

## IPA NEWS

### REVISION OF BY-LAW NUMBER 1: MEMBERSHIP FEE IN EUROS

The IPA Council has approved the revision of By-Law number 1 to include the membership fee in Euros only. The change in By-Law number 1 is as follows:

The sentence

‘The annual dues are 40 Euros or US \$45 payable to the Treasurer on the first of January each year.’

shall be changed to

‘The annual dues are 40 Euros payable to the Treasurer on the first of January each year.’

The change aims to overcome the need for modifying the by-law frequently to include adjustments in the dollar fee due to fluctuations in exchange rate.

### APPROVAL OF NEW IPA SOUND: THE LABIODENTAL FLAP

In April 2005, the IPA Council received a formal request to vote on the adoption of a standard IPA symbol for the labiodental flap. The request was made by Dr Kenneth S. Olson, Associate International Linguistics Coordinator, SIL International, and was supported by Professor Peter Ladefoged, a member of the IPA Council.

In his letter of request, Dr Olson provided justification for the need for a standard IPA symbol for the labiodental flap. He stated that ‘research has shown that the labiodental flap is quite widespread in Africa. It is attested in at least seventy languages and is fully incorporated into the phonological system of at least twenty languages. A standard IPA symbol would be a tremendous benefit for facilitating research on the sound’.

The IPA Council voted in favour of the adoption of a symbol for the sound. Following discussion and a further vote of Council, the symbol adopted was the ‘right-hook v’, **v̥**, which combines a ‘v’ and a fish-hook ‘r’, suggesting a voiced labiodental sound and a tap/flap articulation.

The labiodental flap will be included in the next edition of the IPA chart; it will also be incorporated in Unicode and included in the SIL fonts.

Katerina Nicolaidis  
**Secretary**

## IN MEMORIAM

PETAR GUBERINA died in Zagreb (Croatia) on 22 January 2005, aged 91, philologist of romance languages, contributor to the field of speech and hearing rehabilitation, creator of a new methodology of foreign language teaching and, most of all, phonetician and promoter of phonetics as a science in Croatia.

Guberina was born in Šibenik in 1913. He completed his doctoral thesis in 1939 at the Sorbonne. In 1951 he became the Head of the Department of Romance Languages and Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Zagreb. From 1968 until his retirement in 1983 he was the Head of the Department of Phonetics. He pioneered the Verbotonal System, which is both a treatment and diagnostic model for improving the auditory-listening skills, auditory/vestibular memory, voice quality, dialect, spoken language, articulation, central auditory processing and communication skills of the hearing-impaired as well as of those with normal hearing. His work with the deaf was based on using not only vestigial hearing but also the whole body to detect the acoustic signal. Now the verbotonal method is practised in more than 500 institutions all over the world.

He was a patriot, bringing the scientists of the world to Croatia. He became a member of the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1963 and served in many other national as well as international scientific associations, including the Editorial Board of the *JIPA*. He was twice awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by France and received high honours in other countries as well as in Croatia.

In his scientific mission Guberina crossed every existing barrier: spatial, linguistic, cultural, ideological and political. He was a citizen of the world, constantly travelling from one continent to another to disseminate his ideas. He was very active in his retirement until his late eighties and even in his last several years at home was a valuable source of opinion and advice for his colleagues. DH

KAY WILLIAMSON (born Ruth Margaret Williamson), a long-term member of the IPA and former member of its Council, died in Brazil on the 3rd of January, 2005, as she was approaching her 70th birthday. She was recovering from a major operation in November 2004 and decided to go to Brazil to attend the wedding of a niece. She had just finished the wedding when she fell down and died instantly. Readers can see a conventional obituary on the web at <[http://homepage.ntlworld.com/roger\\_blench/RBOP.htm](http://homepage.ntlworld.com/roger_blench/RBOP.htm)>.

Kay Williamson moved to Nigeria on a Leverhulme Research Scholarship in 1956, where she began research on the Ijò language cluster and later became an Assistant Lecturer in Phonetics at the University College of Ibadan. She later studied linguistics at Yale University, where she received her Ph.D. in 1964. After further research on Ijò with a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, she taught linguistics at the University of Ibadan, where she became a Professor in 1972. In 1977, she moved to the University of Port Harcourt, where she taught Linguistics and Nigerian Languages until she retired in 2000. She held the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, until her death. Kay Williamson contributed to general linguistic theory, to the study of the Niger-Congo phylum as a whole, and spent much energy supervising the dissertations of students often on languages otherwise unknown. Her death is a great loss to the study of African languages. RB

The Secretary has also been notified of the deaths of Dr BJÖRN S. ANDRESEN, Norway (October 2003), Dr NIEN-CHUANG TING CHANG, UK (2004), and Dr ALEXANDRA GAYLORD SMITH, UK (2005).