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# SGL Newsletter

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Society for Germanic Linguistics Vol. 18, No. 1, Spring 2006

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## SGL News and Reports

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### SGL Elections

Neil Jacobs has been elected Vice President of the SGL for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2008. Donka Minkova has been elected and Orrin W. Robinson re-elected to a three-year term as members-at-large of the Executive Committee of the SGL. We extend heartfelt thanks to Donka Minkova for her excellent service as outgoing Vice President and welcome her back as a member of the Executive Committee. Thanks also to Garry Davis, whose membership on the Executive Committee ended in December 2005.

### Diebold Prize

The Diebold Prize, awarded annually for an outstanding student paper based on a GLAC presentation, was won in 2005 by Jenny Audring, from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, for her paper entitled "Pronominal Gender in Spoken Dutch." Six excellent submissions were received in the competition. Congratulations to the winner and many thanks to the adjudication committee: Garry Davis, Neil Jacobs, and Elly van Gelderen.

### SGL Website

The SGL Website provides current information about the activities of the Society. Colleagues interested in submitting manuscripts to the *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* will find the most recent versions of the submission guidelines and style sheet, as well as editorial addresses and a link to the JGL page at Cambridge University Press. Information on the upcoming GLAC conference is posted each year as it becomes

available, and a link to the conference website is added as soon as the organizers have it up and running. Links to past GLAC conferences are retained as long as those websites still exist.

The site also includes current and back issues of the Society's Newsletter, as well as general information about the Society, instructions for those wishing to join or pay dues, e-mail links to officers and members of the Executive Committee, and the latest version of the Society's bylaws.

The site can be accessed through either of the following URLs:

<http://german.lss.wisc.edu/~sgl/>  
<http://germaniclinguistics.org>

Suggestions or questions concerning the website can be addressed to David Fertig ([fertig@buffalo.edu](mailto:fertig@buffalo.edu)).  
(David Fertig, Webmaster)

### *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*

JGL 18.1—now on its way to your mailboxes—contains two very interesting articles: "The role of contrast in the local licensing of scrambling in German: Evidence from online comprehension" by Ina Bornkessel & Matthias Schlesewsky and "Fundamental regularities in the Second Consonant Shift" by Gregory K. Iverson & Joseph C. Salmons, as well as a review of *Grammaticalization as Economy* (E. van Gelderen) by Brady Clark.

In addition, as part of our new agreement with Cambridge University Press, members will soon be able to choose from one of three types of subscriptions: hard copy, electronic, or hard copy and electronic.

As always, the editor encourages members of the Society for Germanic Linguistics and the Forum for Germanic Language Studies to continue submitting their highest quality work to the Journal.  
(Robert Murray, Editor)

## Notice of Death: Mark Southern

It is with sorrow that we inform the membership of the sudden death of our valued colleague, Mark Southern, on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. In addition to his academic contributions, Mark played an active role in the Society: he served as a member of the Executive Committee and was co-organizer of GLAC 5 in Austin. An obituary will appear in the Fall issue of the Newsletter.

## Program Profile

### Institut für Germanistische Sprachwissenschaft at Philipps-Universität Marburg by Richard Wiese

The Department of German Linguistics (*Institut für Germanistische Sprachwissenschaft*) at the Philipps-Universität Marburg offers a large range of high-level activities in research and teaching. It is one of the larger such departments in Germany, presently containing the following groups and members of staff with professorial positions:

- linguistic theory (phonology, morphology, syntax) and psycholinguistics (Richard Wiese, Matthias Schlesewsky)
- phonetics (Hermann Künzel, Angelika Braun)
- German as a foreign language (Ruth Albert)
- historical linguistics, text linguistics (N. N.)
- rhetorics/communication (Christa Heilmann)
- clinical linguistics (N. N.)

Other professors and researchers are members of the *Sprachatlas* institute. For a list of staff and other information see the department's website: <http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb09/igs>

Members of the department actively pursue various research projects in their respective fields. The *Deutscher Sprachatlas* is a sister institute to our department. It has been the center of research and documentation of the dialects of German for the last 120 years, since Georg Wenker initiated a survey and sent out his famous questionnaire. Currently, the institute has two professors (Jürgen Schmidt, Joachim Herrgen), one junior professor (Alexandra Lenz) and a number of researchers, all of whom are involved in projects studying German dialects and their development in the past and present.

Students from abroad are not likely to be interested in the course leading to the *Staatsexamen* in German, but might want to look into the other courses offered in Marburg. On the basis of its experience and activities in the linguistic areas identified above, the department has been active in designing and implementing new courses of study according to the scheme of *Gestufte Studiengänge*, as they are currently being introduced in many European countries. The department offers two different B.A. courses, one named *Deutsche Sprache und Literatur*, and one named *Sprache und Kommunikation* with a linguistic focus (including at least one foreign language). Three M.A. specializations, named *Germanistische Linguistik*, *Speech Sciences*, and *Deutsch als Fremdsprache*, are likely to be installed for the academic year 2006/07. Further information on all of these courses is available at <http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb09/studium>

Perhaps needless to say, the department offers also a doctorate in all of the areas mentioned. For all inquiries, please write to our administration ([german@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:german@staff.uni-marburg.de)) or to me ([wiese@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:wiese@staff.uni-marburg.de)).

## Conference Reports

### Report on SHEL, held at Northern Arizona University, September 30–October 2, 2005

by Donka Minkova

Following the successful joint SHEL–GLAC meeting in Ann Arbor in April 2004, the 4<sup>th</sup> conference on Studies in the History of the English Language took place from September 30 until October 2, 2005 at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. More than 60 participants attended sessions and presented papers on phonological and syntactic change, issues of historical word formation, historical metrics, corpus linguistics, North American, and World Englishes. As is customary at SHEL meetings, a special session was dedicated to pedagogical issues.

Details of the program are available on the web at <http://www4.nau.edu/shel4/>

The conference was preceded by a wonderful Grand Canyon day-trip.

Submissions for a prospective SHEL-4 volume to be edited by Susan Fitzmaurice and Donka Minkova are currently invited.

SHEL-5 will be hosted by the University of Athens, Georgia in 2007. According to current scheduling, in 2009 SHEL-6 will be a joint event with GLAC-15 once again, this time hosted by the University of Calgary in their Banff Conference Center.

### Discussion Group on Germanic Philology at the MLA, Washington, DC, December 27–30, 2005

by Santeri Palviainen

The 121<sup>st</sup> Modern Languages Association convention was held in Washington, DC on December 27–30, 2005. Approximately 9,000 people attended the convention and approximately 2,000 presentations were given. In addition to the nervous job candidates wandering the stale conference hotels and the lamentations of the popular press about the outrageousness of some of the presentations, one of the main attractions of the annual MLA convention was the workshop organized by the Discussion Group on Germanic Philology, with K. Aaron Smith from Illinois State University presiding.

The first presentation was given by Bradley Weiss and Michael Putnam, both from the University of Kansas (presented by Michael Putnam) entitled “Innovations and inherited features in historical Germanic verse.” Their discussion lent support to Seiichi Suzuki’s theory that Old English and Germanic meters in general have Indo-European congeners. The wide variety of Old English materials was particularly interesting.

I gave the second talk entitled “Gender variation in West Germanic: Philology meets linguistics.” I outlined some of the issues involving the variation of grammatical gender in West Germanic languages. I stressed the importance of sorting out the real linguistic variation from the noise in the data, as, for example Otfrid frequently alters grammatical forms to fit the forms into the rhyme as needed and hence cannot be relied upon without a careful study of the context. I also surveyed some of the other recent attempts to explain the variation.

The last talk was given by Candace M. Gardner (Wayne State). Her presentation entitled “Developments in orthography, syntax, and vocabulary in Sixteenth-Century German: A comparison of Martin Luther’s 1522 Septembertestament and his 1545 Bible” surveyed the linguistic differences between Luther’s Septembertestament and the 1545 Bible. She presented a wealth of orthographical, syntactic, and lexical parameters to distinguish between the two texts. For example, she argued convincingly that the double consonants were overwhelmingly more common in the Septembertestament than approximately twenty years later in the 1545 Bible.

The lively discussion after the presentation focused on the role of the printing houses in the development of Luther’s orthography. Approximately 15 people attended the workshop. The session was a success, and those interested in Germanic philology and linguistics can look forward to the session to be held at the next MLA convention in Philadelphia in December.

## Call for Proposals

### Yiddish and Typology

The editors of a planned anthology, *Yiddish and Typology*, invite proposals for contributions to the volume. Papers may deal with any area of Yiddish linguistics (e.g., syntax, phonology, morphology, historical linguistics, areal linguistics, sociolinguistics) as it relates to more general issues of linguistic typology. Papers appearing in the volume will not be limited to any specific typological approach, and thus may vary from author to author.

Editors: Neil G. Jacobs (The Ohio State University), Howard I. Aronson (University of Chicago), Hans den Besten (University of Amsterdam), Thomas F. Shannon (University of California, Berkeley), Anna Verschik (Tallinn University/Helsinki University)

Proposals: An electronic version of your proposal may be sent to any of the five editors. It will then be forwarded to the rest of the editors. Proposals should be detailed abstracts, containing the following information: (a) author name(s), affiliation(s), and contact information; (b) working title of paper; (c) clear statement of the problem, the typological issues involved, sample data, proposed solution, nature of the contribution your paper makes; (d) short bibliography of main sources to be used in the study. **Proposals should be sent by April 30, 2006.** The editorial committee will send out its responses by May 31. Information on style, format, etc., will be sent out at that time as well. For accepted proposals, finished drafts of the papers will be due by October 31, 2006.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the editors.

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Anna Verschik: [anna.verschik@tlu.ee](mailto:anna.verschik@tlu.ee)

## Conference Calls

### Phonology Fest 2006

Phonology Fest 2006 will take place June 19–29, 2006 in Bloomington, Indiana. In the first week of the two-week program, the topic will be Perspectives on Optimality Theory, and the topic of the second week will be The Phonology of Germanic Languages. More information can be found at <http://www.indiana.edu/~phono/>

### 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Association of Languages for Specific Purposes

The 5<sup>th</sup> AELFE Conference will take place September 14–16, 2006 in Zaragoza, Spain. The organizers welcome papers on a range of linguistic subfields including discourse analysis, lexical and lexicographic studies, didactics and language acquisition, new technologies, translation, pragmatics and cognitive theory and LSP. More information can be found at <http://www.unizar.es/aelfe2006/>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association will be held October 5–7, 2006 in Munich. More information can be found on the conference website: [http://webapp.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/~DGKL/gcla\\_2006.shtml](http://webapp.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/~DGKL/gcla_2006.shtml)

## Upcoming Conferences

### 31<sup>st</sup> International LAUD Symposium

The 31<sup>st</sup> International LAUD Symposium, which focuses on pragmatics, will take place March 27–30, 2006 in Landau, Germany . For more information, contact Martin Pütz ([Puetz@uni-landau.de](mailto:Puetz@uni-landau.de)).

### 21<sup>st</sup> Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop

The 21<sup>st</sup> Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop will take place March 31–April 2, 2006 at the University of California–Santa Cruz. Invited speakers include Peter Svenonius, Universitetet i Tromsø, Norway and JanWouter Zwart, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, the Netherlands. More information can be found on the conference website: <http://ling.ucsc.edu/~cgsw>

and of course ...

### GLAC-12

The 12<sup>th</sup> Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference will take place April 28–30, 2006 at the University of Illinois at Urbana– Champaign. For further information, please contact Frederick Schwink ([schwink@uiuc.edu](mailto:schwink@uiuc.edu)) or refer to the conference website: <http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=378>

## Message from the Editors

### Call for News and Information

We solicit news and other information that may prove valuable to Germanic linguists including but not limited to program profiles, conference reports, job postings, conference announcements, and departmental news. Please send your information to Amanda Pounder ([apounder@ucalgary.ca](mailto:apounder@ucalgary.ca)). The deadline for the next Newsletter is September 1, 2006.

To join the SGL or report a change of address, fill out the form below and send it with a check, money order, or transfer receipt to:

Robert Howell  
German Department  
818 Van Hise Hall  
1220 Linden Drive  
University of Wisconsin  
MADISON, WI 53706-1558

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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