

Editorial

FOR YEARS the Canadian Linguistic Association struggled as a small association of linguists who in the main served their Universities in various language departments and were professional linguists only by sufferance of their department chairmen. "Linguistics" had a somewhat nasty connotation and linguists were mostly thought to be illiterati who had no interest in the values of literature and who took delight in breaking down the standards of good writing and speech.

During this period Quebec was the shining exception. Both Laval and Montréal had and still have excellent Departments of Linguistics. English Canada, however, for many years paid no attention to linguistics as a discipline worthy of independent study.

Today all this has changed. English Canada has adopted the general North American pattern of promoting University Departments of Linguistics, and all the larger universities now realize that linguistics is here to stay. Many have already established such departments, and others are actively planning linguistic offerings of one kind or another.

This places a peculiar responsibility on the CLA and even more particularly on our Journal. It should become increasingly possible to have a Canadian Journal of Linguistics rather than simply a Journal of Linguistics published in Canada. There is a danger, however, which our newly won respectability might promote. We might lower our professional standards of excellence and become chauvinistic in the process. This we must avoid at all costs.

J. W. W.