

EDITORIAL:

The fourteenth AILA European Symposium concerning LSP entitled "Communication, Culture and Sciences" will be held at the University of Surrey between the 18 and 22 August this year. Twenty six years will thus have elapsed between this and the very first symposium which was held in Vienna in 1977 by the AILA Commission of LSP and the then new Unesco Alsed-LSP network.

Besides the conferences of experts held by the Council of Europe and Unesco along with four preceding AILA congresses, this symposium (organized by Professor Weis, Wirtschaftsuniversität, Vienna) was also the first time that about sixty researchers working with different aspects of LSP had the opportunity to meet and share their opinions and results. The choice of Professor Wüster's country of birth as the meeting place had a definite symbolic resonance. Unfortunately, Professor Wüster did not live long enough to attend, having died that same year. All the other renowned names of the day, however, did attend including Ludomir Drozd, Lothar Hoffmann, Max Gorosch and Guy Rondeau who was AILA President at the time. It is regrettable that the only record of this symposium is to be found in the second issue of the Unesco Alsed-LSP Bulletin in the form of brief summaries of the twenty presentations.

The two principal themes were, quite simply, didactics and theory. The subject material treated at the time was very diverse, the chief interest of these proceedings is, however, of a historical nature. The twelve subsequent symposia have reflected the direction in which research has been taken in the meantime. It is, however, noteworthy, though not altogether surprising, that already then, notwithstanding the differences in terminology used, the participants, including those illustrious colleagues who had blazed the trails of terminological research and LSP linguistics, were all perfectly aware of the growing importance of LSP research for professional communication, cultural relations and the transfer of knowledge and skills in an ever changing world.

It is our belief that, looking back over the twenty six years since that first symposium, we may allow ourselves to conclude that our subject area is well under way, that it has found its place in universities and that it has been recognized to be of use to society as a whole. As we have pointed out earlier on¹, a wealth of organizations, associations and networks have been created for the express purpose of promoting research. New methods allow us to better analyse, describe and apply

¹ Unesco Alsed-LSP Newsletter, Vol. 22, No. 1 (47) June 1999, *Editorial* p.2.

LSP, at the same time, new fields of action arise, not least in the area of new language policies.

The task at hand is to persuade the authorities and professional circles that the high pace of development requires an immediate and widespread effort.

The European Association for Terminology (EAFTE) assembled, very much to its credit, around fifty associations and networks last June in order to agree on and issue a warning² to this effect to countries and governments. This manifesto applied mainly to the area of terminology is of equal validity to other aspects of LSP. With the weight given it by the signatory organizations of which many are eastern European seeking closer ties to western scientific circles, this manifesto will doubtlessly play a major role in the interaction of researchers, users and the authorities.

Further information regarding the 14th European Symposium on LSP may be found on the web-site of the symposium :<http://www.computing.surrey.ac.uk/lsp2003>

The Editorial Board

DEADLINES

Any contribution to be published in the International Journal "LSP and Professional Communication" should reach us within the following deadlines:

Vol.3., No.2, October 2003: **June 1st 2003**

Vol.4, No.1, April 2004: **December 1st 2003**

Vol.4, No.2, October 2004: **June 1st 2004**

For more details, please consult our web-site: <http://www.dsff-lsp.dk>

² The Brussels Declaration, see p. 120.