

NEWSLETTER

of the

Esperanto League for North America

Vol. VIII Nos. 4-5 Fall and Early Winter 1972

WHY ENGLISH FOR AN ESPERANTO NEWSLETTER?

Why does an organization dedicated primarily to the adoption of Esperanto throughout the world as the international auxiliary language, and convinced of the superiority of Esperanto over English as a means of communication, publish a newsletter for its members in English? The answer, of course, is to meet the needs of new members who have not yet become fluent in Esperanto and to provide a source of news about Esperanto activities, particularly on the North American continent, for English-speaking non-Esperantists. The day will come when the use of a national language in an Esperanto newsletter will be superfluous—when Esperanto organizations themselves will be superfluous because everyone in the world will be reading, writing and speaking Esperanto fluently. Meanwhile, members of the Esperanto League for North America will continue to receive this bimonthly newsletter in addition to the completely-in-Esperanto **ELNA-Bulteno**.

TIMING AND FORMAT

Beginning in February 1973, this publication, hereafter referred to as the **ELNA Newsletter** or "the newsletter," will appear each February, April, June, August, October and December. News items should be received by R.T. Sandberg, Redaktoro, 55 West Chestnut St., No. 702, Chicago, Illinois 60610, by the 15th of the month

preceding the month of the edition in which they are to appear.

The right margins are deliberately unjustified, mainly because studies reported by Marshall Lee in his text **Bookmaking**, published in 1966 by the R. Bowker Co., indicate that lines with equal spacing between words and no divided words are easiest to read. Forthcoming editions of the newsletter will be illustrated with halftone photographs whenever suitable photos are submitted. Criticisms of and comments on format and content should be directed to the redaktoro at the above address.

THE NEW ELNA PRESIDENT,

E. James Lieberman, is a Washington, D.C., psychiatrist with degrees from Harvard University and the University of California. He first encountered Esperanto while visiting Europe as a student in 1954, and says, "When I first heard of Esperanto I was intrigued with the idea of a universal second language for everyone, politically neutral, and easy enough for adults to learn as well as children. Now I am convinced. It works beautifully—and not only in Western countries. Its literature, after 80 years, is splendid, including original and translated works. The challenge for ELNA is to increase Americans' awareness that Esperanto offers a real solution to the international language problem." His present term expires in 1975. In support of his contention that Esperanto is an idea

whose time is now coming ("Esperanto estas ideo kies tempo nun venas"), Jim cites the strong and growing interest regarding Esperanto in many parts of the world, rising nationalistic feeling of smaller ethnic language groups against "linguistic imperialism" of "major" languages, more acceptance of Esperanto in universities, newly available and highly acclaimed Esperanto courses for self-teaching, and large favorable response to Esperanto in polls and whenever stories about Esperanto appear in the popular press.

Serving under President

Lieberman are Vice President Catherine Schulze, whose term expires in 1975, Secretary Robert Baily, whose term expires in 1974, and Treasurer Peggy Linker, whose term expires in 1973. Other members of the ELNA estraro, together with the expirations of their terms are: William H. Schulze (1973), Dorothy Holland (1973), James Deer (1973), Allan Boschen (1974), Ken Thomson (1974), William Harmon (1974), Francis E. Helmuth (1975), John L. Lewine (1975) and Doris Vallon (1975).

NORMAN COUSINS,

famous as the former editor of **The Saturday Review**, is the author of the lead editorial "Breaking the Language Barrier" in the October 24, 1972, edition of **World** magazine. Within this editorial, he states, "Almost overnight the world's

peoples have burst upon total proximity. There is no longer a problem of being heard; there is only the problem of being understood." and, "What all these diverse groups have in common is the problem of making themselves clear. They convene with ease but converse with effort. Contact is achieved far more rapidly than genuine communication. The new revolution in geography has had no corresponding revolution in linguistics." President Lieberman has written the following letter, dated October 31, 1972, to Mr.

Cousins in response to this editorial: "It is encouraging to see a good discussion on international communication problems in *World* (24 October 1972). Your 'Breaking the Language Barrier' tackles a subject which most people seem to consider solved—by English, in this country—or insoluble.

"Speaking on behalf of the Esperanto League for North America, I regard the language problem as capable of solution, not by adoption of any ethnic tongue as international language, certainly not by displacing any ethnic tongue, but by employing a universal second language designed for the purpose and proved to be workable. Esperanto is such a language and the only one so far.

"Opposition to Esperanto has been formidable, mostly from sources unacquainted with the language; also, efforts to promote the language have sometimes failed to represent it correctly. The interested reader may find a scholarly summary in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1968).

Here I would like to speak to three points raised in your editorial.

"1. Esperanto is fundamentally a Romance language, but planned and having some non-Romance features. It is politically neutral, and more linguistically so than the ethnic European languages, all of which abound in the precious irregularities which make them effective barriers to strangers. The regularity of Esperanto is universally appreciated, compensating for its largely Latin-based vocabulary. Most languages of the world accept new terms from the West, e.g., in science and technology

(antibiotic, television), and no one seems to object. The choice facing non-Western cultures is whether to adopt a planned language like Esperanto, an ethnic Western tongue, or stay out of the communications mainstream. The major non-Western languages, e.g., in the Orient, resemble each other no more than each resembles, say, French or Finnish. There can be no pan-Oriental or pan-African planned language for this reason, nor can Korean or Zulu words be added to Esperanto to make it more universal: the result would be a smorgasbord (thank you, Swedes) of roots, a sop to all, savory for none. Laity and linguistic experts in Japan, Hungary, Finland, Korea—for example—understand these points; they have given notable support to Esperanto as the most practical tool of international communication, and as an effective bar against linguistic imperialism and the destruction of minority ethnic tongues. It is misleading to say that Asian and African scholars have argued against Esperanto without saying that other Asian and African scholars favor it.

"2. Also misleading is the impression given that Esperanto lacks a literature. In the period since 1887 when the first original Esperanto poetry and prose appeared, the literature has grown very respectably, a number of great writers choosing to express themselves in Esperanto either to reach an international audience, to explore the unique qualities of this language, or both. The most important—and many lesser—works of world literature have been translated into Esperanto; some of these translations are masterworks of the art. And Esperanto has been a bridge language for the translation of Finnish classics into Hebrew, and Chinese into Italian. Esperanto, being a language designed for the purpose, is available as a medium for direct communication or translation without loss of national pride or linguistic subtlety for native speakers of all languages, widely known or little known.

"Granted that the introduction of Esperanto may be unrealistic now in

the third world schools, where home language literacy is still a major issue. But there seems to be no such hesitation on the part of some authorities to introduce English or some other lingua franca—even Swahili—which would present much more formidable problems.

"For those of us who know and use Esperanto in international life, the most distressing arguments are those based on assumptions rather than fact. Esperanto requires no apologies or special pleading, but it requires attention and intelligent exploration. Too often it is dismissed out of hand by critics who 'know' that you can't plan a 'real' language. Some of these critics preserve their theory by inattention to Esperanto, but it is heartening to see that an increasing number of linguistic experts are becoming aware that Esperanto is a living language. And, while foreign language teaching in this country is in a difficult period, increasing numbers of students and younger teachers are finding Esperanto relevant: many of the justifications for teaching and learning a second language in school apply to Esperanto, yet the ethnic tongues are not pushed aside in the process; on the contrary, Esperanto is a propaedeutic for the student of languages and linguistics. We think the linguistic requirements of the emerging world community will lead to selection of Esperanto; we do not expect the major boost for Esperanto to come from the English-speaking world, but we hope at least for a fair hearing of the facts."

THE 57TH UNIVERSAL ESPERANTO CONGRESS in Portland, Oregon, last August, the first in the United States since 1915, once again proved the effectiveness of Esperanto as a complete, living language. Most of the more than 900 participants from 40 countries communicated with one another using only Esperanto. Many who were very limited in their ability to use English—in spite of years of study in some cases—were very fluent in Esperanto. The congress recommended that a conference attended by representatives of all

nations be convened to attempt to solve the language problem in international tourism. Some speakers concluded that the courses in national languages recently dropped by some universities in the United States as a result of charges of irrelevance by students may well be replaced by courses in Esperanto. The subsequent congress (postkongreso), held the following week in San Francisco, gave its participants an insight into the heritage created by the American Indian.

WITH THE RETIREMENT OF MARK STARR

as ELNA vice president and chairman of the Esperanto Information Center in New York since 1965, the facilities of the two information centers are being combined at the West Coast center operated by William and Cathie Schulze (410 Darrell Rd., Hillsborough, CA. 94010).

Correspondence for Mr. Starr should be addressed to him at 39-40 47th St., Long Island City, NY. 11104. This is a second retirement for Mr. Starr, who ended 25 years as educational director of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in 1960. He is now 78.

Helen Starr is also retiring (at 75) after seven years of editing the ELNA Newsletter and overseeing the printing of ELNA literature. She taught the first course in labor journalism in the United States at Brookwood Labor College from 1925 to 1935 and wrote "The Handbook of Trade Union Methods" for the ILGWU, which was a staple in that field during the New Deal era of labor organization. Both the Starrs have served the Esperanto movement without compensation.

One project in the years at the Esperanto Information Center which gave Mr. Starr particular satisfaction was the pamphlet "Wanted: A World Language" written by Prof. Mario Pei and published by the Public Affairs Committee in 1969. He sold the idea to the author and the publisher and raised the money to buy 7500 copies for ELNA as a means of underwriting the publication.

Receipts from ELNA sales went into a revolving publications fund which, among other things, enabled ELNA to finance its own edition of "The ABC's of Esperanto" published by Channing Bete, Inc., in 1972. From a "Project Expansion" fund also raised with Mr. Starr's initiative, copies of the Pei pamphlet were sent to all public and college libraries and veterans' centers, and \$800 was divided between the Local Congress Committee for the Universal Esperanto Congress at Portland and the Postkongreso at San Francisco this summer.

With Margot Gerson, Esperanto Information Center executive secretary from 1965 to 1970, he was the Universal Esperanto Association representative at the United Nations. They also represented ELNA at the United States Mission to the UN.

THE MODERN LANGUAGE

ASSOCIATION will hold its first seminar on **Esperanto Language and Literature; Interlinguistics** on the 27th of December, 1972, at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. Five to ten thousand teachers may attend. ELNA will have an exhibit booth at the hotel, oriented toward teachers. The official announcement of this seminar reads in part, "Those of us who have planned this seminar believe that the primary allegiance of humanists is to humanity, and that humanists should not lose sight of their basic duty, which is to help men communicate with one another. Therefore, we have deemed it fitting to establish a forum at the MLA which is willing to develop in a scholarly fashion the following premises of glottopolitics: (a) The world is headed for a communications crisis which is now known as the **WORLD LANGUAGE PROBLEM.**

(b) No international body can function properly and economically unless it has one and only one official language (not five, as is the case with the UN, which spends over ten percent of its budget on translation and interpretation).

(c) The need for expansion of the functions of international bodies may

raise translation and interpretation costs, not proportionally, but in geometric progression. (d) Since the nations of the world are unwilling to grant to any one nation or group of nations an 'eloquent' advantage, no national language can ever become truly international. (e) Only a planned language can become a world language, that is, a language known by every human being besides his own. Only a constructed language, neutral, logical, clear, phonetic, simple, unencumbered by exceptions to its rules. No haphazardly created tongue can attain such stature. (f) A planned language is preferable in beginning language instruction because students are not inhibited by exceptions to rules and thus attain proficiency quickly. (g) Scholarly research in interlinguistics should be encouraged.

"The discussion leader for this meeting of the seminar is Pierre L. Ullman, Professor of Spanish, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The following persons will read papers: Howard French, Associate Professor of German, Southern Illinois University, 'Esperanto and Academic Responsibility'; Margaret G. Hagler, Ph.D., Lincoln Land Community College, 'Esperanto as Poetic Medium'; William A. Solzbacher, Policy Officer, Voice of America, USIA, 'The Use of Esperanto at Scholarly International Conferences: Facts, Problems, and Goals'; Richard E. Wood, Asst. Professor of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, Louisiana State University, and Visiting Professor, Fort Lauderdale University, 'Pidgin and Creole Languages: Their Significance for Interlinguistics'; Alvino E. Fantini, Director, Foreign Language Department, School for International Training, Brattleboro, 'Esperanto: New Approaches; New Uses'; Julius Balbin, Associate Professor of German and Spanish, Essex County College, Newark, 'Is Esperanto a Romance Language?'; John F. Gadway, Asst. Professor of German, Louisiana State University, 'Esperanto and the Crisis in Foreign Language Teaching.'"

A JAPANESE ESPERANTISTINO FROM NORWAY

named Tamiko Kauakami spent most of this summer traveling throughout the United States, making up for her lack of knowledge of English with her fluency in Esperanto, thereby causing articles about her and Esperanto to appear in dozens of major newspapers, among them the **San Francisco Chronicle** (Aug. 10), the **Spokesman-Review** (Spokane, Aug. 13), the **Minneapolis Star** (Aug. 16) and the **Tulsa Daily World** (Aug. 19). The **Detroit Free Press** and papers in Canada also published stories, based on their own interviews, of her adventures with Esperanto. The **Chicago Tribune** picked the **Detroit Free Press** story up from a wire service. F-ino Kauakami considers Norway, where she teaches Esperanto, her home.

THE TEACHING OF ESPERANTO

advanced by several giant strides in the United States during the past year. Several radio courses were introduced, Esperanto was taught in all the sixth grades in Hawaii and the Chicago Board of Education approved the expenditure of \$13,000 for the teaching of Esperanto to 75 gifted fourth graders.

Among the stations transmitting Esperanto courses and programs are WOSU-AM, Columbus, Ohio; KBPS-AM, Portland, Oregon; and WOPA-AM, Oak Park, Illinois (1790 on the AM dial). The tapes used on WOSU and KBPS are available for syndication

from Mrs. Robert L. Wills, 94 W. Riverglen Dr., Worthington, Ohio 43085, for \$13.00. Both stations broadcast the tapes five days a week, WOSU from 9:30 to 9:45 A.M., and KBPS from 3:15 to 3:30 P.M. A new series of programs about Esperanto will be broadcast from the Chicago Board of Education station (WBEZ) beginning January 1st. For more information about the Chicago programs, contact R. Kent Jones, (312)549-0952.

THE ESPERANTO SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

has elected R. Kent Jones its president for the coming year. Other 1973 officers are Gertrude Novak, M.D., who continues as vice president; Humberto Perez, secretary; and Peter Anderson, treasurer. Elected to the board of directors are George Neumann, Randolph Clark, Paul Graham and Elfrieda Walters.. As immediate past president, D. Rex Bateman will also be a member of the estraro.

At the December 9 Zamenhof banquet of the ESC at the Oak Park Arms Hotel, Duncan Charters of Indiana University will speak in Esperanto on "Post la 57-a: Kien?" ("After the 57th Universal Congress, where does the Movement go?") An executive of the Berlitz Language Schools will be in the audience.

A FIRST COURSE IN ESPERANTO

by William Auld and published by Channing Bete is available from the Esperanto Book Service, P.O.Box

508, Burlingame, CA. 94010, at \$2.60 a copy (lower prices for quantity orders). This course contains 10 carefully planned lessons in grammar, vocabulary-building, and sentence formation, as well as helpful pointers about pronunciation.

Also now available from the Esperanto Book Service is the Channing Bete booklet **About Esperanto** at \$1.00 a copy. This is not a textbook, but it answers such questions as: Exactly what is Esperanto? Why is it needed? What's its role in communications? What's its background? What's its present and future use to serve mankind?

The Esperanto Book Service in Burlingame is the largest of its type in the United States. Practically all Esperantaĵoj estas haveblaj through it. Write to the above address for a complete list.

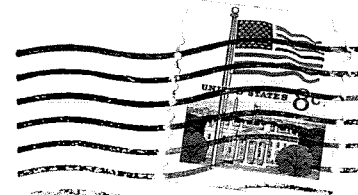
Available from both this book service and Mark Starr (whose address appears on the preceding page) is a two-page biography of the founder of Esperanto, reprinted from **The UNESCO Courier**. The price is one dollar for 50, postpaid. This biography is ideal for handing out at meetings and Zamenhof banquets.

SUPPORT THE IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

by supporting ELNA. This support is particularly important in the United States, where misconceptions about language are most prevalent. Send your \$8 individual dues to Box 508, Burlingame, California 94010.

ESPERANTO LEAGUE FOR NORTH AMERICA

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