

~~UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**27 January 2009 CLArion**

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CLArion Editor

1. The Sad Tale of Aurigniac

Aurigniac, related to French, was the dominant language of Alderney Island (in the English Channel), so dominant that most residents there could not understand Queen Victoria when she visited there in 1847. However, the residents left Alderney in 1940 to escape the German Army (Wehrmacht), effectively killing off the language--those repopulating the place after the war were not the originals, speaking only English. And this, my friends, is "The Sad Tale of Aurigniac" (source is the ATA Chronicle April 2005)

2. Presidential Language Trivia

If _____ was having a private conversation with his family, they would speak in sign language.

- A. Calvin Coolidge
- B. Harry Truman
- C. Franklin Pierce
- D. Benjamin Harrison
- E. Rutherford Hayes

The answer is at the bottom of this issue

3. Language Symbol Needed

Some of you undoubtedly remember that the National Museum of Language (NML) is making the world's first international flag of language. The judges and interested parties have decided to use a tree (a combination of two winning entries). The problem is selecting a suitable symbol to place on the flag to represent language. If anybody has any ideas, then let me know. For what it is worth, said symbol should be simple yet powerful.

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4. Keystone Award Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer to be on the Keystone committee, please see the attached:

5. Program Cancellation/Links

[redacted] language hour, will miss this Thursday (29 January) session--I interpret this to mean that there won't be a Thursday session.

Speaking of which, see the language conversation groups meetings schedules below (item #4) along with the following tidbits:

(1) Here is the link for "The History of Language in Egypt" (from a recent Strengthen Our Nations: Discover Languages program):

P.S. The url (and description) is also accessible at "go language" under EVENTS

[redacted]

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(2) (U//~~FOUO~~) The CLA Homepage can be found at: [redacted]

(3) (U//~~FOUO~~) The CLA Wiki page is here: [redacted]

(4) (U//~~FOUO~~) The Language Conversation Groups Meetings Schedule is located at:

[redacted]

6. Film Library Relocation

(Editor's note: I'm hearing that you can actually view the films in the room, an upgrade for us)

CLA members:

Now that CLA is officially a part of ADET, the CLA Film Library is being moved to the ADET office in [redacted]. The move began last week and will probably take the rest of this week to complete. Anyone who has our videos out on loan should bring them back to me this week so we can inventory the collection.

The Film Library will re-open in its new location in early February.

Thank you for your cooperation and your patronage of the CLA Film Library.

[redacted]
CLA Film Librarian
969-0209 [redacted]

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7. (Catch the) Brain Train

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~*Research Opportunity: Brain Training*

The University of Maryland Center for Advanced Study of Language will begin a study in mid-January

Participants.

Participants will be screened for basic eligibility requirements: they must (a) be between the ages of 18 and 60; (b) be able to use their dominant hand without difficulty; and (c) have no personal history of neurological or psychiatric disorders or learning disabilities.

Procedure. Participants will complete a 1-hour pretest, a 10-hour training battery, and a 1-hour posttest. The estimate for total time of participation is 14 hours. (This allows 2 hours for the first meeting, 10 hours of training, and 2 hours for the final meeting.). All work will be conducted on an assigned CASL laptop (described in greater detail below).

- (1) Pretest and intake – 2 hours – The first meeting with a researcher will require the participant to provide some basic information, including biographical information and language history. The participant will then complete a battery of 3-4 cognitive tasks to be used as a baseline measure.*
- (2) Training – 10 hours – The training is a 10-hour regimen of the Posit Science Brain Fitness Program Classic.
(http://www.positscience.com/products/brain_fitness_program/) The regimen requires one hour of training per day for two (five-day) work weeks; that hour can be broken up according to participants' schedules, although we suggest four 15-minute segments. The specific tasks to be included in the training are "High and Low," "Tell us Apart," "Sound Replay," "Listen and Do," and "Story Teller." These tasks were chosen because they require a range of cognitive skills that should be particularly applicable to FLP work.*
- (3) Posttest and debriefing – 2 hours – Participation in the study will conclude with a final meeting, when participants will complete the same cognitive battery used in the pretest. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions of the researcher and will receive a detailed debrief of the study goals.*

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The training software will be installed on five CASL laptops, and each laptop can be shared by two participants, provided they can arrange a schedule to share it. Because these laptops will only be used by two people and will not be connected to networks of any kind, there is no need for a designated space or room for this study; participants should be able to use them in their workspaces or common areas. Each participant will have a login for both the laptop and the software and will be able to complete the training independently.

*****Please contact Carrie Clarady directly via email at (ckclara) or cclarady@casl.umd.edu and by phone on 265-5069(s) or 301-226-8840(b).***

Thanks!



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2. Presidential Language Trivia

If _____ was having a private conversation with his family, they would speak in sign language.

ANSWER A. Calvin Coolidge (30th President, 1923-1929)

B. Harry Truman

C. Franklin Pierce

D. Benjamin Harrison

E. Rutherford Hayes

Now we know another reason why Coolidge, who didn't say much, was known as "Silent Cal!" His wife, by the way, taught sign language.

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