

SEPTEMBER 2010

◆ ESPERANTO! ◆

If the world spoke but one language, then of course we'd not be in business – but there has been a movement to make that dream a reality since 1887 when Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof, an ophthalmologist and linguist, invented **Esperanto**, a constructed language for international communication. Called “Doctor Hopeful,” he thought the main reason for the hate and prejudice among Yiddish, Polish, German and Russian ethnic groups in his native Bialystok (now Poland) was mutual misunderstanding caused by the lack of one common language, used to promote peace.

Today, Esperanto is used in over 115 countries, a nice device for communicating around the world. Although no country has officially adopted it, Esperanto was officially recognized by UNESCO in 1954.



The Green Star of Esperanto's original flag (green being a color of peace and hope, the 5 points representing the 5 continents) was sometimes viewed as too sectarian.



To mark Esperanto's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1987, this more modern Jubilee Symbol was created, with a Latin **E** on one side and a Cyrillic **Э** on the other to include the West and the East.

Esperanto travelers sometimes display the flag or wear one of the above symbols, or even wear **green** clothes, to make themselves known to other Esperanto speakers.

*Ĉu vi parolas Esperanton?* Let us translate: Do you speak Esperanto?

◆ **FEATURE** ◆ Lingua Quiz!

- 1 The abbreviation for 'pound' is:
  - (a) **lb.**, as in 16 oz.
  - (b) **£**, for the British currency, pounds sterling
  - (c) **#**, for telephone and computer keyboards' hash mark and 'number'
  - (d) **EZ** for Ezra
  - (e) **L** for Roman libra
  - (f) (a), (b), (c) & (e)
  
- 2 Which animal name does not originate from a Native American language?
  - (a) Chipmunk
  - (b) Skunk
  - (c) Beaver
  - (d) Moose
  - (e) Raccoon
  
- 3 Mix & match the foreign-language word for “e-mail”
 

(a) French	(1) Correo electrónico
(b) French-Speaking Canada	(2) Courrier électronique
(c) Spanish	(3) Courriel
(d) German	(4) E-mail

ANSWERS:

1 (f) 2 (c); the others are Algonquin 3 (a) = 2, 3 + 4! (b) = 3 (c) = 1 + 4 (d) = 4