

1997 Members Survey

Membership forms and membership renewal forms include a few questions which we ask members to respond to. In 1996, we tabulated the results of the responses we received; the results were printed in the *Bulletin* (31.2, p. 28). The 1997 results are now available for comparison.

Let us stress that this is not a scientific survey. Some people likely responded in 1996 but not in 1997; some people (*e.g.*, overdue members) had forms which did not include the questions. The results are interesting to give a broad, informal picture of the Society's members and their language backgrounds; they likely don't prove anything.

We had 104 responses in 1997, compared to 90 in 1996. Of these, 93 (89.4 per cent) gave their first language as English; in 1996 it was 78 (86.7 per cent). Seven (6.7 per cent) stated that their first language was French; in 1996, six (6.7 per cent). Four (3.8 per cent) people reported a first language other than English or French, compared to eight (8.9 per cent) in 1996.

Nine responders (8.7 per cent) have English as a reasonably fluent second language (it was 10, 11.1 per cent, last year). Forty-six people (44.2 per cent) say they read reasonably fluently in French, although it's not their first language (the 1996 result was 46 (51.1 per cent)). Thirteen (12.5 per cent) read fluently in at least one language other than English or French, compared to 14 (15.6 per cent) in 1996.

It might be significant, in the present-day Canadian situation, that 53 responders (51.0 per cent) have French as either a first or a second language; it was 52 (57.7 per cent) in 1996.

Lastly, 38 of the members who responded (36.5 per cent) admit to an academic affiliation, compared to 27 (30 per cent) in 1996.

The questions on the current forms are unchanged, and are being tabulated for 1998. Note: specialized questions related to the *Journal* are included with this issue, and for new members; please take the time to respond if they apply to you. [JL]



Until recently it was the custom for farmers [in Ontario] to work their fields in the summer and spend the winter in the woods, coming back each spring with their winter's wages and a fresh batch of songs.