

Winfred P. Lehmann

Linguist Winfred P. Lehmann Dies

Emeritus professor was founding director of the Linguistics Research Center

http://www.utexas.edu/cola/college_news/current/lehmannobit/
<3.Aug 07>

AUSTIN, Texas-August 2, 2007-

Winfred P. Lehmann, emeritus professor of linguistics, died Aug. 1 at the age of 91. He taught at The University of Texas at Austin for 38 years and served as chair of the Department of Linguistics from 1964 to 1972.

Lehmann earned his doctor's degree in Germanic linguistics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and specialized in the research of Indo-European linguistics, Germanic languages and machine translation.

In 1949, he joined the faculty as an associate professor of Germanic languages, eventually serving as chair of the Department of Germanic Studies from 1952 to 1964. In 1961, he founded the Linguistics Research Center (LRC), where he served as director until his death.

Lehmann was well known for his research in the areas of historical linguistics and machine translation, which examines how computers translate documents from one language to another. In 1984, Lehmann and fellow researcher Jonathan Slocum developed a groundbreaking prototype computer program for language translation that the LRC put into commercial production for Siemens, among other companies.

Lehmann was the author of several influential books, including the "Theoretical Bases of Indo-European Linguistics" (1993), "Historical Linguistics" (1992), "A Gothic Etymological Dictionary" (1986), "Syntactic Typology" (1981), "Historical Linguistics" (1962) and "Proto-Indo-European Phonology" (1952), as well as hundreds of professional articles on topics ranging from poetry and literature to arcane questions of linguistic theory. He also was the founding editor of the journal Computers and Translation, now Machine Translation.

During his teaching career, Lehmann earned numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Harry Ransom Award for Teaching Excellence, the College of Liberal Arts' Pro Bene Meritis Award, and international honors from Germany, India, China, Denmark, Norway and Turkey.

He is the only person to serve as president of both the Linguistic Society of America and the Modern Language Association, the two major professional associations in linguistics and language teaching respectively.

"Winfred Lehmann was one of the leading players in the progress of UT from a strong regional university to one of the nation's top public research universities," said Robert King, professor of linguistics and German and former dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "He took two departments, German and Linguistics, into the national rankings in the top three of graduate programs in the nation. What UT is today in linguistics and the foreign languages owes much to the Lehmann legacy."

For more information, please contact the Linguistics Research Center at 512-471-4566.

Austin American-Statesman
3 August 2007

Winfred Philip "Win" Lehmann Winfred Philip "Win" Lehmann, Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at the University of Texas, died in Austin on August 1, 2007 at age 91. He was born June 23, 1916 in Surprise, Nebraska, to Rev. Philip Lehmann and Elenore Grosnick. In 1936 he earned his B.A. in Humanities at Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin; in 1938 he earned his M.A. in Germanic Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin, and in 1941 his Ph.D. He married Ruth Preston Miller October 12, 1940 in Madison, Wisconsin. They had two children, Terry and Sandra.

During WW II, Win worked for the U.S. Army Signal Corps as an Instructor in Japanese, and was Officer-in-Charge of the Japanese Language School; afterwards, from 1946-1949, he was an Instructor and Assistant Professor in the Department of German at Washington University. In 1949 he was recruited to the University of Texas as an Associate Professor of Germanic Languages; in 1951 he was promoted to Full Professor. As Chairman from 1953-1964, he elevated the Department to the first rank in the U.S. His recruitment to UT, however, had had an even greater goal: the establishment of a national-caliber linguistics program. He exceeded all expectations.

In 1953 he was formally appointed Director of the "Program in Linguistics" at UT, which he built into the Department of Linguistics in 1964; along the way, while Chairman of Germanic Languages, he helped recruit to UT other linguists of international repute including Emmon Bach, Robert Harms, Edgar Polomé, and Werner Winter to name but a few. He became the first Chairman of Linguistics, and served in that capacity for eight years. For five years beginning in 1960, he was Acting Chairman of Slavonic Languages in addition to other duties. He founded the Linguistics Research Center in 1961, and served as its Director until his death; the LRC has brought millions of dollars in research grants to UT to study machine translation - computer software to translate, e.g., German into English - and, later, historical linguistics. Other UT centers for which he was at least partly responsible, by virtue of securing their initial funding and nominating their later directors, included the Arabic Center (now the Center for Middle Eastern Studies) and the Hindi-Telugu Center (later the South Asia Center).

But his influence was felt even beyond the realm of academic departments and centers. Win's academic publishing career spanned 68 years. Beginning in 1938 he authored or edited more than 50 books and special issues of journals, his last book being *Pre-Indo-European* in 2002; he published over 250 journal articles and more than 140 reviews of scholarly works from 1940-2006. He was awarded over a dozen international

academic appointments and honors, including the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany: Commander's Cross to name just one. He was elected President of several professional societies, and served on a number of international commissions, committees, and boards. His language expertise encompassed Arabic, Japanese, Turkish, and a host of diverse Indo-European languages in at least the Celtic, Germanic, Italic, Balto-Slavic, Hellenic, Anatolian, and Indo-Iranian families. He appeared in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, and at least 4 other "Who's Who..." publications; he is recognized world-wide as one of the foremost linguists of his time. He supervised approximately 50 Ph.D. dissertations, and mentored hundreds of students and others who worked on R&D projects in his various Centers; a number of these, in their turn, achieved international acclaim.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth, his sister Doris Urban, and his son Dr. Terry Lehmann. Survivors include his brother Dr. Arnold Lehmann of Watertown, Wisconsin and his children, sister Ruth Bentley of Kennebunkport, Maine and her children, his daughter Sandra who managed his care since his stroke in January, 2006, grandchildren Jenny and Trenton, and great-grandchildren Katie and Nicholas.

Winfred P. Lehmann was the quintessential courtly gentleman; he was a brilliant educator and author, dedicated environmentalist, and skilled pianist. He will be fondly remembered. He loved his wife, his children, and his Lord.

"Yet I am always with thee, thou holdest my right hand; thou dost guide me by thy counsel and afterwards wilt receive me in glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? And having thee, I desire nothing on earth. Though heart and body fail, yet God is my possession for ever." - Ps. 73: 23-26

His daughter would like to extend her thanks to Carol, Jan, and Chaplain Bev of Austin Hospice: "Thank you for walking this walk with my father and me. You brought great comfort to our little world." Also to Rhonda at Companion Care: "You were a little angel floating around our lives." To Jonathan, Maureen, and the LRC: "Deepest gratitude and blessings to all, for all you give." To Bethan Eccles, Don Rude, and Wade Jeffries: "Thank you for your prayers, your guidance, and the care you showed to my father and me. My father is gone, but the love we shared will live on forever." Published in the Austin American-Statesman on 8/3/2007.

Curriculum Vitae

Born June 23, 1916 in Surprise, Nebraska
Married to Ruth Preston Lehmann, Ph.D. (deceased)

Educational Background

- 1941 Ph.D., Germanic Linguistics, University of Wisconsin
- 1938 M.A., Germanic Linguistics, University of Wisconsin
- 1936 B.A., Humanities, Northwestern College, Watertown, WI

Professional Career

University of Texas at Austin:

- 1986-present: Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor Emeritus in the Humanities
 - 1983-1986: Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor in the Humanities
 - 1951-1986: Doctoral dissertations directed: approximately fifty
 - 1963-1983: Ashbel Smith Professor of Linguistics and Germanic Languages
 - 1951-1962: Professor of Germanic Languages
 - 1949-1951: Associate Professor of Germanic Languages
- 1946-1949: Washington University, Department of German,
Instructor, Assistant Professor
- 1942-1946: Army Signal Corps, Instructor in Japanese and
Officer-in-Charge of Japanese Language School

Administrative Positions at the University of Texas

- 1961-present: Director, Linguistics Research Center, U of Texas at Austin
 1964-1972: Chairman, Department of Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin
 1953-1964: Chairman, Department of Germanic Languages, U of Texas at Austin

Academic Appointments and Honors

- 1995: Doctor of Humane Letters (h.c.), The University of Wisconsin, Madison
 1991: Workshop on machine translation at Tsinghua University, Beijing
 1987: Pro bene meritis award, College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin
 1986-1988: Founding Editor, Computers and Translation (now: Machine Translation)
 1985: Doctor of Letters (h.c.), State University of New York, Binghamton
 1983: Harry Hunt Ransom Award for Teaching Excellence in the Liberal Arts,
University of Texas at Austin
 1976: Professor and Associate Director, Linguistic Institute, State University of New
York, Oswego
 1972-1973: Guggenheim Fellowship
 1968: Collitz Professor, Linguistic Institute, University of Illinois
 1954: Professor, Linguistic Institute, University of Chicago

International Academic Appointments and Honors

- 1987: Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany: Commander's Cross
 1981: Nehru Memorial Lecture, New Delhi, India
 1981: Co-Chairman, Commission on Humanities and Social Sciences to the People's
Republic of China
 1979: UNESCO Comité de coordination pour les études interculturelles
 1978: Guest of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, with lectures in universities
and research institutes
 1975-present: Royal Danish Academy of Sciences
 1974: Brüder-Grimm Preis, University of Marburg, Federal Republic of Germany
 1974: Chairman, Linguistics Delegation to People's Republic of China
 1972: Guest of the Federal Republic of Germany as a member of a linguistic group
(three weeks)
 1969-present: Corresponding Fellow, Institut für deutsche Sprache, Mannheim,
Federal Republic of Germany
 1964, summer: Professor, University of Marburg, Federal Republic of Germany
 1955-1956: Director, Georgetown English Language Program, Ankara, Turkey

1950-1951: Fulbright Research Fellowship to Norway

Selected Professional Societies

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (fellow)
- American Oriental Society
- Association for Computational Linguistics; President 1964
- Linguistic Society of America; President 1973
- Modern Language Association of America; Executive Council 1977-1981, 2nd Vice President 1985, 1st Vice-President 1986, President 1987
- South-Central Modern Language Association; President 1982

Selected Non-university Activities

- 1984-present: Subcommission on Literature and Language, American Council of Learned Societies--Soviet Academy of Sciences Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences
- 1983-1986: Commission on Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics; Modern Language Association of America
- 1985: Conference on Machine Translation, Riyadh
- 1980-1982: Committee on an Assessment of Quality-Related Characteristics of Research-Doctorate Programs in the United States
- 1979-1986: Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Educational Advisory Board
- 1974-1978: Center for Applied Linguistics, Board of Trustees, Chairman
- 1972-1986: American Council of Learned Societies, Board of Directors, Secretary

Publications: Books and Special Issues of Journals

1930-1939

1938. *A Word Index to Wolfram's Parzival*. [With Alfred Senn.] Madison: University of Wisconsin, Department of German. 248 pp.
1940. *A Word Index to the Poems of Walther von der Vogelweide*. [With R-M. S. Heffner.] Madison: University of Wisconsin, Department of German. 78 pp. [Reprinted by University of Wisconsin Press, 1950.]

1950-1959

1951. *A Grammar of Formal Written Japanese*. [With Lloyd Faust.] (Harvard-Yenching Institute Studies, 5.) Cambridge: Harvard University Press. x, 153 pp.
1952. *Proto-Indo-European Phonology*. Austin: University of Texas Press and Linguistic Society of America. xi, 129 pp. [Reprinted numerous times.] Online version edited by Jonathan Slocum, 2005.
1953. *The Alliteration of Old Saxon Poetry*. *Norsk Tidsskrift for Sprogvidenskap*, suppl. vol. 3. Oslo: H. Aschehoug. 231 pp.
1954. *The Alliterations of the Edda*. [With J. L. Dillard.] Austin: The University of Texas, Department of Germanic Languages. 168 pp.
1956. *The Development of Germanic Verse Form*. Austin: University of Texas Press and Linguistic Society of America. xix, 217 pp. [Reprinted in 1971 by Gordian Press, New York.]
1958. *Active German: An Elementary Grammar*. [With Helmut Rehder and George Schulz-Behrend.] New York: Dryden Press. xxi, 238 pp.

1958. *The Alliterations of the Beowulf*. [With Takemitsu Tabusa.] Austin: The University of Texas, Department of Germanic Languages. 134 pp.
1959. *Review and Progress in German*. [With Helmut Rehder, Leroy Shaw, and Stanley N. Werbow.] New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. xiv, 265 pp.

1960-1969

1960. *The Alliterations of the Christ, Guthlac, Elene, Juliana, Fates of the Apostles, Dream of the Rood*. [With Virginia F. Dailey.] Austin: The University of Texas, Department of Germanic Languages. 401 pp.
1961. *A Word Index to Wolfram's Parzival*, 2nd ed. Pp. 1-178 in *Collected Indexes to the Works of Wolfram von Eschenbach*, ed. by R-M. S. Heffner. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
1962. *Active German: An Elementary Grammar*, revised ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. xvi, 228, xlv pp.
1962. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. xiii, 297 pp.
1964. *Spectrum: Modern German Thought in Science, Literature, Philosophy, and Art*. [Compiled and edited with Helmut Rehder and Hans Beyer.] New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. xi, 622 pp.
1965. *Selected Vowel Measurements of American English Speech*. [With Helen-Jo J. Hewitt.] Austin: University of Texas. 175 pp. [Report produced with some support from the University Research Institute.]
1967. *Rekishi gengo gaku josetsu*. Japanese edition of *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. Tokyo: Kenkyusha. 295 pp.
1967. *A Reader in Nineteenth Century Historical Indo-European Linguistics*. [Editor.] Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 266 pp. Online version edited by Jonathan Slocum, 2006.
1968. *Directions for Historical Linguistics: A Symposium*. [Editor, with Yakov Malkiel.] Austin: University of Texas Press. ix, 199 pp. Online version edited by Jonathan Slocum, 2006.
1969. *Einführung in die historische Linguistik*. German edition of *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. Heidelberg: Carl Winter. 230 pp.
1969. *Introducción a la lingüística histórica*. Spanish edition of *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. Madrid: Editorial Gredos. 354 pp.

1970-1979

1972. *Descriptive Linguistics: An Introduction*. New York: Random House. x, 291 pp.
1972. *German: Language and Culture*. [With Thomas J. O'Hare and Christoph Cobet.] New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. xii, 202 pp. [Accompanied by student's exercise manual and teacher's manual.]
1973. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. ix, 273 pp.
1974. *Proto-Indo-European Syntax*. Austin: University of Texas Press. x, 278 pp. [Reprinted in 1980.] Online version edited by Jonathan Slocum, 2005.
1975. *An Introduction to Old Irish*. [With R. P. M. Lehmann.] New York: Modern Language Association. xv, 201 pp.
1975. *Language and Linguistics in the People's Republic of China*. [Editor.] Austin: University of Texas Press. ix, 168 pp.

1976. *Descriptive Linguistics: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. New York: Random House. xi, 339 pp.
1976. *Instructor's Manual for Descriptive Linguistics*, 2nd ed. New York: Random House. 87 pp.
1976. *Workbook for Descriptive Linguistics*, 2nd ed. [With Solveig M. V. Pflueger.] New York: Random House. 188 pp.
1977. *Nuove tendenze della linguistica storica*. Italian edition of *Directions for Historical Linguistics: A Symposium*. Bologna: il Mulino. 208 pp.
1978. *Syntactic Typology: Studies in the Phenomenology of Language*. [Editor.] Austin: University of Texas Press. 463 pp. Online version edited by Jonathan Slocum, 2006.

1980-1989

1981. *Linguistische Theorien der Moderne*. (Germanistische Lehrbuchsammlung, Abteilung A. Sprache, 19A.) Bern: Peter Lang. 173 pp.
- 1981: *Syntactic Typology* (ed.) Austin: University of Texas Press. xiv, 463 pp.
Essays by self included:
Chapter 1. The Great Underlying Groundplans (3-55);
Chapter 4. English: A Characteristic SVO Language (169-222);
Chapter 8. Towards an Understanding of the Profound Unity Underlying Languages (395-432).
1982. *Language: An Introduction*. New York: Random House. 241 pp.
1982. *Perspectives on Historical Linguistics*. [Editor with Yakov Malkiel.] (Studies in the Theory and History of Linguistic Science, IV. Current Issues in Linguistic Theory, 24.) Amsterdam: Benjamins. xii, 379 pp.
1984. *Workbook for Historical Linguistics*, 2nd ed. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics. vii, 92 pp.
1985. *Natural Language Processing*. [Editor.] Special issue of *Computers and the Humanities*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (April-June).
1986. *Language Typology 1985: Papers from the Linguistic Typology Symposium, Moscow, 9-13 December 1985*. [Editor.] (Current Issues in Linguistic Theory, 47.) Amsterdam: John Benjamins. viii, 200 pp.
1986. *A Gothic Etymological Dictionary*. Based on the third edition of *Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der gotischen Sprache* by Sigmund Feist. With bibliography prepared under the direction of Helen-Jo J. Hewitt. Leiden: Brill. xx, 712 pp.
- 1986-87. *Computers and Translation*. [Editor] vols. 1-2.

1990-1999

1990. *Language Typology, 1987: Systematic Balance in Language*. [Editor] Amsterdam: Benjamins. 212 pp.
1991. *Language Typology 1988: Typological Models in Reconstruction*. [Editor, with Helen-Jo Jakusz Hewitt.] Amsterdam: Benjamins. 182 pp.
1992. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*, 3rd ed. London: Routledge. xviii, 288 pp.
1992. *Workbook for Historical Linguistics*, 3rd ed. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics. viii, 167 pp.
1992. *Die gegenwärtige Richtung der indogermanistischen Forschung*. (Archaeolingua: Series Minor 2.) Budapest: Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Sciences. 89 pp.

1993. *Theoretical Bases of Indo-European Linguistics*. London: Routledge. xii, 324 pp.
1995. *Residues of Pre-Indo-European Active Structure and their Implications for the Relationships among the Dialects*. Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft, Vorträge und Kleinere Schriften 61. Innsbruck: Institut für Sprachwissenschaft der Universität Innsbruck. 74 pp.
1996. *Theoretical Bases of Indo-European Linguistics*, paperback ed. London: Routledge. vii, 324 pp.
1998. *Manuale di linguistica storica*. Italian edition of *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. Bologna: Società editrice il Mulino. 380 pp.
1999. *Biblical Hebrew: An Analytical Introduction*. [With Esther Raizen and Helen-Jo Jakusz Hewitt.] San Antonio, Texas: Wings Press. xv, 387 pp.

2000-pres.

2002. *Pre-Indo-European*. Journal of Indo-European Studies Monograph No. 41. Washington DC: Institute for the Study of Man. xvi, 287 pp.

For a complete bibliography, see

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/lrc/general/facultyhomes/lehmann.html>

For additional details see one of the following: *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, *Who's Who in American Education*, *Who's Who in the South and the Southwest*, *Wer ist Was in der Sprachwissenschaft*.
