

STELLA STELLINA

Stella stellina
la notte s'avvicina,
la fiamma traballa,
la mucca nella stalla.

La mucca e il vitello,
la pecora e l'agnello,
la chioccia e i pulcini,
ognun ha i suoi bambini.

ERA UNA CASA...

Era una casa molto carina
senza soffitto, senza cucina,
non si poteva entrarci dentro
perché non c'era il pavimento;
non si poteva andare a letto,
in quella casa non c'era il tetto,
non si poteva far la pipì,
perché non c'era vasino lì.
Ma era bella, bella davvero,
in Via dei Matti numero »zero«,
ma era bella, bella davvero,
in Via dei Matti numero »zero«!

E' ovvio che la canzoncina (a seconda del livello del contuenuto) potrà esser »sfruttata« in maniera molteplice:

- si canterà, ora tutti, ora in gruppetti, ora con esibizioni solistiche;
- mentre si canta, si »esiguirà« quello che il contenuto suggerisce (ad es. la canzoncina »Girotondo«;
- si trasformerà scenetta dialogata (ad es. Tu chi sei? — Sono fra'Martino. — Che cosa fai? — Sono campanaro. — Dormi adesso? — Non, adesso non dormo. — Allora suona le campane. — (E tutta la classe in ocro: Din don dan...!)
- darà l'occasione per trasformare il contenuto in raccontino con il dovuto ampliamento di lessico (ad es. Dove sono le stelline? — Le stelline sono in cielo. — Quando le stelline sono in cielo, che cosa s'avvicina? — Quando le stelline sono in cielo, s'avvicina la notte. — Che cosa fa la fiamma... (e via dicendo).

Se continuassi, temo proprio che ferirei l'orgoglio pedagogico di chi legge. Il suggerimento di fondo sull'uso delle canzoncine è questo: »Chi più ne ha più ne metta!«, e buon lavoro! E non dimentichiamo che presentare una canzoncina senza un abbondante repertorio di illustrazioni (le quali, allietando l'occhio dei piccini, suggerisca no grosso modo il senso del contenuto e potenzino la capacità ricettiva dei piccoli discenti unendo al fatto acustico il fatto visivo) è una grossa lacuna che mutila fortemente il risultato.

Damir Kalogjera

A LEXICAL NOTE FROM A TRIP TO U. S. A.

On a recent visit to the United States, after an interval of some nine years, I came across two words with new meanings which they did not seem to have had when I was there earlier. The words are **jogging** and **mall**, both respectable English words, the former existing in the English language since the Middle English period, and the latter—borrowed from French—since 18th century. The new meanings of these two words were necessary to denote what struck me as new trends in the community life of American towns and

cities: the first refers to men and women of diverse ages running at a slow pace even in the streets of the town, and, the second, to a new type of shopping precincts, huge and certainly more expensive to build than the »traditional« shopping centers.

The new meanings the words have acquired are worth noting as illustrations of one of the two fundamental devices the language uses to enrich its vocabulary in order to name new concepts or facts which occur in the life of a speech community. In this case either a new word is invented or coined (like nylon), or an existing word is employed with an additional feature of meaning which, so to speak, lay dormant in it. The two words in question belong, of course, to the latter type.

One's impressions ought to be checked against a reliable source and American and British dictionaries, regularly revised, offer a good opportunity. What is more, they do support my original impression. This is what can be found in some outstanding dictionaries concerning the new meanings of those two words.

Jog v. intr., jogging vbl. subst., jogger n.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary (one of the two largest English language dictionaries) published in 1961 comes closest to the meaning we are looking for when it explains **jog vi.** »to run or ride at a slow jogging trot«, however, there is still no clear suggestion of the »keep-fit« activity that we have in mind. It is only **A Supplement to Webster's Third International Dictionary** published in 1976 that notes unambiguously this new meaning under **jogging n.** »running at a slow even pace; also exercise consisting of walking and jogging«. Now it becomes clear that jogging is exercise and that it consists not only in running but in walking as well. It is obvious that this meaning came into general use roughly between the two publication dates 1961 and 1976.

With the help of **A Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary** (1976), which seeks to register new words and meanings since 1933, we may find even more precise dates of the appearance of the new meaning. The first entry for **jogging** in this new sense dates back to 1948 and is illustrated with a question from **The Oxford Pocket Book of Athletic Training** which reads: »The runner should start any piece of jogging with the slow jog stuytle«. Between this and the next quotation there is a twenty year gap. This period of time, presumably required for the meaning to pass from a specialized to a more general usage coincides with the recent excessive concern of the average citizen for his heart and circulation. Quotations now come from various parts of the English speaking world and are to be found under: **jogger, jogging, jog-trot, jog.** An illustration from America, especially informative for us, reads: »Joggers have become an almost familiar sight thruout (sic!) America in the last year.« (**Chicago Tribune**, 9 July 1968). The latest illustration I have come across in the British newspapers in the following: »Recently I have started a Sunday joggers club in my close; every Sunday a group of children and middle-aged men meet at 11 a. m. and jog for two miles, followed a half-hour later by half a dozen ladies over a shorter course. Group members have increased in fitness and well-being, and the jogs have considerably increased social contacts between them.« (**The Observer**, 5 Feb 1978; letters to the editor.) Besides corroborating that the word and the activity is becoming popular in Britain, this quotation illustrates the use of the noun **jog** in the new sense.

I wonder what we would call this type of running for fitness in Serbo-Croatian if it were to catch on here.

Mall n.

This visit to the United States also helped me to become aware of another meaning of the word **mall** which before this visit I used to associate with Pall Mall, a London street known for its exclusive clubs, then with The Mall, a straight walk leading from the Admiralty Arch to Buckingham Palace and also with the central alley on a number of University campuses in the United States.

The consumer society, however, has extended the meaning of this word by adding to it a new referent. I remember that on my earlier visit one did one's shopping at the **shopping center**: an area situated at the outskirts of the town and consisting of several large supermarkets and some smaller shops supplied with everything from flour to TV sets. Sometimes all the premises were conveniently linked with covered passages to keep the shopper dry on a rainy day or to keep him comfortable in hot weather. But one hardly goes there any more. And why should one when **malls** have cropped up all over the place? The latter day structure where shopping is done is something like the temple of the consumer society. All those supermarkets and shops from the old shopping center are now housed under one huge roof, and the whole vast covered space is heated for shoppers' convenience. The new structure required a new name and **mall**, with its connotations of leisurely strolls, was shrewdly chosen.

Although there is no doubt that the new meaning of the word **mall** is of recent origin it is tempting to look it up in the dictionaries for more specific data.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1961) offers no help and neither does its **Supplement** of 1976. Does that suggest that this extension of meaning was so natural and logical that the native speaker of American English could hardly notice it as new? After all the word **mall** (according to a quotation in the **Supplement to OED**) had been used to denote the central avenue in the old shopping center. British lexicographers have noticed the new meaning of »a shopping precinct« and the first illustration of it dates back to 1969 in the **Supplement to OED** (1976). It comes from the **Daily Telegraph** of 19 August and it reads: »Basically the housewife is demanding more comfort and convenience in shopping. This means covered and heated malls with car parking facilities adjacent. «Now one can approximately date the occurrence of the new meaning of the word **mall**.

I simply cannot conclude this discussion without quoting another illustration, from the very same source, which throws a somewhat different light not on the new meaning, but on the origin of its new referent: »The developers have discovered an even more potent device for generating sales: the rigidly controlled »shopping environment« of the enclosed malls... (The Economist 21 Dec. 1974).

Is it really the housewife who is demanding all this comfort?

The new use of the word **mall** does not seem to have caught on yet in Britain, where some of these new shopping structures like »The Bull Ring« in Birmingham, the »Victoria« in Nottingham and more recent »Brent Cross« in London still go under the name of shopping centres. Still the **Supplement to OED** registers a quotation from **The Times** of 19 Feb. 1975 which reads: »Malls smoke danger. Special fire precautions are needed in single-storey shopping malls.« If this refers to the British life one can presume that the new sense of the word **mall** is well on its way east.