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NEWSLETTER

SLJN

n.6 June 1994

Of Joseph of aramuthe: ato stello with find. m. 1.

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1. SLIN meetings and Conferences

* We are still inclined to plan our next National Conference as being held in Cagliari (Sardinia) in late Spring or early Autumn, 1995, depending on a few administrative circumstances. As an alternative we are discussing the opportunity to hold it in Genoa or Milan. The chosen general topic is **diachronic translation** for which we have provided, and will further to, some basic bibliographical references (see NL 5, pp. 6-9) mainly suggested by John Denton. A definite indication on place and dates will certainly be given in NL 7, October this year.
(SLIN National Committee)

** A substantial participation and a sustained interest in papers and discussion characterized the SLIN national meeting held in Rome on April 29th and 30th last, which dealt with "*strumenti e metodi di ricerca*" and was kindly hosted in the British Council premises. Colleagues from 10 Italian universities gathered for one and a half days to exchange information on the latest technological developments of historical-linguistic research. M. Gotti illustrated the big resources of computerized O.E.D. data which were also practically demonstrated on British Council CD ROM. The panorama of informatized corpora was completed by R. Facchinetti's clever presentation of the major modes of use of the Helsinki Corpus. Another session of the Seminar was absorbed by a very stimulating "round table" run by D. Pezzini where some Roman colleagues of other language histories - Spanish, French, German, Russian - presented their experiences, opinions, suggestions for interlinguistic collaboration. This was followed and supplemented by R. Dury's discussion of language histories in the European context which ended up in an articulated proposal for a research project. A large-scale bibliographical survey of linguistics production for University use by

J. Denton and an attempt to update the state of historical-linguistic research in Italy and abroad by N. Pantaleo concluded a quite satisfactory seminar whose format and methodology were favourably acknowledged by participants. Thanks are due to D.Hart who generously candidated Rome again for the next occasion (Spring 1996). I have pleasure to include in this NL a brief summary, kindly offered by the author, of the conversation given by Dr. Francine Daenens, professor of History of the French language at the Third University, Rome, in the round table session mentioned above (please find it on p. 8). You will also find a table of the distribution of topics and periods in the last three International Conferences of English Historical Linguistics in a hand-out accompanying N. Pantaleo's paper, which should be read along with the presentation of data from the fourth SLIN Questionnaire (see point 5, below). Further materials from the Seminar will hopefully be enclosed in the next NL.

2. International Conferences

* I have been informed from the organizers of the 7ICEHL held in Valencia in 1992, whose proceedings are by the way available from Benjamins, Amsterdam (vol. 113 of the Current Issues in Linguistic Theory series, 1994), of an International Conference on Linguistic Contact to be held in Valencia in 1995. All those who are interested in participating and/or proposing a paper may find all details along with accommodation and deadline information on p. 10 of this NL.

3. Other linguistic Conferences

■ The annual A.I.A. (Association of Italian Anglists) Conference will take place at Bologna University from 16 to 18 February, 1995. The

main theme chosen is a quite new one: *Il centauro anglo-americano: culture di lingua inglese a confronto*. There will be three subdivisions: 1. Stagioni a confronto; 2. Miti a confronto; 3. Teorie e varietà linguistiche a confronto. To take part as speakers in the third one, more linguistically characterized, please contact, sending a one/two page abstract by the end of August, **Prof. Rosa Maria Bosinelli, Dipartimento di LLSM (Via Cartoleria 5 - 40124 Bologna)** and **Prof. Carol Taylor Torsello, Scuola Superiore di lingue moderne per interpreti e traduttori (Via d'Alviano 13/1 - 34144 Trieste)**.

** From SLI Bulletin (1994, 1):

• Summer course on semiotics and linguistics (July 6-20) at Centro Internazionale di Semiotica e di Linguistica. P.zza Rinascimento 71, 61029 URBINO (PS).

•• Sixth Euralex (European Association for Lexicography) International Congress. Free University of Amsterdam (August 30 - September 3). Please contact University Conference Service, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands.

••• Network on Code-Switching and Language Contact: "Summer School on Code-Switching and Language Contact". (September 14-17). Please contact Prof. Durk Gorter, Fryske Akademy, Doelestrjitte 8, 8911 DX LJOUWERT/LEEWARDEN, The Netherlands. Fax ..31..58..131409.

•••• XXVIII International Congress of SLI (Società di linguistica italiana) on "Language and Cognition" at Palermo University (October 27-29). Please contact Prof. Franco Lo Piparo, Viale delle Scienze, 90128 PALERMO. Tel. and fax: (091) 6560273.

••••• Conference on "Anaphoric Relations and (In)coherence", University of Antwerp (December 1-3). Information from Prof. Walter De Mulder, UIA-ROM, Universiteitsplein 1, B-2610 WILRIJK, Belgium.

4. Reviews and bibliographical information

* Here is a short supplement by **John Denton** to the bibliographical list of references on corpora having appeared in the SLIN NL n.4 (October 1993)

G. Leitner (ed.) *New Directions in Corpus Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter 1992.

J. Startvik (ed.) *Directions in Corpus Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter 1992.

M. Baker, G. Francis & E. Tognini-Bonelli (eds.) *Text and Technology*. Amsterdam: Benjamins 1993.

** The British Council make known that they publish a free Newsletter headed *British Studies* "covering issues, events and publications of interest to those involved in British Studies around the world. Each edition focuses on both a geographical area and a theme. The current issue covers the theme of *Interculturalism*, while the feature planned on Latin America will appear in July. Contributions are welcome. Please write to Nick Wadham Smith, British Studies Officer, c/o Literature Department, The British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN, Fax 071-3894340." (From *AIA NL*, 4 April, 1994).

*** The first 1995 issue of the AIA periodical publication *Textus* will be a monothematic one and will deal with lexical studies, namely covering **lexicology, formal semantics, morphology, phraseology, lexical pragmatics, morphopragmatics, translation, language teaching, lexicography and natural language processing** in an either diachronic or synchronic perspective. Abstracts should be sent by the end of September to both editors:

Prof **John Sinclair**, School of English-Corpus Linguistics, University of Birmingham, Westmere Mews, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, United Kingdom;

Prof **Lavinia Merlini Barbaresi**, Centro Linguistico Interdipartimentale, Via Santa Maria 42. 56100 Pisa.

**** I wish to draw the readers' attention to a helpful undertaking by Prof. David Denison concerning automatic renumbering (this is reported on p. 11)

***** *Societas Linguistica Europæa*, directed by Prof. Dieter Kastovsky, is in ...urgent need of new subscribers. Please spare your money for supporting it: it is worth subscribing! (look at "publicity" enclosed).

5. 4th SLIN questionnaire: a provisional balance

Here is a comprehensive presentation of the data partially anticipated during the Rome Seminar out of the 11 answer sheets as yet received. The universities concerned are Bari, Bergamo, Catania, Milano, Napoli, Roma, Urbino and Venezia.

1. The variety of course topics does not allow any generalization, though a major trend seems to be identifiable in Early Modern English word-formation.
2. Among the History of English handbooks mostly used are T. Frank, N. Francovich Onesti, Baugh and Cable, Pezzini.
3. Research periods and areas are indicated in the following decreasing scale:
Early Mod. English 9, Late Mod. English 5, Late Middle English and Across periods 4 each, no Old English and Early Middle English.
Lexis 6, lexicography 5, morphology and syntax 3 each, phonology and translation studies 1 each.
4. Topics for degree dissertations show some significant variations, within a general adherence to the previous data:
Early Mod. English 8, Late Middle English 5, Late Mod. English and varieties 3 each, Early Middle English 2, others 2, Old English 1.

5. History of English is indicated as an optional discipline by 5 colleagues and obligatory according to study orientation (indirizzi) by 2.

6. Only 2 colleagues say they are engaged in national or international research projects.

7. Computerized corpora are made use of by 3.

8. A recent chair of English has been established in 4 universities: Bergamo, Catania, Milano and Venezia.

I would not comment on these data at present, reserving to evaluate them on the occasion of our next workshop by comparing them to other data drawn from both the 1992 SLIN questionnaire and national and international Conferences.

SLIN seminar on methods and means of research. Rome (April 29-30, 1994) Nicola Pantaleo.

Synoptical table of distribution of linguistic areas (A) and periods (B) in ICEHL 6, 7 and 8 (forthcoming).

A. Macrocategories

	Synt.	Synt.-Morph.	Morph.	Lexicol.	Phon.	Var.-Dial.	Pragma.	Lexicogr.
Helsinki '90	22	4	--	5	4	11	--	--
Valencia '92	10	6	2	8	6	6	5	--
Edinburgh '94	21	--	7	7/2	5	5	1	4

B. Historical periods

	Gen.	O.E.	O.E.- e.M.E.	M.E.	l.M.E.- e.Mod.E.	e.Mod.E.	Pres.E.
Helsinki '90	31	10	1	9	--	3	7
Valencia '92	16	10	4	9	--	5	1
Edinburgh '94	22	13	1	5	1	5	1

Storia della lingua e storia sociale: un dialogo difficile.

Roma (29/4/1994)

(Dott.ssa Francine Daenens, Storia della lingua francese, III Università degli Studi di Roma).

Vent'anni fa, nell'introduzione a Il linguaggio d'Italia, Giacomo Devoto affermava che il suo non era "un libro di linguistica, ma un libro di storia". In realtà, se la collocazione del nostro lavoro tra le scienze del linguaggio è considerata "naturale", la riflessione sul lavoro storiografico difetta ancora di problematizzazione e scarsa è la sua visibilità nel più generale panorama della storiografia: e non solo perché "storia di", uno dei possibili rami della ricerca storica. Solo se si pensa all'acceso dibattito degli storici sui modi di fare storia (ad esempio il significato della *case-history*, delle micro-analisi, dei rapporti con l'antropologia), appare subito evidente che per gli storici della lingua è un confronto che si svolge solo a distanza. Eppure non mancano certo problematiche di confine, per il loro stesso carattere linguistico: ad esempio, non ritengo di esclusiva competenza dello storico del diritto o della teologia studiare l'ingiuria verbale (un reato) o la menzogna (un peccato per S. Agostino); come non è esclusiva la competenza dello storico della lingua sulla diffusione dei vocabolari poliglotti (tema rilevante anche per la storia dei flussi migratori, del notariato, dei rapporti commerciali). Tra i possibili terreni di confronto e di comune riflessione - su temi, strumenti e nodi problematici - ci sono il bagaglio degli storici del sociale (penso all'alfabetizzazione, alla figura dello scrivano pubblico delle società di *Ancien Régime*), e della storia politica impegnata su questioni di confini/cittadinanza/identità.

Tra le questioni da aprire, particolarmente importante è quella legata alla diversa natura dei documenti: per concepire la storia della lingua non solo in termini di storia "alta". Penso ad esempio all'utilizzo di fonti giudiziarie che certamente presentano dati e spunti altrove irreperibili, ma filtrati attraverso i riti del diritto e gli stilemi curiali (in quale misura registrano fedelmente le voci subalterne? La questione mi sembra aver interessato ben poco gli storici della lingua).

Vorrei sottolineare l'importanza anche culturale, dell'iniziativa del Prof. David Hart. Promuovere un incontro con studiosi di provenienza diversa è senz'altro inconsueto, ma l'iniziativa è diversa solo in rapporto all'ovvietà delle separate tradizioni nazionali (a proposito di confini!) e di esperienze didattiche arroccate in aree linguistiche tradizionalmente separate.

Ritengo sia opportuno segnalare anche il *work in progress*. Per la storia della lingua francese, stiamo facendo (a livello di tesi di laurea) il repertorio dei dizionari bilingui e plurilingui (Cinque- e Seicento) nel fondo antico delle biblioteche romane, un repertorio che in futuro potrebbe anche essere messo a disposizione sotto forma di *short-title*.



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THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON LINGUISTIC CONTACT
September 1995

1st Circular (January 1994)

The Department of English & German Philology at the University of València (Spain) is organizing the *1st International Conference on Linguistic Contact* (ICOLC) to be held at the University of Valencia in September 1995. Scholars currently working in the various (sub)fields of linguistic contact are welcome to participate.

The Conference will deal with *linguistic contact* in general, embracing the areas of *historical linguistics & language contact, language transfer, bilingualism & diglossia, 'Sprachbund', interlanguage, pidginization & creolization, and the role of contact in second language acquisition.*

The Conference will be organized in *plenary lectures and sessions containing semiplenary lectures and short papers.* We also envisage organizing workshops and presentation of *ongoing projects.* Plenary and semiplenary sessions can be arranged upon receipt of abstracts.

English is the official language of the Conference.

Consider this to be a **call for papers** for those who wish to participate actively. Please, send a two-page abstract, laser-quality, print-out, standard typing. The 31st December, 1994 is the deadline for the submission of abstracts to be considered for acceptance.

All participants should send the attached form no later than the 30th of July to the above address, so that we can issue a second circular (early October 1994) giving more details concerning the organization of the Conference (registration form & fees, accommodation facilities, travel arrangements, etc.). This second circular will only be sent to those who have completed the form.

We would be very grateful if you could inform other colleagues at your own university about the Conference.

The Organizing Committee

Dr Miguel Fuster, Dr Emilio García, Dr Juan J. Calvo

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