SLIN

NEWSLETTER

no. 26   March 2001

Contents

1. SLIN Conferences and Seminars

As repeatedly announced, the **10th SLIN National Conference** will be held at **Pavia University** on **13-15 September, 2001** under the general heading *The Standardization of English*. The guest-speakers are: Professor Gabriele Stein (University of Heidelberg) who will lecture on:"Early lexicographical indices of English standardization" and Dr.Jeremy J. Smith (University of Glasgow)

whose lecture is entitled "Supply and demand: print and Protestantism revisited". The subtopics suggested for papers and, more generally, for the formation of the Conference programme are:

1. The History of Standard English: - the emergence of Standard English (14-15 centuries; institutions associated with change); - codification: spelling, morphology, punctuation and letterforms, - elaboration: syntactic, stylistic and lexical; replacement of the functions of Latin and French.

2. Other Standard Englishes:-'Standard Old English', -Standard Scots, - Standard American.

3. Sociolinguistic Processes: -regiolects, koinés and the emergence of a national standard;

   the spread of Standard English; - the effect of standardization on non-standard varieties.

4. Historical Pragmatics: Standard English and situations of interaction.

5. Standardization and spoken English.

One-page abstracts are invited to reach the local organizer Professor John Meddemmen. **by APRIL 15**. (Please note the change of date) The relative provisional program will be included in the June issue of *SLIN NL*.

2. HEL and other (English) linguistics conferences

REMINDERS AND UPDATINGS

§ **The sixth Cardiff Conference** on *The Theory and Practice of Translation in the Middle Ages* will be held on **July 19-23, 2001** in the **Faculty of Philology, Santiago de Compostela**. Papers including those dealing with modern translations of medieval texts will be given in English, French and Spanish Brepols in *The Medieval Translator 7*. The cost of the Conference is approximately $350 to cover registration, accommodation for 5 nights with relative breakfasts and lunches, the opening reception and the final banquet. For full information apply to the secretary's e-mail: Rosalynn.Voaden@asu.edu.

§§ **International Conference on "Modality in Contemporary English", 6-8 September 2001, University of Verona.** The preparation of the conference, jointly organized by Roberta Facchinetti (Faculty of Education, University of Verona) and Cesare Gagliardi (Director of the Language Centre of the University of Verona), is well under way. From the conference web page (http://www.univr.it/cla/conferences/modality/modality_index.htm) you can now access information on the final registration form, accommodation, fees, and social events.

Please, notice that:

1) for all queries concerning the **SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE** (abstracts, paper presentation, conference programme, and publication of proceedings), the person to be contacted is Roberta Facchinetti, Faculty of Education, University of Verona, via S.Francesco 22, 37129 Verona, ITALY, fax: +39 045 8028705, e-mail: faro@univr.it;

2) for all **ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS,** concerning registration, fees, accommodation, social events, and anything else about your stay in Verona even before and after the conference (including attending a lyrical performance at the Arena), you are kindly invited to contact the following: *ENDES – Iniziative per comunicare,* Via San Giusto, 2, 37121 Verona, Tel. 0039-045-8015702, Fax. 0039-045-8043387, http://www.endes.it, dr Stefania Fazzi (e-mail: stefania.fazzi@endes.it), dr Annachiara Caputo (e-mail: annachiara.caputo@endes.it)

NEW ENTRIES

§ **12ᵗʰ Historical Lexicography and Lexicology Conference (University of Leicester, 15th-17th July, 2001.** The deadline for abstract submission is fixed at 29.03.01. Special sessions, roundtable discussions, demonstrations and linked papers, exchanges of brief queries and notes are also part of the timetable. The Conference organizer is **Dr. Julie Colman**, English Department, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH. Phone: 0116 252 2635. Fax: 0116 252 2065. The Conference website is: www.le.ac.uk/ee/jmc21/hll.htm

§§ **34th SLE (Societas Linguistica Europaea) Meeting (University of Leuven, Belgium, August 28-31, 2001)**. The conference heading is "Language Study in Europe at the turn of the millennium: towards the integration of cognitive, historical and cultural approaches to language". Registration fee: 75 euro (80 if paid by visa or Eurocard. 500-word abstracts for thirty-minute (including discussion) papers on research or practical experience may be sent, along with request of further information, by 30 March to **Bert Cornillie**, Department of Linguistics, Blijde-Inkomstraat 21, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. Phone: 0032 16 324765. Fax: 0032 16 324767. E-mail: SLE2001@arts.kuleuven.ac.be.

§§§ An **International Conference on the English Language in the Late Modern Period (1700-1900)** will be held on **29 August-to 1 September, 2001** at the **University of Edinburgh**. Invited guest speakers are: John Beal, Dick Bailey, Marina Dossena, Manfred Gorlach, Lynda Mugglestone and John Wells. Information is obtainable from the Conference Organizers **Charles Jones** and Derek Britton, LMEC, Department of English language, University of Edinburgh, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9JX. E-mail: Charles.Jones@ed.ac.uk

§§§§ **PALC (Practical Applications of Language Corpora) 2001. (Department of English language, Lodz University, 7 to 9 September, 2001)**. 750-word abstracts for corpora-based papers covering a great number of topics may be submitted by 31 March to the organizer **Prof. Dr.**

Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, Department of English language, Al.Kosciuszki 65, 90-514 Lodz, Poland. Relevant information may be obtained from the website: www.uni.lodz.pl/pelera/palc.htm

§§§§§ The **12ⁿ ICEHL (International Conference on English Historical Linguistics)** will be celebrated at **Glasgow University** on **21 to 26 August, 2002**. 300/500-word abstracts for 20-minute papers may be forwarded by **15 September, 2001** to any member of the Organizing Committee, the first of whom is **Jean Anderson:** J.Anderson@arts.gla.ac.uk Further general information is provided at the following websites:

www.gla.ac.uk/general/index.html

www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLLL/EngLang:

www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLLL/EngLang/news.htm/ICEHL12

§§§§§§ **Organization in Discourse II: the Historical Perspective** (Turku, Finland, August 7-11, 2002). Organized by Risto Hiltunen., Department of English, University of Turku. An advanced notice has been posted at www.utu.fi/hum/engfil/oid2002.html For inclusion in the mailing list write to: oid2002@utu.fi

§§§§§§§ MOREANUM International Thomas More Conference. Fontevraud. 5-12 July, 2001.

Preparations for the Thomas More International Conference are well advanced and we now send to you information about the event, along with booking forms for the conference and for the accommodation that is available. Much has been written about Fontevraud in recent issues of *Moreana* and in this year's Thomas More *Gazette*. Situated in the heart of the Loire Valley chateaux country, Fontevraud offers those who attend a warm welcome and a region rich in architectural, cultural and historic interest. The day visits to Tours and Angers will give us an opportunity to explore some of his richness.

The prices quoted in the leaflets are the maximum costs that have been given to us at this point. It will be possible to negotiate concessionary rates for those who require and request single booking and evening meals. The accounts sent to the participants will reflect these arrangements. Deposits and early settlement of the accounts are desirable because we have had to advance funds in order to secure accommodation and conference facilities. However, if anyone has difficulties meeting these settlement arrangements, please inform us and other arrangements can be made. We would not wish such difficulties to prevent your presence.

The conference will begin with afternoon registration followed by a celebration of the Eucharist in the church of St. Michael, Fontevraud, at 6.30 pm on Thursday, July 5th, and conclude after the final dinner at the Prieuré St. Lazare on the evening of Friday, July 12th 2001.

3. Conference Reports (G.Mazzon, R.Bacchielli)

ᵛGabriella Mazzon's lively comment on the Santiago Conference comes rather late – and the fault is this editor's alone – but is equally welcome for it throws light on aspects not especially taken into account in the previous reports.

Eleventh International Conference on English Historical Linguistics (ICEHL11)
Santiago de Compostela, 7-11 Sept. 2000 (Gabriella Mazzon)

Hardly a month after the 'papa-boys' had flooded Rome and the media with their enthusiasm, the 'ICEHL-boys' (no anti-sexist qualms, please) swarmed into the old and prestigious town of Santiago de Compostela for their own bit of Jubilee pilgrimage.

Santiago accepted us with grace, as we bathed in its crystal-clear air and joined the happy ritual of meeting old friends again. The conference venue, surrounded by pleasant greenery and generally comfortable, though rather less endowed with air-conditioning facilities than some participants expected, accepted us with quiet efficiency, which the occasional underestimate in the number of handouts to be photocopied did not much to impair.

It was a particularly rich conference, and trying to summarise it may seem a doomed enterprise. I will therefore offer a few global observations before giving short details about specific sessions.

First of all, the conference seemed to me to mark the final acceptance of social network analysis as a tool for diachronic studies, and the further advance of historical sociolinguistics. Readers may recall that ICEHL10 was followed by a workshop where the idea was first launched that the sociolinguistic study of social networks may be fruitfully applied to the study of past stages of English, for example by analysing features of correspondence between intellectuals and other evidence of contact between 'informants'. ICEHL11 has shown that this idea has caught. With some notable exceptions, which will be mentioned below, most of the sessions attended by the present writer had to do with the language of individuals or small groups, trying to reconstruct the relationships they entertained, and the kind of linguistic influence these may have determined. The plenary by Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade on the language of Robert Lowth was packed with information about the public virtues and private (linguistic) vices of this mythical figure in English grammar, and so were the papers by Bax (who, however, seemed to be carrying the analogies between synchronic and diachronic studies a bit too far, with his attempt at applying Accommodation Theory to the past) and Percy

Another general trend concerns the development of computerised corpora: this conference included the presentation of new corpora, which constitute an integration and/or an alternative to those already in use, especially since they tend now to be more specialised as regards the varieties or text-types included, or to be more complete, or to include tagging or parsing details, which will certainly contribute to the further refinement of diachronic research. Warner et al presented the parsed OE corpus defined as York-Helsinki

A further area that found favour in this conference is that of diachronic dialectology, both as regards traditional dialects and other varieties. There was a plenary on Extraterritorial Englishes (but with examples mainly from Hiberno-English), delivered at the usual machine-gun speed by Ray Hickey; there were papers announcing the issue of the SED data on CDROM (Klemola), on a new corpus of Tyneside speech (Beal et al), on the description by Gill of Northern dialects (Britton), on American English modals (Myhill), 'reverse' indefinite compounds like everwhen in Appalachian varieties (Nagle), and tag questions in American English

(Tagliamonte).

Particular attention to 'Celtic varieties' and/or to Celtic influence in English emerged in the papers by Filppula, Pitkänen and van der Auwera/Genee - substratal influence was also mentioned in a number of other papers, however, and the impression is that this particular factor in the development of English will no longer be neglected as it has so far, according to van der Auwera and Genee's complaint.

More distant in the past , on East Anglian ME spellings (Black et al), on the border between northern English and Scots in the ME period (Williamson).

As can be seen, the three elements mentioned intertwined: diachronic dialectology, often with the aid of electronic sources, and with a sociolinguistic orientation, also inspired the papers by Jakubovski, Wright, Dance, Conde-Silvestre et al., Nevalainen/Raumolin-Brunberg.

Another trend that is pursued with great interest is that based on text-types and genres. Two of the plenaries, though with different orientations and aims, were in this line: Irma Taavitsainen's on scientific discourse (an attempt at relating different styles in scientific writing to the evolution of different styles of thinking in science over the centuries), an Doug Biber's on the structure of noun phrases in several text types in Modern and Present-Day English (which was much too cluttered with graphs for several of us to get any specific point, I'm afraid). Some panel papers also concentrated on specific text types, besides some of those already mentioned under the dialectology-sociolinguistic heading: Claridge/Wilson's on sermons, Görlach's on early advertisements, Culpepper/Kytö's and Walker's on dialogues, Grund's on alchemical recipes, Pahta's on medical writing, Nurmi's, Sanchez-Roura's, Rutkowska's, Smith's and Nevala's on correspondence. The issue of specific computerised corpora has certainly had a role in the expansion of this kind of study, which is bound to yield very interesting results, provided it is not made too rigid and schematic on the one side, or too fragmented and self-contained on the other.

The processes of lexicalisation and grammaticalisation were also at the core of a number of contributions: the flexible nature of English lexical items demands a less categorical view of class-membership, and a wider recognition of the fact that class shift and function shift are more common

than one may tend to think, and that we should adapt our descriptions and our categories accordingly. In particular, Laurel Brinton's interesting and stimulating plenary focussed our attention on the status of some adverbs that seem to be acquiring adjectival status (e.g. our *late* dwelling, the *then* ministry), which gave the opportunity for some general reflections of lexicalisation processes. These issues were taken up in a number of papers; besides those in the workshop on historical word-formation (Cowie/Dalton-Puffer, Kornexl, Ronneberger-Sibold, Sauer, Kastovsky, Nagle, Chapman), Denison's paper on the gradience in such status shifts and Rissanen's on the grammaticalisation of some subordinators proved very interesting, and several other papers traced the evolution of specific lexical items or expressions.

A few additional short remarks may concern Frans Plank's interesting plenary about wide-ranging typological perspectives on the history of English; the interest that modals and modality never fail to raise (e.g. papers by Krug, Facchinetti, Navalpotro, plus some of the papers already mentioned under other rubrics); Roger Lass's plea for closer attention to the manuscripts and their transmission (often overlooked in more formalist approaches, and endangered by the enthusiastic use of electronic corpora); the predominance of optimality theory in phonology (McCully's plenary, Bermudez-Otero, Gasiorowski, Rydland etc.; note however that phonology did not get much prominence in this particular conference); the presence of an interesting poster session, which was however not given any space for presentation, or indeed much recognition (Cougil, Diaz Vera, Gonzalez-Cruz, Suarez-Gomez, Teresi, Thier).

While all this was taking place, dazzling sunshine filtered through the windows, and charming events were being arranged: an opening reception plus pipers' show at the Colexio de Fonseca, an interesting half-day tour of Santiago, with visits to ancient churches and to the Cathedral (where the conference participants even got a special blessing during mass, just before the amazing and moving 'botafumeiro' ritual took place (an ancient incense-burner is raised and swung over the congregation), a concert in an ornate Baroque church, featuring medieval pilgrim songs accompanied by music played on replicas of medieval instruments, and the conference dinner plus disco in the magnificent Hostal de los Reyes Católicos, an incredibly intri-

cate building which is now a hotel and whose maze of charming courtyards and staircases we had the opportunity to tour over pre-dinner drinks.

At the closing of the conference, everybody gave long rounds of applause to the Organising Committee, including several students who helped a lot during the conference and took their gracious and gently ironic leave at its end. The business meeting uncharacteristically established not only the next appointment, but the next two: Glasgow in 2002 and Vienna in 2004. Both these locations have a lot to offer, and we all look forward to meet again there - but the charm, quaintness, harmony and quality of Santiago will surely be hard to beat.

(Gabriella Mazzon)

** An international Conference on the complex figure of the widely influential Italian humanist Polydore Virgil, who lived in London at Henry VIII's time was held at Urbino University last summer. The Conference organizer has agreed to give a report which was has unfortunately been abridged for reasons of space. However, the full text may be requested writing to the author: r.bacchielli@uniurb.it

POLYDORE VERGIL Conference Report
Preliminary statement.

Polydore Vergil, a many-faceted personality, a cosmopolitan, omnivorous intellectual involved in all the religious, political and cultural conflicts of his age, an authoritative member of the European "res publica litterarum", the founder of modern English historiography, a successful revivalist of the encyclopaedic tradition could but attract the attention of contemporary Renaissance scholars. The conference was a success with the exception of one drawback: three important themes were not dealt with:
1) his *Adagia* and his contention with Erasmus over the claim for primacy;
2) the numerous translations and adaptations of his works, particularly of *De rerum inventoribus*, into English and other European languages;
3) his *Anglica historia* as an indirect source of Shakespeare's chronicle plays and a comparison between the various versions of "Richard III"

that we find in European literature (Polydore Vergil, Thomas More, Shakespeare, Dominic Mancini, the Crowland Chronicle, Francis Bacon, Philippe de Commines, Hall, Holinshed, Jane Austen, etc.)

Unfortunately for either descriptive or historical linguists there's a disappointing note to strike: notwithstanding Virgil's long stay in England (about 35 years), and notwithstanding his pro-English bias that led him to associate the English language with "anglicum imperium" and "anglica justitia" as the highest ideals of Britain at the time, no English writings of his, not even a letter, a quotation, a single sentence has come down to us. Unless new documents come to light, there's little hope for language scholars to glean tasteful matter to whet their appetites with.

The place of the venue.

The Convent of Santa Chiara, built by Duke Frederick on Francesco di Giorgio Martini's project on the east side of Urbino as a retirement for his daughters and widowed court women, from its ample roof garden looks far away on to a landscape dear to the painters of the Montefeltro Court. A unique place for meditation. Its refectory, a magnificent vaulted hall, now nurtures the greedy minds of scholars who solicitously convene there for lectures, debates, seminars and conferences. This is where also the International Conference on Polidoro Virgili was held.

The conference.

After the Mayor's and the Archbishop's salutations Professor Giorgio Cerboni Baiardi, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and a noted humanist scholar, opened works commenting on two significant proverbs by Polydore Vergil, while Professor Rolando Bacchielli in the name of the promoting Institutions pointed out that the conference had been convened because the hagiographic picture of this much praised and much criticised humanist writer (a protagonist of 16th century European culture) handed down to us by tradition was no longer satisfactory and the need was felt for a better grounded reassessment of all his written production in the light of recent Renaissance studies.

The first paper of the morning by MARINELLA BONVINI MAZZANTI

was an introductory study which evoked the picture of the dramatic events that marked the European situation in the 16th century such as the Protestant Reformation and the English break with Rome and had vast ripercussions on the political and cultural set-up of Europe. Polydore Vergil, a Catholic priest who lived a long time in England where he was commissioned to write *Anglica Historia* by which he set up the first instance of modern English historiography, lived through this troubled age with understandable hesitations and personal conflicts and misadventures (he was sent to prison by Cardinal Wolsey). He acted as an intermediary between the Pope, the English Court and the flourishing Duchy of Urbino when international relations were at their lowest and cultural fervour was at its highest. As a follow-up to Mazzanti's historical survey Rev. *FRANCO NEGRONI* traced the history of the Virgili family and the career of Polidoro, supplying new documentary information and correcting data. Polidoro's parents were well-to-do landowners from a neighbouring village. His father was a notary public. His brother Girolamo was a merchant who received various benefices in England and resided in London.

DAVID RUNDLE in his paper provided an overview of the range of humanists who visited England from the second half of the 15th to the end of the 16th centuries.

Polydore Vergil is an example of a humanist who succeeded in employing his literary skills as both a diplomatic tool and a method of self-promotion in the humanist milieu. One thing that we must bear in mind, however, is that Polydore Vergil's career in his long stay in England was marked by a series of drawbacks such as the French invasion of Italy, the Protestant Reformation, the Anglican break from Rome and, last but not least, the new technology of printing.

BENO WEISS enlarged on *De rerum inventoribus*. It is Virgil's most important work as far as European letters are concerned; it had an uncommon impact on the historians, humanists and theologians of 16th, 17th, and 18th century Europe. It marks the transition to exact scholarship and may be seen as a type of encyclopedia. It deals with innumerable subjects and was normally quoted as an established authority in the field of knowledge. The overall rationalistic intent underlying it caused Vergil difficulties with the

church. This treatise helps us to better understand the undercurrents that eventually led to the Anglican break with Rome and then brought about the Reformation.

VITTORIO GABRIELI discussed some aspects of *Anglica historia* on the basis of recent reappraisals. In particular he touched upon an anonymous Italian version of *Anglica historia* contained in a manuscript of the Vatican Library in Rome, the attitude of Polydore Vergil towards the legend of the founding of the Order of the Garter, his reaction to a popular revolt in London ("Evil May Day") on 1 May 1517, the relationships between Polydore Vergil, Thomas More and Cardinal Wolsey.

ROY ROSENSTEIN took into account Polydore Vergil's *Anglica historia* as a source of Shakespeare's chronicle plays. Much has been written about Shakespeare's debt in *Richard III* to Virgil's *Anglica historia* via More, Hall, and Holinshed.

ERIC HAYWOOD dealt with the description of Ireland made by Polydore Vergil as a digression in his *Anglica historia*. Before Polydore Vergil the historians and geographers who had written descriptions of Ireland were few and far between. From the second half of the 16^e century, therefore, Virgil's description became the most widely read source of information about Ireland.

The debates and exchanges of opinions continued in the evening round a delicious dinner served at the Cortegiano Restaurant, with rare first courses, savoury local meat dishes and wine galore.

JANETTE DILLON explored Virgil's position as an Italian humanist at the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII and his attitude towards issues of nation, nationalism and interracial hostility.

RUTH CHAVASSE debated the problem of Polydore Vergil's debt to Marcantonio Sabellico. Vergil claimed that his *De rerum inventoribus* was the first rediscovery and publication of a genre that encapsulated matters of prime intellectual interest, but in 1482/3, twenty years before the publication of *De rerum inventoribus*, Marcantonio Sabellico had published *De rerum et atrium inventoribus*.

A better understanding of the concerns of both Sabellico and Vergil with the classical tradition would help us to assess the humanist mentality not only in its approach to writing history, but in its desire to provide "exempla" and encyclopaedic knowledge with an educational purpose in mind.

ROMANO RUGGERI enlarged upon the role played by Polydore Virgil as a religious reformer and his contribution to the debate on the reformation of the Church, the point being to establish how and to what extent he influenced both the Reformation in general, and Anglicanism in particular.

NICOLA PANICHI inquired into Polydore Vergil's hermetic beliefs as expressed in *De prodigiis*. The dialogue develops round very intriguing themes such as: the diachronic notion of the semiotic nature of prodigies, the tripartite character of divination, the demonologic theory, the relationship between religion and politics, the persecution of witches, portents, dreams, images, prophecies, etc.

OLIVIO GALEAZZI undertook an account of therapeutic exorcisms in Polydore Vergil. He made a close analysis of the part of *De rerum inventoribus* concerning the origin of sorcery and magic.

CATHERINE ATKINSON reported the preliminary results of her investigation into Polydore Vergil's "German connection" that she decided to undertake, because little has been written on the reception of Vergil's works in Germany during and after the Reformation.

The concert.

After dinner the participants flocked to the Teatro Sanzio where Renaissance arias, songs and dances, both Italian and English, were performed with masterly skill on ancient musical instruments. The audience greatly praised the bravura of the ensemble and underlined their performances with enthusiastic applauses. Carmela Nocera's daughter, a young and promising music critic, wrote a vivid report of the event which appeared the day after on the local press and was much appreciated.

Celebrations at Fermignano.

In the afternoon of September 30th the whole group of conference participants and organizers moved to the neighbouring town of Fermignano, a Montefeltro feudal estate where the Virgili family originally came from, to hold further celebration ceremonies. The lively and involving report of Rev.

Franco Negroni, our most authoritative expert in local history, crowned the picture of Polidoro Virgili that had been variously and efficiently delineated during the conference reports and debates. The audience was gladly impressed by this instance of fine scholarship.

The exhibition.
On the morning of September 30 at the Casa Raffaello an exhibition was inaugurated where precious editions of Vergil's works, a copy of his bust and a medal coined by the sculptor Antonio Fontanoni for the occasion, together with a rich gallery of portraits of 16ᵉ century Italian and English humanist scholars and Royal family members were exhibited. The numerous visitors could thus evoke the intellectual atmosphere of Polydore Vergil's frenetic and eventful life.

The unveiling of the bust.
On the morning of October 1ᵉ, with the participation of the Municipal authorities, all the conference speakers and participants and a thick number of citizens, a bust of Polidoro Virgili by the sculptor Antonio Fontanoni was unveiled round Raphael's imposing monument in the open-air bust gallery of celebrated artists and men of letters active at the Montefeltro Court.

(Rolando Bacchielli)

4. Reviews and bibliographical information (S. Horobin, S. Pintzuk)

Despite its long history and frequent codification and description the origins of Standard English remain the subject of much academic controversy. A seminal paper by M.L. Samuels published in 1963 outlining the emergence of a written standard has been adopted unchallenged by most recent historians of English. Samuels' work on the standardisation of English spelling has also been allowed to explain the processes of standardisation of other linguistic levels, such as lexis, morphology and syntax, without any fresh consideration of the evidence. The aim of this volume is to reopen the debate concerning the origins and development of Standard English through a series of theoretical and descriptive accounts. The book itself comprises a collection of papers presented at the International Conference on Standardisation held at the University of Cambridge in 1999, edited with an introduction by Laura Wright. The book is divided into two sections: Part I considers the history of the ideology of standardisation, while the second part presents detailed investigations into the processes of standarisation across a variety of texts.

Chapter 1.
Chapter 1 is an account by Jim Milroy entitled 'Historical description and the ideology of the standard language'. This paper extends Milroy's (1991) consideration of the influence of the 'ideology of standardisation' from popular and prescriptive attitudes to language to the discipline of descriptive linguistics itself. Milroy surveys the concentration of Generative linguistics on Standard English and the focus of Historical lingustics on the origins and development of the standard, at the expense of non-standard and dialectal varieties. He examines the history of English Philology and shows

how important early figures in this field, such as Henry Sweet and H.C. Wyld, were heavily influenced by this ideology. Milroy shows how the study of Middle English dialect variation has been affected by the dismissal of orthographic variation as errors and corruptions by Anglo-Norman scribes with only partial understanding of English. Milroy shows that the uncritical identification of the standard language as the prestige language made by these scholars has continued to influence modern sociolinguistics. Milroy concludes that linguists need to be clearer in their definition of the concept of prestige and argues that the notion of stigma might provide a more suitable framework for such discussions.

Chapter 2.

In 'Mythical strands in the ideology of prescriptivism', Richard Watts identifies a number of different prescriptive myths, such as the language and ethnicity myth, the language and nationality myth and the language and variety myth, and traces their rise through the public education system. His discussion is focused on the eighteenth century and particularly on Sheridan's Course of Lectures on Elocution (1762) and Hugh Jones' An Accidence to the English Tongue (1724). Watts' attempt to trace these myths back through time is less successful and the textual basis for his discussion is unclear. Much of his argument seems based upon John Trevisa's well-known and over-cited comments about Middle English dialect variation.

Chapter 3.

Jonathan Hope's paper, 'Rats, bats, sparrows and dogs: biology, linguistics and the nature of Standard English', critiques the assumption that Standard English has a single ancestor. This paper is a short, yet interesting theoretical discussion of the way in which an evolutionary biological model has been traditionally applied to the study of Standard English. The result of this model has been to condition linguists to look for a mythical single ancestor for Standard English rather than a series of contributing dialects.

Chapter 4.

In chapter 4 Raymond Hickey discusses 'Salience, stigma and standard' in a paper which follows neatly on from the conclusions made by Milroy in chapter 1. Hickey's focus is on Irish English and he examines the many stereotypical depictions of the Irish dialect and contrasts these with genuinely salient features of this dialect.

Chapter 5.

In 'The ideology of the standard and the development of Extraterritorial Englishes' Gabriella Mazzon examines the political, social and ideological contexts surrounding the development and standardisation of extraterritorial varieties of English, and their relationship with the language of the colonial Empire. Mazzon charts the processes by which these varieties, including American, Australian and Canadian English, became institutionalised, as well as the rise of 'new' Englishes which have emerged in countries such as India and Nigeria, where English is used as a second language. She shows how these 'New Englishes' challenge the prejudices and assumptions concerning standard and non-standard languages: attitudes shared by public opinion and professional linguists.

Chapter 6.

Derek Keene's contribution, 'Metropolitan values: migration, mobility and cultural norms, London 1100-1700', is an extremely useful account by a historian of the social and economic background to the rise of Standard English. This discussion assesses the dominance of London within both national and European contexts and reconsiders the evidence for large-scale migration into the capital during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Keene draws on a wide range of indicators for his analysis, including poll tax records and records of debtors, and provides detailed maps showing migration patterns into the capital during this period. Keene's analysis of the mobility of the London population has much to offer linguists in studies both of the evolution of the standard and also of the ways in which this standard was disseminated throughout the country.

Chapter 7.

Part II opens with a study of 'Standardisation and the language of early statutes' by Matti Rissanen. This paper introduces an important body of texts whose importance has been neglected in previous discussions, which have concentrated largely on Chancery documents at the expense of other official texts. Rissanen's analysis focuses on uses of shall/will as future auxiliaries, multiple negation, the conditional subordinator 'provided that' and compound adverbs (eg therewith) in these texts. This study concludes by stressing the importance of legal and statutory texts in the process of standardi-

sation of spelling, syntactic features and grammaticalised lexis.

Chapter 8.

In 'Scientific language and spelling standardisation 1375- 1550' Irma Taavitsainen examines the distribution of spelling variation across the register of scientific writing in the vernacular which emerged during the late Medieval period. Taavitsainen shows that many of these texts show the influence of a competing standardised written variety, known as Central Midlands Standard, rather than that of Chancery Standard which was influential in literary and administrative texts. The identification of this genre of writing with the Central Midlands Standard is extremely interesting as this variety has hitherto been known only in Wycliffite texts. Taavitsainen suggests that scientific texts were resilient to the pressures of the Chancery Standard as they represented a prestigious text type in their own right.

Chapter 9.

In 'Change from above or from below? Mapping the loci of linguistic change in the history of Scottish English' Anneli Meurman-Solin examines the processes of linguistic standardisation in Scotland. The Scottish situation is particularly interesting for the existence of two competing national standards during this period: the Southern English Standard and Scottish Standard English. Meurman-Solin bases her analysis upon the Helsinki Corpus of Older Scots and the ongoing Corpus of Scottish Correspondence, demonstrating further the importance of drawing upon data taken from a variety of text-types. Meurman-Solin's discussion highlights the significance of the social functions of written texts and their audience, and the corresponding degree of national or regional importance of a text for the spread of the standard.

Chapter 10.

Merja Kytö and Suzanne Romaine's paper is entitled 'Adjective comparison and standardisation processes in American and British English from 1620 to the present'. The authors compare competing forms of adjective comparison, specifically the inflectional form (eg faster) and the periphrastic construction (eg more beautiful), within the Corpus of Early American English and the ARCHER Corpus. Their findings show that contrary to the view of Jespersen, the two forms are not in free variation but that their use is heavily conditioned by word-length and text-type. Comparison of usage between British and American usage demonstrates that British English led the change towards the inflectional type of adjective comparison.

Chapter 11.

In 'The Spectator, the politics of social networks, and language standardisation in eighteenth century England' Susan Fitzmaurice argues that eighteenth-century prescriptivists based their model of polite English usage on the influential periodical The Spectator. Fitzmaurice draws upon social network theory in order to demonstrate the prestigious cultural and social milieu within which the periodical was produced, and the respect it was accorded by the English middle-classes. Finally she considers the extent to which the language of The Spectator reflects the linguistic models prescribed by the grammarians. A study of the restrictive relative clause markers in the personal letters of contributors such as Addison, Steele, Pope, Swift and others, reveals that only William Congreve follows the prescriptive models in his preference for wh- relative pronouns over 'that' or zero-marking.

Chapter 12.

In 'A branching path: low vowel lengthening and its friends in the emerging standard' Roger Lass turns from syntax and morphology to consider the development of the spoken standard, known as Received Pronunciation. Lass' discussion focuses on the developments concerning /a:/ demonstrating the comparative lateness of the establishment of a standard phonology, and the many minor contributing factors and retrograde steps which were involved in this process.

In summary this is a book which fills a distinct need in questioning many long-held assumptions concerning the rise of Standard English and providing a range of suggestions for further research. A particular strength of this volume is the concentration on the processes by which morphological and lexicalised phrases entered the Standard language; areas which have been largely neglected in previous histories of Standard English. In their reliance upon electronic resources these essays also demonstrate the importance of historical corpora in research of this kind and highlight the significance of register and text-type in charting the rise of Standard English.

However the major omission of this book is the lack of discussion of the

changes in the London dialect during the late Middle English period and the emergence of standardised varieties of English. In the Introduction Wright asks 'was there really a change in the London dialect in the fourteenth century from Southern to Midland, or could the process better be characterised as the diffusion of features from one dialect to another, due to a long period [sic] of contact between Old Norse and Old English in more Northern parts of the country?' It is rather disappointing that this question is barely addressed by the essays in this volume, leaving a rather unfortunate gap in its treatment of this subject. However this book performs an important service both in raising a range of neglected questions and by providing answers to some of these.

References:
J. Milroy and L. Milroy, Authority in Language. 2nd edn. (London, 1991).
M.L. Samuels, 'Some Applications of Middle English Dialectology', English Studies 44 (1963), 81-94, reprinted in M. Laing (ed.) Middle English Dialectology: essays on some principles and problems. (Aberdeen, 1989), pp. 64-80.

Simon Horobin has research interests in Middle English language and literature, the history of English, manuscript studies and humanities computing.

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**Roberta Facchinetti submits this presentation by Susan Pintzuk of an annotated Old English corpus available at www.-users.york.ac.uk/sp20/corpus.html

The Brooklyn-Geneva-Amsterdam-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English. The Brooklyn-Geneva-Amsterdam-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Old English (henceforth the Brooklyn Corpus) is a selection of texts from the Old English Section of the Helsinki Corpus of English Texts, annotated to facilitate searches on lexical items and syntactic structure. It is intended for the use of students and scholars of the history of the English language. The Brooklyn Corpus contains 106,210 words of Old English text; the samples from the longer texts are 5,000 to 10,000 words in length. The texts represent a range of dates of composition, authors, and genres. The texts in the Brooklyn Corpus are syntactically and morphologically annotated, and each word is glossed. The size of the corpus is approximately 12 megabytes.

The syntactic annotations enable the users to pose and answer questions about word order, constituent order, abstract structure, and syntactic and morphological characteristics of the texts in the corpus. The annotations are general-purpose and as theory-neutral as possible, while still incorporating the insights of modern linguistic theory; they can be used by scholars with widely varying research interests. The syntactic annotations mark constituents, both clausal and non-clausal, by labelled brackets, with some relations marked by empty categories. The structure assigned to a sentence by the labelled bracketing can be quite complex, but it is not a complete syntactic analysis: the function of the bracketing is not to assign a structure to Old English sentences but rather to facilitate searches.

The Brooklyn Corpus is available without fee for educational and research purposes, but it is not in the public domain.

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. A few odd pieces of news (R. Dury, M. Dossena)

New e-mail addresses:
- Gabriella Di Martino: dimartig@unina.it
- Maria Luisa Maggioni: marial.magioni@mi.unicatt.it in additino to: oobma@tin.it

Thesis writing
Those interested inNicola Pantaleo's discussion about how best to guide thesis-writers may be interested in Richard Dury's web-pages intitled "Writing a thesis" at http://www.unibg.it/anglistica/advice.htm
This goes from "Three basic rules of writing" (you'll have to look at the site to find what these are), and includes vital advice to students under headings such as "Techniques and Technicalities", "Structure", "Helping Your Readers" and – very important – "Helping Your Supervisor"!

OED contributions
SLIN members might like to know that contributions to the New OED can be made on line at
http://www.oed.com/public/readers/research.htm
They are interested in (i). new words, especially primary sources as yet unexplored by lexicographers, and (ii) New Senses, Usage, Spelling, or Pronunciation, as well as (iii) New Etymological and Dating Evidence.

Temporary Lecturerships in English Language at Edinburgh University
Post 1 is a two-year appointment for 2001-2003; post 2 is a one-year appointment for the 2001-2002 session only. Both posts will involve teaching across a wide range of English Language subjects, primarily at undergraduate level. The following areas are especially looked for:
(1) History of the English Language, (2) Sociolinguistics of English; (3) Scots. For further particulars and an application pack visit the following web-site: http://www.personnel.ed.ac.uk/furparts/acrel/316101.htm