

Five Years of Progress



National Museum of Language



Museum History



- 1971: NSA exhibit
- 1998: established as 501(c)3
- May 2008 – opened doors
- 2013 is 5th anniversary
- Tuesdays & Saturdays and 2 Sundays

Themes of the Museum



- **Universal Aspects of Language**
- **Language in Society**
- **Languages of the World**



Universal Aspects of Language



- Origins of language
- Physiology & psychology of language
- Acquisition of language
- Recording of language

Languages of the World



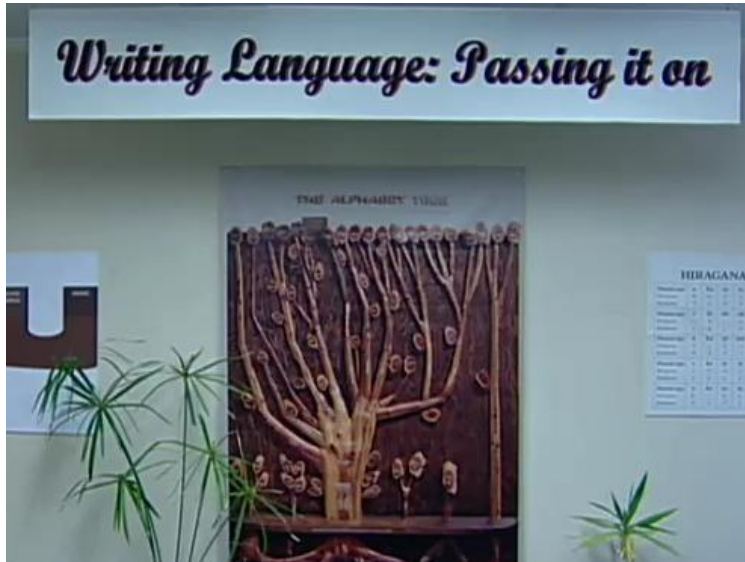
- Language families
- Language evolution
- Specific languages
- Linguistic heritage of America
- Endangered languages

Language in Society



- **Linguistics**
- **Education**
- **Literature**
- **Translation & interpretation**
- **History, religion, law, commerce, & diplomacy**
- **Science & technology**

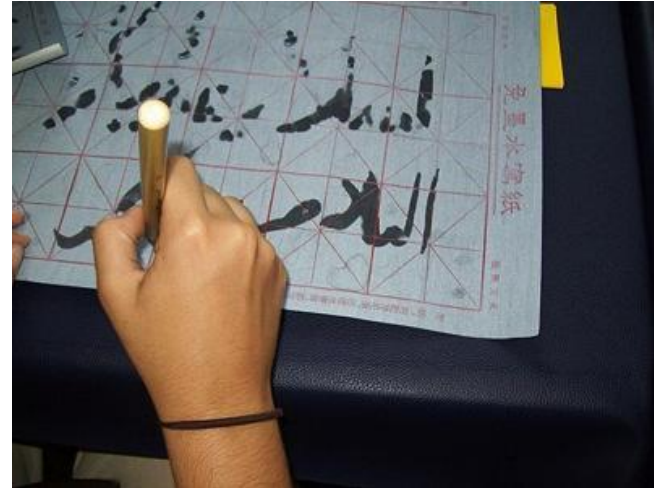
Exhibits



- **Writing Language: Passing it on**
 - Alphabetic Writing
 - Pictographic Writing
- **Emerging American Language in 1812**
 - Noah Webster
 - Native American Words
- **Glimpses of the French-Speaking World**
 - French in the Americas



Writing Language: Passing it On



- **Alphabetic Writing Systems**
 - Sumerian, Phoenician, Hebrew & Arabic
- **Pictographic Writing Systems**
 - Chinese & Japanese Calligraphy

ABCs of Americanisms:

English words bearing in the US.

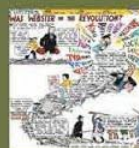
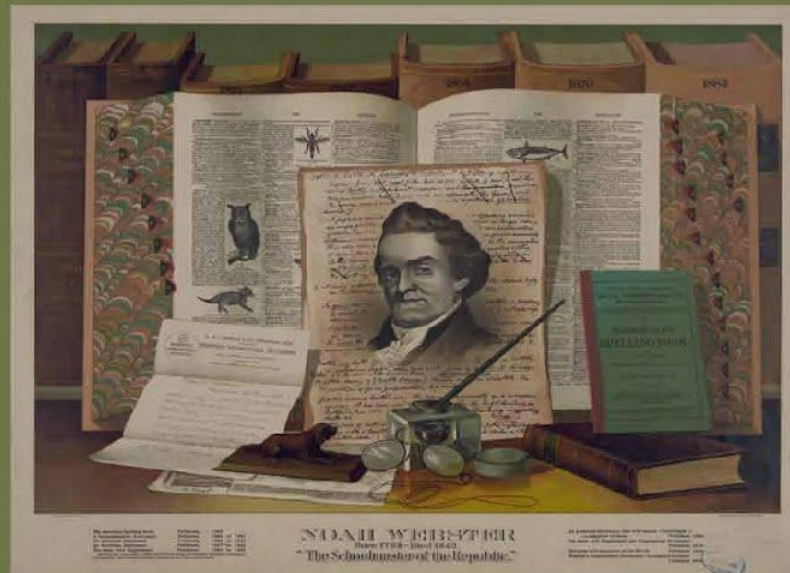
Spelling Changes Noah Webster advocated

Accepted Changes

analyse ⇨ analyze
centre ⇨ center
gaol ⇨ jail
honour ⇨ honor
humour ⇨ humor
masque ⇨ mask
mould ⇨ mold
publick ⇨ public

Not Changed

ache ⇨ ache
soup ⇨ soop
sleigh ⇨ sleigh
sponge ⇨ spunge
tongue ⇨ tung
tough ⇨ tuf
cloak ⇨ cloke
determine ⇨ determin
women ⇨ wimmen



Contributors to this display:
 NML Exhibit team: Robert Amster, Orlo Hargrave, Gary McCune, & Jill Robbins
 Spelling changes: Marissa Webster.com
 Character Counts: Dorothy Boyd
 Collage: Library of Congress

Which words are of Native American origin?



Glimpses of the French-Speaking World

- *La Francophonie*
 - Where is French spoken today?
 - Creoles and Dialects

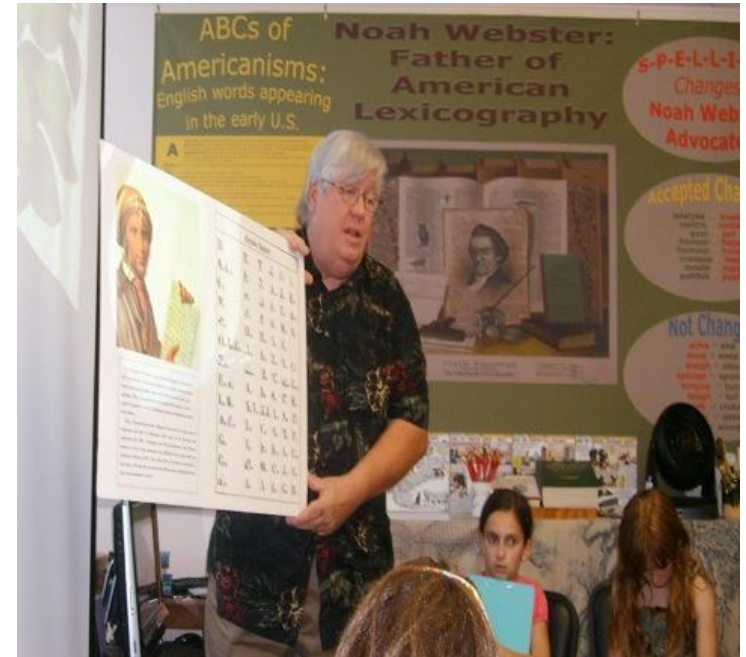


French
in the Americas



Educational Programming

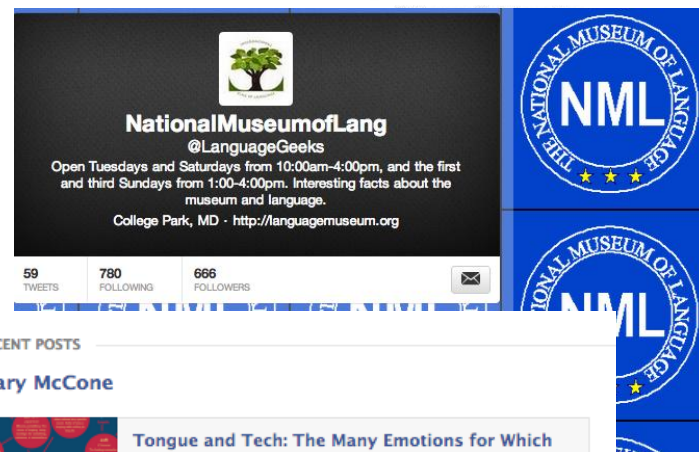
- K-12 School Visits
- Customized Tours
- Summer Language Camp
 - Arabic, Chinese, French, Native American, & Spanish



Electronic Resources

- **LanguageMuseum.org**
 - Events listings and registration
 - NML Library Catalogue
 - Online Exhibits and Podcasts
 - Links to YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Wiki
 - Quarterly Newsletter

YouTube



Museum Speaker Series



- **Black American Sign Language**
- **David Crystal on Language Museums**
- **Translating Chinese Poetry**
- **Cherokee Syllabary**
- **World Englishes**
- **Arabic Calligraphy**
- **Language in Ethiopian Art**

2013 Speaker Series

- February 3: Robert Miller; **Oral Literature and Performance in Ancient Israel**
- March 3: Abbas Mousavi; **Introduction to Arabic Calligraphy**
- April 21: Michael Erard;
Postmonolingualism and the Polyglot Urge: What it Means and What's Left Behind

Museum Library Collections



- **Allen Walker Reed:**
 - Slang, word origins, peculiarities of English: 500 titles
- **Ann Kietzman:**
 - Foreign language children's books: 250 titles
- **Native American Languages:**
 - Initiated and being built

Museum Funding

- Memberships
- Donations
- Grants

CHALLENGES:

- All volunteers
- Recruitment of volunteers
- Sporadic nature of funding
- Space

Patron: \$5000 and up

Corporate Member: \$2500

Benefactor: \$1000 - \$4,999

Sustainer: \$500 - \$999

Supporting Member: \$250 - \$499

Institutional / Organizational Member: \$300

Contributing Member: \$100 - \$240

Dual/Family Member: \$70

Individual Member: \$50

Educator Member: \$25

Student/Senior Member: \$20

Governance

Board of Trustees

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Executive Committee

Pending Election in
February

Future: The Next 5 Years

- **Mission Statement**
 - **Being revised in 2013**
- **Increased Funding**
 - **More grant applications**
- **New Location**
 - **Larger and less expensive**
- **New Exhibits**
 - **Continuation of successful activities**

The ILR Connection

What you can do for NML

- **Programs**
 - **Speak**
 - **Docents**
- **Ideas**
 - **Funding**
 - **Exhibits**
 - **Location availability**
- **Promotion**
 - **Word of Mouth**
 - **Link from website**

What NML can do for you

- **Programs**
 - **Speaker Series**
 - **Networking**
- **Public Awareness**
 - **(Govt.) Careers in Language**
 - **Promotion of Language Study**
 - **Awareness of the ILR and its role**

National Museum of Language

**National Museum of
Language
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