

The Second Annual Collegiate Symposium on the History of Language
17th day of Spring of the year 542
Chadwick Rental Theatre, secondary hall.

ITINERARY

MASTER MARTURN FINDWELL

will present his paper on the Universality of Language, refuting the Theory of Ideal Forms and the Theory of Linguistic Dispersal, in support of the Theory of Intuitive Comprehension.

ABSTRACT: "There has long been a hegemony of scholars at this institution who have held to the Theory of Ideal Forms with a vice-like grip, holding up the outmoded, indeed Inapt-minded, concept that there are, in some influential and simultaneously non-actual sense, "ideal forms" of 'Beetle', 'Ant' and the like from which we draw the ability to manifest our Art. Whether this is true for Art is beyond my brief. Using this untestable and unscientific theory to account for the commonality of language across all kinden is tenuous in the extreme, and has served to stifle enquiry into a phenomenon that is clearly worthy of explanation. I give more credence to my colleagues who posit the existence of some manner of root kinden from which all other kinden have, over the course of considerable time, radiated and diverged. This, at least, indicates scientific thought. However, one would, if this were true, expect to be able to trace the evolution of language back to such a spot of origin by the manner in which gradually diverging patterns of speech could be observed in proportion with distance from such an ancestor tribe, and to date no such findings have been found. My colleagues will be familiar, also, with the recent dissertation by Master Foursten that examines Spider writings from around the year 200 Before, in which certain asides give the tantalising suggestion, through the Spiders' mocking of them, that certain regional accents that we are today familiar with were considerably more divergent at the time of writing than now, whereas the theory of Linguistic Dispersal would insist that divergence should only have increased. Having dealt with both of these errors of scholarship I shall reiterate for the benefit of my audience my own theory, and demonstrate that the only plausible explanation for the universality of language is that every action, object and concept in essence contains its own name, in that the human mind can truly only react to it in one way, with one word, or one of a limited range of words. I will then bemoan the stricture of the College ethics committee who have to date prevented me testing this by bringing up an experimental population devoid of speech, and then exposing them to certain carefully chosen objects for them to name."

REFUTATIONS by:

Master Bors Standrod, on regionality and Linguistic Dispersal

Desiraea of Tharn on Perfect Forms and the influence of Ancestor Art

Our esteemed guest, BELLER GENADHESE of SOLARNO

will present her brief introduction to the "Court Language" of Princep Exilla

ABSTRACT: "There's a great amount of confusion amongst your people over this alleged 'language' the Dragonfly-kindens use around the Exalsee, so I've asked after the chance to set you straight. I'll show in my talk how this is an artificial speech structure created to allow their nobles to talk without the servants understanding, and I'll show how it goes back far enough that it must have originated in the Commonweal before the so called "exiled princes" were thrown

out, which is somewhere around 1500-900 Before, in your reckoning. If I've got time I'll also set you straight on how, through contact with the Spider-kinde following the Salvation of Solarno, a number of the Dragonfly court language usages have bled into mainstream Spider culture, to the extent that a lot of what you might consider Spider-kinde modes of address and custom is actually adopted from the Dragonflies and simply became the fashion."

MASTER LAMES PALDRON

will present his paper on the Evolution of Writing, with specific reference to aberrant spelling in Solarno and around the Exalsee.

ABSTRACT: "Masters, I'm aware that Findwell will be exhorting you about the universality of language, which is the fashionable topic of research for most in the History of Language department. However I will be attempting to win over a few hearts to those of us who labour, all underfunded, in the study of the written word, which has no such universality, despite its apparent continuity between kinde. This in itself, as I will demonstrate, has its roots in the spread of writing in the Inapt world, long before the revolution, which suggestion that we should be grateful to the Moth-kinde is, of course, one reason that our sub-department is so woefully overlooked. I shall also undertake a diatribe concerning the sheer bloody-mindedness of Solarnese names, and its possible indications concerning their mindset, probity and hygiene."

REFUTATIONS by:

Beller Genadhese of Solarno, on the Primacy of Solarnese spelling and its role as the Zenith of the Written Word.

In the continued absence of Master Kadro, GADREY POSTERN will present Master Kadro's brief paper on the Trace Survivals of a Mystic Pictography

ABSTRACT: "The Masters will excuse me for having only a limited understanding of the topic. However, Master Kadro has left me with a somewhat jumbled set of papers which show some intriguing ideoglyphs from a range of different sites, including some rubbings recently sent from around the Exalsee and points east. These may possibly represent an alternate writing system to our own, and I will be adding transcriptions of some other instances of similar mystery from the College vaults, including the noted "flotsam codex" that washed up near the city in 511. Make of it what you will."

REFUTATIONS by:

Seristrachos of Dorax on the Doraian Tradition of Iconography

MISTRESS HALWELL DAMPER

will read an excerpt from the Memoirs of Vaerela of the Rothaelien concerning the purchase of a slave who spoke no known language.

And finally, as an Entertainment

Ludwell Clooter and his performing chafers will demonstrate the Art of Speech.