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NEWSLETTER

no. 40 November 2005

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Edited by Prof. Emeritus Nicola Pantaleo. Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures. University of Bari.

Via Martiri d'Avola, 1/A - 70124 BARI tel. 080.5616520 fax 080.5717459

e-mail: npantaleo@libero.it

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

## 1. SLIN Conferences and Seminars

The 12<sup>th</sup> SLIN National Conference headed *The language(s) of religion: a diachronic approach*, organized by Maria Luisa Maggioni and Margherita Ulrych, took regularly place at Catholic University, Milan, on 9 to 11 June last. A lively portrait chronicle of it is found under 3. below in Richard Dury's usual masterly treatment. Contributors are requested to send (by e-mail) for publication the completed papers in the *Textus* stylesheet to Maria Luisa Maggioni's office or home address: [marialuisa.maggioni@unicatt.it](mailto:marialuisa.maggioni@unicatt.it) or [oobma@tin.it](mailto:oobma@tin.it). The deadline is 30 November, 2005.

The workshop which, as usual, ended the Conference fixed the **next SLIN National Conference** in the **late spring (may/june) of 2007** at the University of Lecce and will be organized by a local colleague. Susan Kermas. The general topic is "Variation in English in a diachronic perspective". The **biennial Seminar** centred on the teaching of and research in History of English will be held at **Ragusa University** on **22 April** following the Second International Colloquium on *Histories of prescriptivism* taking place there (see below).

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

### *Reminders and updatings*

§ **MESS4** (4<sup>th</sup> Mediaeval English Studies Symposium), organized by The School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, will be held in Poznan from 27 to 28 November, 2005. Both linguistic and literary sessions are planned as well as three plenary papers.

Participants without papers are also welcome. The Symposium will be held at the Polonez Hotel in the centre of Poznan. Conference participants will also be accommodated there at discount prices.

## SECOND CIRCULAR and REGISTRATION FORM

Invited Keynote speakers

*Markku Filppula (Joensuu)*  
*Andreas Jucker (Zurich)*  
*Margaret Laing (Edinburgh)*  
*Ans van Kemenade (Nijmegen)*

### Submissions (reminder!)

The deadline for submissions is **30<sup>th</sup> November 2005**. Please send your abstract (ca. 300 words excluding references) to <[14icehl@unibg.it](mailto:14icehl@unibg.it)> as an RTF attachment; if your abstract requires special fonts, please send it as a PDF file. Acceptance will be notified by mid-January 2006.

Submissions for workshops and panels should indicate the list of potential participants and the number of envisaged contributions.

As a selection of accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings, finalized versions of papers presented at the Conference will be expected to arrive by **15<sup>th</sup> October 2006**.

### Equipment

All conference rooms are equipped with OHP, microphone and slide or video projector: at the foot of your abstract, please indicate what equipment is going to be required for your presentation.

Please ensure you have a sufficient number of handouts for your paper, as last-minute photocopying is likely to be quite expensive.

### Registration

*The fee includes the conference pack, a conference opening reception and coffee/tea breaks.*

Registration type	Starts	Ends	Ordinary rate	Rate for PhD students (provide proof)
Early	01.01.2006	28.02.2006	150 euros	100 euros
Standard	01.03.2006	15.05.2006	180 euros	140 euros
Late	16.05.2006	30.06.2006	220 euros	200 euros

### Please note:

- No registration can be processed before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006, after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 or indeed on-site.
- No partial registration is envisaged, so it will not be possible to register for just one or two days.
- No registration can be processed unless a copy of the bank transfer is attached or credit card payment is authorized in the registration form: please be as accurate as possible, especially when indicating credit card number and expiry date.
- All bank charges are to be borne by the participant.

### Cancellation policy

All cancellations should be notified in writing not later than 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006. In any case, a cancellation fee of 30 euros will be charged. Reimbursements will be by bank transfer after the Conference closure.

### Method of payment:

- By bank transfer to Università degli Studi di Bergamo c/o BPU - Banca Popolare di Bergamo, Piazza Vittorio Veneto – 24100 Bergamo (I) account no. 21048; ABI: 05428; CAB: 11101; CIN: L; BIC: BEPOIT22020  
IBAN: IT43L0542811101000000021048  
Please remember to indicate **ICEHL 14** as the reason for your bank transfer.
- By credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS)

We regret we cannot accept any other form of payment, nor any currency other than euros.

### Travel information (reminder!)

Bergamo can be reached by plane from many European cities; alternatively, participants may fly to Milan and take a train or a bus to Bergamo – more detailed information is available in the Conference website, [www.unibg.it/anglistica/stm/14icehl-home.html](http://www.unibg.it/anglistica/stm/14icehl-home.html).

### Accommodation and meals (reminder and details)

Participants are invited to make their own accommodation arrangements. Both in the Lower Town and in the Upper Town various hotels are available, from relatively inexpensive to luxury: below (Appendix A) you will find a list of possible contacts, if you wish to start investigating options. Detailed information is going to be made available in the Conference website, especially as the rates for 2006 won't be advertised till around the New Year. Early booking is highly recommended, as Bergamo is a popular tourist destination throughout the year. As for meals, many restaurants and bars are located in the neighbourhood of the Conference venue. At lunchtime the University canteen will also be open to conference delegates.

### Social programme

The social programme includes a conference opening reception, a conference dinner and various mid- and post-conference tours and excursions: see Appendix B for details (more information will be given in the Conference website). Except for the opening reception, all social events will need to be booked and paid for in advance: please refer to the registration form. Accompanying persons need not register for the Conference, but they are welcome to attend the opening reception and register for any other social event.

**How to contact us:** please note **\*\*updated tel./fax numbers\*\***!

- By email: [14icehl@unibg.it](mailto:14icehl@unibg.it)
- By post: 14 ICEHL (Attn. Prof. Marina Dossena) – Università di Bergamo, Facoltà di Lingue e Letterature Straniere – Piazza Rosate 2 – 24129 Bergamo (Italy)
- By telephone: +39.035.2052.747
- By fax: +39.035.2052.789

### Summary of important dates

Submission of abstracts	Not later than 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2005
Proposals for panels and workshops	Not later than 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2005
Notification of acceptance	mid-January 2006
Early registration	Not later than 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2006
Standard registration	Not later than 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2006
Late registration	Not later than 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2006

Conference website: [www.unibg.it/anglistica/slin/14icehl-home.htm](http://www.unibg.it/anglistica/slin/14icehl-home.htm)

### Appendix A - Accommodation

Early booking is highly recommended, as Bergamo is a popular tourist destination throughout the year.

Below is a list of hotels offering special rates for conference participants: when booking, please remember to mention "14 ICEHL Conference – Università di Bergamo, August 2006".

In town, bed & breakfast accommodation is also possible – some suggestions are given below, but see also [www.bed-and-breakfast.it](http://www.bed-and-breakfast.it) (click the Region, 'Lombardy', and then the city, 'Bergamo').

Budget accommodation is available at the local Youth Hostel ([www.ostel-lodibergamo.it/hostel.html](http://www.ostel-lodibergamo.it/hostel.html)).

Further details about accommodation are online at [www.apr.bergamo.it/](http://www.apr.bergamo.it/)

### Hotels

Location	Category	Name and contact details
Upper Town	**	<b>Hotel Agnello d'Oro</b> , Via Gombito 22 Tel. +39.035.249.883 / Fax. +39.035.235612
Upper Town	**	<b>Albergo San Vigilio</b> , <a href="http://www.sanvigilio.it/">www.sanvigilio.it/</a>
City centre	****	<b>Hotel Cappello d'Oro</b> , <a href="http://www.bwhotelcappellodoro-bg.it">www.bwhotelcappellodoro-bg.it</a>
City centre	****	<b>Hotel Excelsior S. Marco</b> , <a href="http://www.hotelsanmarco.com">www.hotelsanmarco.com</a>
City centre	****	<b>Jolly Hotel</b> , <a href="http://www.jollyhotels.it">www.jollyhotels.it</a>
City centre	****	<b>Mercure Bergamo</b> , <a href="http://www.mercure.com/mercure/fichehotel/gb/mer/3653/fiche_hotel.shtml">www.mercure.com/mercure/fichehotel/gb/mer/3653/fiche_hotel.shtml</a>
City centre	****	<b>Hotel Arli</b> , <a href="http://www.arli.net">www.arli.net</a>
City centre	***	<b>Hotel Piemontese</b> , <a href="http://www.hotelpiemontese.com/">www.hotelpiemontese.com/</a>

### Bed & Breakfast Accommodation

Upper Town	<b>La Castellana</b> , <a href="http://www.lacastellanabb.com/">www.lacastellanabb.com/</a>
Upper Town	<b>La Torretta</b> , <a href="http://www.latorrettabergamoalta.com/">www.latorrettabergamoalta.com/</a>
Upper Town	<b>Villa Luna</b> , <a href="http://www.bbvillaluna.it">www.bbvillaluna.it</a>
Lower Town	<b>Accademia</b> , <a href="http://www.bedbreakfastaccademia.it/">www.bedbreakfastaccademia.it/</a>
Lower Town	<b>L'Angolo del Poeta</b> , <a href="http://www.angolodelpoeta.com">www.angolodelpoeta.com</a>
Lower Town	<b>Ca' Rossa</b> , <a href="http://www.beboarossa.com">www.beboarossa.com</a>
Lower Town	<b>Ciccio</b> , <a href="http://www.ciccioobb.com/">www.ciccioobb.com/</a>

## Appendix B - Social programme

This is preliminary information to guide your choices.

Further details on the schedule of each event will be provided in the Conference Pack.

Event no.	Date	Description	Cost in euros	Min. no. of participants	Notes
1	Mon. 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. (evening)	Conference opening reception	Free	—	
2	Tue. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug. (evening)	<i>Mystery Tour of the Upper Town of Bergamo</i> Discover secret, hidden places of the old city. Be ready to meet scary, mysterious creatures in a fascinating atmosphere. Participants will be provided with torques...	32	25	
3	Wed. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug. (morning)	2-hour walking tour of the Upper Town of Bergamo (with English-speaking guide)	10	20	
4	Wed. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug. (morning)	2-hour walk in the Bergamo hills and light lunch at the end; the afternoon is free, so that participants can then walk (or take a bus) back into town and visit one of the many museums (in the Lower Town: Museo Bernareggi and Accademia Carrara; in the Upper Town: Museo Archeologico, Museo Donizettiano, and Museo Storico) or the Botanic Gardens.	Free (but pay individually for lunch and bus back into town)	—	Can be combined with event no. 5
5	Wed. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug. (evening)	<i>Dinner in a Franciacorta winery</i> : Franciacorta (<LT. cortis francois), just outside the province of Bergamo, comprises several villages renowned for their red and white wines ( <a href="http://www.stradecolfranciacorta.it/">www.stradecolfranciacorta.it/</a> )	50	30	Can be combined with events no. 3 or 4
6	Wed. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug. (all day)	Excursion to Milan ( <a href="http://www.milanoinfo.com">www.milanoinfo.com</a> ) walking tour with English-speaking guide in the morning, then free time for lunch and shopping or individual visits	35	30	
7	Wed. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug. (all day)	Excursion to Mantua, one of the most important Renaissance towns in Northern Italy ( <a href="http://www.comune.mantova.it/cultura_turismo/it/eng/">www.comune.mantova.it/cultura_turismo/it/eng/</a> ) Morning: guided tour of the city. After lunch at a city centre restaurant, there will be a boat excursion along the river and the Mantua lakes ( <a href="http://www.flumemincio.it">www.flumemincio.it</a> ).	70	30	
8	Fri. 24 <sup>th</sup> Aug. (evening)	<i>Conference Dinner</i> This will take place at an 18 <sup>th</sup> -century mansion with park ( <a href="http://www.villaggioand@tiscali.it">www.villaggioand@tiscali.it</a> ). Although its seating capacity is quite high, we do recommend early booking in order to avoid disappointment. After dinner it will be possible to dance.	65	—	
9	Sat. 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug. (all day)	Excursion to Pavia: Morning: visit of a Renaissance Carthusian monastery (Carthusia <a href="http://www.comune.pv.it/certosa/pavia/roma.htm">www.comune.pv.it/certosa/pavia/roma.htm</a> ). Free time for lunch. Afternoon: guided tour of Pavia, capital of the ancient Germanic Lombard Kingdom, rich in Romanesque churches and treasures of historical and archaeological interest: St Augustine's tomb is just one of these ( <a href="http://www.comune.pv.it/certosa/pavia/altri.htm">www.comune.pv.it/certosa/pavia/altri.htm</a> ).	40	30	

## New entries

§ DELS (Directions in English language Studies), Manchester University, 6-8 April 2006.

This is the First Circular for DELS offering

- (1) brief details of the conference
- (2) our new website address for fuller information
- (3) invitation to minimise future annoyance by getting your email details in / out / right, as appropriate.

### (1) BRIEF DETAILS

Directions in English Language Studies will be held at The University of Manchester from Thursday 6 April to Saturday 8 April 2006. It coincides with the 10th birthday of the journal English Language and Linguistics and the publication of a new History of the English Language.

Invited speakers are Joan Bresnan, Christian Mair, John McWhorter, Donka Minkova, Terttu Nevalainen, Geoffrey K. Pullum

We encourage submission of papers on current and, especially, future directions in any aspect of English Language research, synchronic or diachronic. The submission deadline is 31 October 2005; full details of the submission procedure are on our website. We look forward to an exciting programme and to meeting both old and new friends here in Manchester.

### (2) WEBSITE AND CONTACT

See up-to-date conference information and full abstract submission instructions at our new web page

<http://www.lle.manchester.ac.uk/SubjectAreas/Linguistics/EnglishLanguage/NewsandEvents/DELS/> [this long URL should be reconstructed as an unbroken string if email breaks it in two] You can mail us at [dels@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dels@manchester.ac.uk).

(3) FUTURE MAILINGS - HELP US GET IT RIGHT Please tell us your preferred email address, especially if you got this email at more than one address or via an old address.

Please tell us whether you'd like to be sent the Second Circular (around September), with information on venue, costs, registration, etc. Getting the next circular involves no commitment on your part, but we want to cut down on unwanted emails. If you wish, simply hit Reply and tell us (gently!) what to do with our conference mailing list. Thank you.

David Denison, on behalf of the DELS organising committee

Directions in English Language Studies (6-8 April 2006)

Linguistics and English Language

The University of Manchester | Manchester M13 9PL | U.K. [dels@manches-](mailto:dels@manches-)

terrac.uk (email) <http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/SubjectAreas/LinguisticsEnglishLanguage/NewsandEvents/DELS/>

§§ **Second International Colloquium on Perspectives on Prescriptivism, University of Catania, Ragusa, 20-22 April, 2006**  
**Call for papers**

Three years ago the University of Sheffield hosted *The First International Colloquium on Histories of Prescriptivism: Alternative approaches to the study of English 1700-1900* (July 2003) organised by Joan Beal. At that time, papers were invited on any 18th or 19th-century author whose work, or biography, marked them as outside the mainstream in this way, by virtue of 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. At the end of the three-day session it was decided that the Sicilian, baroque town of Ragusa would be a good place to host the second meeting on eighteenth century prescriptivism.

This time the organisers wish to widen the different perspectives from which to look at linguistic prescriptivism. To what extent is the idea and/or concept of prescriptivism to be considered as a typical product of the eighteenth century? What is the attitude of twenty-first century scholars and language guardians? How is the ELT world and industry reacting to the globalisation of the English language? What are the norms to follow? To what extent were books more prescriptive – rather than descriptive – in Lowth's era? These are the questions we would like to be answered. For this reason papers on the following topics are more than welcome:

- Grammars and grammarians
- Lexicography and lexicographers
- Phonology and phoneticians
- Old and new language guardians

Abstracts (maximum 400 words) should be submitted in c/o to [rsturial@unict.it](mailto:rsturial@unict.it) and [j.c.beal@shef.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.beal@shef.ac.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006. It is expected that a selection of papers will be published.

Please consult the Colloquium website:

<http://www.flingue.unict.it/perspectivesonprescriptivism>

§§§ **PLM2006, 20-23 April 2006, Poznan, Poland**

Website and e-mail: <http://elex.amu.edu.pl/ifa/plm/plm@ifa.amu.edu.pl>

**Call for Papers (draft)**

We are happy to announce that the 37th Poznan Linguistic Meeting will take place on 20-23 April 2006 in Poznan, Poland. The Meeting will be organised by the School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, in association with the Poznan College of Modern Languages. The leitmotif of this edition is going to be "Reaching Far: Distant Countries, Distant Disciplines".

So far, the following sessions have been proposed:

- \* Southern Hemisphere Englishes [see below for details];
- \* Language and Medicine [more information available from the www site of the Center for Speech and Language Processing Poznań at <http://elex.amu.edu.pl/ifa/eslp/>];
- \* In search of the logic of communication;
- \* History of English dialects;
- \* Linguistic typology [see below for details];
- \* Text technology [see below for details].

Papers for these sessions are warmly invited; however, we also strongly encourage all colleagues interested in organising their own sessions/workshops to contact us with ideas and proposals. Each paper will be given 30 minutes, including 5-10 minutes for discussion. Poster presentations are also an option.

The language of the conference is English.

The submitted papers will be reviewed by our International Advisory Board.

Submission deadline: 15 January 2005

Notification of acceptance: 15 February 2006

All relevant information regarding the abstract submission procedure, International Advisory Board, venue, fees, travel, accommodation etc. is available from our www site at <http://elex.amu.edu.pl/ifa/plm/>

The organizing Committee:

Katarzyna Dziubalska-Kolaczyk

Jarosław Weckwerth

Grzegorz Michalski

Zofia Malisz

Contact details:

PLM2006 Organising Committee

School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University

Collegium Novum

al. Niepodległości 4

61-874 Poznan, Poland

tel: (+48 61) 829 3506, fax: (+48 61) 852 3103

### 1. Distant Countries: Southern Hemisphere Englishes

The motivation for this session has come from at least three sources. Firstly, as a general linguistics conference organised by a School of English functioning in an L2 setting, PLM has recently discussed varieties of English from an EFL/ESL perspective on a number of occasions. The "Focus on Accents" session at PLM2003, and the joint PLM2004/PASE panel "The model of English pronunciation for foreign learners: Three dictionaries, one model?" examined the issue of selecting a model of English pronunciation to be used in EFL/ESL teaching. Leading experts in the field, including Peter Roach, Peter Trudgill, John Wells and Clive Upton, participated in the events. However, the two sessions focussed almost entirely on RP, General American, and Jenkins' (2000) *Lingua Franca Core* as possible options. "Antipodean" Englishes have been largely disregarded; however, it is evident that in recent decades Australian English has grown as a regional standard in Oceania and South Asia. Secondly, southern hemisphere Englishes, and New Zealand English in particular, have spawned considerable research interest in recent years, especially in the field of historical dialectology and sociolinguistics (e.g. Blair and Collins 2001; Gordon et al. 2004; Trudgill 2004). The findings from this research are significant for both English dialectologists and sociolinguists in general. Finally, there has been increasing focus on the complex relations between English and the local indigenous languages. This area has seen much discussion especially in the new political reality of South Africa, where the status of English seems to have been rapidly changing.

For all these reasons, the PLM2006 Organising Committee have decided to devote a special session to Southern Hemisphere Englishes during the forthcoming Poznan Linguistic Meeting.

We invite papers on topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- \* The current state of Australian, New Zealand and South African English, including sociolinguistic variability, and the role of Australian English as a growing regional standard;
- \* The history of Australian, New Zealand and South African English, including relations with other varieties of English;
- \* All aspects of Black South African English;
- \* The interactions of indigenous languages with English in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Each paper will be given 30 minutes, including 5-10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines available from the Meeting's [www](http://www.plm2006.org) page, and submitted by e-mail to Jaroslaw Weckwerth at [wjarek@ifl.amu.edu.pl](mailto:wjarek@ifl.amu.edu.pl).

2. Linguistic Typology We are pleased to announce that the programme of the

PLM 2006 will include a session on linguistic typology. Contributions taking an empirical approach and matching one or more of the following descriptions are cordially invited:

- \* Broad typological investigations showing the principled ways of cross-linguistic variation;
- \* Small-scale comparisons of "distant", i.e. genetically and geographically unrelated languages;
- \* Detailed descriptions of particular phenomena in individual languages from a typological point of view. Conference presentations follow the usual format of twenty minutes for the presentation itself and ten minutes for ensuing discussion. The language of the conference is English.

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be submitted by e-mail to [slodowicz@linguistik.uni-kiel.de](mailto:slodowicz@linguistik.uni-kiel.de).

Deadline for submission: 15 January, 2006. Notification of acceptance: 2 February, 2006.

Session organisers:

Nicole Nau (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan) Szymon Slodowicz (Christian Albrecht University, Kiel)

3. Text technology and targeting linguistic resources with modern methods The Text Technology workshop will target the creation, maintenance, access and automatic analysis of all kinds of linguistic resources with the means of modern methods related to information modelling and markup languages. By language resources we understand all sorts of material used and created by linguists such as corpora (both spoken and written language), treebanks, lexicons/dictionaries and grammars, but also software architectures and tools for processing these resources.

As the creation of this material is time consuming, error prone and hence expensive, the need exists to bundle activities by exchanging data, using it over a long period of time, and to gain as much help by software systems in the process of creation and maintenance of these resource as possible.

Additionally, due to the long life span of language resources, a special requirement is that they are also accessible over time (and new computer platforms) so that generic application programming interfaces are needed to make them available to a widespread community of researchers.

Therefore, the workshop is dedicated to the non-exclusive study of the following areas:

- \* information modelling of linguistic resources;
- \* use of XML and other text technological means for language resources;
- \* new developments in markup languages;

- \* querying linguistic information from marked up resources;
- \* archiving of language resources;
- \* documenting language resources;
- \* generic statistical analyses of language resources.

These topics are focussing on a linguistic and computational linguistic audience of people applying the technology in every day research. Hence, contributions should be relevant for at least one of these target groups. All submissions and questions should be addressed to the workshop organisers, Alexander Mehler and Thorsten Trippel (University of Bielefeld) at [alexander.mehler@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:alexander.mehler@uni-bielefeld.de) or [thorsten.trippel@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:thorsten.trippel@uni-bielefeld.de), respectively.

§§§§ A Conference on **Glossaries, Dictionaries, and Corpora: Lexicology and Lexicography of European Languages** is announced for **25-27 May, 2006**, based in Gargnano del Garda (BS) at the Villa Feltrinelli, the University of Milan conference centre. The conference is part of a research programme funded by the Italian Ministry for Education (COFIN 2004) and coordinated by Professor Giovanni Iamartino (Milan). Though it involves five different languages and a variety of approaches – either diachronic or synchronic, descriptive or theoretical – English historical lexicology and lexicography will be a notable feature in the conference programme. For further information please contact Dr Elisabetta Lonati at [elisabetta.lonati@unimi.it](mailto:elisabetta.lonati@unimi.it).

### 3. Conference reports (R. Dury, G. Del Lungo, N. Brownlee)

#### § The 12<sup>th</sup> SLIN Conference, Milan, 9-11 June 2005: 'The Languages of religion: a Diachronic Approach'

##### Thursday

The twelfth SLIN Conference took place in the Catholic University of Milan, situated in that fascinating part of Milan between Corso Magenta and Corso Italia, the south-west quarter of the circular centre of the city bound by the 'cerchia dei navigli'. The fascination here is the historical jumble—you can never be sure what period of Milanese history is round the next corner.

Like several delegates I stayed at the Hotel Palazzo delle Stelline. Here I noticed free copies of *Famiglia Cristiana* in the lobby, and adult TV for extra payment in the bedrooms. I just couldn't work it out. Was this some shady Church-run institution? It certainly had that clean and impersonal air of ecclesiastical places; the staff seemed distant and enigmatic... But this was just my

imagination turning life into a *nouvelle vague* film: the place is financed mainly as a conference centre by a consortium of local authorities. It used to be a girls' orphanage: one of those palatial *ancien régime* clarity buildings, built around two huge cloisters (one is the Hotel, the other, almost identical remember this fact—occupied by banks and offices), with cloister-walks of imperial proportions, lofty arches towards the central garden now closed by plate glass (giving the impression of looking at, or being in, an aquarium). Indeed, a good setting for a film.

Bags left, I strolled with others down a couple of streets to Piazza S. Ambrogio, passing the phallic fountains of the Fascist-period war-memorial, facing police headquarters on the other side of the street—the slightly disturbing approach to the Catholic University. Crossing the first of its two graceful Renaissance cloisters, admiring the billiard-table grass, we went down the stairs to the crypt, a cool space of columns and cross-vaulting, fifteen bays in all (three across and five deep), ending with a high dais backed by some improbable palms. After much informal chatting, Maria Luisa Maggioni (with forty-three people present) opened proceedings and read out a telegram from our old friend Ermanno Barisone, unfortunately unable to be present for health reasons.

The first speaker, Lynne Long of Warwick University (in a grey-green *Tracht*-style jacket, speaking with a gentle Northern accent), author of several books on Bible translations, gave us a talk in three parts. The first was an outline of the importance of Bible translations on the development of the English language. The second was an overview of aspects of Bible translation of interest to language-historians: the two Wycliffite translations were looked at as snapshots of changing language (setting aside variants due to translating skill), for example, the early version (completed 1384) has infinitives ending in *-en*, while the second (1397) has *-e*. The third part of the talk was a look at varying translation principles and their effects on the final Biblical text; giving precedence to the original Greek text of the New Testament led to changes; a new geographical perspective leads to a change from 'all the world' to 'the entire Roman world' (Luke 2. 1) in 20<sup>th</sup>-century translations: the more radical principle of 'domestication', instead, is used in the 'Cotton Patch Gospel', written in colloquial style ('in a tizzy' for 'was troubled') and with changes to familiar cultural equivalents (so we have Governor Herod of Georgia).

Paolo Tornaghi from Milan Bicocca next stepped boldly forth, pink pashtun scarf her knightly favour, armed with mighty eight-page handout, strengthened by many a footnote. One delegate quailed to see such armament, foretelling long struggles of rapid reading, desperate page-whirling. Could this doughty and experienced warrior arrive unscathed—in the time allotted—at the final page? Alas, it was an unequal task, but on the way (leaving aside the extended

metaphor) the audience did learn many interesting things about 'Biblical Echoes in Exeter Gnomes'. The speaker suggested that these distillations of wisdom (nothing to do with garden ornaments), 'Biblical' and 'pagan' world-views, though traditionally contrasted in Germanic studies, are often convergent, especially as the martial imagery of the Bible finds many echoes in heroic poetry. There are occasional and elusive references to *wodon* and *wyrd*, but what dominates are the constant Biblical echoes.

Gabriella Del Lungo from Florence spoke next about the medieval genre of 'saints' lives', concentrating on a single discourse feature as a way of tracing changes: the 'frames' used to introduce or close direct speech. Non-linguistic change was noted *a priori*: the evolution from verse to prose, the change of implied audience from clergy to laity, and of the associated function from scripts for preachers to edifying or entertaining texts. The study found an important change in the fifteenth century: prose becomes the most important medium and the 'frames' share an emotional point-of-view and are evaluative. So from merely structuring devices (demarkating direct speech), 'frames' become pragmatic devices, containing much information about the speaker and the interaction.

After the coffee break (in the long wide corridor above, facing the garden reserved for young lady students) Gabriella Mazzon (From Federico II University in Naples) continued the theme of late-medieval texts of religious popularisation, in a study of the Latin elements in the N-Town, Townley and York play cycles. Though these inserts are quite numerous, they are not really examples of code switching: many are stage directions intended for a reader; any extended Latin to be spoken occurs at a highly ritual or liturgical moment, in singing, for example. The remaining Latin inserts are single words or brief phrases, more like loan-words used for evocative power, mostly assigned to characters of high social status.

The day was rounded off by Stefania Maci from Bergamo, with a paper on a late fifteenth-century non-cycle religious play, *Mary Magdalene*. This was a stylistic study, aiming to show how a linguistically-sophisticated author combined different dialect resources to create a kind of synthetic dialect of his own, at the same time skilfully using a variety of rhetorical effects. It was interesting to see how the 'stage villains' of the time were clearly identified by marked alliteration—one can imagine the audience hissing with great gusto. Mary as a sinner gets a touch of alliteration at 'unmaidenly' moments (though nothing like the over-the-top *roulades* of Herod & Co.); in contrast her speeches as medium of the Truth are marked by great stylistic simplicity. The parody-Latin of the devil's 'Leccio mahowndys' speech is a magnificent piece of nonsense that starts as *gremelot* patter (with lots of words ending in *-orum*, the most distinctive nominal inflection, reminding us of Manzoni's 'latinorum') and then hilariously wanders into a more-or-less meaningful multiple curse (again associated with exces-

sive alliteration).

The day ended and we returned to the hotel briefly before meeting again in the convivial surroundings of 'I tre fratelli' in Via Terraggio where we ate at two long tables in an oblong courtyard of vine-covered old red-brick walls (such an unpretentious courtyard as you might see in a Dutch seventeenth-century painting).

#### Friday

Breakfast next morning at the 'Stelline' was fine, though it had that slightly institutionalised nature that characterized the whole place. At the conference I was unfortunately unable to listen to the first paper...

*[at this point the manuscript appears to have been continued by another unidentified scribe]*

The paper by Richard Dury centred on the use of *thee* and *thou* in Quaker communities. Justified on 'logical' and on egalitarian principles (the latter typical of Quakers and acknowledged in early dictionary entries for 'Quaker', as Lonati and Iamaccaro pointed out later in the conference), the choice was probably also covertly motivated by the resistance of dialect speakers to the spread of *you*.

After a sketch of the socio-historical background, the paper focussed on the use of subject *thee* (also typical of modern Western dialect speech and a widespread cModE variant), as opposed to subject *thou* (typical of high and educated usage, especially in England), and on the associated use of 3<sup>rd</sup>-person verbal inflections. The twentieth century saw a generalization of *you* in Quaker communities, except in more conservative speech in North America. Interestingly, traditional Quaker usage ('*thee* is' etc.) has been taken up by authors of modern texts to convey an aura of mysticism, distance in time, place, and experience.

*[the anonymous scribe's interpolation ends here, and the original author's hand resumes the narration]*

Next came an old friend John Denton from Florence who continued the theme of *thou* by talking about its abandonment in modern Bible translations: used to address God in the *New* (1961, 1970) but abandoned in *Revised English Bible* (1989), it persists in alternative Anglican liturgies (while it has disappeared from Catholic worship, with the exception of the Lord's Prayer). An illustration of the variation that results was given in an analysis of forms used for recent royal weddings and funerals. Examples of the archaic liturgical 'dialect' is still found in the 'Prayer for Charles and Camilla' written in 2005, and indeed a

more linguistically conservative policy may be observed in recent years in both Anglican and Catholic liturgies.

The second keynote speaker was a historical figure: 90-year-old Eugene Nida, father of dynamic (or: functional) equivalence translation and inspirer of the *Good News Bible* (1966). A sprightly elderly man with only slightly tremulous hands, he gave evidence of having been a great preacher, speaking slowly, repeating points by reformulation, giving great emphasis to words that showed an emotional response: 'thank you VERY much...', 'You would be aMAZed at how many do not understand...'. He took us through several modern attempts to translate the Lord's Prayer, commenting on the choices that communicate the meaning to the reader: not 'our daily bread' but 'each day the food we need', not 'our trespasses' but 'the bad things we have done'. But of course, 'People LOVE tradition: if it sounds queer, it comes right from God', whereas we should 'Let the Bible speak to people in a language they can understand'.

After the mid-morning coffee-break, Nick Ceramella and David Hart talked about the pervasive Biblical influences on the poetry and prose of D.H. Lawrence. A regular churchgoer in his youth, he actually considered becoming a Congregationalist pastor himself and certainly knew the Bible very well—using it, like Joyce used Homer, as a source of illuminating parallels. We find Biblical echoes and stylistic influence everywhere in his writing. In particular, the 'Last Poems' give his final thoughts on life with many references to God and many Biblical phrases and rhetorical schemes.

The morning ended in fine form with a talk by Ruth Anne Henderson from Turin on the struggles and problems of translating the Catholic Liturgy into English. With an amusing lived-in face and a lively manner she was a forceful and entertaining speaker but also a truly committed member of a Catholic lay order. In 2001 the Vatican took back control over the liturgical translation into English through a new 'Vox Clara' committee, close to the Pope's own conservative views. The new liturgy looks set to be full of forms that are rare and marked ('if it sounds queer, it comes right from God'). It also goes for male-default non-inclusive language ('Inclusive language is satanic!' according to 'Mother Angelica' on her 'Eternal Word' TV channel), partly from linguistic ignorance of the decision-makers: the fact that in English, gender-marking is obligatory in many cases where in Italian, say, it is not: 'brothers' are male, 'fratelli' male and female, the subject pronoun is necessary in English (so we have to choose *he* or *she*) but can be avoided in Italian; the third-person possessive in English expresses the gender of the possessor. The speaker was clearly a tough arguer on committees, accompanying her clearly-made points with gestures, always graceful, often amusing: 'it's crucial...' [stylised grasping of hair] – 'al-most' [rapid horizontal hand waver] – 'or else' [slower hand waver] – 'but' [raised finger]. Rhythmic speech was accompanied by a beating hand,

essential points marked by raised index finger, a dramatic pause announced by a stopping hand ...

After the buffet lunch in the spacious ambulatory upstairs, we still had more than an hour left and so I went for a walk with John Meddemenn around the area between the University and the centre: a 'pasta rotta' of Spanish, medieval, modern, Roman, Austrian, and Napoleonic Milans. We stopped for a coffee at the Pasticceria Marchesi just off Via Meravigli: bare wooden floor, early nineteenth-century shop counters and mirrors—a place where you might imagine catching a glimpse of Stendhal—'Henri Beyle, milanese'.

The afternoon started well with Elisabetta Cecconi (a young postgraduate from Florence) who gave us a stylistic study of broadside ballads of the 1640s, with special attention to religious lexis and discourse. This study was based on the valuable on-line collection of broadside ballads on the Bodelian Library website. Various subgenres of ballads were identified together with the linguistic and stylistic differences from traditional ballads. An interesting feature of the 'apocalyptic ballads' is the way they all hinge around the word 'therefore': the Lord is coming, *therefore* repent ('now', 'speedily' etc.). This type of ballad also linked England with Jerusalem through similar attributes or events. The frequency of plosive sounds was noted—no doubt fully exploited in performance. This was a presentation of great clarity: the speaker communicated confidently without notes and made no attempt to make things too complicated. Marina Dossena from Bergamo then told us about 'religious references' in her corpus of nineteenth-century Scottish correspondence. An interesting section of the latter consists of emigrant letters, where such references are particularly frequent: formulaic phrases ('thank God', 'God knows'), invocations of blessing (a frequent closing formula), knock-on-wood hopes for the future ('I trust in God that', 'if God spares us'), as well as more elaborate consolations for a death (here often associated with complex syntax and rhetorical schemes). All these have a clear pragmatic function of drawing attention to a shared worldview; other comments, which we might call 'church chat' (criticisms—even praise—of ministers etc.) serve to create a virtuality of shared experience. Such discourse is obviously only a part of that general sharing of details of experience and their evaluation of which conversation is made and that creates and reinforces a sense of unity. It is possible, however, that 'church chat' does have a privileged position because of its associations with community and shared values. Religious references are also used to create a ground of shared values in a group of begging letters, in this case combined with multiplied markers of interpersonality used to create a situation where a request can be made. Domico Pezzini, a respected colleague with a central place in English histori-

cal linguistics in Italy, gave the third keynote speech, speaking not on the medieval religious texts on which he has done so much valuable work, but on the poetry of the Anglican priest R.S. Thomas (1913-2000) and his central theme of 'silence'. This was introduced by considerations about the language of religion, or rather the language of faith, associated with a constellation of languages, including poetry. The latter encourages listening and contemplation, accompanied by a receptive silence, which of course iconically corresponds to Thomas's own discourse about silence. Such silence sometimes derives from human failure ('speak to us of love / ... but the preacher / was silent'); sometimes it is a conscious way to understanding ('the empty silence / ... where we go / Seeking') and a kind of presence-felt-in-absence ('the darkness / Between stars'; 'Does the tune exist when the instruments are silent?').

After the coffee break Susan Kermas from Lecce gave us an interesting insight into nineteenth-century hymns written by women—breaking out of man-imposed silence, in this case to participate in public religious discourse. Examples from America often involve calls to decisive action and appeals to social and moral rectitude (for example, Julia Ward Howe's 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'), and show the aspirations of women intellectuals (e.g. Frances Dana Gage's 'A Hundred Years Hence', when 'Men will not get drunk, nor be bound up in self' and 'woman... man's equal shall stand'), Hymns praising God's creation were especially favoured by English authors, as in Cecil Frances Alexander's 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. The texts give interesting insights into women's strategies to overcome or come to terms with their restricted social status.

The penultimate talk was by Laura Pinnavaia on idioms of Biblical origin found in the spoken component of the BNC. The list of idioms was created by dictionary searches and then matched with the BNC. Typically, many of the idioms were not exact quotations but allusions and rephrasings (sometimes the Bible being only a remote source). The most popular Biblical idioms turned out to be 'till kingdom come', 'land of milk and honey', 'the writing on the wall', 'feet of clay' and 'fly in the ointment'. Where the Biblical origin was still transparent the use of these idioms could be seen as having the textual function of suggestively juxtaposing mystic and secular to suggest the ineffable.

We returned to the topic of women and religious discourse in the last paper of the day by Massimo Sturiale of Catania. The period 1560 to 1630 actually witnessed the emergence of the woman writer, as Massimo has shown in other papers. One of these was Anne Vaughan (later Locke, Dering and Prowse) who made a series of translations of religious texts, including four of Calvin's sermons in *Godly Word* (1560). She uses a clear and energetic English, a plain style not overly influenced by the source text with a few added clarifications that shows a mastery of both French and English. She had access to the unpub-

lished manuscripts and in points her translation is more accurate than the French edition, published two years later. And so the day's business ended.

The social dinner was at 'Gli orti di Leonardo', which could be reached by going round the corner of the block going down stairs in the corner of the Stelline cloister. There was a pleasant buzz of conversation, and much table-hopping between courses. The back of a conference poster was covered with good wishes to be sent to our absent friend Ermanno. The present writer felt moved to offer a Shakespearean sonnet from memory in attempted original pronunciation; this was the only floor-show as Nicola Pantaleo didn't offer his usual pince-sans-rire overview of proceedings.

At the end there was a small queue to pay the bill and having done this I looked for the stairs. I found some that were not the same as those I'd come in by, but were going upwards anyway, so I thought I would find my way somehow. At the top was a glass door with a push-bar and beyond that the familiar cloister. I hope you remember that the Palazzo delle Stelline is built around two almost identical cloisters. It's funny, isn't it, that it's at the very instant the car door clicks shut that you realize you've left your keys inside; and it was just as this glass door, lacking any outer handle, clicked fatally shut that I realized that this wasn't my cloister at all. There was a bank, there were entrances flanked by brass plates; and everything was closed. And there was nobody. I walked round to the street door and found the door unopenable. I thought of returning to bang on the door with the push-bar, but it was two flights of stairs away from the restaurant. Through my mind flashed the prospect for the night: getting stiff and cold sitting in a variety of doorways, lying on the hard floor, walking round and round for six or seven hours maybe. Then I found that in the middle of one side of the cloister was a glass door, locked of course, but leading to my cloister. I waited and waited for someone to pass across the small section of cloister walk visible to me. Eventually two figures arrived; I had about two seconds before they disappeared from view; I thumped and banged, they came guardedly towards me; I tried to explain succinctly what had happened and they went to get the porter. He arrived with raised hands saying he didn't have the key, apparently ready to leave me there for the night; I suggested that he might phone the restaurant to let me back in—which he did, and I walked out under the stars again. And that was my Milan adventure.

### Saturday

We started the last morning with the conference organizer, Maria Luisa Maggioni, also sporting a pink pashtun scarf, talking about animal imagery in the early thirteenth-century *Ancere Wisse*. This comes from that fascinating West Midlands region where OE manuscripts were copied into the twelfth cen-

tury. The emphasis was on the literary and linguistic ability of the anonymous author, who borrows from a vast array of texts yet at the same time makes the message entertaining through stylistic skill. Animal imagery, for example, is pervasive: the devil is an ape, a boar and a cat; the chattering anchoress ('cake-linde anores') is a hen; and the various sins are personified in a series of animals, the first time that this seems to have been done.

The founder of the SLIN group, Nicola Pantaleo, spoke next on the various rhetorical and stylistic techniques used by the late-fourteenth-century author of *The Cloud of Unknowing* and *Book of Prive Counseling* to speak of what is beyond language: (i) a 'via negativa' admission of the ineffable ('unspeakable', 'hid'), (ii) paradox ('knowyn bi unknowin') and oxymoron ('lightly derkness'), (iii) a contrastive accumulation of alliteration when talking of human affairs ('ful hard fastened in fleschines of bodily feling'), (iv) series of parallel structures, and (v) an interesting combination of both para- and hypotactic structures, mirroring the double aim of straightforward and involved presentation.

Mystic texts like the *Cloud* often being presented in the form of a dream, at the end of questioning, Nicola narrated his own recent dream about the authoritarian voice of religion and the Italian referendum to take place the following day: the strange advice (or was it an order?) to 'abstain from voting' (repeated by politicians who love democracy so much they will invade another country to impose it) was countered by the repeated dream message 'Do not abstain!', and the arguments of unspeakable politicians who pretend to be suddenly enamoured of moral principles were curtly dismissed by the dream-voice as 'Rubbish!'

Well, so far we had covered many of 'the languages of religion' but sermons had only been touched on only as translations. Now Silvia Cappello from Turin (in neat white jacket, speaking with a slight American accent) looked at the rhetorical structures of these typical religious texts, comparing those of John Donne and Henry Newman. Medieval 'ars predicandi' took over the Ciceronian division of the speech, with the result that sermon structure can be reduced to a tree diagram: this model was followed by John Donne, who adds original metaphors and symbolism. In contrast, Newman went for a free and personal structure, emphasizing emotions like fear, sorrow and happiness, and building up to a climax through a series of statements leading to a solution.

We ended with Elisabetta Lonati and Giuliana Iannaccaro and a study of about a hundred controversial religious words in eighteen dictionaries 1650-1750. A certain amount of self-censorship of potentially-delicate terms was noted, but a gradual increase of objectivity and tolerance (though Chambers *Cyclopedia* of 1728 seems notably anti-Puritan and anti-Quaker).

Maria Luisa was thanked and applauded for all her good work, people stood around chatting for a while, passing from group to group. With the sadness of

all partings, we said goodbye—looking forward to meeting again in Lecce in two years time—and moved in twos and threes from the perfect geometry of Bramante's cloisters to the Milanese maze outside.

### §§ Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> Icome Conference, Naples, 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August 2005

On 24th to 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2005, the Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II" hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Middle English organised by Prof. Gabriella Mazzon. The conference attracted scholars from a variety of countries and offered to the numerous participants papers covering all major areas of Middle English studies.

The conference offered three plenary lectures, a panel and a large number of papers. The variety of topics covered and methodological approaches used by delegates presented a lively picture of the range of interests involved in Middle English studies, ranging from historical linguistics to literature. Moreover, a number of perfectly organised social events and trips to the marvellous surroundings of Naples, in addition to city walks, accompanied the proceedings of the conference. The first day came to an end with a welcoming cocktail, the second with the conference dinner. Last but not least coffee breaks and lunches offered opportunities for tasting delicious local dishes and cakes and for chats with old and new friends. Participants were unanimous in expressing their thanks for such wonderful hospitality.

The plenary lectures included an opening paper by Hans Jürgen Diller (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) on the emotion lexicon. His main aim was to measure the distance between medieval and modern concepts, but he also paid special attention to the evolution of words expressing emotions over the Middle Ages and their relationship with their medieval Latin counterparts. The second day plenary was devoted to semantic lexical analysis: Laura C. Wright (University of Cambridge) opened the day with a lecture on the semantics of colour terms showing how some of them, *pink*, *chestnut* and *maroon* in particular, have shifted their meanings considerably over the course of their usage. On the third day Dieter Kastovsky (Universität Wien) focused on Middle English word formation: he presented a list of desiderata, that is, areas in need of corpus-based studies, among whom the most relevant are the productivity of borrowed French and Latin patterns, the rise of morphophonemic alternations, and compounding.

The many contributions to the conference covered all fields of Middle English studies spanning from literature to language and linguistics. The panel organised by Eric G. Stanley on *Middle English Political Poetry of the First Half of the Fourteenth Century* included papers by E. Stanley, R. Firth Green and D.

Matthews which offered new perspectives on a somewhat neglected area of literary studies. Two poems in Harley 2253 and the contemporary poems by Laurence Minot were carefully analysed and novel interpretations presented. Other literary and textual contributions include papers deploying different but related approaches spanning from text and manuscript analysis to stylistics and discourse analysis. C. Revard showed how the compiler of Harley 2253 arranges his materials in order to create a metanarrative comparable to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. J. Thaisen focused on the distribution of variant spellings in Chaucer's manuscripts. K. Williamson offered a detailed analysis of the manuscripts of Barbour's *Bruce*. N.L. Johansson investigated the Latin sources of *Ormulum*. B. Kowalik presented a novel perspective on the lyric mode. Y. Kobayashi focused on the relationship between Spencer and Chaucer paying special attention to issues of literary tradition and authority. J. Bugaj's paper dealt with poetry written in the Scottish Lowlands focusing on features of poetic diction influenced by Latin and French. G. Del Lungo investigated the evolution of linguistic devices in narrative organization by presenting the case of saints' lives. T. Örsi dealt with synonymy as stylistic device in the Cotton version of Mandeville's *Travels*.

As expected a well researched area was that of historical linguistics which was in fact represented by numerous papers. Among them some deployed a specific focus on dialectology: M.J. Carrillo Linares and E. Garrido Anes studied the dialectal distribution of lexicon in the copies of the *Lay Folk Catechism*. B. Bianchi presented a pilot study towards a corpus-based version of LALME. J. Janecka presented a comparative dialectal study of comparative and superlative degree of adjectives. J. Fernandez Cuesta and N. Rodriguez addressed the question of the dialectal (dis)continuity between Old and Middle English in Northern English.

In addition to the plenary lecture by Kastovsky, word-formation was dealt with in three papers. E. Cizek investigated the case of the suffixes *-hede* and *-nesse*. C. Lloyd examined *-age* and *-al*, while R. Mc Conchie focused on one of the earlier attestations of the prefix *dis-* in the complex lexeme *discomfort*.

Phonological oriented contributions include the paper by J. Welna who presented a new perspective on the loss of liquid [l] in early Middle English and J. Schlüter who investigated the hypothesis that there is a positive correlation between the prosodic prominence of a word and its morphological markedness. Semantics was represented by C. Mouron-Figueroa's paper which focused on In-prepositional phrases in the York Cycle and A. Steponavicius's paper which offered a detailed analysis of the lexical field of cognition.

Other contributions presented interesting case studies. M. Matsumoto examined phrasal verbs containing *have* and *take*. A. Pysz focused on word order and specifically the placement of adjectives in noun phrases. A. Wojtys' paper dealt

with the loss of the prefix *ge-* in the past participle in the Midlands. L. Moessner gave a detailed description of the distribution of the mandative subjunctive and its competing forms.

A number of papers were corpus linguistic-oriented. Among them, A. Fodor's examination of *and* as a subordinating conjunction and M. J. Lopes Couso's paper where the impact of two apparently opposing frequency effects on the evolution of the contracted negative form *nis* were assessed. Other scholars following this approach include the below mentioned. L. Vezzosi who offered an overview of the use of *himself*. H. Mendez Naya outlined the development of the intensifier *right*. P. Wallage used quantitative methodology to provide a view of the change in sentential negators. P. Pahta investigated the use of amplifiers in a corpus of Middle English medical writing. R. Molencki dealt with the conjunctions introducing adverbial clauses by tracing the gradual substitution of *for(thi)* with *because*. O. Fischer examined the gradual loss of postposed adjective position.

More general topics were tackled by N. Stenroos who offered a reconsideration of the loss of grammatical gender and N. Ritt who presented a holistic view of Middle English changes of vowel quantity. The conference was closed by the lecture by M. Laing and R. Lass who showed how the careful consideration of spellings and palaeographical aspects can help shed light on so called minor sound changes.

Because of the large number of papers presented, parallel sessions were of course inevitable and it was sometimes difficult to choose which session to attend. Anyway, all papers contributed to highlight the relevance of the historical study of the English language and the high quality of the research done in this field.

At the close of the conference the site of the next venue and the publication of the proceedings were discussed. No definite decision was made as to the site of the next issue in 2007, which might be hosted by Cambridge University. A deadline for revised contributions was fixed and Mouton de Gruyter, which has already published the proceedings of the previous conference, was indicated as the publisher of a volume containing a select number of papers.

Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti

§§§ Diachronic Perspectives Colloquium at the 15th European Symposium of Languages for Special Purposes, University of Bergamo, 29 August – 2 September 2005.

The University of Bergamo is fast establishing itself, if not already established itself, as one of the principal venues for international conferences in English

and European linguistics. In recent years there has been a succession of top-rate international conferences held there on a wide range of topics. This year the university, under the direction of CERLIS, Centro di Ricerca sui Linguaggi Specialistici, hosted the 15th European Symposium on Languages for Specific Purposes. The theme of the conference was: «LSP 2005: 'New Trends in Specialized Discourse'».

Indicative of the new trends was the decision to organise a colloquium on «Diachronic Perspectives on Domain-Specific English». The convenors of the session, Marina Dossena and Irma Taavitsainen, stated in their call for papers that they wanted to organise a session that would provide a forum for research on the study of scientific, legal, political, economic and business discourse from a historical point of view. The following report is about this Colloquium. The Colloquium began on the third working day of the Conference. The scheduled start was for 9 o'clock, and by 9.02 we were under way. (Just a couple of people arrived late, mumbling rather sheepishly about the traffic in Bergamo Alto.) Right from this first session there was a definite structure and purpose to the proceedings. Marina and Irma intelligently, and rather disturbingly, explained the aims of the session and what no doubt the papers were going to focus on. (This last aspect in particular caused a few of the programmed speakers, the present writer included, to feel distinctly nervous.) Apart from methodological issues, such as, data reliability, corpus representativity, and validity of the model of analysis chosen, much emphasis was given to contextual features. The convenors emphasised the need to ground all work in diachronic perspectives on domain-specific English within the context in which the text is produced. This therefore requires an acute understanding of the linguistic, discourse and sociocultural context, audience design, discourse communities, activity type, genre, and tradition, and how these interact with what is being studied. This all makes for a lot of work; however, in recompense, not only does the research become particularly fascinating, it also leads to a much more complete analysis.

Following the convenors' outline of guiding themes in diachronic ESP, the session continued with the first scheduled speakers. Their theme was historical legal English and the speakers were Dawn Archer – University of Central Lancashire («Tracing the development of 'Advocacy': a sociopragmatic analysis of English courtroom proceedings 1808-1856»); Leena Kahlas-Tarkka – University of Helsinki («Reporting on Salem witchcraft trials»); Joanna Bugak – University of Poznań («Sources of discourse-specific vocabulary in middle Scots administrative records»); Paola Tornaghi – University di Milan, Bicocca («Legal terminology in a seventeenth century unpublished manuscript»); Hans Landquist – University of Göteborg University («Continuity and change: the Swedish legal lexicon as seen from the perspective of a monolingual specialist

dictionary»). This session was most rewarding. Not only were the topics very interesting but the models of analysis productive and varied. For example, whilst Dawn Archer brought her expertise in corpus linguistics to enrich her insights in courtroom discourse practices, Paola Tornaghi provided a rigorous philological analysis of an intriguing seventeenth-century manuscript.

In the afternoon law gave way to medicine and then appropriately to business as members in the audience began wondering if they had enough money to go to the Conference dinner. It was no surprise that the speakers on historical medical English were from Helsinki since this most dynamic of universities is compiling a marvellous new medical corpus. Entitled *Corpus of Early English Medical Writing (CEEM)* the 1.800 million words of extracted material from manuscripts and early printed books texts covers the period 1375-1750. At present the Middle English Medical Texts (1375-1500) has been completed and is published by John Benjamins. The excellent speakers from Helsinki, who referred to this corpus, were Jukka Tyrkkö («From tokens to symptoms: 300 years of developing discourse on medical diagnosis in English medical writing») and Martti Mäkinen («Dissemination of textual material and second generation corpora: finding intertexts in early English medical writing»).

It was only appropriate that one of the two papers on business English had a Scottish connection. In this paper Marina Dossena (University of Bergamo) exploited her deep and insightful knowledge of Scottish culture and language to examine «Forms of self-presentation in 19<sup>th</sup>-century business letters», and, in particular, Scottish business correspondence. Gabriella Del Lungo (University of Florence) also examined business correspondence. Gabriella's paper was entitled «From your obedient humble servants to yours faithfully: the negotiation of professional roles in the commercial correspondence of the second half of the nineteenth century». From an Italian perspective what was particularly intriguing about this research were the insights Gabriella had gained from examining English letter writing guides that had been produced for Italian learners in the second half of the nineteenth century. To complete this afternoon session was a further paper on correspondence. The speaker was Rafal Molencki – University of Katowice («The use of the pluperfect in the corpus of early English correspondence»).

This first day of the Colloquium had been very varied and stimulating, and nor was the pleasure over. After a brief rest in our respective hotels, most of us met up again for the Conference dinner. The dinner was held at the inimitable Taverna Colleoni, and after first being treated to a very amusing welcoming speech by the chief convenor of the conference, Maurizio Gotti, the conference participants were regaled with superb foods and wines. Those who had already given their paper were able to relax, and those who hadn't given their paper drank on regardless.

The second morning of the Colloquium contained three papers. The speakers were Pedro Martín-Martín – University of La Laguna (“Reader and writer responsibility in abstracts in Spanish social sciences journals”); Päivi Pahta – University of Helsinki (“Amplifiers in early English scientific writing”) and Nicholas Brownlee – University of Florence (“‘Two steps further’ – the Diggers and radical political discourse in Cromwellian England”).

What was good was that on conclusion of the papers the participants did not just singly drift away without further ado. Once again, Marina Dossens and Irma Taavitsainen, took control of the proceedings and established a group discussion as to what the papers had individually and more generally focused on in the field of diachronic perspectives in ESP. This round-up session was very much appreciated because it not only helped to focus the participants’ attention on the most important themes to emerge in the day and a half but because it gave us further opportunity to find out more about each researcher’s specific interests. This has opened the way for further collaboration with colleagues met at the Colloquium.

There are many things that I like about conferences in Bergamo, but perhaps the most remarkable aspect of a Bergamo conference is how much the conference organisers themselves seem to be enjoying themselves. Given that I am a firm believer in the cynic’s definition of a conference organiser – “a conference organiser is someone who hasn’t organised a conference before” – I find this most extraordinary. But it is just because the conference convenors themselves are so relaxed and positively engaged with all that the conference provides that the conference participants can gain so much too.

Nicholas Brownlee

#### 4. Reviews and bibliographical information

##### § ‘Original Pronunciation’ performances of early modern English plays and vocal music

Crystal, David. 2005. *Pronouncing Shakespeare: The Globe Experiment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University press.

William Shakespeare. *Troilus and Cressida*. Shakespeare’s Globe, August–September 2005.

##### The book

David Crystal is an excellent writer who has the gift of explaining clearly and creating interest. Indeed, I read *Pronouncing Shakespeare* in a day and a half, taking every opportunity to do so and not wanting to put it down. In this book he weaves together the story of the three ‘original pronunciation’ (OP) perfor-

mances of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Globe in 2004 with a discussion of how we know what Shakespeare’s English sounds like, together with an account of his own involvement in the project. There are appendices on eMode and PDE sounds and some short transcriptions and even an index.

It is not specifically directed at academics and is a good example of Crystal’s ability to write about language and linguistics in a lively and intelligent non-banal way to a wide audience.

Another interesting contribution to the debate comes from Andrew Gurr (University of Reading) in an article ‘Other Accents: Some Problems in Identifying Elizabethan Pronunciation’, *Early Modern literary Studies* 7i (Special Issue 8, May 2001): 1–4, published on internet at <http://www.shu.ac.uk/emls/07-1/gurrothe.htm>. He concludes that ‘there aren’t many useful books on the subject [Elizabethan pronunciation], and good audio-cassettes... are non-existent’. He comments on the main manuals:

Kolenitz, *Shakespeare’s Pronunciation* (1953) accepts a system quite close to modern RP, but has an interesting list of syncopations, word-stress and rhyme words. Dobson, *English Pronunciation 1500–1700* (1957) is judged ‘still by far the most fundamental of scholarly resources for study of the evidence for the spoken forms of early English’, and is the starting point for the following two works.

Barber, *Early Modern English* (1976) has a chapter on phonology and ‘draws some fresh and sensible conclusions about pronunciation, particularly of passages and phrases in Shakespeare’s plays’.

Cercignani, *Shakespeare’s Works and Elizabethan Pronunciation* (1981): ‘at present the best work available, at least insofar as it gathers up the main evidence for specific pronunciations in the texts of Shakespeare. It focusses much more closely on the evidence for Shakespeare’s own phonology than did Dobson’s history, although it uses similar source materials.’ He gives no phonetic transcriptions as he doesn’t believe in OP for the reading of Shakespeare.

Although Gurr says that reconstructed pronunciation may be too speculative, complex and varied a system to be worthwhile, he nevertheless provides phonetic transcripts of two short passages from the plays. He has a non-diphthongized /i:/ for the pronoun *I* (yet elsewhere gives it as a diphthong ‘Oy’ in his ‘troglodyte transcription’) and a short /u/ for CUP-words and long /e:/ for SWEET-words.

Crystal makes reference to John Barton’s OP production of *Julius Caesar* with the Marlowe Society at the University of Cambridge in 1952 (and a cast including Peter Hall), but makes no other mention of OP experiments for early modern performance texts. The book therefore presents the *Globe Romeo and Juliet* as the first such experiment in fifty years, a slightly misleading impression since it turns out to be not so isolated after all. Any account of OP performance

should take account of the early music movement and the move from period instruments and performance styles to reconstructed earlier pronunciation of English, French and Latin for vocal music.

Just a couple of months after the Globe *Romeo and Juliet* performances, the Lords of Misrule (postgrad students of Medieval Studies at the University of York) presented an OP production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at The King's Manor in York (13-15 August 2004), and it is probable their 2003 *Twelfth Night* was also in 'Tudor pronunciation', though I have been unable to find confirmation of this.

But long before this the early music movement had produced the following recordings, among others:

- 1981: *Elizabethan Ayres and Duets: sung in authentic Elizabethan pronunciation* by the Camerata of London (coached by E.J. Dobson himself) (Hyperion LP and CD A66003);<sup>1</sup>
- 1990: *Shakespeare's Musicke* by the Camerata of London (Meridian CDE84198);
- 2000: *English and Italian Renaissance Madrigals* by the Hilliard Ensemble (Virgin Classics CD 61671);
- 2002: *Thomas Tomkins: Music Divine - Songs of 3, 4, 5 & 6 parts* by I Fagiolini (Chandos 0680);
- 2003: *Thomas Tomkins: Above the stars - Verse anthems and Consort music* (Harmonia Mundi, HMU 907320) by Emma Kirkby and others;
- 2004: *Shakespeare's Songbook* by Paul O'Dette and others (Azica, 2 CDs), a companion to the monograph with the same name by Ross Duffin (Norton, 2004) which has an appendix on Shakespeare's pronunciation (pp. 482-7);
- 2004: *Bara Faustus' Dreame: Mr Francis Treglan his choice* music from the age of Dowland with 'prononciation restituée' performed by a French ensemble, Les Witches (Alpha 063).

The fact that Dr Alison Wray (now at the University of Cardiff) 'has advised on over 70 commercial CD recordings' of early music on historical pronunciation (according to her University personal page) suggests that this movement is quite widespread. Another historical pronunciation coach is Dr Julia Müller

has worked with Gustav Leonhardt and Toni Koopman.

Experiments in historical pronunciation in performance have also taken place on the Continent, the most interesting theatrical event being Vincent Dumestre's recreation of Molière's *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* as play and ballet, with music by Lully and early seventeenth-century pronunciation of the French (Avignon, October 2004 and then on tour in 2005). It is significant that the company that produced this work is le Poème Harmonique, a musical ensemble (active since 1997), which confirms the strong connection between the OP movement and the early music community.

#### The performance

While in London in September 2005 to do research I broke the pleasant monastic simplicity of regular hours, peaceful slumbers and calm daytime occupation in the library in order to go to the Globe's second OP production: *Troilus and Cressida* (every Wednesday from 24 August to the end of September). The total experience was positive: the walk across the Millennium Bridge, the munching of a good (but expensive) ham sandwich in the attractive yard, and the magical interior where one has the pleasant social experience of following both play and observing the audience at the same time (I even saw David Crystal). The director (Mark Rylance) made excellent use of the stage in Act V Scene 2 when Troilus was on the balcony with Ulysses commenting heart-broken on Cressida and Diomedes on the stage below, while the clown Thersites (Colin Hurley) was behind a pillar commenting on everything from an unromantic point of view. OP worked where the speeches were clear: the Prologue (who finished with 'Gentles all, turn off thy mobile phones...' in OP) and Achilles and Diomedes, but I was able to follow closely only about half of the speeches. This wasn't a problem—it was quite interesting to follow the melody, and here I thought of the German audiences who regularly saw travelling English companies in Shakespeare's time or the Victorian English audiences who saw Salvini perform *Macbeth* in Italian. Though not always able to follow Thersites' rant, he was one of the delights of the production: dressed in a shabby raincoat and apparently permanently half-drunk, he looked quizzically at the audience like a kind of Vasco Rossi. However, those not knowing the story and text well would have been left understanding very little. Why numerous male parts were given to actresses (including Ulysses, Nestor, and Agamemnon) is difficult to imagine (it seemed at times like a girls' school production), the obvious answer would be to undermine the martial ideology, but it didn't work for me—and anyway, surely that is already done by the text itself. The miss-mash of costume styles and period references also seemed uninspired and added nothing to my understanding.

The OP used, as in *Romeo and Juliet*, had /e:/ for SWEET words, whereas the handbooks generally say that this was /i:/ by 1600 and also for DAY words

<sup>1</sup>The SIIN group were informed of the Camerata recording at their 1989 conference by John Denton ('Flow my /i@z/ or /e:z/? An Approach to the Teaching of the History of English Phonology' (published in Pantaleo Nicola (ed.) (1992). *Aspects of English Diachronic Linguistics*, Fasano: Schena, 207-218.

(where Dobson for the Camarata recordings uses the conservative /ai/ diphthong). In *Pronouncing Shakespeare*, Crystal assigns an unrounded and centralized vowel (represented by the symbol like an inverted AIDS-solidarity loop), while Dobson for the Camarata went for the distinctive rounded /u/ reminiscent of Northern accents. However, in performance either I didn't distinguish the difference, or the actors found this one of the more difficult sounds to internalise, so CUP and LOVE words were to me mostly undistinguishable from their current RP realizations. The common word *one* alone and in compounds was pronounced /o:n/, while Dobson had plumped for the Northern-sounding /wɪn/.

These then were some of the debateable decisions or perhaps (in the case of CUP words) failings. On the other hand the diphthongized TIME and HOUSE vowels came out well, postvocalic-r and (an aspect of OP brought out well in Crystal's book) the various elisions not yet ironed out by prescriptivism but attested by folio forms: *frien(d)s*, *woulds(t)*, *clo(th)es*, *meas'ring*, *liv'ry*, *nat'ral*, *beginnin'* and weak forms of pronouns.

In short, the production was unsatisfying, the original pronunciation was interesting, the total experience of going to the theatre, as always, enchanting. On the use of OP in Shakespeare performance I would like to see a better-produced and more familiar text in reconstructed pronunciation before passing judgment.

#### Web resources

You can hear a 15-minute talk by David Crystal on the *Romeo and Juliet* experiment on 'Lingua Franca' (Radio National, Australia) at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/ling/>.

Mark Liberman's Language Log for July 24, 2005 (<http://itre.cis.upenn.edu/~myl/languagelog/archives/002352.html>) is dedicated to the Globe's 2006 OP performances of *Troilus and Cressida* and has some interesting links and sound-clips.

Other sound-clips of Shakespeare in OP can be found at <http://ise.uvic.ca/Library/SLTnoframes/ideas/courtlylove.html> (*Midsummer Night's Dream*), <http://ise.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/literature/pronunciation.html> (from *Julius Caesar* and *Henry IV pt I*).

Richard Dury

## §§ Recent Bibliographical Information October 2005

Archer, Dawn. 2005. *Questions and Answers in the English Courtroom (1640-1760): a sociopragmatic analysis*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

"A contribution to the rapidly growing field of historical pragmatics, this book aims to lend definition to the area of historical sociopragmatics. It seeks to enhance our understanding of the language of the historical courtroom by documenting changes to the discursive roles of the most active participant groups of the English courtroom (e.g. the judges, lawyers, witnesses and defendants) in the period 1640-1760."

Brinton, Laurel J. & Traugott, Elizabeth Closs (eds.). 2005. *Lexicalization and Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

"In this up-to-date survey, Laurel Brinton and Elizabeth Traugott examine the various conceptualizations of lexicalization that have been presented in the literature. In light of contemporary work on grammaticalization, they then propose a new, unified model of lexicalization and grammaticalization."

Burrow, J.A. & Turville-Petre (eds.). 2005. *A Book of Middle English* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

"This essential Middle English text introduces students to the wide range of literature written in England between 1150 and 1400. The book opens with an introduction to the language of the time, designed to enable the reader to understand the Middle English literature that follows. The authors describe the language as it was used in different parts of the country, showing how it evolved over this period, and giving guidance on pronunciation, grammar, metre and vocabulary."

Raymond, Joad (ed.). 2005. *News Networks in Early Modern Britain and Europe*. London: Routledge.

Contents: Joad Raymond: Introduction: networks, communication, practice – Paul Arblaster: Posts, Newsletters, Newspapers: England in a European system of communications – Filippo de Vivo: Paolo Sarpi and the Uses of Information in Seventeenth-Century Venice – Marcus Nevitt: Ben Jonson and the Serial Publication of News – Nicholas Brownlees: Spoken Discourse in Early English Newspapers – Jason McElligott: 'A Couple of Hundred Squabbling Small Tradesmen'? Censorship, the Stationers' Company, and the State in Early Modern England – Nicole Greenspan: News, Intelligence, and Espionage at the Exiled Court at Cologne: the case of Henry Manning – Mark Knights: John Starkey and Ideological Networks in late Seventeenth-Century England – Hamish Mathison: Robert Hepburn and the *Edinburgh Taiter*: a study in an early British periodical.

Nicholas Brownlees

§§§ The *Times Online* has a story today about a new production cycle of Shakespeare's plays at the Globe Theatre in London, featuring the original Early Modern English pronunciation. The producers are advised by David Cryst (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1698181,00.html>) John Lawler 'The influence of such a mind as Shakespeare's on the language in which it expresses itself can only be compared to the effect of high temperatures on solid matter. As imagination bodies forth the forms of things unknown, each molecule of suggestiveness contained in each word gains a mysterious freedom from its neighbours; the old images move to and fro distinctly in the listener's fancy, and when the sound has died away, not merely the shape, but what seemed to be the very substance of the word has been readjusted.'

Owen Barfield, 'History in English Words'

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§§§§ Call for Papers: Florilegium

Florilegium, the journal of the Canadian Society of Medievalists, invites submissions for its next volume, scheduled for publication in Summer 2006. Papers on any aspect of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages (including the post-medieval representation of the medieval period) are welcome. A section of this volume is set aside for a special cluster exploring the topic of medieval popular culture (and its later reception), and additional papers on any aspect of this theme are particularly encouraged.

For information about the journal, please visit

<<http://www.csm.wlu.ca/Florilegium/florilegium.htm>>.

All submissions are refereed in a double-blind review by at least two international specialists and at least one member of the editorial board.

Essays should normally not exceed 7,000 words, including notes and references, and should be formatted according to Chicago style. Please keep notes as spare as possible.

Submissions should include three hard copies and should be mailed to: Dr. A. E. Christa Canitz Editor, Florilegium Department of English University of New Brunswick 19 Macaulay Lane Fredericton, NB Canada E3B 5A3

All submission will be acknowledged. Please include both email and postal addresses.

Enquiries may also be addressed to the editor at <[Canitz@unb.ca](mailto:Canitz@unb.ca)>.

Papers intended for volume 23 (2006) should be submitted as soon as possible and should arrive no later than the middle of October to allow for a full review process before the volume goes to press in the late spring or early summer of 2006; papers arriving after the end of October may be considered for volume 24 (2006-07).

Please bring this announcement to the attention of interested colleagues and graduate students.

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