



INFORMATION CENTER
ESPERANTO LEAGUE FOR NORTH AMERICA

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NEWSLETTER

February 1967

NOTED LINGUIST TELLS PROPONENTS OF NEW-LANGUAGE SCHEMES
"THERE ALREADY EXISTS A FULLY FUNCTIONING LANGUAGE"

Dr. Mario A. Pei, professor of Romance Philology at Columbia University, who presided at a meeting of the Geolinguist Society of New York when Dr. Ivo Lapenna, president of the Universala Esperanto Asocio, spoke on "Esperanto as a World Language," told the group of linguists:

"In my opinion, the language problem in the world today is a burning one. No national language can provide a satisfactory solution for it; only an international language would fill that need." Almost weekly, he said, he received information and leaflets about some new projects of an international language. The compilers asked for his opinion in order to later utilize his name for their propaganda but to all he gave the same reply: "There already exists a fully functioning language and so all further endeavors are only a waste of time and money."

In Professor Pei's new book, "How to Learn Languages and What Languages to Learn (Harper, Row, N.Y., 1966), he devotes a section to constructed languages and then says in part (pp. 221-22):

"On the practical side, the most extensively used constructed language is Esperanto, which is in all senses of the world a spoken and written language. . . and has a large number of books, both original and in translation, and of regularly published periodicals. It also enjoys some measure of official recognition, which varies from country to country. Some nations even put regular Esperanto on their national radio.

" It is perhaps more widely studied abroad than in America but even here it has made its appearance in several public high schools and colleges. It is, of course, taught in special private schools and plenty of grammars, dictionaries, readers, and even recordings are available.

"Its sound scheme is simple, its system of writing has absolute sound-for-symbol correspondence, its grammatical structure is deliberately simplified to the point where it can be easily learned in one hour. There is, of course, a vocabulary, which has to be acquired in the usual hard way, by memorization, reading and writing.

"If the nations of the world ever decide to institute a single language, valid for international use, which they may be forced to do by reason of increased travel and communications before the end of this century, and if the spirit of nationalism prevents them from selecting one of the national tongues, they may have to fall back on a constructed 'neutral' language, and if this comes to pass, Esperanto is the most likely candidate by reason of the progress it has already made."

ESPERANTO LEAGUE FOR NORTH AMERICA

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* - Elected 1966 for three year term

NL's New Dress - A Shift

With this issue the Newsletter is shifting over from the magazine format of 1966 to a more usual form for this type of publication. Although the magazine layout is more attractive and easier for the reader to handle, it presents production problems--counting spaces to attain an even right-hand margin, balancing material on facing pages, and the frequent dilemma of having too much copy for eight pages and not enough for ten or twelve.

The editorial staff has reluctantly decided to adopt the present form of newsletter with its greater flexibility and ease of production for the sake of more frequent publication.

"Zamenhof Sur la Ĉielo"

Homo kaj Kosmo is a brightly written popular science quarterly of 34 pages, edited at the astronomy observatory at Zagreb, Yugoslavia. In the third issue of 1966 there is an illustrated article entitled "Zamenhof Sur la Ĉielo" which tells of the discovery by a Finnish astronomer in 1936 and 1938 of two planetoids which he subsequently named "Esperanto" and "Zamenhof." The author, a woman astronomer in Poland, describes how at her urging the observatory at Jena photographed "Zamenhof" during the brief time it was visible last year.

Esperantists interested in science may subscribe to Homo kaj Kosmo for \$1.40 a year through the U.E.A. office in Rotterdam (Nieuwe Binnenweg 176). If you wish to read this article, specify that your subscription should start with No. 3, 1966.

C O M I N G E V E N T S

Pacific Northwest Esperanto Conference, Walla Walla, Wash., June 16-18
California Esperanto Conference, Santa Barbara. April 14-16
U.E.A. Congress, Tel Aviv, Israel, August 2-9.

Air Travel to Tel Aviv for the U.E.A. Esperanto Congress, August 2-9

As the Newsletter goes to press, rates for plane travel to Tel Aviv have not yet been set by the airlines. If we cannot include a rate schedule with this issue, watch for it in April.

A print of the Oomoto Festival film is obtainable from Francis Helmuth, 801 LaJolla Rancho Road, La Jolla, Calif., 92037

ESPERANTO, NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST
FALL AND WINTER, 1966-67

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Outstanding developments in Esperanto instruction include: (1) a 3-hour credit course in teacher training offered by the University of California Extension Division at San Mateo; and (2) the increasing number of high school adult centers offering evening courses.

If the class work in your community is not included here, please send a report of it to the Esperanto Information Center.

ALASKA: Our newest state had an Esperanto class, taught by Walter Gnagy, at the Juneau-Douglas Community College during the fall semester. He has arranged for an elementary class and an advanced class starting in February.

ARKANSAS: Dorothy Holland teaches a conversational course to a group of retirees in Fayetteville. She also conducts a correspondence course in Braille for the Hadley School for the Blind--this in addition to administering examinations for qualifying applicants as Esperanto teachers under the U.S. Society of Esperanto Instructors.

CALIFORNIA: The University of California extension division at San Mateo offers a 3-unit credit course, "Teaching Esperanto in the Elementary Schools: Methods, Materials and Techniques," taught by Philip Vandor, principal of the Highlands school. This is an educational "first" for which the local group has worked long and diligently.

At the Mission Bay high school in San Diego, Charles Lambert Mann conducted a beginners' and an intermediate class last semester. For the winter term, classes will also be held at the Alice Birney school, with Francis Helmuth assisting

In the Los Angeles area, Ernest Green of Covina had three classes, including one intermediate, conducted on school premises. He also taught a class at an Inglewood school, which closed its fall session with a Christmas party. In Pasadena a study group meets every Friday morning. In North Hollywood, Mrs. Marie Saunders had a class for beginners which met at her home.

Beginning and intermediate classes are offered this semester at San Francisco - Galileo adult school (Instructors Doris Vallon and Cathy Schultze); Daly City - Westmoor adult school (Schultze); Berkeley - adult school (Patricia Shell); Alameda - adult school (Lucille Harmon, William Harmon); Redwood City - Sequoia adult school (Vallon). These classes were also given during the fall term.

IOWA: A 2-hour class which ran for 10 weeks in the Adult Education Center at an Iowa City high school, taught by Lawrence A. Ware, will be repeated for the second semester. Mr. Ware has also arranged an exhibit of Esperanto material to be displayed for a month in the library of Iowa State University.

NEW YORK: United Nations staff members began a class in January, taught by Mrs. Thea Kohn. She is also continuing with an elementary and an advanced class at E.I.C. headquarters. Mark Starr had classes during the fall semester at two adult evening school centers--Bryant in Queens and Columbus in the Bronx. For the winter semester both elementary and advanced work will be offered at the Columbus center.

An Esperanto Club of high school students in East Meadows, L. I. is under the protective wing of Margot Gerson. A new class will start February 1 at the St. Pius Catholic center, 329 E. 28 St. in Manhattan.

OREGON: Every Friday evening except the one on which the Portland Esperanto Society meets, there is a conversation class, intended especially for students who have finished formal class instruction. Anne Whitteker is supervising the group. A half-hour grammar lesson precedes the society meetings. Carrol Day has a class meeting every other week at the First Friends Church. Students were asked to compose letters to the Correspondence Service in France.

Students of Hazel Heusser at the Woodmere school sponsored a United Nations party at the school and put on the play, "Bonvulu Esti Mia Amiko," in costume with several nations represented. The children are learning Esperanto vocabulary by describing magazine pictures and ads. Miss Heusser is education chairman of the Esperanto Society of Portland.

There were adult classes at the Lincoln high school, the Midland branch library and the Leach YWCA, taught respectively by Tom Davidson, Jim Deer and Mrs. A. Greenland. A daytime study group for intermediate students meets bi-weekly in the Milwaukee area at the home of the teacher, Sara Ann Nehls.

PENNSYLVANIA: The Lehigh Valley Esperanto Club reports a course for Allentown students and teachers at the William Allen high school, taught by Joseph Conroy. Dr. Rodney Ring had a class at Muhlenberg College. Club members saw the Fiat Automobile Company film with Esperanto sound track at their October meeting. When Dr. Ivo Lapenna, president of U.E.A. was in this country to present the Esperanto petition to the United Nations, Dr. Ring arranged for him to address the student body of Muhlenberg College on October 10.

At Harrisburg, William P. Simpson will conduct a class at the public library beginning March 2 which will meet twice a week for 12 weeks. The Central Catholic high school in Pittsburgh has had an Esperanto class this year and last.

WASHINGTON: The autumn curriculum of the Walla Walla Vocational-Technical evening school included an introductory course in Esperanto, taught by Albert Estling.

OTHER AREAS: Classes on which E.I.C. has no direct information are reported by Dorothy Holland, secretary of the U. S. Society of Esperanto Teachers, at Austin, Texas, Hyattsville, Maryland, Montour Falls, New York, and Brookfield, Illinois.

The British B.B.C. Broadcasts in the International Language

The B.B.C., which probably uses even more languages than the 38 used by our own Voice of America, decided last November to experiment with Esperanto on a regular monthly program in its East European service (21.15 GMT on the last Thursday of the month in the 25-to-49 meter bands). While the international language has speakers in some 90 countries, it probably is best known in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and neighboring lands. Hence the decision to start with broadcasts to Eastern Europe. The radio stations which make most use of Esperanto in daily broadcasts are in Budapest and Warsaw. Radio Peking has six programs per week beamed at the Far East, Southeast Asia and Europe.

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* Everybody Speaks English - And How! *
* *
* Operating instructions for a transistor tape recorder of *
* foreign make include these sentences: *
* *
* "Microphone can be stowage in compartment which placed *
* next of batteries compartment while not in use When *
* removed the head cover it can be seen capstan with sleeve, *
* turning capstan to left sleeve can take off, then insert *
* into capstan holder pin placed middle of headcover holder *
* pins you can attain LOW SPEED, and to change HIGH SPEED *
* be opposite way of above procedure If you want to *
* stop, by pushing it slightly forward depress the button *
* come up then stop." *
* *
* Newsletter is indebted to Ralph Wagner of Fords, N.J., *
* for these clear-as-mud directions. *
* *
* ***** *

Murray Team on Trial Run in Pacific Northwest

While plans are shaping up for their cross-country illustrated lecture trip, Conn and Mary Murray made a 2-week trek to the Oregon-Washington area. With Mary describing their year of travel on a round-the-world-with-Esperanto tour and Conn showing pictures taken en route, they addressed luncheon meetings of Kiwanis clubs in three cities; a Rotary and a Lions' club, audiences in a Quaker and a Methodist church; 4th, 5th and 6th grade pupils in an elementary school and three high school classes; two home gatherings and two public meetings; and the Esperanto societies of Portland, Oregon and Walla Walla, Wash., with a total attendance of 950.

The Murrays spent the Christmas holidays with their daughter in Portland and then were off for the San Francisco Bay area in California for meetings on January 7, 8 and 9.

If you want your community included in the Murray cross-country tour in the near future, write at once to ELNA's President, Frank Helmuth (801 La Jolla Ranch Road, La Jolla, Calif. 92037); he has become lecture tour trip manager for this project.

Local sponsors are expected to provide hospitality for the Murrays (which, considering the Murray personalities, is a privilege to be fought for), and to make the best possible use of their time while they are in the area without exhausting them.

Experimental Film an All-round Disaster

"Incubus," a far-out film in which denizens of a mythological world speak Esperanto, was shown at the San Francisco Film Festival, but it was panned by film critics on its form and content and by Esperantists for inaccuracies in language and pronunciation. A Heroldo critic (Nov. 16) denounced it as "atenco kontraŭ Esperanto," an opinion in which San Francisco Esperantists concurred. Variety, the stage and screen trade journal, spoke scathingly of the film, but later published E.I.C.'s defense of Esperanto as a language for this world.

E.I.C. and the United Nations

E.I.C. has from its inception represented ELNA and U.E.A. at both the United Nations and the U.S. Mission to the U.N. as an N.G.O. (non-governmental organization.) This means weekly briefings at the U.N. Public Information sessions and at the Mission where outstanding experts explain current issues. Margot Gerson and Mark Starr as U.E.A. representatives carry permits to the meetings and offices of the U.N. and have access to many printed reports. The Esperanto organizations are brought to the attention of the many other N.G.O.'s on the official delegate list.

ELNA members and clubs needing details on particular international problems should write to E.I.C. for help. The year 1967 is being observed at the U.N. as the "Year of Tourism."

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Travelers on the main east-west highway to San Diego, California, can see the word "Esperanto" spelled out vertically in four-foot-high letters down the side of a new office building. Erected by Francis Helmuth, ELNA'S president, and his associate Paul Stein, the three-story building of buff stucco, situated at 34-35 Camino del Rio, contains 28,000 square feet of office space divided into sixty units. The building's name is spot-lighted at night.

Zamenhof Birthday Celebrations

The 107th anniversary of the birth of Dr. L. L. Zamenhof was observed in several cities in December. In Los Angeles there was a banquet with readings from Dr. Zamenhof's works and a showing of a color film of the Oomoto International Festival by Yoshima Umeda, president of the Japanese Youth Congress. The film was also shown in San Diego and on the following evening there was a potluck supper at the home of Francis and Bonnie Helmuth.

At a Zamenhof dinner in Covina, Calif., the San Gabriel Valley society held its installation of officers. In Portland, Ore., the prize-winning lyrics for Esperanto songs were sung at the anniversary celebration.

The New York society had as a speaker Father Sigmund of Passaic, N. J. The Polish-born priest talked on "The Neutral-Humanist Ethics of Dr. Zamenhof."

Promotion by Boschen

At the Pittsfield, Mass. Teachers Convention, there was a display of Esperanto materials in an exhibit shared jointly with the United Nations Association and the United World Federalists, arranged by Allan C. Boschen.

The Unitarian-Universalist Society of Pittsfield has proposed for the May, 1967 meetings of the church's district associations a resolution setting forth the advantages of Esperanto as a world language and recommending the study of it by church groups. Mr. Boschen is in demand as a speaker and carries on a lively letters-to-the-editor campaign. He orders (and pays for!) 50 copies of each issue of the E.I.C. newsletter.

Advocates of Let-'em-learn-English, Take Heed

The sensitiveness of the French with regard to the use of their language at the United Nations indicates how difficult it would be to secure universal approval of any single national language as an international tongue. The French delegate, speaking in the General Assembly on September 28, said in part:

"We French cannot fail to give very serious consideration to everything related to the use of the French language in this great international forum. We consider that, in the light of the original decisions taken on this subject concerning our working languages, and in the light of the increased number of French-speaking nations, the situation that has developed is in no way satisfactory."

In the sessions following, one after another of the delegates from the seven French-speaking African nations got up to voice similar sentiments.

The French complained also that in the appointment of staff members, French workers were required to know English also but English-speaking workers were not required to know French. They were not at all soothed by an explanation that documentation in English was requested by most Member Governments, and that many candidates for staff positions came from non-English and non-French speaking countries and could not be expected to have more than one of the two U.N. working languages at their command. Misgivings were also expressed that this discussion would occasion demands from other countries who felt themselves inadequately represented on the Secretariat staff. The number of nationalities on the staff is now 112.

1 9 6 7 D U E S A R E D U E !

ELNA depends on the dues and contributions of its members for funds to carry on its educational work and to keep its members informed of happenings in the field of Esperanto.

Send your dues for 1967 now to Armin Doneis, chairman of ELNA'S membership committee, and check the appropriate category on the form below. (Contributions are tax deductible.)

Armin Doneis
Box 105
Pharr, Texas 78577

I enclose payment for 1967 dues in the category checked below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular membership --- \$ 8.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining membership -- \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Husband and wife ----- 12.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership ----- 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (under 21) --- 4.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional contribution- _____ |

Name and Address _____

ZIP CODE _____

New membership

Renewal

Usonanoj en Meksikia Esperantujo

Por la kvar Usonanoj (S-inoj J. Collins, L. Woods, California, kaj Ges-roj R. Holland, Arkansas) kiuj ĉeestis ĝin, la nacia Meksikia Esperanto-Kongreso meze de decembro 1966, estis ja ĝuebla.

Dum la renkontiĝa vespero, S-ro Azorin, veterana Esperantisto, rakontis pri sia persona konatiĝo kun D-ro Zamenhof ĉe la Universala Kongreso en Barcelona en 1909. Ĉiu ĉeestanto (proksimums 35) prezentis sin, kaj post refreŝiga trinkpaŭzo, ĉiuj kune kantadis.

Dum la malferma kunsido, la ĉefa parolanto estis la estro de la ŝtata kultura asocio kiu subtenas la Esperantistan movadon en Meksikio per kunvenejoj, ekskursaj aŭtobusoj, k.t.p. Li ankaŭ prezentis diplomojn al Esperantaj lernantoj. S-ino Holland salutis la kongreson pro la Esperantistoj de Usono. —Dorothy Holland

Conrad Fisher, ELNA secretary, is making a tape for Radio Station WRVA, Richmond, Va. to honor the memory of Zamenhof, the initiator of Esperanto, in April. It will have music and poetry as well as factual details. He is also in touch with Kitte Turnell of North Hollywood who runs a column for youth in various journals. California members please follow up.

The Lehigh Valley (Pa.) Club ran two successful events as reported in the Bethlemen Globe-Times (Nov. 19 and Dec. 3). At the Student Union of Muhlenberg College, Professor Raymond Bye described his world trip and in Bethlehem the government film on New Zealand with Esperanto soundtrack was shown.

Praktiko (Dec. issue) gave a good notice to the Essay Contest of the Lions Club International which is being pushed in the United States by John Kalienta, 85 Kimball St., Staten Island, N. Y. 10314. He hopes to set up an Esperantist meeting at the Lions International Convention in 1967 at Chicago.

At Expo 67, the World's Fair at Montreal, the Scout Esperanto League will have a booth in the Scout Pavilion. Members of the Montreal Esperanto Club will help the Scout League man the booth. The Exposition has advertised in various Esperanto journals. See Lumo, the Canadian Esperanto Journal (85 Sparks St., Ottawa, Ont.) for details.

Mrs. Yukiko Isobe of Tokio plans to travel through the U.S. beginning in June. If your group would like this very competent Esperantist as a speaker, contact Mrs. William Schulze, 410 Darrell Road, Hillsborough, California 94010.



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