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13 March 2009

1. NML News
2. Presidential Language Trivia
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4. MENA Meeting
5. Friday the 13th
6. CLA Bookswap

[REDACTED]

CLArion Editor

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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1. NML News

--Flag Update

The design of the world's first International Flag of Language (IFL) has been formally approved but has not yet been announced. The winners of the contest are being notified as I write this.

--Amharic Presentation

From Abyssinia to Addis Ababa: A Live Painting Demonstration with Amharic Characters
Sunday 15 March 1400-1600
by SOLOMON ASFAW

Born in Ethiopia, Solomon Asfaw graduated from the University School of Fina Arts and Design in Addis Ababa and has exhibited his work in Africa, Europe, and the United States. He will give visitors the opportunity to explore an Ethiopic writing system, the alpha-syllabary, through a live painting presentation. He will create an original art-work, which will be inspired by Amharic characters. Through this presentation, visitors will also be encouraged to investigate the connection between Ge'ez, an ancient Ethiopic language, and Amharic, the dominant language of Ethiopia today. Finally, this live painting will expose the presenter's unique perspective as an Ethiopian artist whose interaction with the Amharic script since childhood has become a catalyst for exploring his cultural and life experiences and for seeing how they are transformed on canvas. Reservations requested by 14 March.

National Museum of Language
Administrative Offices and Exhibit Hall
Executive Building Suite 202
7100 Baltiore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740
301-864-7071
www.languagemuseum.org

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2. Presidential Language Trivia

Which president is the supposed source of the English word "belittle?"

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- A. John Quincy Adams
- B. John Adams
- C. James Madison
- D. Thomas Jefferson
- E. Millard Fillmore

Answer and explanation at the very end of this issue

3. March "Discover Languages" FILMS

(Editor's Note: Item courtesy of [REDACTED])

Colleagues,

The following Agency-All Ad will come out shortly on this month's "Linguistics" theme. It will be the first time "Discover Languages" shows films.

Sandy

(U) Strengthen Our Nation: Discover Languages

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(U) March 2009 Language Events

(U) "Bringing Applied Linguistics to Life" is this month's theme, and for the first time we are showing two films: a digitally-restored 1965 feature-length (shown in two segments) cult film classic in Esperanto starring William Shatner and a documentary, "The Linguists", based on a former Crypto-linguistic Association keynote banquet speaker's experiences and those of his colleagues documenting endangered languages.

(U) Incubus (Part 1 -- In Esperanto with English subtitles)

Wednesday, 18 March 2009

[REDACTED]
1300-1400

(U) The Wikipedia describes Esperanto as "the most widely spoken constructed international language in the world. Its name comes ... from the pseudonym under which L.L. Zamenhof published the first book detailing it in 1887. The word means "one who hopes" in the language itself and whose goal was to create an easy and flexible language that would serve as a universal second language to foster peace and international understanding".

(U) This black and white 1965 film in Esperanto with English subtitles, "Evil Has Never Been So Seductive!" stars William Shatner, Milos Milos, Allyson Ames, Ann Atmar, and Elise Hardt. The jacket describes it ... "On a strange island, inhabited by demons and spirits, a man battles the forces of evil. Utterly bizarre, yet strangely compelling, this artsy film demands to be experienced. Lost for over thirty years, this digitally restored cult classic in Esperanto is now available with remastered sound."

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2. (U) Incubus (Part 2)

Friday, 27 March 2008

[REDACTED]
1300-1400

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3. (U) The Linguists

Monday, 30 March 2008

[REDACTED]
1300-1415

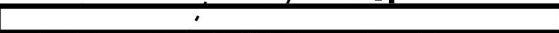
(U) One of the linguists featured in this film was Professor K. David Harrison of Swarthmore College, the keynote speaker at the Agency's 2007 Crypto-linguistic Association's annual banquet. The Teachers' Guide to this film explains that "About 7,000 languages are spoken in the world today. However with colonialism and globalization, smaller languages are being abandoned in favor of major ones, and languages are disappearing at an alarming rate. Some analysts say that a language is lost as often as every two weeks. Today, more than 500 languages are in immediate danger of being lost, including two featured in the film The Linguists: Chemehuevi, a Native American language of Arizona; and Chulyin, a language spoken in Siberia. Two others featured, Kallawayá of Bolivia and Sora of India, are less endangered but face challenges. This film shows people ... talking about what language loss means to them, and it highlights efforts by scientists to preserve languages that are in danger of dying". Come learn why this matters, and what can be done about it!

(U) To view this VTC broadcast live from your desktop, as well as to view it there after the event, type "go language" in your web browser and click on "EVENTS."

(U) For Newsmagazine viewing:



(U//FOUO) Enterprise sites may access the broadcast by contacting the VTC office at 963-4026, e-mailing [REDACTED] or accessing:



and click on "Join VTC." If you do not know your NEWSMAGAZINE Access Code, please call 963-6600 and generate a trouble ticket at least two days prior to broadcast.

(U//FOUO) POC: Office of the Senior Language Authority, [REDACTED] 968-8154s,



(U) AGENCY-SPONSORED EVENT: Employees attending this event, with supervisory approval, will be carried in a duty status. However, employees are not eligible to earn credit hours, compensatory time or overtime for attendance beyond their regularly scheduled duty day.

(U) FRAGRANCE NOTICE: The Agency is committed to being a model employer. In order to be mindful of those employees whose sensitivity to fragrances may be heightened, we are encouraging participants at Agency-sponsored events to refrain from wearing, or reduce their use of scented products (e.g., perfume, cologne, etc.).

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DERIVED FROM: NSA/CSSM 11-52
DATED: 8 January 2007
DECLASSIFY ON: 20320108

(U//~~FOUO~~)

[redacted]
NSA/CSS Sr. Language Authority Office, Outreach Officer
ADET's [redacted] Culture and Regional Studies, Liaison to Language and Intelligence Analysis Skill
Communities

4. [redacted] Meeting

In deference to Persian and Afghan New Year -- Norooz -- being celebrated on 20 March, and to facilitate the attendance of several of our Afghan and Persian members all of whom have expressed a high level of interest in the 20 March event on Afghan Socio-Cultural trends, the meeting will be postponed to 10th of April.

The new meeting information is as follows:

Title: Afghan Socio-Cultural Trends and Acculturation Session

Location: [redacted] - Room - TBD

Time: 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Please RSVP to: [redacted] before 3 April

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Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. On behalf of the MENA's board of officers, happy Norooz and we look forward to seeing everyone on the 10th of April.

5. Friday the 13th

(Item courtesy of [redacted])

Friday the 13th is superstitiously considered a day of bad luck in English-, French- and German-speaking countries, as well as in other countries around the world. Similar superstitions exist in some other traditions. In Greece, Romania and Spanish-speaking countries, for example, it is Tuesday the 13th that is considered unlucky. In Italy, it is Friday the 17th.

The fear of Friday the 13th is called *paraskavedekatriaphobia*, [1] a word derived from the concatenation of the Greek words *Paraskevi*, meaning Friday, and *dekatreis*, meaning thirteen, attached to *phobia*, meaning fear. The term is a specialized form of *triskaidekaphobia*, a simple phobia (fear) of the number thirteen appearing in any case.

[redacted]
969-0441 (Secure)

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~~UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**Buildings**

In the US and Canada, many tall buildings do not have a floor numbered 13. In Buffalo (New York), the downtown city hall has no 13th floor. The number buttons in the elevators have 12, then P, then 14. The P floor is like the cellar, with cement walls and floors, and is a storage unit. Many apartments and other buildings use M as the thirteenth floor (12, M, 14) because it is the thirteenth letter in the English alphabet. Some buildings replace the thirteenth floor with 12A (12, 12A, 14). The A distinguishes the floor one level up from the twelfth. In Kerala (India), the Kerala High Court building has not assigned Number 13 to any of its courtrooms. In the Philippines, the Makati City Hall has number 33 as the 13th floor instead of 13 Streets. In San Francisco, Funston Avenue appears where 13th Avenue would have been. In Longview (Washington), Commerce Avenue appears where 13th Avenue should be.

6. CLA Bookswap

Title: CLA Foreign Language Book Swap

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Time: 09:00 AM - 02:00 PM

Location: OPS1 North Cafeteria Party Room

Description: (U) A great opportunity to find a good, used Foreign Language book. Donations accepted, but not required.

Point of Contact: 969-0454

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Which president is the supposed source of the English word "belittle?"

A. John Quincy Adams

B. John Adams

C. James Madison

ANSWER: D. Thomas Jefferson (3rd President, 1801-1809)

E. Millard Fillmore

As the story goes, he created the word because he was unhappy with a description of North America by French naturalist, Count de Buffon. Jefferson, both a naturalist and a nationalist, first used it when he wrote "The Count de Buffon believes that nature belittles her productions on this side of the Atlantic." Noah Webster, very much a nationalist himself, liked the word and put it in his dictionary.

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