## THE EDITOR'S DEPARTMENT
## Paying tribute

It is not unusual in academia to find some way to honor the memory of a deceased scholar whose work has offered much to a given field. Sometimes it suffices simply to cite some of the person's studies in an appropriate context, such as an article or a book chapter, thus recognizing in a sense the immortality that scholarly work affords; sometimes dedicating an article to the individual is appropriate;[1] sometimes a formal obituary is in order;[2] sometimes, however, more seems to be called for. This issue marks just that kind of situation, in that there was a desire to honor a recently departed giant in our field, Peter Ladefoged, but these usual measures alone seemed to fall short of the mark.

Peter died on January 24, 2006, and almost exactly a year later, here I am writing these words. At the time of his death, a paper of his—perhaps his very last but certainly one of his last—was under review for *Language*, having been submitted just a few weeks prior to that date.

His death raised the practical question of what to do with the paper, but it also presented an opportunity to honor the man in a special way in the journal. For one thing, inasmuch as Peter was a past president of the LSA (in 1978) and a major figure in our field, I knew I would be commissioning a formal obituary on him. After contacting the referees and talking with them and with the associate editor for the paper, Jennifer Cole, I could see that the paper was certainly suitable for publication (Peter surely would not have condoned its being published just because he had died), so the idea of giving Peter a presence in *Language* in the year (or so) after his death, through the paper and an obituary, began to take shape. At around the same time, prompted by the news of Peter's death, my then-outgoing review editor, Stanley Dubinsky, informed me that there were three book reviews pending that involved Peter: a review by him of Gunnar Fant's *Speech acoustics and phonetics*, and reviews by Keith Johnson and Carolina González of Peter's *Phonetic data analysis* and the second edition of *Vowels and consonants*, respectively. Stan suggested devoting part of a single issue to Peter by publishing his last paper, a formal obituary on him, his last book review, and reviews of his last two books all together, and moreover dedicating the issue to him. And thus the form of the present issue was settled on, with these pieces clustered together one after the other on pages 161–196.[3]

Formally dedicating an issue of the journal to an individual is a relatively rare event in *Language* annals. As best I have been able to determine, there have been just twelve such dedications in the eighty-two-year history of the journal, spanning 328 issues. In addition, twice, an entire volume has been dedicated to honor an individual or to mark

[1] As I did in 1987 to honor my uncle, Morton Bloomfield, in 'On the use of iconic elements in etymological investigation: Some case studies from Greek' (*Diachronica* 4.1–2.1–26); he had been instrumental in steering me into linguistics in the first place several years earlier and the article was on a topic he had once written about, so dedicating the article to him was an easy and even natural decision.

[2] I have discussed obituaries in general and in *Language* in particular in a few Editor's Department columns in recent years (*Language* 80.1.4–6, March 2004, and 81.1.7–9, March 2005); see also my annual report in the June 2004 Editor's Department (*Language* 80.2.361–71), but especially p. 369 where there is discussion of *Language*'s obituary policy.

[3] Grouping these items together required two minor deviations from our usual practices: Peter's is placed last among the articles, instead of being placed according to its date of acceptance, and the related reviews are first among the reviews rather than being placed alphabetically by book author.



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a key date. For the record, here is a detailed enumeration of those issues and volumes, given by volume and issue number, year, and dedicatee (or event), along with the accompanying citation as it appears on the dedication page; as is evident from this list, only two have involved posthumous recognition, and all but one involve former LSA presidents.[4]

17.3 (1941): Carl Darling Buck, Emeritus Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Chicago, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1927 and 1937

17.4 (1941): Franz Boas, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology in Columbia University, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1928

18.1 (1942): George Melville Bolling, Emeritus Professor of Greek in the Ohio State University, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1932, Editor of LANGUAGE from 1925 to 1939

22.2 (1946): Edgar H. Sturtevant, Emeritus Professor of Linguistics in Yale University, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1931

24.1 (1948): Leonard Bloomfield, Sterling Professor of Linguistics in Yale University, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1935

25.4 (1949): Roland Grubb Kent, Emeritus Professor of Indo-European Linguistics in the University of Pennsylvania, Secretary-Treasurer of the Linguistic Society of America from 1925 to 1940, and President in 1941

29.3 (1953): Franklin Edgerton, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology in Yale University, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1934

32.1 (1956): Alfred L. Kroeber, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology in the University of California, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1940, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday

37.4 (1961): Hans Kurath, Director of the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada, Editor of the Middle English Dictionary, Professor of English in the University of Michigan, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1942, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, 13 December 1961

42.2 (1966): Yuen Ren Chao, Agassiz Professor Emeritus of Oriental Languages and Literatures in the University of California, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1945

43.1 (1967): to the memory of Bernard Bloch, 1907–1965,[5] Professor of Linguistics at Yale University,[6] President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1953, Editor of this journal from 1940 to 1965

50 (1974): Frederick H. Burkhardt, President, American Council of Learned Societies, 1957–1974, in recognition of his services on behalf of the discipline of linguistics[7]

[4] I am not counting in this group the separate page at the beginning of the March 1999 issue (*Language* 75.1) telling of the then-recent death of James McCawley; though not a formal dedication, the somber announcement of Jim's untimely death came in the very issue in which his presidential address appeared ('Why syntactic structure reflects logical structure as much as it does, but only that much', pp. 34–62).

[5] The volume dedicated to Dr. Chao was (presumably) planned under Bloch's editorship, but by the time the issue came out, Bloch had died (1965) and was himself then the honoree in this next dedicated issue.

[6] As a student of language change, I am intrigued that the earlier citations referred to the honoree as a professor *in* a university while Bloch's uses *at*; my admittedly more modern sensibilities favor *at* here.

[7] In Dr. Burkhardt's case, the volume was 'respectfully and affectionately' dedicated. He was a Darwinian scholar and a friend of linguistics throughout his term at ACLS.

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63 (1987): to the memory of Leonard Bloomfield, on the 100th anniversary of his birth[8]
67.4 (1991): Hans Kurath, President of the Linguistic Society of America in 1942, on the occasion of his hundredth birthday, 13 December 1991[9]

Producing the section of this issue devoted to Peter was somewhat more complicated than usual, in that a number of disparate strands of input needed to be coordinated and pulled together.[10] I trust though that the result is a suitable tribute to and reflection on Peter's life and work.[11] I am honored to have been a part of this effort, as it reflects my own great esteem for Peter as a scholar and as a person. In keeping with the celebratory nature of this issue, I would like to invite readers to share any remembrances they may have of Peter with other readers via the 'Letters to *Language*' section of the journal; as always, I hope to hear from you and will plan to include any suitable letters in upcoming issues.

Brian D. Joseph
Columbus, Ohio
January 29, 2007

[8] In this case, a full-page photograph of Bloomfield is included on the page opposite the dedication.

[9] As with Dr. Burkhardt, in this case too the dedication was made 'respectfully and affectionately'.

[10] Beyond the usual supporting cast of copyeditors and proofreaders, and the obituary and review authors themselves, several other colleagues contributed to making this issue a reality, and acknowledgment of their contributions is in order: Nick Clements, Jennifer Cole, Ken de Jong, and Pat Keating all offered very helpful comments and guidance on Peter's final paper, and Kathleen Currie Hall and Paul Newman provided some invaluable technical advice. I also thank Margaret Reynolds of the LSA main office for helping to put the request for the formal dedication before the Executive Committee of the LSA and the Executive Committee for granting the request.

[11] For other interesting perspectives on Peter, I draw readers' attention to the interview with him prepared by Alan S. Kaye and published in *Semiotica* in 2006 ('An interview with Peter Ladefoged', *Semiotica* 168.319–34).

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