Adams at adamsm@indiana.edu no later than 1 December 2008. Abstracts received will be reviewed by the local conference committee (composed of DSNA members) and decisions will be made promptly and communicated in early January. Abstracts are welcome on all topics relating to lexicography, though papers about Samuel Johnson's lexicography (to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Johnson's birth) and about the role of the dictionary in college/university education (including but not restricted to the writing curriculum) are particularly welcome.

SEMINARS: In addition to the usual plenary sessions, we hope to organize a few seminars focused on special subjects. Each seminar would include from six to twelve participants. Seminars would run, one at a time, parallel to a plenary session. This is **NOT** an attempt to restructure the conference into parallel sessions—though some members have urged such restructuring, most members (including the organizer of this conference) prefer a plenary program. The seminars are an experiment designed to vary the conference program minimally but significantly, while promoting scholarship in focused areas with the hope that papers from the seminars can be published (as books, special issues of journals, etc.), thus increasing the Society's visibility in the wide sea of American scholarship.

The organizer suggests the following topics for seminars in 2009: (1) history of lexicography, (2) corpus lexicography, (3) dictionaries and lexicography in the media, (4) learner's dictionaries, (5) Samuel Johnson's lexicography, (6) dictionaries in college/university education, and (7) creole lexicography (Indiana University is a natural site for such a seminar, given the work of Albert Valdman, Kevin Rottet, and others here on dictionaries of Haitian and Louisiana creoles). If you would like to participate in a seminar, simply send an e-mail to Michael Adams at adamsm@indiana.edu indicating your interest by 1 November 2008. You are welcome to suggest other topics; you are welcome to organize members and non-members (or what we should call "future members") to ensure sufficient interest in one or another seminar. We especially encourage recruitment of non-members who might be interested in attending the conference for the sake of a seminar. Seminars with enough preliminary interest to be viable will be assigned a leader by the conference organizer.

Here are some ground rules for participation in seminars:

- Members may participate in only one seminar;
- Seminars will be organized with between six and twelve members;
- Participants in a seminar will write more elaborate papers than would be possible for a plenary session (15 pages, say, rather than 8-10 pages), papers closer to publication;
- Those papers will be distributed to all members of a viable seminar no later than 15 April 2009, so that members can prepare for the seminar by reading all papers ahead of time—those who fail to meet the deadline will not be allowed to participate.
- In other words, participating in a seminar means writing more and writing it earlier than one might for a session on the plenary program.

The seminars are a chance for those deeply interested in a subject to explore it fully and collegially, in a discussion format different from the usual “presentation followed by questions and comments” format of the plenary sessions. They are very much an experiment: we will run just as many seminars (no more than one parallel to each plenary session) as interest indicates—it’s all right if there’s lots of interest, no interest, or some level of interest in between those extremes.

FINALLY: Please feel free to write to the conference organizer, Michael Adams, with any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have—adamsm@indiana.edu.