
SGL Newsletter

Society for Germanic Linguistics Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 2008

SGL News and Reports

SGL Elections

The SGL Elections took place late, but the results are now in. Rob Howell has been reelected as Secretary-Treasurer for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2010. The Society is very grateful to Rob for his long service in this position. Mary Grantham O'Brien and John te Velde were elected to the Executive Committee of the SGL for three-year terms ending in 2010 likewise. We thank Tom Shannon, whose term ended in 2007, for his service on the Executive Committee, and we are especially grateful to David Fertig, now stepping down, for agreeing to stay on the Committee an extra year.

Journal of Germanic Linguistics

JGL 19.4—which will soon find its way to your mailbox if it hasn't already—includes two articles: "The definiteness cycle in Germanic" by Elly van Gelderen and "Greek textual influence on Gothic complex verbs with pleonastic prepositions" by Lauren Goetting. There are also two book reviews: Michael Putnam's review of *Datives and other cases: Between argument structure and event structure* (Daniel Hole, André Meinunger, and Werner Abraham, eds.) and John Sundquist's review of Jan Terje Faarlund's *The syntax of Old Norse*.

We are also pleased to announce some new additions to our Advisory Board reflecting the co-sponsorship of the Journal by the Forum for Germanic Language Studies (FGLS): Winifred V. Davies, Aberystwyth University; Nils Langer, University of Bristol; Nicola McLelland, University of Nottingham; Andreas Musolff, University of Durham; Gertrud Reershemius, Aston University; Roel Vismans, University of Sheffield; and Carol Fehringer, University of Newcastle. We are very grateful to these colleagues for their willingness to serve the Journal in this capacity.

(Robert Murray, Editor)

The editor is eager to see an increase in the number of high-quality submissions to the journal. In addition to considering it as a venue for publishing your own work, please recommend the SGL to your colleagues and students looking to place a paper!

GLAC Update

We were flooded with excellent abstracts for the upcoming GLAC in Madison, May 2–4, and, after a rigorous review process, expect to have around 60 presentations, with speakers from across North America, the UK and Europe, and as far away as Japan. The program has turned out to be especially rich in presentations on German diaspora dialects—from Canada through Texas to Brazil and from Pennsylvania through the American Midwest and Plains to California.

Historical and synchronic syntax will be richly represented, as GLAC regulars have come to expect, and a set of the phonological papers focus on prosodic issues.

A preliminary program is on the conference website: <http://mki.wisc.edu/GLAC/GLAC14.htm>. In the next couple of weeks, we'll post detailed information about lodging and a registration form.

At this writing, the snow banks are hard to see over or around and the temperatures are regularly dropping below 0° F (-17° C) and some days not getting that warm, but by early May, the flowers should be blooming and we're hoping for a warm, sunny afternoon to spend on the Terrace with an ice-cream cone or a beer.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you in Madison! (*Joe Salmons and Rob Howell*)

Program Profile

Germanic Linguistics at the University of Texas at Austin

by Hans Boas and Marc Pierce

The Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin has a long-established tradition of Germanic linguistics. Although there had been scholars interested in Germanic linguistics at UT for years (including Eduard Prokosch, who unfortunately lost his job at UT during World War I), the program expanded significantly after Winfred Lehmann became chair of what was then the Department of Germanic Languages in 1953. Thanks to a combination of generous funding opportunities and a cooperative effort involving both junior and senior scholars, UT was able to develop and maintain a strong program in Germanic linguistics.

Germanic linguistics at UT is currently represented by a number of faculty members. Hans Boas deals mainly with synchronic linguistics, while Marc Pierce, Sandra Straubhaar, and John Weinstock focus on diachronic linguistics, and Zsuzsanna Abrams, Frank Donahue, and Janet Swaffar concentrate on applied linguistics. Robert King, an affiliated faculty member, works mainly on Yiddish and historical linguistics.

The varied research interests of the faculty members enable the Department to offer a wide range of relevant courses, both undergraduate and graduate, including language contact and death; German syntax, semantics, phonology, sociolinguistics, morphology, and stylistics; the history of German; various older Germanic languages; and computer-assisted language learning. Regularly offered courses are supplemented by individually-arranged conference courses as needed. The department also regularly offers courses on Danish, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, and Yiddish.

The current flagship of the department program in Germanic linguistics is the Texas German Dialect Project (www.tgdp.org), founded and directed by Hans Boas. The TGDP continues UT's long tradition of research into Texas German, and is designed to preserve the Texas German dialect, to use Texas German data to improve our understanding of language variation and change, to provide relevant information to public and educational interests, and to use the material collected for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture. The project has amassed an impressive amount of linguistic and cultural data to date, and has also led

to numerous other projects, including several dissertations and a forthcoming book by Hans Boas.

There are currently a number of graduate students in Germanic linguistics; dissertations in progress in the department address issues like language ideologies and the survival of Texas German, support verbs in German and English, and the syntax and semantics of prepositions in German. Graduate students are encouraged to develop independent research projects as early as possible and to participate in professional activities, including conferences, publications, and service to scholarly organizations.

Finally, the department has hosted a number of conferences and workshops in recent years. UT hosted GLAC in 1999, is currently hosting a lecture series on Texas German language and culture, will be hosting the Fifth International Conference on Construction Grammar in the fall of 2008, and is scheduled to host GLAC again in 2011.

Conference Calls

Modern Language Association 2008: Discussion Group on Germanic Philology

The Discussion Group on Germanic Philology is organizing a session entitled “Topics in Germanic Linguistics and Philology” at the convention of the Modern Language Association in San Francisco, December 27–30, 2008. Papers on any aspect of Germanic Linguistics and Philology are welcome. Abstracts of 250 words should be submitted to Hans C. Boas at: hcb@mail.utexas.edu. **Call deadline: March 15, 2008.**

46th Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics 2008: Workshop on Parsing German

A Workshop on Parsing German is planned to take place within ACL–08, June 19–20, 2008 at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Topics include: constituent based approaches and dependency based approaches to parsing German, treatment of long-distance relationships, and comparisons of parsing results for German to other free-word-order languages. The workshop also features a shared parsing task. Submissions are to consist of regular full papers of max. 8 pages, formatted following the ACL 2008 main session guidelines. In addition, shared task participants will be invited to submit short papers (max. 4 pages) describing their systems and/or their evaluation metrics. The workshop website is at: <http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/acl08/>. For more information, contact Gerald Penn at: gpenn@cs.toronto.edu. **Call deadline: March 17, 2008.**

XI. Symposium für Jiddische Studien in Deutschland

The 11th Symposium for Yiddish Studies will take place September 22–24 at the Heinrich-Heine University, Düsseldorf. Abstracts for 20-minute talks should be submitted in the form of a short summary to the organizers. The meeting website is at:

<http://www.uni-trier.de/index.php?id=18473>. For more information, contact Marion Aptroot at: jiddisch@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de. **Call deadline: April 1, 2008.**

2nd HiSon Summer School

After a successful first venture last year on the Greek island of Lesbos, the Historical Sociolinguistics Network is organizing another summer school for 2008, this time on the Atlantic island of Great Britain, with the theme title “History and Language, Linguists and Historians”. The summer school will be held at the School of Modern Languages, Bristol, from August 7–13, 2008. Instructors include Joe Salmons, Wim Vandebussche, Stephan Elspaß, Martin Klimke, Thomas Sokoll, and Joachim Scharloth. Fees are £180, which includes accommodation, tuition, and an excursion. A discount of £30 will be offered those who pay before April 30, 2008. There will be a number of bursaries offered, which cover the cost of the summer school (type A) and cost and help with travel (type B). These bursaries are intended for participants who cannot get financial support from other sources and who travel from abroad. There will be a follow-up conference April 5–9, 2009. The website for the summer school can be consulted at: www.bris.ac.uk/german/hison/summerschool. For more information, contact Nils Langer at: nils.langer@bris.ac.uk.

Upcoming Conferences

10th German and Dutch Graduate Student Conference

The theme of the 10th GSGSA conference, taking place March 28–29 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, is “Recognizing (Dis-)Order”. Panel sessions in the following areas have been organized: literature, cultural studies, linguistics, and second-language acquisition. Contact Maria Giulia Carone at carone@wisc.edu for more information.

Berkeley Germanic Linguistics Roundtable

The annual Berkeley Germanic Linguistics Roundtable will be held April 4–5 at the University of California, Berkeley. Please contact Irmengard Rauch (irauch@berkeley.edu) for more information.

43rd International Conference on Medieval Studies

The 43rd ICMS will take place May 8–11 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The conference website may be accessed at: <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/index.html>. For information, contact the Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University at: mdvl_congres@wmich.edu.

23rd Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop

CGSW 23 will be held at the University of Edinburgh, June 12–13. The conference website can be found at <http://lel.ed.ac.uk/events/cgsw23/>. For more information, contact Peter Ackema at: cgs23@ling.ed.ac.uk.

Greinir skáldskapar – The Branches of Poetry

An international conference on metrics is being organized by the Nordic Society for Metrical Studies in cooperation with the University of Iceland and the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies. It will take place June 18–21 in Reykholt, Iceland. The theme of the conference will be “Germanic Features in Nordic and European Poetry, Linguistic and Literary Aspects”. There will be a special session on medieval Nordic Poetry as described by Snorri Sturluson (*d.* 1241) of Reykholt. For more information, contact Margrét Guðmundsdóttir at: mgu@hi.is.

International Conference on English Historical Linguistics

ICEHL 15 will be held August 24–30 in Munich. Invited speakers are Marina Dossena (Bergamo), Teresa Fanego (Santiago de Compostela), Philip Durkin (Oxford), and Thomas Kohnen (Cologne). For programme and workshop information, see the website at: <http://www.icehl.de/>. For more information, contact Kathryn Allan at: k.l.allan@salford.ac.uk.

Message from the Editors

We are thankful for everyone’s assistance with the Newsletter. We have regularly featured a number of programs in our “Program Profile” section, and we’ve heard about a variety of relevant conferences in our “Conference Reports” feature. Please consider writing a short piece about your program or about a conference you attended. Additionally, we solicit news and other information that may prove valuable to Germanic linguists including, but not limited to, job postings, conference announcements, and departmental news. Please send your information to Mary O’Brien (mgobrien@ucalgary.ca). The deadline for the next Newsletter is September 1, 2008.

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: _____

Email: _____

I would like to become a member of the Society for Germanic Linguistics.
 Please note my address change.

Membership category:
 regular member (\$40.00)
 student member (\$15.00)
 joint membership (\$45.00)
 emeritus member (\$15.00)
 sustaining member (\$60.00)

Members in Europe: Please pay Euro 15,00 (student), Euro 30,00 (regular), Euro 40,00 (joint), Euro 15,00 (emeritus), or Euro 50,00 (sustaining) to Volksbank Freiburg, Routing Number 680 900 00, Account 25598202. Submit your payment receipt with this form.

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