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SLJN

NEWSLETTER

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All materials to be published (reports, reviews, short articles etc.) should be sent to the above address.

1. SLIN Conferences and Seminars

The customary biennial SLIN seminar which was expected to take place in April this year due to the illness which has lately struck David Hart is postponed to 4-5 June and will be hosted by professor Stefania Nuccorini at Dipartimento di Linguistica, Università Roma 3, via Ostiense 234 (Marconi station of the Rebibbia-Laurentina underground line, 7th stop from Termini railway station). The venue will be Sala riunioni (Meeting Hall), 3rd floor. A provisional timetable is the following:

Friday 4

16,00 Maurizio Gotti will give a talk on "Puntualizzazione sul riordino dei corsi di laurea e sui suoi effetti"

The range of topics which due to the peculiar technical jargon necessarily employed are given in Italian will deal with "Una ricognizione di quanto è avvenuto e sta avvenendo nelle lauree di primo livello e specialistica" In particular the discussion might touch on these major points:

- i) presenza e status della Storia della Lingua Inglese (SLIN) nei vari percorsi;
- ii) modalità didattiche: cambiamenti da Vecchio a Nuovo Ordinamento, esperienze interessanti da esporre (esempi di Good Practice);
- iii) materiali didattici adottati ed elaborati;
- iv) uso delle tecnologie (corpora ecc) nella didattica della SLIN;
- v) lo spazio dato alla SLIN nei percorsi di dottorato, specialmente nell'ottica della formazione dei futuri ricercatori;
- vi) gruppi di ricerca nazionali e internazionali;
- vii) reti di scambi (sia per docenti, che per dottorandi, che per studenti).

18,00 Richard Dury will illustrate the present state of History of English in Italian universities, drawing on the answers given to a questionnaire previously circulated.

Social dinner will take place at **20,00** approximately

Saturday 5

9.30 Maria Luisa Maggioni will introduce a discussion of testing methods, techniques and materials also taking into account internet searches.

11.30 Nicola Pantaleo will conduct the usual workshop on SLIN activities.

All colleagues concerned are required to contact Stefania Nuccorini (nuccorin@uniroma3.it) in reasonable advance to specify participation, book the dinner and receive information, if needed, on accommodation facilities. It should be duly remembered that hotels in Rome are likely to be full up in that period.

2. HEL and other (English) linguistics conferences and seminars

Reminders and updatings

§ **25th Conference of the International Computer Archive of Modern and Medieval English (ICAME 25)** on "Corpus Linguistics: the state of the art twenty-five years on", organized in collaboration with the language Centre of the University of Verona, will be held at the **University of Verona, 19-23 May, 2004**.

The aim for ICAME-25 is to take stock of corpus linguistics after twenty-five years of intense, fruitful activity.

The following scholars have been invited as **plenary speakers**:

- ✓ Stig Johansson
- ✓ Antoinette Renouf
- ✓ Michael Stubbs
- ✓ Jan Svartvik
- ✓ Anne Wichmann

A **discussion panel** has also been planned, chaired by Geoffrey Leech. The title of the panel, suggested by Geoffrey Leech himself, will be: "**I CAME, but where are we GOING?**" Matti Rissanen, John Sinclair, Sylviane Granger, Sebastian Hoffmann, and Ylva Berglund have also accepted to be members of the panel. Please notice that the deadline for final registration and early payment is **1st April**.

Contact information

For all queries concerning the **Scientific aspects of the Conference**(e.g. abstracts, paper presentation, and conference programme), please contact Prof. Roberta Facchinetti at icame25@univr.it. For all **Organizational aspects** concerning registration, fees, accommodation, social events, information for accompanying people, and anything else with reference to your stay in Verona before, during, and after the conference, you are kindly invited to contact Dr. Annachiara Caputo (annachiara.caputo@endes.it).

§§ **Second International Conference on Historical Lexicology and Lexicography**, Villa Feltrinelli, Gargnano del lago (Brescia).

Please take note that the conference will **start on 22 (not 21 as previously indicated) and close on 24 June** next. All those who are interested in coming to the conference are urgently required to contact the organizer Giovanni Iamartino by e-mail.

Some forty paper proposals concerning English, French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Greek and Italian lexicology/lexicography have been submitted so far. The Anglistic lecturers are Charlotte Brewer (Oxford), Julie Coleman (Leicester), John Considine (Edmonton), Marina Dossena (Bergamo), Peter Gilliver (Oxford), R. Carter Hailey (Williamsburg, VA), Werner Huellen (Duisburg-Essen), Gregory James and Bronson So Ming-cheung (Hong Kong), Natascia Leonardi (Macerata), Elisabetta Lonati (Milano), Paul Luna (Reading), Rod McConchie (Helsinki), Linda Mitchell (San Jose, CA), N.E. Osselton (Durham), Gabriele Stein (Heidelberg), Heli Tissari (Helsinki), Paola Tornaghi (Milano), Juan Gabriel Vazquez Gonzalez (Huelva).

The English members of the programme committee Ian Lancashire (Toronto), Bob Lewis (Ann Arbor), Jane Roberts (London) will participate as well. It may be of interest to learn that the President of the anciently-renowned "Accademia della Crusca" professor Sabatini (Rome 3) will join the conference.

§§§ A multidisciplinary conference on **Progress in Colour Studies** will be held in **Glasgow, U.K., from 30th June to 2nd July, 2004**. Look at updated information in the conference site

www.arts.gla.ac.uk/sesll/EngLang/ColourConf/index.htm

§§§§ **13th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics (13ICEHL)** will take place in Vienna, at the English Department, **University of Vienna, on 23 – 28 August, 2004**. The academic programme includes 4 plenary lectures by Merya Kytö (Uppsala Un.) and Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster Un.), Jeremy Smith (Glasgow Un.), Ilse Wischer

(Potsdam Un.) and Laura Wright (Cambridge Un.). As usual a number of 30-minute section papers will also be discussed: to this purpose proposals consisting of 300-word abstracts should be sent to the organizers in advance to allow reviewing and circulation among participants.

The social programme culminates in the customary conference dinner to be held at a winery in the evening of August 27 costing 35-40 euros, and four optional events: a visit to famous museums and places of interest in Vienna, a Wienerwald walk, a bustour to Mayerling and Heiligenkreuz monastery, and a bus excursion to the Roman excavations of Carnuntum.

Accommodation will be provided in nearby hotels or student hostels, a list of which with relative costs may be found and unloaded along with the registration form at the Conference site: www.univie.ac.at/Anglistik/icehl13icehl.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Conference organizers (C. Dalton Puffer, D. Kastovsky, N. Ritt, H. Schendl and C. Weiss) by using fax (+43 1 4277 42499) or e-mail (icehl.anglistik@univie.ac.at) or writing to ICEHL13, c/o Christine Klein, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Wien, Uni-Campus AAKH, Hof 8, Spitalgasse 2, A-1090 Vienna, Austria.

It is recommended that registration along with choice of hotel accommodation should be effected as soon as possible. The Conference fee (130 euros, 50 for companions and 65 for PhD students for early registration before 15 May 2004) is payable through credit card alone.

§§§§§ The **first International Conference on Historical News Discourse (CHINED)** will be held in Florence on **2-3 September, 2004**. The keynote speakers are Professors Maurizio Gotti (Bergamo), Andreas Jucker (Zürich) and Susan Herring (Indiana).

Papers addressing news discourse from the Early Modern English Period (c. 1500-1800) are welcomed. Information regarding topics and submission of abstracts can be found on the website: www.chined.org.

Further information may be obtained by e-mailing Nicholas Brownlees at his home address: n.brownlees@libero.it

§§§§§§ The 2nd **International Conference on “Modality in English”** will take place at the Faculty of Letters, University of Pau (France), located near the Pyrenees, 500 miles off Paris and 60 off the Atlantic, **on 2-4 September, 2004**. In the organizers' intention the Conference “aims to bring together researchers working in the field of modality in English. It will provide a natural forum for scientific exchange both for specialists in the field and for those who are new to the area and wish to be updated on recent developments”, being “a follow up to the International Conference on “Modality in contemporary English” held in Verona on 6-8 September, 2001, which, among other things, led to the publication of the homonymous book edited by our R. Facchinetti, M. Krug and F. Palmer, Mouton de Gruyter, 2003” Six paper sessions and one poster session regarding types of modality, modality and cognition, modality and grammaticalization, modality and discourse. The guest speakers are J. van der Avera, R. Declerck, R. Facchinetti, M. Krug, F. Palmer, C. Rivière, E. Sweetser, D. Ziegler. A workshop held by Pierre Busutil and Michael Parsons on a corpus-based analysis of modality in political discourse with particular reference to prosodic features will complement the Conference. The form for preliminary registration is obtainable from the conference website

www.univ-pau.fr/psd/modality and should be e-mailed back to: pierre.busutil@univ-pau.fr

New entries

§ **Second International Conference on The English Language in the Late Modern Period 1700-1900 (LMEC2), University of Vigo, 25-27 November, 2004**

The University of Vigo, through its Department of English, is organizing the Second International Conference on the English Language in the Late Modern Period 1700-1900 (LMEC2), which will take place in Vigo, 25th-27th November 2004. It is our aim to follow the path already unfolded by our colleagues at the University of Edinburgh in 2001 by presenting and evaluating ongoing research in the syntax, lexis, phonology, sociolinguistics, etc. of the period in question. Since the topic is still very much alive

in the minds of everyone devoted to historical linguistics, we consider it a good idea to summon the LModE fellowship again in Vigo with several aims to pay heed to: a) what is the status of the projects we all presented at the Edinburgh Conference?, b) how many areas of the period are still unexplored?, c) what projects could be presented to tread on those relatively new linguistic territories?, etc. As this constitutes an almost never-ending list of research topics, we set out this Call for Papers by means of which we invite you to submit your proposals – papers and/or workshops – to participate in the Conference. The papers will last twenty minutes with a discussion of around ten minutes, whereas the workshops will cover either 60 or 90 minutes. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words and take up one page only (including references), and may be submitted in hard copy or electronically to the e-mail address below, by 20th April 2004. It is the intention of the Conference organisers to promote the publication of an edited and peer-reviewed volume to include some of the material presented at the Conference. The following guest speakers have already confirmed their attendance: Prof. Laurel Brinton (British Columbia), Prof. Teresa Fanego (Santiago de Compostela), Prof. Charles Jones (Edinburgh), Prof. Bernd Kortmann (Freiburg) and Prof. Merja Kytö (Uppsala).

More information concerning registration and accommodation forms, travel arrangements, social programme, venue, etc., will be sent in due time. The website will also include those contents soon. If you are interested in attending the Conference do not hesitate to contact the organisers at the earliest. Abstracts, queries and comments should be sent to: Second Late Modern English Conference (LMEC2) Department of English Facultade de Filoloxía e Traducción University of Vigo Campus Lagoas-Marcosende E-36200 Vigo (Spain) The organising committee: Jorge L. Bueno-Alonso Dolores González-Álvarez Javier Pérez-Guerra Esperanza Rama-Martínez E-mail: lmec2@uvigo.es Website: <http://webs.uvigo.es/lmec2>

Phone: +34 986812350 / 13958 / 12365 / 13959 Fax: +34 986812380

§§ **The Third Medieval English Studies Symposium (MESS 3)** will be held in Poznan (Poland) at School of English, A. Mickiewicz University, on **27-28 November, 2004**, intending to bring together specialists in the areas of medieval English Linguistics and literature. Three linguistic and two literary sessions are planned as well as three plenary papers. Papers on all areas of research connected with medieval English language or literature are welcomed: 500-word abstracts should be submitted by the end of March preferably by e-mail (mess2004@ifa.amu.edu.pl) in the RFT or Word for Windows format.

The Symposium will be held at the Polonez Hotel in the centre of Poznan. Conference participants will be accommodated there at discount prices. All enquiries concerning the Symposium should be addressed to the MESS organizers by writing to the above e-mail. Snail correspondence may be sent to the organizers, Profs. Jacek Fisiak and Martin Krigier, through Ms Agnieszka Bury, conference secretary, at the following address:
MESS 2004, School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Al Niepodleglosci 4, 61-874 Poznan, POLAND. Tel. +48-61-8293506. Fax: +48-61-8523103

(The form for registration and hotel reservation is enclosed with this *Newsletter*).

3. Conference reports (M. Sturiale)

Massimo Sturiale (University of Ragusa, Sicily) offers here a full report of an international symposium on Late Modern English held at Sheffield University last year.

Colloquium: *Histories of Prescriptivism. Alternative approaches to the study of English 1700-1900*

(University of Sheffield: 3-5 July, 2003)

This colloquium, successfully held in the premises of the University of Sheffield and magnificently hosted by Joan Beal, arose out of a collaboration between Joan Beal, Jane Hodson and Richard Steadman-Jones (University of Sheffield), and Carol Percy (University of Toronto, Canada). The aim of the colloquium was to consider how standardisation and codification of English in the later modern period were both manipulated by authors who were in some way outside the mainstream of 'polite' British society. Previous studies of English grammars in this period emphasised that the role of grammars and dictionaries was an important one in catering for the social aspirations of the bourgeois, maintaining the political status quo and uniting the British nation and Empire under the banner of a uniform standard. The colloquium wished to challenge such a monolithic view of approaches to language study in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, demonstrating that the end result was, in many cases, 'prescriptive'. Furthermore, the colloquium aimed to explore the tension between 'radical' agendas and prescriptivism, and to re-evaluate the prescriptive/descriptive dichotomy.

Papers were invited on any 18th or 19th century authors whose work, or biography, marked them as outside the mainstream in this way, by virtue of their being 'radical' in political attitudes, dissenting in religion, female, geographically distant from London (either within, or outside the British Isles), or in any other way.

The colloquium started on the afternoon of 3rd July with the meeting of the

twelve speakers gathered from different parts of the globe. The two speakers for that day were in due sequence Andrew Linn and Richard Steadman-Jones both of the University of Sheffield.

Andrew Linn's paper on "Johan Storm, his 'good school', and the emergence of modern English language as a university subject" offered an analysis of the work and thought of the nineteenth-century Norwegian professor in English and Romance philology. Serious study of English as a university subject began outside the British Isles in Germany and Scandinavia, as part of the "new philology". Firmly based in the new science of phonetics, the new philology also addressed such issues as language-teaching methodology and non-standard varieties. As pointed out by Linn in his paper, even though Otto Jespersen is probably the best known of this new breed of linguists, the real pioneer was Johan Storm, the first professor of English and Romance philology in Norway who also established in Oslo an internationally renowned power-house of research into the English language. Linn's paper focused on the contribution made by this group of Norwegian linguists to the study of English.

Richard Steadman-Jones gave his talk on "Metropolitan languages in colonial grammars of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries". Moving from the belief that in eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Europe the dominant pattern was for "colonial" languages to be analysed in terms of European ones, Steadman-Jones claimed that it was in fact regular practice of colonial grammatical writing to reverse the direction of the comparison and meditate upon what the "colonial" language can teach the reader about the languages of metropolitan Europe. He offered a number of examples of reversals of this kind and considered their meaning in relation to the cultural politics of the period.

After the debate the meeting broke up and the participants met up again in a nice Mexican-Italian restaurant.

The second session of the colloquium started the following day with two papers read by **Martina Häcker** (University of Konstanz) and **Massimo Sturiale** (University of Catania).

Häcker's paper on "James Adams (1737-1802)", one of the almost 'forgotten phoneticians', showed the innovation brought about by his *The*

Pronunciation of the English Language Vindicated from Imputed Anomaly & Caprice, With an Appendix, on the Dialects of Human Speech in all Countries, and an Analytical Discussion and Vindication of the Dialect of Scotland, first published in 1799 and now also available in a Scholar Press reprint. Hacker argued that Adam's views on English dialects as well as on the origin of language are to some extent informed by the socio-political situation at the end of the eighteenth century, but that the decisive factor which shaped his views on language and dialects was his religious background as an English Jesuit.

The present writer's paper on "Eighteenth-century 'Proper' and 'Correct' English: William Perry's Descriptions of 'True Pronunciation'" offered a description of spoken English standardisation, analysing the pronouncing dictionary compiled by the Scottish scholar William Perry, first published in 1775. Perry's intention to set up a standard based on the concept of 'politeness' is first revealed in the dedicatory letter addressed to Lord Robert Manners. Although Perry shares a few characteristics with two other outstanding lexicographers of the time, Thomas Sheridan and James Buchanan, as he himself maintains in the Preface, he also reveals a certain amount of dissatisfaction with the way "the sounds of words are expressed" in their works. Perry's "more rational method", proposed to better represent the sounds of the English language, showed however a certain flexibility in terms of 'variant' pronunciations, rejected in their turn by the more prescriptive lexicographer John Walker.

After the debate and coffee break the third session started with two other papers read by **Karen Cajka** (University of Connecticut) and Carol Percy (University of Toronto).

Karen Cajka gave her talk on "Dorothea DuBois: Writing Women's Power". Presented as probably not the most grammatical grammarian who, unlike other women grammarians such as Ann Fisher and Ellenor Fenn, did not directly espouse an educational philosophy or agenda, DuBois ended up being the best-known or even most notorious. Cajka mainly focussed her attention on DuBois's *The Lady's Polite Secretary, or New Female Letter Writer* (1771-72) which also contains her grammar. Different examples were offered and clearly analysed. The paper pointed out that DuBois bril-

liantly managed to fashion a work for the wildest possible audience, capitalising on what some would have argued were the basest interests of the novel-reading public, as well as on the great demand for books devoted to self-improvement. Although not her declared intention, in this way DuBois was able to inculcate many women into her educational philosophy of empowerment through both grammatical and stylistic mastery of language and writing.

More on women's writing and on education was added by **Carol Percy's** "Disciplining Mothers? Ellenor Fenn" which analysed a few examples taken from Fenn's *A Spelling Book* and *The Art Teaching in Sport*. Both books written in age-appropriate language and in dialogue form represented the instruction of male and female children in a domestic setting by a female figure. Fenn's method not only acknowledged but exploited the temporal and spatial constraints of the so-called "private" sphere in which women's agency extended to running the household and privately educating children. After lunch we were all ready for the fourth session to start, which included papers read by Maria Rodriguez-Gil (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria) and Jane Hodson (University of Sheffield).

Rodriguez-Gil's paper "Deconstructing female conventions: Ann Fisher" brought the session on women grammarians and on women's education in the eighteenth century to an end. Pointing out both Fisher's social and cultural backgrounds and emphasising the impact of her grammar, Rodriguez-Gil offered a clear picture of this 'unconventional', popular grammarian, whose work proved to be a very successful one throughout the century. What makes Fisher's *New Grammar* an outstanding work is that it was written in a provincial city in the north, Newcastle, and not in London, the centre of book culture by then. Moreover, the author did not write for a learned audience, but for people who had little or no Latin, as well as for young ladies. She also combined both the prescriptive and descriptive approaches to language analysis, thus opposing the distinction that has traditionally been drawn between descriptive and prescriptive grammar as two mutually exclusive approaches to language analysis. All these aspects, including also her methodological innovations in the teaching of grammar, made Fisher's work most welcome for contemporary readers and it reached other markets,

such as London and Leeds.

Jane Hodson read a paper on "Dr Priestley and the Dangers of Selectivity", in which she interestingly explored the problem of selectivity, both as applied by eighteenth century grammarians to the literary and linguistic traditions they inherited, and as applied to eighteenth-century grammarians by modern academics. Quoting various examples from Joseph Priestley, Jane Hodson argued that he was unusually sensitive to the difficulties that eighteenth-century writers often entangled themselves in when citing evidence from a variety of sources, although he himself was by no means immune to those difficulties.

The fifth and final session for that day ended with the papers read by our hostess Joan Beal and Linda Mitchell (San José State University, CA).

Joan Beal's paper on "Thomas Spence's *Grand Repository of the English Language* (1775)" explored the contradictions involved in the production of a normative text by so radical a thinker as Spence. His lifelong devotion to propagating his plan for the reform of society was to earn him expulsion from the Newcastle Philosophical Society and imprisonment. Yet Spence's other 'plan', for the reform of English spelling, was equally important in his eyes. He wrote his *Grand Repository* not for gentlemen, but for 'the laborious part of the people', in order to make reading, and therefore enlightenment, accessible to them.

Linda Mitchell gave her speech on "Frederick Barlow and Charles Marriott: Radical lexicographers in eighteenth-century England". Analysing both Barlow's *The Complete English Dictionary* (1772) and Marriott's *The New Royal English Dictionary* (1780), Mitchell pointed out that it was common practice among lexicographers of the time to use their dictionaries to voice radical opinions on current issues. Some entries were commentaries on controversial subjects or on the history of kings and queens and their misuse of power. Both Barlow and Merriott used their dictionaries as a platform where they could argue opinions on such topics as religious sects, political groups and even tourism.

The very long but interesting day ended with the conference dinner held in a nice Italian restaurant where comments and ideas for further meetings were discussed.

"Undeceiving expressions": the seventeenth-century plain style controversy reconsidered

Patrick Leech

The pronouns of address in Early Modern English: the generalization of you and the abandonment of thou

Richard Dury

The standardisation of a new type of verb form in Modern English

Rolando Bacchielli

The power of standard English: William Cobbett's A Grammar of the English Language 1818

Giuliana Russo

Early lexicographical indices of English standardisation

Gabriele Stein

Assimilatory phonological processes and standardisation in seventeenth-century scholarship

Antonio Bertacca

"More is too much when fewer will serve": James Howell as a spelling reformer in 17th-century England

Giovanni Iamartino & Alessandra Vicentini

"The Reformation of Science amounts to little more than the Reformation of Language": eighteenth-century encyclopaedias and the standardising of English

Elisabetta Lonati

The role of homophones in the standardisation of English orthography. Recent trends.

Susan Kermas

The gradation of deontic modality: markers of pragmatically and dialectically constrained necessity in late medieval religious texts

Nicola Pantaleo

*On the border: patterns of converging usage of *suld* and *should* in Older Scots, Late Middle English and Early Modern English*

Marina Dossena

The codification of shall and will as second person future auxiliaries in Early Modern English grammars

Maurizio Gotti

Early Modern standardisation of English marginal modality. Ought to in the Helsinki Corpus and Anne Cooke's Sermons (1548 and 1551?)

Massimo Sturiale

The standardisation of the non-standard lexicon Polari

Laura Pinnavaia

From Federal English to English-Only legislation: attitudes towards standardisation and bilingualism in the United States

Luisanna Fodde

Standardising new standards: the codification of "New Englishes" in the histories of the English language (1901-1990)

Maria Luisa Maggioni

2.

Deumert, Ana & Vandebussche, Wim (eds.). 2003. *Germanic Standardizations. Past to Present*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

This volume presents a comparative, socio-historical study of the Germanic standard languages (Afrikaans, Danish, Dutch, English, Faroese, Frisian, German, Icelandic, Low German, Luxemburgish, Norwegian, Scots, Swedish, Yiddish as well as the Caribbean and Pacific Creole languages). Each of the 16 original chapters systematically discusses central aspects of the standardization process, including dialect selection, codification, elaboration and diffusion of the standard norm across the speech community, as well as incipient processes of de-standardization and re-standardization. The strongly comparative orientation of the contributions allow for the identification of broad similarities as well as intriguing differences across a wide range of historically and socially diverse language histories. Two chapters by the editors provide an overview of the theoretical background

nings as a minor Germanic dialect to its present role as an established global language.

The author, admittedly an amateur, does not linger on technicalities (see for example his treatment of the results of the Great Vowel Shift, whose synthesis is worth citing: "Spelling fixed: spoken in turbulence: result – out of sync." p. 101), and obtains a final product which happens to be both informative and highly readable. Allowing for some oddities in the use of punctuation and for Bragg's idiosyncratic use of scholarly authority, *The Adventure of English* makes interesting reading and could be recommended as an enjoyable introduction to a more systematic study.

An afterthought

The readers of the SLIN Newsletter might be interested in reading (and maybe commenting upon) the following quotation from John Mullan's review of Bragg's book (*The Guardian*, Saturday November 15, 2003):

[Native speakers] are all amateur experts on language change, yet the history of the English language has long been an eccentric academic specialism. Separated in universities from the study of literature, it is sealed off even from those studying the writing of the past. For the general reader, it is – beyond a few platitudes about Chaucer's vernacular or Shakespeare's large vocabulary – terra incognita. This reader certainly deserves a good overview of the history of English [...].

M.L. Maggioni

§§§ News from Scots Dictionaries

The Dictionary of the Scots Language can now be accessed free of charge at www.dsl.ac.uk. DSL contains a linked version of the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue and the Scottish National Dictionary, thus making these major Scots dictionaries as easy to use as the online OED. Scottish Language Dictionaries, the central body for Scots lexicography, are producing a supplement to update the dictionary, which currently ends at 1976.

If you are interested in supporting this work, there is a very easy way to do

this: if you are buying books from Amazon, then order them through the link on the SLD website (www.sldl.org.uk). SLD will get a small sum of money for every book purchased even if it is not one of their books or indeed has nothing to do with Scots. Jean G. Anderson>STELLA, 6 University Gdns., Glasgow G12 8QH. +44 (0)141 330 4980 <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/SESLI/STELLA> (through M. Dossena).

5. Academic vacancy at Edinburgh University

For those of us who are fed up with domestic academic routine and are not afraid of frozen northern winters the following avis from a prestigious British University might be of interest:

“The School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences (PPLS) of the University of Edinburgh invites applications for distinguished Anglists for the Chair of Historical and Modern English: Applicants should have an internationally outstanding record of English language research in any one or more of the subject’s major sub-disciplines. The successful applicant will contribute fully to the Department’s teaching at both the undergraduate and the postgraduate level, including postgraduate supervision

The appointment is available from 1 September 2004 or as soon as possible thereafter.

For those who wish to apply on-line, please follow the application procedure at: www.jobs.ed.ac.uk. Letters of application, including *curriculum vitae* in 12 copies, and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Secretary to the Special Committee for the Chair of Historical and Modern English, Miss Julia Ferguson, University of Edinburgh, School of Divinity, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh EH1 2LX, Scotland, UK (Tel. 0131.650.8938) by the closing date of 15 April, 2004”