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NEWSLETTER

no. 43

October 2006

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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 ☎ 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

Call for papers reminder

Socially-conditioned language change in a diachronic perspective
University of Lecce 7-9 June 2007

Deadline for proposals: 30th November 2006

As previously announced SLIN13 will be hosted by the University of Lecce and Terttu Nevalainen and Tony Fairman have accepted our invitation to deliver key-note lectures.

The conference will be on sociolinguistic variation in the History of the English Language. English – perhaps more than any other language – has developed differently thanks to its diffusion worldwide. Our aim is to gain insight into the various ways the language has developed over time thanks to changing social and economic conditions, historical and political events and demographic considerations. Language variation and change can be determined by various factors such as occupation, age, gender and ethnicity as well as social and geographical mobility. Papers addressing any of the following aspects of the evolution of the English language are welcome:

morpho-syntactic structures;

phonetic and phonological aspects;

stylistic discourse changes;

lexical forms;

register variation;

Proposals for papers in the form of 300-word abstracts with indication of relevant section (1-5) should be sent to:

Susan Kermas at both s.kermas@inwind.it and susan.kermas@ateneo.unile.it by 30th November 2006.

Acceptance of proposals can be expected by the end of February.
Deadline for final versions of papers will be decided during the workshop at the end of the conference.

For further information please contact:
Susan Kermas at s.kermas@inwind.it

Further information will also be available at the SLIN website:
<http://www.unibg.it/anglistica/slin/SLIN13-cfp.htm>

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

§ **MESS5, 2006** (5th Medieval English Studies Symposium), 25 -26 November 2006

You are cordially invited to the 5th Medieval English Studies Symposium, organised by the School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, which will be held in Poznań from 25 to 26 November 2006. MESS5 will have as its aim bringing together specialists in the areas of medieval English linguistics and literature. Both linguistic and literary sessions are planned, as well as four plenary papers. Four plenary sessions have in fact been scheduled with papers by:

Prof. John Coldewey (University of Washington, USA)

Prof. Christine Rose (Portland State University, USA)

Prof. Hans Sauer (University of Munich, Germany)

Prof. Jerzy Wełna (Warsaw University, Poland)

Venue and Accommodation. The Symposium will be held at the Polonez Hotel in the centre of Poznań. Conference participants will also be accommodated there at discount prices. For additional information about the venue, please visit the hotel's website

www.polhotels.com/Poznan/Polonez

Registration. All enquiries concerning the Symposium should be addressed to the MESS organisers, preferably by e-mail (mess@ifa.amu.edu.pl). Our snail-mail address is:

MESS 2006, School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Al. Niepodległości 4, 61-874, Poznań, POLAND ph:+48-61-8293506 fax: +48-61-8523103

Organising Committee, Honorary Chair: Prof. Jacek Fisiak, Chair: Prof. Marcin Krygier.

Members: Prof. Liliana Sikorska, Dr Radosław Dylewski, Dr Piotr Jakubowski
Conference Secretaries: Mrs Agnieszka Bury-Galubińska, M.A., Mrs Joanna

§§ The Faculty of Languages at **Uppsala University** will commemorate the tercentenary of the birth of Carl Linnæus with a **Symposium on the Languages of Science in the Time of Linnæus**. The symposium will address a number of questions related to the languages of the learned world and the development of scientific discourse during the 18th century. Scholars interested in giving a paper at the symposium are invited to send in abstracts for consideration by the Programme Committee. **Submission deadline: December 1, 2006**. Detailed instructions for abstract submission are found on the conference website: <http://www.akademikonferens.uu.se/linnaeuslang/abstracts>

On behalf of the Conference Organizing Committee, Britt-Louise Gunnarsson and Hans Helander

§§§ **LEXICOLOGY AND LEXICOGRAPHY OF DOMAIN-SPECIFIC LANGUAGES (PALERMO, JUNE 21-22, 2007)**

Within the framework of a COFIN 2004 national project on "Glossaries, dictionaries, and corpora: lexicology and lexicography of European languages", a two-day international conference will be held in Palermo on June 21-22, 2007 on the lexicography and lexicology of domain-specific languages. Papers dealing with either diachronic or synchronic aspects of one or more languages will be welcome. Both the lexicon used in certain human activities (marine, medicine, economy, etc...) and the lexicon related to specific aspects of the language (phraseology, false friends, synonyms, etc...) will be a pertinent subject for research.

Not only the members of the COFIN 2004 research groups are expected to attend and contribute a paper, but also all the colleagues interested in the conference topics.

Abstracts should be submitted before 30 November 2006 to Giovanni

Iamartino (giovanni.iamartino@unimi.it) for English and German, to Jacqueline Lillo (jlillo@unipa.it) for French and to Felix San Vicente for Spanish and Catalan (felix.sanvicente@unibo.it). The scientific committee will make his decisions known by the end of December 2006.

Abstracts should include: the title of the paper; the author's name, office address, e-mail address and telephone number; some key-words; a one-page summary which clearly defines the topic and the methodology used together with the most significant bibliographic references.

3. Reports on Conferences

14 ICEHL, Bergamo 21-25 August 2006

Conference review

The 14th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics, hosted in the beautiful historical city of Bergamo, saw the participation of scholars from all over the world, and covered an exhaustive range of topics related to the Conference title.

The first day began with welcoming addresses by the Conference organisers and local authorities, followed by the first plenary lecture, *Politeness in the History of English*, delivered by **Andreas Jucker** (Zurich) and chaired by Maurizio Gotti. Jucker focused on politeness strategies in English, firstly analysing pronominal terms of address in the history of English, then showing some examples in Shakespeare's plays emerged in recent studies, and finally presenting research studies on directives and apologies in the history of English. All the case studies presented support Jucker's claim that in its history the English language moved from an initial positive politeness culture to present day's 'negative politeness'.

After lunch, the Conference continued with parallel sessions, which provided such an interesting range of topics it was really hard to select! For reasons of space, a mere selection of papers will be included in this report. The session chaired by **Eugene Green** had a particularly strong Italian presence. The first paper, *O sister, O sister, tak my han'*, read by **Elisabetta Cecconi** (Florence) examined the linguistic rendering of orality in direct speech in 17th-century broadside ballads, giving also a comparison between its use in popular ballads and in religious-political songs, in order to investigate the authors' use of narrative frames to convey the main purpose of the ballad.

Nicholas Brownlees (Florence) gave his paper "From Genoa thus: Our designe goeth on very cheerfully [...]": *Thematic structure and discourse categories in mid-seventeenth-century news pamphlets* on foreign news reports. The news pamphlets provided for analysis are part of the Florence

Early English Newspapers Corpus, an on-going project of the University of Florence.

Udo Fries (Zurich) also read a paper on news publications. His paper *Sentence length, sentence complexity and the noun phrase in 18th-century news publications* focused on the difference between 'quality papers' and the emerging 'popular press' of the time.

Then followed **Alessandra Levorato's** paper (Florence), which dealt with *Stance and politeness phenomena in the 1801 Act of Union Debate*. Her aim was to explore the role played by politeness phenomena in pro- and anti-union Irish pamphlets, analysing in particular the linguistic strategies of politeness used by the authors to address their interlocutors.

After coffee break, **Stefania Biscetti** (Siena) read her paper about *The diachronic development of the intensifier bloody: A case study in historical pragmatics*. Biscetti's aim was to investigate the peculiar grammaticalisation process occurring to *bloody*, and to provide a holistic explanation of the origin of its intensifying function, which contrasts with currently-accepted opinions.

The day ended with a welcome reception at Palazzo Frizzoni: local authorities greeted the Conference participants and underlined the importance of international cooperation between scholars in order to enrich the world's knowledge. The culturally lively city of Bergamo seemed the appropriate setting for promoting such cooperation, and a book about the city's history and beauties was presented to Margaret Laing as a representative of all the participants.

The second day of the Conference was packed with as interesting papers as the first one. A few examples will be provided here. **María José Carrillo Linares** and **Eduarne Garrido Anes** (Huelva) in their paper *MS localization reassessed through ME word geography*, explored the possibility of redefining manuscript localization by analysing lexical choices in different copies of the same work localized in different dialect areas. They pointed out how results can differ when different criteria are adopted, but concluded that analysis using both lexical material and the scribe's orthographic choices can determine a more precise localization of the texts investigated.

In the meantime the workshop *Towards a handbook on Late Modern English letter writing* was chaired by Marina Dossena in the morning, and by **Ingrid**

Tieken-Boon van Ostade (Leiden) in the afternoon. **Richard Dury** (Bergamo), **Stefan Dollinger** (British Columbia), **Anita Auer** (Leiden), **Susan Fitzmaurice** (Sheffield) were among the participants, who discussed various interesting topics concerning the study of letter collections from the LModE period, and their contribution to the study of the English language during this period.

The second Plenary lecture was delivered by **Margaret Laing** (Edinburgh), and chaired by Richard Dury. As the title says, the lecture focused on **The Early Middle English Scribe: *sprach er wie er schrieh?*** In her usual lively style, Margaret Laing argued that not all spelling variation in ME is phonologically conditioned. Providing examples from EME scribes, Laing illustrated how, in different parts of England, there is variability in what parts of the system show stability and what parts indicate processes of variation and change.

The afternoon proceeded in offering various interesting papers by Donka Minkova (UCLA), Teresa Fanego (Santiago de Compostela) and Laura Wright (Cambridge). **Raymond Hickey's** (Essen) *Exceptions to sound change and external motivation* dealt with exceptions in sound changes when these affect groups of sounds, either occurring at the beginning or during the course of the change itself. Data for his analysis were derived from contemporary Dublin English, and both internal and external factors were considered. Focusing more on the 'external factors' motivation for the changes, Hickey took into consideration 'hybrid cases' that contain internal restrictions determining external changes.

During a parallel session, **Antonio Bertacca** (Pisa) explored *The role of internal dynamics in the typological shift of English*. Bertacca argued that, as other historical Germanic languages demonstrate, there was a 'physiological' loss of inflections, due to phonological processes occurring in those varieties. Furthermore, the author claimed that contact with Norman French accelerated this process in OE, and that all the changes towards analyticity can be explained by applying Naturalness Theory, the Theory of Complex systems and Preference theory.

In accordance with the ICEHL tradition, the third day was free for walks, tours and excursions. Thanks to skilful planning on the part of the Organising Committee, delegates had a wide choice of options open to them. Some preferred to continue to explore the wonders of Bergamo, the more energetic went

walking in the hills with Richard, others went to Milan with Stefania Maci. The group fortunate enough to go to Mantua with Marina had a fascinating guided tour in the morning followed by a lavish meal and to cap it all a boat trip along the Mincio with breathtaking views of lotus flowers and birdlife in the channels deep in the marshes.

The third day began with various interesting sessions. The Helsinki group (chaired by **Susan Kermas**) composed of **Irma Taavitsainen**, **Turo Hiltunen**, **Jukka Tyrkkö**, **Martti Mäkinen** and **Maura Ratia** gave papers ranging around the main topic of English medical writing and based on the material from the computerized corpus of Middle English Medical Texts. Only Maura Ratia dealt with the Early Modern tobacco controversy, analysing a corpus of tobacco texts compiled by herself.

The third Plenary lecture – chaired by Marina Dossena – was presented by **Markku Filppula** (Joensuu) on the topic *The Celtic Hypothesis hasn't gone away: New Perspectives on Old Debates*. This intriguing lecture focused on the "century-old" debate about the Celtic influence on the English language. Challenging the 'traditional' opinion held by the majority of scholars, who consider the Celtic impact as minimal, Filppula showed the more recent opinion, which is becoming stronger among contemporary scholars, that Celtic has given a significant input in the formation of certain features of English, mostly at morphological and syntactical levels. In his lecture, he provided both linguistic and extra-linguistic evidence for his claim, focusing on three main types of evidence: (a) demographic and historical, (b) contact-linguistic, and (c) areal and typological ('contact-induced, possibly *Sprachbund*-type developments in English syntax'). All these types of evidence lead to the conclusion that there has been a 'widespread intermingling of the two cultures' (Celtic and Romano-British), affecting several areas of English grammar and morphophonology, starting in the OE period.

After lunch, another interesting workshop took place: *Dialects of the diaspora: the influence of 19th –century Irish migration and settlement on urban dialects of British English*. The focus of the panel – chaired by Joan Beal (Sheffield) – was on the impact that waves of Irish migrations in the British Isles had on different urban centres, such as Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sheffield. The papers presented considered the topic analysing

different areas (grammar, lexis, phonology, etc.), and using both historical and contemporary sets of data.

The workshop started with Kevin McCafferty's (Bergen) paper, *On the trail of 'intolerable Scoto-Hibernic jargon' – Ulster English and Irish English in William Carleton's Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry (First Series, 1830)*, which analysed the language of peasant characters created by the 19th-century Irish writer William Carleton. McCafferty identified four processes in Carleton's work; exclusion of non-Irish spoken-language forms; exclusion of forms restricted to Northern Irish English only; retention of forms shared in Northern and Southern Irish English; retention and insertion of Southern Irish English forms. McCafferty concluded showing that Carleton's characters' dialect reflected the speech of the majority of Irish people, as part of the writer's project of representing a more national language, according to what Carleton called 'dialect hygiene', a principle that cultivated a dialect cleaned of Scottish features considered disagreeable by his contemporaries.

The next two papers were given by Joan Beal (Sheffield). The first one, *'Paddy' Meets 'Geordie': A prolegomenon to investigating the reflexes of 19th-c. linguistic contact in the North East*, was co-authored by Karen Corrigan (Newcastle). The paper took into consideration the peculiarities of the 'Tyneside' dialect, which are recognisably Northern on phonological, but divergent on lexical and morpho-syntactic levels. One of the suggested reasons for this diversity has been claimed as the Irish migration that affected the region in the late nineteenth century. The authors took into consideration various issues related to this hypothesis, in order to clarify the topic: principles of language contact, socio-historical and geographical evidence, analysis of the phonological and morpho-syntactic features of both Irish and Tyneside English, common features of the two varieties with other British urban varieties.

The second paper, *The Irish in Sheffield, the 'Industrial Village'*, examined the influence of 19th-century Irish migration in Yorkshire, focusing particularly on the industrial city of Sheffield. Though Sheffield has known the same history in terms of Irish migration as other urban centres such as Liverpool, Newcastle and Middlesbrough, Beal showed that the Irish in Sheffield seem to have had little or no linguistic influence on the city's dialect. Beal argued that one of the reasons for this might have been the 'impenetrable' social networks that characterised 'the largest village in England'.

The last paper of the panel, *Migration and language variation: Middlesbrough and Dublin compared*, was co-authored by Carmen Llamas (Aberdeen) and Barbara Fennell. They considered the Irish linguistic influence in the north east of England, precisely in the city of Middlesbrough, whose variety shares with Liverpool's a number of common features, probably due to the massive 19th-century waves of Irish migrants. The paper was presented as part of an on-going project which seeks to compare phonetic and phonological characteristics of Dublin, Liverpool and Middlesbrough varieties, in order to show the relationships that might exist "in terms of a common linguistic heritage".

After coffee break the various interesting parallel sessions were followed by Martti Mäkinen's corpus demonstration of *Middle English Medical Texts*, compiled by Irma Taavitsainen, Päivi Pahta and Mäkinen himself, and including half a million words from medical texts dating from 1375 to 1500.

The day ended with the conference dinner at Villa Finardi: the participants enjoyed the excellent food in a relaxing atmosphere. Speeches from the Conference Organizers and a 'Scottish joke' by Margaret Laing were much appreciated by everyone. These were followed by a 'dancing session' missed by most of the participants due to an unexpected and annoying downpour of rain which made people rush to the buses waiting to take them to their hotels.

Friday 25th August was the last day of the Conference and other interesting topics were offered to the delegates. For example, in her paper, *The Celtic origin of some non-Germanic traits of Old English*, Angelika Lutz (Erlangen) argued that, despite the widely-accepted statement that written OE represented the Anglo-Saxon sociolect of the ruling classes, and that no Celtic features affected the written form of this language, some Celtic substratal influences on pre-OE syntax can be demonstrated on the basis of syntactic, semantic, and etymological evidence for language shift, made possible by recent studies on general comparative contact linguistics. For her claim, Angelika Lutz provided examples from the twofold present of the verb 'to be' (OE *beon/ wesan*), compared the use of the progressive in OE and in Celticized varieties of Modern English, finally providing lexical evidence through the analysis of the etymology and meaning of some OE words.

Other interesting papers include those read by Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster) and Merja Kytö (Uppsala), who used the Corpus of Early English Dialogues

1500-1760 to revisit some grammatical variants studied by Terttu Nevalainen and Helena Raumolin-Brunberg in their analysis of the Corpus of Early English Correspondence, and **Terttu Nevalainen** (Helsinki), who illustrated computational techniques required in order to overcome the 'bad data' problem in historical sociolinguistics stemming from limited data, often unevenly distributed across the language community.

The last Plenary (chaired by Maurizio Gotti) was given by **Ans van Kemenade** (Nijmegen), who focused on *The balance between discourse and syntax in Old and Middle English*. The speaker discussed three main points in her paper: in the first one, on OE clause structure organized in terms of discourse domain, Van Kemenade argued that discourse particles were used to signal the separation of discourse-anaphoric elements and other elements, and the transition to a different ME clause structure was presented in terms of syntactic organization. The second point of the paper dealt with OE relics in ME that show regional variation and can be seen as syntactic remains from OV word order. Finally, van Kemenade examined the drastic transition from OE to ME, presenting data that show how a fundamental shift underlies the process that leads from a discourse-driven (OE) to a syntax-driven organization (ME).

The 14th ICEHL concluded with a 'business meeting' chaired by the three Conference organizers: Marina Dossena, Richard Dury and Maurizio Gotti (rigorously in alphabetical order!).

After thanking the Conference participants for their contribution to making the conference such a stimulating event – actively participating in both 'academic' and social events – the organizers passed the word on to Donka Minkova (UCLA), who announced the next two SHEL conferences: SHEL5 to be held in Athens, Georgia, 21-23 September 2007 and the next one expected to be held in Calgary in April 2009.

The meeting proceeded with a discussion about the future ICEHL venue, or venues since there were proposals for the next THREE conferences: München (Germany) proposed itself for 2008, followed by Pécs (Hungary) in 2010 and Leuven (Belgium) in 2012.

The 'München proposal' was immediately and unanimously voted by hand-raising as the next 15th ICEHL venue. A bit of a debate was caused by the 'Pécs

proposal', but the Hungarian representative, Irén Hegedus, gave satisfactory information about transport and accommodation facilities offered by the town, and Pécs was finally voted as venue for the 16th ICEHL.

The participants then decided to vote the 2012 conference venue in München in 2008: the only proposal for the time being is Leuven (Belgium), which is also going to host the 2008 'Grammaticalisation Conference'.

The last announcement dealt with the Conference Proceedings publication: the organizers proudly announced that several international publishers were interested in publishing a selection of the papers, but arrangements are still at a preliminary stage. The publication of the Proceedings is anyway expected before the 15th ICEHL, Summer 2008.

Finally, the conference participants thanked the three organizers with a five-minute long, well-deserved applause and bade each other 'Goodbye' to the next Conference.

Daniela Cesiri

4. Reviews and bibliographical information

§ Dossena, Marina / Fitzmaurice, Susan M. (eds). 2006. *Business and Official Correspondence: Historical Investigations*. (Linguistic Insights: Studies in Language and Communication, Vol. 32.) Bern: Peter Lang.

This volume focuses on the nature of official correspondence produced in the period after 1500, from Early Modern to nineteenth-century English. The contributions reflect the extent to which the genre is somewhat plastic in this period, gradually acquiring distinguishing conventions and protocols as the situations in which the letters themselves are encoded acquire more distinctiveness. Although correspondence has long been the object of diachronic studies, very little seems to be available as far as specialized usage is concerned, hence the specific interest in letters exchanged within scientific, diplomatic, and business networks. In addition, the study of business and official correspondence offered here profits from a multi-disciplinary and multi-methodological approach, as it relies on a rich array of databases and corpora of correspondence, ranging from highly specialized collections to more broadly constructed diagnostic corpora, in which correspondence is just one register or text-type. While specific attention is paid to phenomena relating to the expression of positive and negative politeness through the investigation of authentic (rather than constructed) texts, methodological issues are also taken into consideration.

Contents: Maurizio Gotti: Communal Correspondence in Early Modern English: The *Philosophical Transactions* Network – Urszula Okulska: Textual Strategies in the Diplomatic Correspondence of the Middle and Early Modern English Periods: The Narrative Report Letter as a Genre – Susan Fitzmaurice: Diplomatic Business: Information, Power, and Persuasion in Late Modern English Diplomatic Correspondence – Manfred Markus: Abbreviations in Early Modern English Correspondence – Ingrid Tiekens-Boon van Ostade: Edward Pearson Esqr.: The Language of an Eighteenth-century Secretary – Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti: «Conduct yourself towards all persons on every occasion with civility and in a wise and prudent manner; this will render you esteemed»: Stance Features in Nineteenth-century Business Letters – Marina Dossena: Stance and Authority in Nineteenth-century Bank Correspondence – a Case Study – Richard Dury: A Corpus of Nineteenth-century Business Correspondence: Methodology of Transcription.

Facchinetti, Roberta / Rissanen, Matti (eds). 2006. *Corpus-based Studies of Diachronic English*. (Linguistic Insights: Studies in Language and Communication, Vol. 31.) Bern: Peter Lang.

Corpus-based studies of diachronic English have been thriving over the last three decades to such an extent that the validity of corpora in the enrichment of historical linguistic research is now undeniable. The present book is a collection of papers illustrating the state of the art in corpus-based research on diachronic English, by means of case-study expositions, software presentations, and theoretical discussions on the topic. The majority of these papers were delivered at the 25th Conference of the International Computer Archive of Modern and Medieval English (ICAME), held at the University of Verona on 18-23 May 2004. A number of typological and geographical varieties of English are tackled in the book: from general to specialized English, from British to Australian English, from written to speech-related registers. In order to discuss their tenets, the contributors draw on corpora and dictionaries from different centuries, including the most recent ones; hence, they testify to the fact that past and present are so strongly interlocked and so inextricably entwined that it proves hard – if not preposterous – to fully understand Present-day English structure and features without turning back to the previous centuries for an in-depth knowledge of the 'whys' and 'hows' of the current state of the art.

Contents: Roberta Facchinetti/Matti Rissanen: Introduction – Anne Curzan/Chris C. Palmer: The Importance of Historical Corpora, Reliability, and Reading – Johan van der Auwera/Martine Taeymans: More on the Ancestors of *Need* – Manfred Markus: Spotting Spoken Historical English: The Role of Alliteration in Middle English Fixed Expressions – Irma Taavitsainen/Päivi Pahta/Matti Mäkinen: Towards a Corpus-Based History of Specialized Languages: *Middle English Medical Texts* – Barry Morley/Patricia Sift: Towards the Automatic Identification of Directive Speech Acts – Helena Raumolin-Brunberg: Leaders of Linguistic Change in Early Modern England – Hans Martin Lehmann/Caren auf dem Keller/Beni Ruff: ZEN Corpus 1.0 – Udo Fries: Death Notices: The Birth of a Genre – Franck Zumstein: The Contribution of Computer-Searchable Diachronic Corpora to the Study of Word Stress Variation – Merja Kytö/Erik Smittberg: 19th-Century English: An Age of Stability or a Period of Change? – Clemens Fritz: The Conventions' Spelling Conventions: Regional Variation in 19th-Century Australian Spelling –

Tine Breban: *The Grammaticalization of the English Adjectives of Comparison: A Diachronic Case Study* – Göran Kjellmer: *Panchrony in Linguistic Change: The Case of Courtesy*.

Skaffari, Janne / Peikola, Matti / Carroll, Ruth / Hiltunen, Risto / Wärvik, Brita. 2005. *Opening Windows on Texts and Discourses of the Past. (Pragmatics & Beyond New Series 134)* Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

This volume presents a variety of pragmatic and discourse analytical approaches to a wide range of linguistic data and historical texts, including data from English, French, Irish, Latin, and Spanish. This diversity of research questions and methods is a feature of the field of historical pragmatics, which by its very nature has to take into account the multiplicity of historical contexts and the infinite variety of human interaction. This is highlighted in the book's introduction by means of the metaphor of "opening windows". Each chapter is a window affording a different view of the linguistic and textual landscape. Some of these windows were opened by historical linguists who have acquired discourse perspectives, some by pragmaticians with historical interests, and others by literary scholars drawing from linguistic pragmatics. Contributors include L. J. Brinton, G. Del Lungo Camicotti, M. Gotti, A. H. Jucker, F. Salager-Meyer, I. Taavitsainen, B. Wehr, L. Wright, and fourteen others.

Taavitsainen, Irma / Pahta, Päivi / Mäkinen, Martti (Compilers). 2005. CD-ROM. *Middle English Medical Texts*. Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Middle English Medical Texts (MEMT) is an electronic corpus including 86 texts and 495,322 words from three traditions of medical writing (surgical treatises, specialized texts, and remedy books) from 1375 to 1500, and an appendix of recipes from c. 1330. MEMT provides a new research resource for several kinds of study. Medical writing shows a great deal of variation even at this early phase, and it is possible to trace linguistic and conceptual developments. MEMT is intended for historical linguists, philologists, and historians of medicine. Most text samples come from edited treatises, but new material (unpublished theses, new transcripts) is also offered. The text samples of the corpus

cover 79 codices/manuscripts.

The corpus comes with MEMT Presenter, Windows-compatible software to view and browse the texts, and perform text searches. The CD-ROM also contains a JavaScript-based version of the corpus for web browsers in any system, including Macintosh and Linux; this version does, however, not have the advanced corpus search functionality offered by the MEMT Presenter software. In addition, the CD-ROM contains an Introduction by the compilers, background information on texts in the Text Catalogue and Bibliography, and MEMT Presenter Manual.

Nicholas Brownlee

§§ Giovanni Iamartino (University of Milan) is pleased to inform the SLIN readership of two book series he has recently become the editor of:

"Lexicography worldwide: theoretical, descriptive and applied perspectives" is meant to be a forum for discussion and debate over new perspectives on any aspect of lexicography: new developments in lexicographic theory; detailed critical analyses of past and present dictionaries; research on the interface between dictionaries, their production and use, and their users. The book series will publish monographs, collections of essays or conference proceedings. All the books in the series will be peer-reviewed by an international advisory board co-ordinated by the scientific committee.

"English library: the language bookshelf" has been conceived of as an opportunity to publish original research or teaching material in any subject area of English linguistics, in a synchronic, diachronic or applied perspective.

What is peculiar in these series is that their books, though available in the traditional paper format and protected by copyright, are also published online as open-access publications, thus ensuring the high visibility and a truly international scientific dialogue among researchers that is unfortunately often missing in academic publishing.

The first volume in the "Lexicography worldwide" series, entitled *Lessicografia bilingue e traduzione. Metodi, strumenti, approcci attuali* has already been published and can be downloaded at:

<http://www.polimetrica.com/polimetrica/512/> (paper copies for libraries or personal use can be ordered at the same address). The second and third volumes in the series, devoted respectively to historical lexicography and historical lexicology, are being prepared for publication and more books are scheduled for 2007. The first two monographs in "the language bookshelf" series are also due out in 2007.

If you are interested in publishing your own research or editing a collection of essays or the proceedings of a conference in either series, please visit the Polimetrica website at www.polimetrica.com or feel free to contact Giovanni Iamartino at giovanni.iamartino@unimi.it.

Giovanni Iamartino

5. Varia

Jamieson's Dictionary of the Scots Language is now online and can be found at <http://www.scotsdictionary.com> <<http://www.scotsdictionary.com>><http://www.scotsdictionary.com>.