

From the Managing Editor

Pete Smith

University of Texas at Arlington



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Pete Smith'.

I must admit that I was a bit surprised when Marie Sheppard (zip code 80309) telephoned me last July to invite me to take on the managing editorship of our journal. I had been thinking about becoming more involved with IALL, and the timeliness of the call amazed me. Marie and I spoke at length, but I had decided within about ninety seconds to say "yes." One of the things Marie promised me was a "new perspective" on IALL. How right she was!

During the first few weeks of work her words came back to haunt me. One of my first tasks was to print and mail the *News Review*, and the 900 envelopes came back from the printer without any address ordering. The bulk mail permit we use requires that all of our outgoing letters be sorted by zip code, and this meant sorting envelopes one rainy afternoon. A lot of sorting. After several hours of work by me and my staff (who were beginning to have serious doubts about my new responsibilities), the newsletters were put in order and delivered to our campus mail office. During the process I had a chance to learn more about the geographical locations of IALL members and their zip codes than I had ever wanted to know. Now **there** is a "new perspective!"

IALL member addresses stretch from zip codes starting with 00- in far New England to the 99-s in Washington State (that's my friend and colleague Warren Roby in my hometown of Pullman, Washington). I learned that significant portions of our membership are concentrated on the West Coast (the largest pile of envelopes started with 9-s) and out East (as seen in the huge 1- stack). My own zip code area, the 7-s, also yielded a tottering pile of envelopes. Zips starting with 4-, 5-, or 6- were less common; that will no doubt change in the years ahead. I knew we were an international organization but was surprised to find that well over ten percent of the *News Reviews* were sent to addresses outside of the continental U.S. My zip code perspective will be, I hope, the first

of many new views that I will have of IALL and its members in the months and years ahead!

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not finish this first column with thanks to Kelly Nelson (52242), whom I replace as Managing Editor. For the past five years Kelly has been working tirelessly to bring the *Journal* to the IALL membership. In these first few months I have gained a real appreciation for the amount of work and talent that Kelly has given us all during her tenure. Her thousands of hours of effort on our behalf over the years are a real blessing! In hundreds of email notes and phone calls Kelly has started to pass on to me the knowledge derived from her accumulated experience, and I owe her a larger debt of gratitude than I can express here. Thanks, Kelly!

I am also indebted, of course, to Marie Sheppard and Trisha Dvorak (48109), who have both been supportive and patient as I “learn the ropes.” ■

Pete Smith is the Director of the Language Acquisition Center at the University of Texas at Arlington. His zip code is 76019.