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(U//~~FOUO~~) 25 November 2009 CLArion

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3. Almost a Pilgrim
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(U//~~FOUO~~) Fanx 2 Bookswap

(~~C//REL~~) CLA will hold a FANX2 Bookswap on Wednesday 2 December in [redacted] from 1200 to 1600. Since we haven't had one here (at FANX 2) for awhile, it is time therefore to correct the oversight. Bookswaps are for dropping off foreign language-related books that you don't want and for picking up ones that you do--free of charge. POCs are [redacted]

(U) FYI English, although technically a foreign language (to many of us at least), is not really what we want here (although area studies would suffice)

(U//~~FOUO~~) CLA Happenings (Just the Facts, Jack!)

(~~C//REL~~) (Item courtesy of [redacted])

(U//~~FOUO~~) The next CLA board meeting will be held at 1100-1200 on Wednesday, 9 December 2009, in the [redacted] conference Room.
(Location may change; check ESS1362 messages.) All-CLA members are welcome.

(U//~~FOUO~~) The CLA Homepage can be found at:

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(U//~~FOUO~~) CLA Wiki page is here:

(U//~~FOUO~~) The Language Conversation Groups Meetings Schedule is located at:

(U//~~FOUO~~) The CLA Speaker Series wiki page is here:

(U//~~FOUO~~) Special Note: CLA activities are announced through ESS 1362.
If you have not, we ask you to subscribe to ESS 1362 at:

(U) Almost a Pilgrim

(U) (Editor's Note: This item is the closest thing that I could find to the Pilgrims (and the first Thanksgiving). John Smith was just a few hundred miles south, making him "almost a Pilgrim"—said item is from the August 2007 ATA Chronicle. Thanks and Gobble Gobble. [redacted])

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52

Dated: 20070108

Declassify On: 20241101

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(U) Typically, we use quite conventional criteria to compare the way languages sound. We say that one language reminds us of another because both have nasal sounds, or share consonant clusters or singsong patterns. Captain John Smith, the Virginia explorer of 17th-century fame, was a man of the world who must have been aware of the general acoustic differences between the more common European languages. Imagine his shock in 1608 upon exploring the northern Chesapeake Bay and encountering the Susquehannock tribe, whose members are very tall and related, both ethnically and linguistically, to the Hurons. Smith found the voices of the males to be deep. The sound was produced from a different part of the larynx than Europeans are used to, much farther down in the throat, so that, to Smith and his men, the males in the tribe sounded as if they were speaking from inside a deep hollow place. It was ultraguttural, to coin a word. Currently, some imagination is needed to conjure up what such a sound was like, and it is a pity that this has been a Language of No Diffusion Whatever for close to 250 years now. Sadly, we can only guess at the sounds they made that so awed John Smith.

(U) Presidential Language Trivia

(U) "Learn English from _____; Instead of saying 'I want to eat,' say 'I am a big supporter of non-hunger.'" This is what a writer from _____ said about which president?

- A. Nixon, Czechoslovakia
- B. Obama, China
- C. Bush 43, Mexico
- D. Johnson, Texas
- E. Bush 41, Pittsburgh

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(U) As always, the answer is at the end of the issue.

(U) On the 8th Day, God Invented Vowels

(U) Vowels came late to written languages (consonants were first)—what does the follow say?/figure out what the missing vowels are and make sense of it.

(U) The answer will be in the next issue—if you email me with your answer, I will tell you if you are correct though.

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(U) DETAILS: Wang Pei, a writer from China, made this comment when Obama recently visited there.



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