[33] ARCHIVAL RESOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN LINGUISTICS

Frederick Newmeyer (SFU, UBC, UW).

The first part of this talk describes the content of several archives containing letters, documents, etc. which have relevance to the history of American linguistics, particularly from the 1940s to the 1980s. The second part shows how material from these archives has already helped to solve debates about linguistic historiography.

The archives are:

The Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Archive, at the University of Missouri, USA The Bernard Bloch Archive, at Yale University, USA The Roman Jakobson Archive, at MIT, USA The Martin Joos Archive, at the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA The Thomas Sebeok Archive, at Indiana University, USA The Archibald Hill Archive, at University of Texas, USA The Dwight Bolinger Archive, at Stanford University, USA The Charles Hockett Archive, at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA The Van Schooneveld Collection, at Leiden University, Netherlands

A letter in the Van Schooneveld Collection shows that Chomsky's 1955 manuscript, The Logical Structure of Linguistic Theory, was accepted by Mouton, despite Chomsky's claim that every publisher rejected it. Several letters from Bloch to Jakobson in the Bloch Archive show that Bloch was a big supporter of Jakobson in the 1940s, despite claims that Bloch and other leading American structuralists wished to prevent Jakobson from teaching in the USA. Letters in the Bolinger Archive show that the contested LSA presidential election of 1970, where Bolinger challenged and defeated Joos, was more about personalities than about linguistic ideology. And a letter in the LSA Archive shows definitively why Kenneth Pike was prevented from having any of his articles reprinted in Martin Joos's edited volume Readings in Linguistics. Several prominent American structuralists felt that Pike's views were too unorthodox to merit reprinting.