The time is past when language can be dealt with only by the academic community. Even granting the programs of various constituencies, these efforts do not have the impact or range of audience that can be possible through a national museum. The National Museum of Language will bring together all the diverse language circles—academic, governmental, social, business, scientific, literary, technological—and provide an outlet through which they can communicate more effectively, focusing attention on language as it relates to all aspects of life, human development, and human history. The NML will serve as a repository, a study center, and a teaching institution; it will sponsor research and lectures; establish a foreign language theater; present exhibits; and create a library of language materials, including films, tapes, and television and radio programs.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, the NML envisions the establishment of an outreach program for the young would-be linguist: a central agency providing information, encouragement, and assistance in the study of foreign languages. For local students, this could be in the form of workshops. On a broader scale, there might be summer internships for teenagers, for young people across America. These would not necessarily be just for learning a foreign language, but also for exposure to linguistic tasks and research of interest and importance to government and business alike.

These are indeed ambitious goals, but we believe that they are realistic. We are grateful for your early support and invite you to participate as fully as possible in the work ahead. For it is only with the help and encouragement of our friends and supporters from across the nation that the vision of the National Museum of Language can someday become a reality.

“IT SEEMS TO ME A WONDERFUL IDEA... AND [I] LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO HEARING ABOUT FUTURE PROGRESS IN THIS FINE ENDAVOR”
Noam Chomsky to Amelia Murdock, on the subject of the National Museum of Language

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Message from the President

As we launch this first issue of the Newsletter for the National Museum of Language, welcoming you as friends and members of the Museum, I admit to having a sense of accomplishment in reviewing the past two years. We have defined the concept of the Museum, studied and accepted the feasibility of our vision. We have persuaded colleagues, other linguists, and interested members of the broader public to invest their expertise in establishing the foundations of this ambitious enterprise. The basic legal instruments necessary for the organization of the Museum now govern our Directors and Associates as they guide us along our future path.

Our message, delivered around the world, has been accorded a warm reception. Expressions of support encourage us in our purpose, and our growing membership enables us to continue our work. New volunteers add diversity of talent as well as willing hands and minds to carry out our tasks.

Our Annual Report for 1998 tells some of the story of our development—a factual account, sober in detail. The Newsletter is intended to keep you up to date, to communicate to you not only the facts, but also the sense of excitement we have as we plan the work of the future. For our part, we want you to know more about us as professionals and as ordinary individuals, and about what inspires us to undertake such a creative challenge. But we also want to hear from you, the teachers, scholars, translators, interpreters, and language professionals in many fields. We want to hear from you, the general public, to share your ideas. We want you to share the responsibility of creating and informing the larger audience that is necessary if we are to succeed. We need you to be our partners and our voice in this effort. The Newsletter is our essential link, our lifeline, to you.

In closing, I must express my deep gratitude to my colleagues, the Directors and Associates whose names appear in our Annual Report. In our many meetings, in the hours and hours of consultation, their invaluable insight and guidance have instructed me and kept me from error again and again. Each of them has made a highly personal contribution to the creation and establishment of the Museum.

In addition, I think that all of us will agree that some very special contributions should be recognized. First of all, we owe our thanks to our Associate Glenn Nordin, for his sound advice and early dedication to our mission. We value highly his approval of our cause, which has gained us many friends. Secondly, we are much indebted to the Linguistic Society of America, which has won our respect for their early and sustained review of our purpose and our plans. At each step of the way they have inspected our credentials, and informed themselves as to our mission. In return they have given us their official blessing, financially and through the assistance of their staff. Their Executive Director, Margaret W. Reynolds, giving us the benefit of her professional experience and first hand on a variety of issues, has made her own particular mark as an Associate.

Please join me in the hope and expectation that, working together, we will ensure the success of this great new museum dedicated to the study and understanding of language, in all its aspects.

Amelia C. Murdoch
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NML

* 1983: exploratory talks on possible national museum of language.
* July 14, 1997: establishment of the Organizing Committee.
* November 1997: statement of purpose of Organizing Committee; letter of invitation to prospective Associates.
* January 1998: Organizing Committee establishes several subcommittees.
* June 10, 1998: organizational meeting; adoption of by-laws; election of Directors.
* August-September, 1998: move to new offices.
* March 6, 1999: workshop for committees.
* March 26, 1999: recognition of non-profit status by IRS; publication of first brochure and information bulletin.
* June 10, 1999: Board of Directors annual meeting.
* August 12, 1999: Board of Directors meeting.

News of our Directors and Associates:

Richard Brecht appointed Director of the NFLC (National Foreign Language Center), April 1.

Lee Lubbers, S.J., founder of SCOLA, exchanged views and ideas with Glenn Nordin, R. Brecht, and Herbert Fockler.

NML President Amelia Murdoch, along with representatives of the NML, discussed the status of the World of Language, the British counterpart of the NML, with its Director, Roger Bowers, May 8.

William Rivers, Research Associate at the NFLC, returned from Kazakhstan, June 30.

Dr. Robert W. Blair, Director of the Language Exploratorium (LEX), gave a presentation to members of the Board and Associates on August 8.

Spotlight on People
Shaping a Vision

What is a mathematician and architect doing in a museum? The answer is: a great deal. NML Associate George Vergine stands out as a major figure in the development of the concept of the Museum. As a senior official at the National Security Agency, it was here he recommended that the linguists serving as his advisors prepare an exhibit on language to better acquaint their managers with many aspects of language that were less commonly known, yet essential in the understanding and solving of everyday problems in the linguists’ work. President Amelia Murdoch vividly remembers the moment several years later when, meeting her former colleague by chance in their local library, she shared with him her vision of a National Museum of Language. Vergine’s instant recognition of the importance of Murdoch’s idea (“It’s a winner!”) was followed up by consistent support both in views and carefully crafted statements on major exhibits and the facilities needed for a language museum. As an architect, mathematician, and engineer, Vergine is particularly well qualified to provide the aesthetic and practical dimensions needed to give concrete shape to the Museum’s mission. His interest and dedication have in fact produced architectural plans which will eventually be used in the planning and construction of the actual museum building.

But Vergine’s interest in the NML also reflects his early experiences with language. Though he modestly describes himself as a non-linguist, George Vergine grew up in a bilingual home (speaking English and German). He studied engineering at Purdue University and went on to receive a B.A., cum laude, from American University and a B. Arch., with high honors, from the University of Maryland. His

"I think the most important benefit of having such a museum is that it would raise public awareness about language study in general, and foreign languages in particular. Regarding the latter, special attention must be given to the less commonly taught languages which, like the others, are important to national security and cultural understanding in a global community." -- James Alatis, Dean Emeritus, Georgetown University
Report from the Committees
Development/Public Relations (D/PR)

Chaired by Amelia Murdoch, the D/PR Committee was first organized at the Workshop conducted on March 6, 1999, with Hermann Bostick, Manuel Guevara, Glenn Nordin, Anna Owens, and Mary P. Herschbach in attendance. Among matters discussed were the brochure, a logo, the Annual Report, a membership card, masterlisting for membership, and the certificate of recognition. Herschbach agreed to assume the editorship of the Newsletter. The Committee also reviewed how announcements might be made following publication of the brochure. Initial proposals regarding institutional memberships were to be coordinated with the Program, Planning and Budget Committee.

The Committee last met as a whole at the Annual Meeting on June 10, 1999, when co-chairs Whitney Reed and Amelia Murdoch were joined by Allegra Tasaki, William Tobin, Mary Herschbach and Anna Owens in developing strategy for the coming months. Since then, Reed and Tasaki met several times as the Membership Subcommittee to set up a comprehensive database system to handle our growing membership rolls. The software for this was donated by Tasaki, who designed the system for the needs of the Museum. Members of the Public Relations Subcommittee have worked in teams on a variety of tasks.

A major effort to reach the public thus far has been conducted through distribution of our brochure and a public service announcement (PSA), both of which became available in late April. Members of the Board and our Associates have taken on distribution of the brochure through many channels: friends and colleagues, the Internet, conferences, professional organizations, and local libraries. The Linguistic Society of America, the Society for Federal Linguists, and Helen Carpenter posted the PSA on the Internet, bringing us many inquiries and requests for brochures and membership applications from across the nation and abroad. We are also indebted to the JNCL and ACTFL for assisting in the distribution of the brochure.

The 1998 Annual Report, prepared by Murdoch and reviewed by Owens, is now being distributed to members and prospective donors. The work of designing and producing the Newsletter is now shepherded by co-editors Herschbach and Carpenter, with contributions from Murdoch. Distribution of the Annual Report and the Newsletter will be limited primarily to members.*

Operations and Facilities Committee (OPS/FACS)

The Operations and Facilities Committee established overarching categories under which to organize the different functions of the museum. The five headings are: Administration, Collections, Educational Programs, Exhibits, and Research.

1. Administration encompasses aspects of the NML, such as development, governance, visitor services, legal issues, retail sales, finances, and public relations.
2. Collections houses the registrar, as well as any items collected with historical or other significance to language, linguistics, and communication.
3. Educational Programs constitutes resident and travel programs, viewing and listening facilities, the theater, and the Young Linguists program; subject matter comes from all content categories.
4. Exhibits is comprised of the various displays in the museum from all content categories, as well as the activities developed for the virtual museum.
5. Research initiates fellowships, manages the archives (i.e., the library and rare resources), maintains research facilities, and handles outreach to language professionals; subject matter comes from all content categories.

Committee members include Helen Carpenter, Linda Coleman, Leslie Grahn, Dora Kennedy, Charlie Mann, Richard Nachman, Ann Rossilli, and George Vergine. The co-chairs, who are currently on a leave of absence, are Richard Brecht and William Rivers.

*For membership information, see the application form on page 7.

"Shaping a Vision" continues...

long and distinguished career includes serving in the U.S. Army from 1942-45, including a tour at fabled Bletchley Park in England, for which he was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1945. Vergine continued his career as a cryptanalyst and senior manager with the National Security Agency until his retirement in 1972. Between 1972-89, Vergine worked as an architect, and at present continues to be a registered architect and member emeritus of the American Institute of Architects. His current involvement with the National Museum of Language brings together his earlier, personal experiences with language, and his educational and professional background in architecture and engineering.

Mary P. Herschbach

Spotlight on People continues page 5.
President Sees Childhood Wish Fulfilled by Museum

When National Museum of Language President Amelia C. Murdoch, was four years old, in Mobile, Alabama, her mother read to her a 19th century story about two little English children whose family went to France. They had a French "bonne," and so French words were sprinkled among the English. "I wanted to know what those words meant," Murdoch said. "A few years later (before I had studied French) when I couldn't find them in a French dictionary, I was frustrated."

It was a fatal combination of curiosity and frustration. Her interest in foreign languages grew, and by age 10 she knew she wanted to be a linguist. By age 12, Murdoch had planned out her future, conscientiously deciding to take Latin first, as a base for the Romance languages she planned to study later: French, Provencal, and Spanish. It was also during those formative years that Murdoch noted that there was a dearth of language and linguistics information in her community, and she knew of no group of language professionals to whom she could write for such information.

"Someone up there loves me because just at a crucial moment something happens and it seems that I was blessed." -- Amelia Murdoch

Although she pursued studies in languages and philology at the University of Pennsylvania, and became a linguist for the Department of Defense, she never forgot her earlier experiences in Alabama. In 1971 linguists in her agency joined together to organize an exhibit for the non-linguists with whom they worked. This project touched on Murdoch's desire to make languages and linguistics more accessible to the public. "We were just about to launch the exhibit at work," Murdoch said, "and we knew how good it was. I said right there and then, 'This could be done on a larger scale.' I was hooked."

The idea for a national museum devoted to language continued to percolate over the next decade. Murdoch attended seminars at the Smithsonian and shared her thoughts with her colleagues. In 1983, a year after retiring, she organized her first committee meeting to begin the brainstorming process. The initial meetings were fruitful but short-lived. The small volunteer group had too many other commitments, explained Murdoch. She herself re-entered the workforce, spending another decade as a Department of Defense linguist while at the same time chairing a municipal committee. During this time she learned how to use computers and how to manage an all-volunteer group. She credits these experiences with adding a further layer of knowledge to her ability to serve as president of a language museum.

Now in the late 90's, Murdoch's vision for the National Museum of Language (NMOL) is finally achieving tangible gains. Remarkably, she has rapidly put together a number of the museum's components. "Someone up there loves me because just at a crucial moment something happens and it seems that I was blessed," Murdoch said, noting that the project has drawn attention from linguists and others outside her somewhat large professional circle. Murdoch has carefully culled over 30 volunteer associates and board members from various professions involving languages, linguistics, museum design and administration. "I've listened to everyone's ideas. Everyone reflects a different interest. We have broad representation from the community, so that our museum can meet a wide range of interests. It's very important that everybody has a chance to make a contribution." Now when Murdoch looks back to her own experiences as a child, she takes satisfaction in knowing that anyone who wants to find out about languages and linguistics will one day be able to take advantage of NMOL's proposed exhibits, research, and educational programs.

Heidi S. Carpenter
No tribute that I write here could do justice to our colleague Art Salemme as a linguist, artist, and friend. I have before me the many memorial pieces written for the services celebrating his life, services I was privileged to attend with his family and friends in April 1999. Full of information and detail as they are, I can choose only a few bits from the richly colored kaleidoscope of his life.

Art and I first met as members of a language advisory group at the National Security Agency. When we were given the opportunity to design a language exhibit, his creative and artistic talents made an immediate contribution toward ensuring that the exhibit was more than printed passages of linguistic facts. His ready suggestions as to the many ways of attracting and holding the interest of our widely-based audience sparked the imaginations of the rest of us and helped lead us to build an extremely successful exhibit in 1971.

Over the years I learned more about his many talents. A former student of the Rhode Island School of Design, he was famed in his workplace for his rug-weaving and other needle crafts. He began his professional career in the U.S. Army, teaching himself Russian in his spare time (fortified later with an M.S. in that language). As a Russian linguist for 34 years with the National Security Agency and its predecessors and later as a free-lance translator, he was legendary for his phenomenal output. “He would place a Russian text to the right of his typewriter (later, his P.C.), place his hands on the keyboard, turn his head slightly to face the Russian text, and a steady stream of English would appear on the page or screen at dizzying speed.” His lasting scholarly contribution is his Guide to Russian Technical Translation. Printed as an in-house publication in 1974, this manual is termed a classic by a fervent admirer. She describes its 164 closely-packed pages, written in Art’s inimitable style, as “enjoyable reading for the Russian linguist, good for browsing, like Fowler’s Dictionary of Modern English Usage.” His professional achievements as translator, teacher, mentor, and writer and editor for in-house publications won him NSA’s Meritorious Service Award in 1979.

In 1983, when several of the participants in the 1971 language exhibit decided to explore the concept and feasibility of a national museum of language, he was a natural choice, as a linguist and many-talented artist, to be one of the group. Again, in 1997, he was invited to become a member of the Organizing Committee. The deterioration of his vision forced him to decline, but he promised his assistance to the extent possible, and agreed to become an Associate as a sign of his support for the endeavor. Other Associates, meeting him for the first time, welcomed him as a most appropriate member.

Regrettably, his health prevented him from accepting another appointment when Associates were selected following the formal organization of the Museum. With his passing, the National Museum of Language lost a good friend, whose potential as a contributor would never be realized. For those of us who knew him, we can only hope that the memory of his love of language, his intelligence and spirit, his humor and humanity, will continue with us as we move forward toward our goal.

Amelia C. Murdoch

DONORS
(January - September 1999)

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<td>Jeannette Soper</td>
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$60-$100: In-kind donations:
National Foreign Language Center (electric typewriter)
Allegro Tasaki (software)

Note: Donations by Robert and Virginia Fitzpatrick, James and Ettel Franklin, Doris E. Miller, Amelia C. Murdoch, Geraldine Salemme, John Salemme, Jeannette Soper, and several anonymous donors, have been made in memory of the late Arthur J. Salemme.
Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers Needed: Interested in contributing to the research and development of the National Museum of Language? With offices conveniently located off Route 1 in College Park, Maryland, and three committees from which to choose, there is a place for anyone who is interested in becoming involved. Contact Amelia C. Murdoch, NML President, for information on how you can help. E-mail: namuslang@juno.com. Address: 7100 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 202, College Park, Maryland, 20740. Phone: (301)864-7071.

“...such a museum would be a good idea.”

Jeffrey L. Kallen, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in Linguistics and Phonetics, Trinity College, Dublin.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to:
The National Museum of Language

Annual Membership
___ Corporate Member.........................................$1000
___ Institutional/Organizational Member..................$300
___ Supporting Member........................................$250
___ Contributing Member....................................$100
___ Dual/Family.................................................$50
___ Individual....................................................$30
___ Student/Senior.............................................$15

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Telephone
E-mail

Contributing and supporting members may designate:

___ Endowment Fund
___ Building Fund
___ Programs/Exhibits/Collections
___ Young Linguist Program

March 1998 Reception
Front row, from left: Anna Owens, Amelia Murdoch, Dora Kennedy, Doris Miller
Back row, from left: Whitney Reed, Leslie Grahn, Mike Levin, Kay Swift, Glenn Nordin, Joseph Page, James McFadden, Gabriela Strauch
MEMBERSHIP GROWS!

Word of the National Museum of Language has spread around the nation, and now, with correspondents from Ireland, Germany, England, and Taiwan, around the world. The NML has numerous local supporters from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, with members in Maryland, Virginia, and the District itself. Members hail from Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The campaign has set a goal of receiving contributions from states not listed already, so that there will be representation from the entire nation. However, membership from other countries is also always welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:
- October 8, 1999
- November 17, 1999

BOARD MEETING:
- October 14, 1999
- December 9, 1999

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING:
- October 21, 1999
- December 2, 1999

Please contact Amelia Murdoch at (301) 864-7071 or send email to her at natmuslang@juno.com for other upcoming events and changes.

National Museum of Language
Administrative Offices
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Suite 202
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED