THE HENRY SWEET SOCIETY

for the history of linguistic ideas

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NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Changes of personnel amongst the officers of the Society mean that the General Secretaryship is now shared jointly between Dr Edwina Burness and Dr Laura Wright, who have kindly provided the Editor with brief pen portraits, included below. The Society is grateful to these scholars for their willingness to take on these important duties; thanks are also due to Dr Brigitte Nerlich for her efforts during her necessarily brief tenure of office as General Secretary. The Editor is grateful to those who sent letters after the last *Newsletter* - attempts to rectify errors of omission and commission are made in the current issue. I am thus happy to confirm that, contrary to the claim in *Newsletter 17*, p .4, the paper on 'The distribution of symbols: some differences between Sweet and Passy', delivered at the September 1991 Colloquium, was the work of Dr William Bennett, and not Dr Wendy Ayres-Bennett; both scholars expressed to me equal degrees of good-humoured alarm at this unintentional misrepresentation! Those members who wrote excitedly asking where they might access the works of the (clearly) newly-discovered linguistic theorist Br-al will be desolated to learn that his brief existence can be attributed to an unhappy slip 'twixt MS DOS cup and Macintosh lip.

Andrew Wawn

THE NEW GENERAL SECRETARIES

Dr Laura Wright currently holds a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Keble College, Oxford. She is currently researching the history and development of business language in the medieval period. Dr Edwina Burness has held posts at London University and at English-based American colleges. She currently teaches for Boston University in London, and at Cambridge. Her recent publications include (with Vivian Salmon) *A Reader*

In the Language of Shakespearean Drama, and studies in seventeenth-century lexicography and school texts, regional speech in British literature, and the inter-relation of language, religion, sex and gender.

CONFERENCES AND COLLOQUIA

1.　FORTHCOMING

NINTH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM OF THE HENRY SWEET SOCIETY 1992

This will take place at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, Friday 4th - Monday 7th September, 1992. Among the papers promised for this meeting are:

A.Ahlqvist (Galway), 'The name of our discipline'

W.Hüllen (Essen) and R.Haas (Kiel), 'Adrianus Junius on the order of his *Nomenclator*'

B.Jones (Southampton), 'William Barnes and the Philological Society'

A.J.Klijnsmit (Amsterdam), 'Balmesian linguistics'

J.M.Morris (London), 'The Initial Teaching Alphabet and Phonics'

A.Musolff (Birmingham), 'Karl Bühler's and Alan Gardiner's concepts of metaphor in the context of their theories of speech and language'

J.Noordegraf (Amsterdam), 'Johan Huizinga (1872-1945) on spelling and linguistics'

C.N.E.Prescott (Newcastle), 'Joseph Wright's *Grammar of the Dialect of Windhill* (1892)'

S.Reynolds (Cambridge), 'Grammar and literature in the twelfth century'

I.Rosier (Paris), 'Grammaire et théologie au XIIIe siècle: quelques exemples d'interaction'

P.Schmitter (Münster), 'Narrativity as a metahistorical term: some systematic and historical considerations'

F.Stuurman (Utrecht), 'Family business: connections and analogies between dictionary projects of H.Poutsma (uncle) and L.E.J.Brouwer (nephew)'

J.Walmesley (Bielefeld), 'Towards a history of notionalism'

I.Zwiep (Amsterdam), 'Abraham ibn Ezra's views on the origin of language and the nature and status of Hebrew'

Other papers are still under negotiation. Other activities planned include an open discussion on current approaches to linguistic historiography, and a musical evening. For further information contact Dr Vivien Law, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge CB2 3HU.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, THE LANGUAGE ORIGINS SOCIETY

To be held at Selwyn College, Cambridge, September 7-10 1992. Themes include the biological bases of language; language as a semiotic; primatological evidence. Papers are invited on other topics. For information please contact Dr Leonard Rolfe, Department of Psychology, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YF.

15th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LINGUISTS, QUÉBEC, PQ. AUGUST 9-14, 1992

Plenary sessions devoted to Semantics, syntax, pragmatics; the word; endangered languages; theoretical approaches to language: the state of the art and prospects for the future. Details from Pierre Auger, Département de langues et linguistique, Université Laval, Québec, PQ, G1K 7P4, Canada - Fax 418 656-2019

FIFTH EURALEX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS. UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE, FINLAND. AUGUST 4 -9, 1992

Main subject groups will be Dictionaries from the Users' perspective; Terminology and Terminography; Computational Lexicography and Lexicography; Linguistics in Lexicography; the Dictionary-making process; Historical and Scholarly Dictionaries, and other Lexicographical topics. Organisers are Professors Hannu Tommola and Krista Varantola.

FERDINAND de SAUSSURE À CERISY-LA-SALLE. AUGUST 13-23, 1992.

Details from Michel Arrivé, B.P.2, F-78330 Fontenay-le Fleury, France.

2. REPORTS ON RECENT CONFERENCES

At the University of Murcia, Spain, the quincentenary of the publication of Antonio de Nebrija's *Grammatica Castellana* in 1492 was honoured by a *Congresso internacional* of invited speakers and participants, mostly Hispanists and Romance specialists, in the main campus of the university, from April 1st to 4th 1992. The majority of papers were, as would be expected, about one or other aspect of De Nebrija's work and the subsequent linguistic scholarship of Spain and the Spanish Empire.

The conference was very well organised, in both academic and administrative matters, and its proceedings were conducted with unusually formal ceremony, as befits the year 1992 in which Spain has several reasons for formal celebration. The conference was opened by Her Royal Highness, the Infanta Dona Margarita de Borbón, Duquesa de Soria, sister of the King of Spain, and she also presided at the formal opening of the Antonio De Nebrija Library on campus.

All participants received a formal certificate of attendance, the importance of which lay in its contribution to the *curriculum vitae* of postgraduate students and junior teachers; the view, with which I very much agree, was that attendance at academic conferences is less a privilege of seniors and more a professional duty of those entering or in their early years in an academic career.

The *Congresso* was given wide publicity in the streets around the University, and it was reported in the local press.

A more informal but equally enjoyable Colloquium was held in Leeuwarden, Holland, on April 23rd and 24th. This was organised by the Studienkreis Geschichte der Sprachwissenschaft and held in the Fryske Akademy. The titular subject was 'Creation and reception of linguistic trends', and the papers ranged from seventeenth-century grammars of Frisian to psychologism in the twentieth century. Here once again the organisation was excellent, and a wide selection of topics was presented and discussed.

Taken together, these conferences along with others planned for later this year show how lively is the interest being taken in the history of linguistics, not just in the specialist societies and their periodicals, but in individually planned meetings in different places drawing an international attendance.

R.H.Robins, London

REVIEWS

Comrie, Bernard. *The Major Languages of Western Europe; The Major Languages of Eastern Europe; The Major Languages of East and South-East Asia; The Major Languages of South Asia, the Middle East and Africa.* London. Routledge, 1990. 4 vols. xii + 315 pp., xii+ 255 pp., xi + 234 pp., xii + 315 pp. Paperback £16.99 per volume.

These four volumes constitute a rearrangement, with revisions, of the matter published in a single volume in 1987 as *The World's Major Languages.* The earlier work was divided into fifty chapters in a very substantial volume; the re-working is more practical for easy reference, and the regionalization of the four volumes should bring it within the range of a large number of scholars who might have been reluctant to acquire the original work by the inclusion of a large body of material which lay outside their immediate interests.

Much of the Introduction is common to each of the four new volumes; indeed, it reproduces that of the single volume, substituting in each case a regionalized second section for the general one in the 1987 work. This outlines the principles according to which the fifty 'languages' chosen for treatment were selected from the 4,000 or so (p. 2) known or believed to exist; it also contains some very useful and humane general observations, such as those on the distinction between language and dialect, between pidgins and creoles, on the rise and fall of major languages, on the social interaction of languages, besides introducing some features, such as ergativity, which speakers of Indo-European languages may find 'exotic'. The editor admits that his selection has to some extent been arbitrary, but there can surely be few who would fault it.

'Languages' are regarded as major largely by virtue of the numbers of their speakers, but a special case has to be made for such languages as Sanskrit and Latin, which can no longer claim native speakers; nevertheless they are extremely important for the cultural and linguistic influence they have exerted over wide areas. Some of the fifty chapters are devoted to such abstractions as Indo-European and Germanic (it is for this reason that the word 'languages' has been presented here in quotation marks), with the result that the four volumes cover fewer than the fifty working languages which might be expected. Within the larger groups a typographical distinction is made between levels of affiliation, with bold face for the most comprehensive groups (e.g. Indo-European), normal roman for intermediate groups (e.g. Germanic), and italics for individual languages (e.g. English); isolates like Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese are headed in bold face. (The affiliations of Indo-European loom large, no doubt, because they have been explored in greatest depth, and this is perhaps the case because this is the group with the most varied written tradition over a long period.) Once the system of display has been appreciated, what might have seemed to be a confusion of interests disappears; the separate articles are in any case authoritative, and it clearly offers something different from, and more ambitious than, for example, Voegelin & Voegelin's *Classification and Index of the World's Languages* (1977). Besides, if the study confined its attention to working languages, it would be a serious detraction from its usefulness not to include indications of relationships between languages.

The separate chapters, written by experts, give an up-to-date guide to the current state of the languages covered in the light of filiation (where appropriate), phonology, morphology and syntax. The emphasis varies partly as a result of the availability of evidence from a long written tradition to illustrate earlier stages, and partly, no doubt,

according to the predilections of individual contributors. The articles contrive to present a great amount of information in a very small compass, often going into surprisingly fine detail. In the area of my own interests, for, example, there is a very useful outline of the inflectional system of German, and the section on syntax (no doubt as a result of the special interests of the contributor) contains a wealth of valuable contrastive detail between what is permissible and what is impossible in English and German. The three distinctive languages of modern Scandinavia are presented in a single chapter, and the opportunity is taken to highlight contrastive features, besides demonstrating the underlying similarities.

Each of the volumes is an invaluable guide, and the relevant one should undoubtedly be in the hands of any scholar embarking on work in any one of the regional fields covered; but there is also a wealth of detail from which seasoned scholars can orientate themselves in areas in which they are not themselves specialists. In general, the work can be judged to be a successful combination of an outline of the classification of languages and separate monographs on individual languages.

<div align="right">Paul Salmon, Oxford</div>

Görlach, Manfred, *Introduction to Early Modern English.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

This volume will obviously be of considerable interest to those members of the Society who are engaged in teaching the history of the English language, but it will also be relevant to the concerns of those members who are interested primarily in the history of English linguistic ideas; Görlach uses material from early dictionaries, grammars, and from Wilkins's *Essay* (1668) to illustrate his arguments, and includes some extremely useful facsimile extracts from these early works.

This study was first published in German in 1978, and was intended for undergraduates studying English in German-speaking universities. Two years earlier, Charles Barber had published a somewhat similar work, *Early Modern English*, when Görlach, having taught the subject for some years in Heidelberg, was already engaged in planning his study. Given the content of these two works, it is not surprising that there are many likenesses between them, and it might even be thought unnecessary for Görlach's to appear in an English translation. However, there are also substantial differences. The most obvious is that Görlach includes a wide selection of early Modern English texts, in illustration of his expository material, while Barber provides a more extensive account of the social and cultural backgrounds, without texts. The other obvious difference is that Görlach's bibliography is more up to date: not only was the original German version published two years later than Barber, but the bibliography was revised for the 1991 translation, and several English scholars were approached by the author and his publishers for suggestions for revisions of both the bibliography and the text. There is also a general abbreviation of the material in Görlach, where it runs to 210 pages, as against Barber's 338, each volume being accompanied by bibliographies and indexes occupying several more pages.

The *Introduction* is divided into the following sections:

    1. A general introduction of five pages on methods and models, social

and cultural background, and literacy.

      2.   Varieties of Early Modern English.

      3.   Writing and spelling.

      4.   Phonology.

      5.   Inflexional morphology.

      6.   Syntax.

      7.   Vocabulary, with pages 263-405 devoted to texts, followed by bibliographical notes.

Texts 1-50 are organised in sections devoted to speech and language, literature and literary theory, and the history and culture of the period 1500-1700. Texts 51-66, which are additional to the German version, appear in purely chronological order. One extremely valuable aspect of the volume is the inclusion of chronological tables from 1485-1696, covering general and social history, Britain overseas, science, invention and economics, and literature, philosophy, fine arts and music, the table being taken from a volume on *Dates and Documents, Facts and Figures,* published in Frankfurt in 1970.

      Görlach begins by expressing his regret, in his *Preface,* that the period has been largely neglected by historical linguists, and that the neglect is hard to understand since it was a period when many of the characteristic structures of the modern written language developed. He specifically mentions the lack of manuals of Early Modern English, but perhaps it is understandable since British and North American students have easy access to the texts which are described in this volume, and in any case, will often be using them for literary studies as well. Moreover, since this was the period when the written standard was developing, twentieth-century readers can comprehend these texts much more easily - or think they can - than such difficult medieval texts as *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,* where they need considerable assistance in the interpretation. But for the last ten years it has not been true to say that the study of Elizabethan English has been neglected - only that few manuals have appeared. Certainly there have been many individual studies by scholars who are aware of current linguistic theories, and some of these are actually omitted from Görlach's bibliography.

      Görlach obviously does not lay claim to great originality, since the headings of many of the sections are accompanied by references to his modern sources. At the same time, he expounds his material clearly and concisely, writing as an expert in contemporary linguistic history in so far as it is appropriate for studying texts of this nature, or, in the case of the chapter on phonology, in using segmental, rather than distinctive feature theory. No doubt to have used the latter would have required far too much specialised knowledge from most undergraduates.

      For the benefit of those who are primarily interested in the history of English linguistics, it should be noted that Görlach deals with such topics as attitudes to Latin, ideas on orthography and spelling reform (with facsimiles of extracts from Hart, Bullokar and Gill) and standardisation (Mulcaster), the influence of rationalism on seventeenth-century English, and Wilkins's theory on semantics. Of special value are the facsimiles to illustrate

this topic (pp.185 and 186). Other extracts, from Cotgrave (pp.123-4) and Cockeram (p.15) illustrate early dictionaries.

As Görlach explains, the accompanying texts have been selected from a linguistic point of view, to correlate closely with the grammar. He does not otherwise explain the rationale for his choice, but it would appear that the first group, on speech and language, is designed to appeal to those with primarily linguistic interests, the second group, on literature and literary theory, to attract those who are specialists in literature, and the third, on the history and culture of the period, to both groups.

In such a comprehensive undertaking, in such a relatively limited space, it would be surprising if there were not some room for disagreement, and some omissions. One of the potential disagreements is in the section entitled *Registers* (pp.27-36), in which the term is defined as 'language variation according to subject matter, style and medium', where Görlach includes sections on rhetoric, idiolect and poetic diction. In British literary theory, this term (first used by J.R.Reid in 1956) has been applied to language variation according to its *use*, while language variation according to *user* is called idiolect or dialect. So as to avoid ambiguity, *register* is frequently called 'functional variety'. Perhaps stylistic variation would be more accurate as a description of Görlach's categories here.

On the matter of omissions, it is surprising that Görlach does not include that old standby which is still very useful, i.e. G.McKnight's *The Evolution of the English Language*, first published as long ago as 1928. Less surprisingly, he fails to note some recent publications which to some extent supersede those he cites, for example, the treatment of the spelling and punctuation of Shakespeare's time which forms a large part of the introduction to the original-spelling edition of Shakespeare by Stanley Wells and Gary Taylor, published by OUP in 1986. There are also the occasional errors, for example, the attribution to Mulcaster of the first grammar of English in 1582 - it was, of course, a treatment of English spelling which he wrote.

This volume must have been extremely successful in Germany, where linguistic studies of English texts of the past are still vigorously pursued. Unfortunately, this is far from being the case at many British Universities, where even Shakespeare has ceased to be a prescribed author. For English Departments and teachers who still find linguistic study helps in the comprehension of early texts, this work will be extremely useful and stimulating.

Vivian Salmon, Oxford

Isermann, Michael, *Die Sprachtheorie im Werk von Thomas Hobbes.* Münster: Nodus, 1991. 312 pp. DM 59.00.

Any historian of linguistics in the English-speaking world who has researched in the field of seventeenth-century ideas will undoubtedly have discovered how difficult it is to obtain a complete conspectus of Hobbes's ideas on language. Certainly the relevant parts of *Leviathan* are well-known, but its treatment of language is fairly limited, and for Hobbes's other writings a guide is highly desirable - partly because some of them are in Latin. Although Hobbes's linguistic views were clearly an immense (though often contentious) influence on contemporary philosophers and linguists, about the only aspect of them which is known to practically everyone now is his analogy between words and coins, a topic

handled by Dascal as long ago as 1976 (*Studia Leibnitiana*, 8).

Until the appearance of Isermann's work, the major sources of information on Hobbes's linguistic thought readily available to English-speaking scholars had been Brekle's discussion of 'The Seventeenth Century' in *Current Trends in Linguistics* (1975), Padley's two volumes on *Grammatical Theory in Western Europe 1500-1700* (1976, 1985), various studies by Lia Formigari, e.g. *Language and Experience in Seventeenth-Century English Philosophy* (1988) and Stephen Land's *The Philosophy of Language in Britain. Major Theories from Hobbes to Thomas Reid* (1986). While these studies, however, deal to some extent with Hobbes's views on language, none of them treats them exclusively; moreover, the large number of items cited in Isermann's Bibliography (pp. 280-310) deal mainly with Hobbes's other interests as a logician, a political theorist, a rhetorician, and as a social scientist.

The great importance of this study is that, for the first time, Hobbes's views on language have been assembled and discussed as a whole. Isermann's introduction at once makes clear the enormous extent and diversity of Hobbes's views on language, as he notes: 'If Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) had concentrated into a single work the interest in language he showed in such manifold ways in his writings, this work would have been significantly bulkier than the voluminous *Leviathan*.' His aim is to give a full account, which is set out in chapters dealing in turn with (1) the location of relevant passages, (2) the presuppositions of Hobbes's linguistic theory, (3) Hobbes's theory of names, (4) his views on the use of names ('marks' and 'signs'), (5) language and method (the use of 'marks' and 'signs') in scholarship, (6) language in non-scholarly contexts (including the interference of personal concerns in the process of communication), and (7) the implications of the foregoing on communication (including an examination of the functions 'counsel, 'promise' and 'command').

There are not many historians of linguistics who are fully qualified to assess Isermann's achievement, but it is clear that this study breaks new ground in assessing his disjunct and apparently disparate remarks on language in the light of the context in which they occur, and in doing so succeeds in most cases in harmonizing them, or at the very least in accounting for them. From the point of view of a scholar who has devoted a fair amount of time to the study of seventeenth-century linguistics without having any special knowledge of Hobbes, it must be said that this volume appears to be both original and thorough; it is copiously annotated, and fills admirably an extraordinarily and surprisingly wide gap in our knowledge of seventeenth-century linguistic thought.

Isermann has already published one article on Hobbes's views on language, which appeared in a volume of studies dedicated to Professor Werner Hüllen on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. It is no doubt the case that this study originated in a thesis written under the supervision of Professor Hüllen, and both supervisor and student are to be warmly congratulated on their achievement. This pioneering work deserves to be widely known, and it would greatly help in that respect if it could be published in an English version.

Vivian Salmon, Oxford

Jensen, Kristian, *Rhetorical Philosophy and Philosophical Grammar. Julius Caesar Scaliger's Theory of Language.* Munich. Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 1990. 220 pp.

The works referred to in the title of this valuable study are chiefly Scaliger's *De causis linguae latinae* (1540) and *Excercitationes* (1557), the former providing a theoretical 'explanation' of Latin grammar, the latter supplementing it by a fuller discussion of the nature of our mental operations in relation to language. But as Jensen shows, these were only two of a large number of works published by Scaliger on a variety of topics, including zoology, botany, rhetoric, physics and poetics.

Scaliger was a typical Renaissance polymath, though somewhat unusual in so far as he was not associated with academic life. Born in Italy in 1484, and educated at Padua (among several universities) he moved with a friend to Agen in South-West France where, by 1528, he was employed as a physician. By this date, descriptive humanist grammars of Latin were widely available, especially in Italy, where they were first composed, and in Germany, where they were very soon translated and revised. The best-known study of Latin, that of Lorenzo Valle, was not even a grammar at all, but a discussion of various grammatical issues, with special reference to matters of style and usage. Others, such as that of Niccolo Perrotti, were very elementary, and must have been viable as a guide to Latin usage only by virtue of the concomitant study of classical texts under the guidance of a teacher. At the same time, grammars written by, or under the influence of, mediaeval speculative grammars were still known, Thomas of Erfurt's being reprinted as late as 1515, and at least one new modistic commentary appearing in the early sixteenth century. Scaliger's aim was to unite both the descriptive approach to classical Latin of the humanists, with philosophical 'explanations', comparable with those of the speculative grammarians, based ultimately on the teachings of Aristotle. In this aim he was practically a pioneer, his only predecessor of note being Thomas Linacre, whose *De emendatione structura Latini sermonis libri sex* (1524) used a good deal of terminology comparable with that of the speculative grammarians, although it was primarily concerned with the analysis of Latin syntax rather than morphology.

The foundation of Scaliger's grammar was his belief that knowledge of all phenomena is derived from an insight into their 'causes', the four Aristotelian ones, as set out in his *Physics*, being the 'material', 'formal', 'efficient', and 'final' causes. Applying these 'causes' to the understanding of Latin language, Scaliger perceived the 'material' cause to be the *littera*, i.e. the transcription of a specific sound, and the syllables into which sounds were organised. Scaliger did not, however, intend to explain the causes of language in general but, as Jensen notes (p.116), he aimed at describing the 'causes' of Latin in particular; here he tried to describe the 'potestas' (i.e. sound value) of each letter, which he identified with the 'letters' representing classical Latin pronunciation. Jensen summarizes his treatment of the subject as 'an important contribution to a topic of great interest ... his systematic treatment of sound changes was an impressive attempt to create an etymological science' (p.128). Jensen also points out that this material has largely been ignored by recent scholars, even although it comprises practically one-third of the contents of the book.

The second 'cause' was the 'formal' one; while his treatment of the 'material' cause was innovative, his description of the 'formal' cause owed much to logical and grammatical tradition, since the 'formal' cause had long been equated with the 'signification'. A crucial question here was the relationship of works to either mental terms, or directly to things, and surprisingly, Scaliger seems to regard it as a relationship between words and things, rather

than between words and mental terms. But it is with reference to signification that the *Excercitationes* has most to say, and here Jensen describes the issue in some detail; Scaliger obviously had to engage in a long-standing debate on the existence of universals, and the concept of individual phenomena.

Much of Jensen's chapter on the 'formal' cause deals with ontological questions; historians of grammar will find other matter more relevant to their own concerns, particularly Jensen's discussion of usage and reason (pp. 151-183). Jensen concludes that 'the problem of reconciling the historical approach to language with ontologically based theories still remained unsolved' (p.158).

Discussion of the 'efficient' cause of language, which occupies Chapter VIII, is an issue on which Aristotelian authority was lacking; hence, perhaps, Scaliger is less certain when dealing with this topic than with the 'material' or 'formal' causes. At one point he regards the speaker as the 'efficient' cause (p.179) and at others treats it as the 'first inventor of language'. Jensen admits that Scaliger may be confused here, and restricts himself to dealing with origo as the 'efficient' cause; in this connection, Scaliger devotes much attention to discussing the long-standing issue of analogy versus anomaly, and proves to be an opponent of the anomalist view (p.184).

In the *De causis* Scaliger hardly mentions the 'final' cause (p.129), although in the *Excercitationes* he sees it in the preservation, by communication, of human society (p.129); the remainder of Jensen's analysis is devoted largely to Scaliger's treatment of the parts of speech. Here he was influenced by modistic doctrine, dividing the parts of speech into those representing permanency and those representing flux, i.e. nouns and verbs, such as division deriving ultimately from Aristotle. But in distinguishing the other word classes associated with noun and verb, Scaliger redefines them more fully in philosophically consistent terms.

Scaliger did not earn a reputation as a philosophical grammarian until after his death, but by the early sixteenth century he was known not only to scholars in continental Europe, such as Gerhardus Vossius, in whose *De arte grammatica* (1645) he is cited, but his fame also extended to later seventeenth-century England, the *De causis* being cited on several occasions (e.g. pp. 367, 445) by John Wilkins, in his *Essays towards a Real Character, and a Philosophical Language* (1668).

Jensen's useful index and excellent bibliography are valuable supplements to the enlightening analysis of Scaliger's work which occupies most of his monograph. This study is all the more welcome because it is the first full-length account in English of a scholar who is better known by the titles of his books, than by their contents. Up to now, probably the fullest description has been given by G.A. Padley, in his account of the Latin grammatical tradition between 1500 and 1700.* This study is also especially welcome because, according to Jensen's bibliography, the *De causis* itself appears not to exist in a modern edition. Even the reader who does not have easy access to the original will now be able to form a good estimate of its contents from Jensen's study, the whole volume being a standard text which will hardly be improved on for many decades to come.

Vivian Salmon, Oxford

* *Grammatical Theory in Western Europe 1500-1700: the Latin Tradition.* Cambridge: C.U.P 1976

Koerner, Konrad, ed. *First Person Singular II*.   Benjamins: Amsterdam/Philadelphia, 1991. (Studies in the History of the Language Sciences, 61). x + 304 pp.

During the last few decades, there has been a steady increase of interest in the recent past among amateur historians, and the availability of the cassette recorder has made it possible to convert what were formerly casual reminiscences by older members of a family into detailed and organised narratives. Such reminiscences have now been given academic respectability by the foundation of the journal *Oral History*.

At about the same time as its first publication, two North American linguists decided to capture in permanent form the memoirs of those who have contributed to the establishment of linguistics as a distinctive academic discipline; in 1979 Boyd Davis and R.K. O'Cain organised a conference to provide an 'oral archive' on the early years of North American linguistics, and in 1980 published the proceedings as *First Person Singular*. Soon afterwards, Konrad Koerner began to collect materials for a second volume, which has now been published as *First Person Singular II*. In his *Foreword*, the editor refers to submissions in manuscript, and it is obvious that most of the autobiographies are too coherent and stylistically competent to be, like those of the previous collection, purely oral reminiscences, and some have indeed already been published elsewhere; only one contribution, by Garvin, is described specifically as being based on conversations between Garvin and another scholar, in three separate sessions.

The volume contains papers by fifteen linguists, i.e. Agard, Bolinger, Chao, Cowan, Emeneau, Fishman, Garvin, Greenberg, Hall, Kahane, Newman, Nida, Penzl, Polome, and Read, many being to some extent directed toward some specific aspect of the development of the subject. For example, J.M. Cowan's is entitled 'American Linguistics in Peace and War', and deals in great detail with the study of language in World War II; another paper, by Emeneau, is entitled 'A Nova Scotian Becomes a Linguistic Indologist' in which the author describes the history of his own unusual childhood dialect 'close to what is known as Luneberg Dutch', because he believes that his childish linguistic experience may have had some bearing on his career in linguistics.

In spite of these different emphases, it is fair to say that all the contributors share certain common features. First, they are all male, not, I am sure, owing to any bias on the editor's part, but because in the period when these scholars were embarking on their careers women - certainly married ones - were expected to devote themselves to home and family; in the U.K, for example, teachers and civil servants were forced to resign on marriage, and no doubt a somewhat similar situation existed in North America. Women who remained single, like Margaret Schlauch, were obviously able to pursue careers, but in Schlauch's case she was forced to flee the U.S.A. in the McCarthy years, and to some extent lost contact with American linguistics (though her *Festschrift* of 1966 includes contributions from Archibald Hill, Roman Jakobson, and Jerzy Kuryowiz).

Secondly, all the contributors have retired from teaching, but not from research. Most seem to have been born between 1910 and 1926, and are therefore expert witnesses of the development of linguistics. Kahane, for example, relates how he and his colleagues from various disciplines took eighteen years to persuade the University of Illinois to set up a department. The difficulties were caused by administrators, who doubted that there was a future for the subject. In 1938, Greenberg notes, Yale (where Bloomfield was teaching), was the only university with a separate linguistics department.

Thirdly, all of these scholars came to linguistics from other disciplines; English literature (particularly those who specialised in Old and Middle English texts), classical and modern languages and literatures, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, and 'philology', not as a separate discipline but as a specific term for studies in Indo-European, Hittite, Sanskrit, etc.

Fourthly, nearly all these scholars, were established as Bloomfieldian structuralists when *Syntactic Structures* appeared in 1957. They nearly all found Chomsky's ideas unattractive; some, like Dwight Bolinger, admired Chomsky's personal crusades against the military establishment, while not endorsing his linguistic theories. A few were members of departments whose younger members welcomed transformational grammar, though they themselves seem to have retained some reservations on the subject.

Fifthly, many of these contributors describe the context in which they themselves learnt to speak and read - the description of learning to read Chinese by Chao is particularly fascinating - and how and why they became interested in linguistic studies even as children. One interesting account, by Emeneau, is of how he was given a Victorian children's book which included an article on - of all things - Indo-European, which aroused his wild enthusiasm.

In addition, nearly all of these scholars were deeply affected in one way or another by external events. First was the dispersal of German, Austrian and Czech scholars of Jewish descent in the 1930s, and their removal to North America where they brought both their own experience and new theories which were of crucial importance to the development of the subject. Among them, for example, was Roman Jakobson, whose distinctive feature theories found world-wide dissemination when they were adopted by Chomsky and Halle in *The Sound Pattern of English*. As Garvin explains (p.128) Jakobson found refuge at Harvard, later becoming part of the mainstream when Halle made a bridge between Jakobsonian phonology and generative linguistics, Jakobson later being associated with the M.I.T.Complex. Another refugee who found a home in the U.S.A. was Herbert Penzl, an Austrian who arrived to stay in 1936.

A second external event which affected the American linguistics was World War II. The fullest account is given by Cowan, but there are hardly any of the scholars whose contributions are printed here who were not affected in one way or another by the need to teach the languages of the then enemy, such as Japanese, to army recruits. Strong support by the Defense Department continued for many years, so that even in the 1960s it was common to find apparently irrelevant research sponsored by the army authorities, who were also interested in work on codes.

A third event which affected American linguistics was the departure of some distinguished scholars in the McCarthy years. It appears that Swadesh was one of these, moving to Mexico, and another was Schlauch, who was forced to flee first to Sweden and then to Poland.

It is sad to note that few of these contributors seem to have had any close relationship with British colleagues. Cowan, however, notes (p.72) how the London school (S.O.A.S) was taken as a model for the establishment of a National School of Modern Oriental Languages, though in general there seem to have been few other contacts, except on a purely individual basis. For example, Garvin (p.134) seems to have been connected with Halliday, Quirk and Firth. Of the first, he believes that some of his theoretical notions are far too speculative, although he is in general approving, and of the third, he says that "He

has his heart in the right place but he sort of never was able to keep his variables straight. He had an idea of putting everything in the same pot and making a witches' brew out of it'. The other American linguist with close British connections was Dwight Bolinger, who was on friendly terms with the Edinburgh linguist Angus McIntosh, and apparently knew Quirk, Crystal and Cruttenden (p.39).

This volume will prove of absorbing interest to British linguists to whom for so long these great figures of the recent past have been no more than names, although their works were seminal. The story of their lives will also find an echo in those of many British linguists, who also embarked on their careers in departments of other kinds. The present writer, for example, was first employed to teach Old Icelandic, Old and Middle English language and literature, the history of the English language and phonetics; shortly after her appointment her university decided to require some knowledge of linguistics in language departments, and she herself then took courses at S.O.A.S. under Bazell. A similar account might be given of the antecedents of Quirk (in an English Department), Halliday (Chinese), and Robins (Classics); such variety of experience was in fact enjoyable and stimulating, although it left many of us feeling totally inadequate when it came to the more theoretical aspects of American linguistics.

Koerner is to be warmly congratulated on bringing together so many interesting accounts, and providing such excellent documentation for what will be one day a full-scale history of the subject in North America as it developed among distinguished linguists outside the domain of TG grammar. Perhaps one day a similar collection will be made for European, or even British, linguists.

Vivian Salmon, Oxford

Leitner, Gerhard (ed.), *English Traditional Grammars.*   Amsterdam and Philadelphia: Benjamins 1991. 392 pp.

According to 'traditional' usage, the label 'traditional grammar' covers any pre-structuralist grammar from antiquity up to the twentieth century or applies even to the present, depending on whether we read 'traditional' in a more historical or in a more typological sense. Until recently, both readings carried an additional pejorative undertone, reflecting a prescriptive attitude towards the history of grammar writing of otherwise descriptive linguists. It is mostly due to the work of historians of linguistics that this derogatory connotation seems to be on the wane, as is the undifferentiated evaluation of the linguistic past. While quite a lot of research has been done in the last two decades both on traditional grammars of English up to the early nineteenth century (e.g. Michael 1970; Vorlat 1975; Welte 1985; Leitner 1986) and on modern English reference grammars (e.g. Leitner 1986; Graustein/Leitner 1989), the enormous output of English grammars in the nineteenth century has received little attention. This is the gap the book intends to fill (Leitner, p. 3). Quite surprisingly, half of the contributions to this volume are exclusively concerned with twentieth-century grammars. It is perhaps for this reason that the book's title contains no reference to the period under investigation. Thanks to the continuity of approaches to the grammar of English, the articles on twentieth-century grammars nevertheless fit in well with the book's design.

Part I, which is concerned with native grammars of English, focuses on the general trends of grammar writing in England (Michael), Ireland (Downey), and America (Downey;

Algeo), but covers also related topics such as the international movement towards a unification of grammatical terminology (Walmsley) and the tradition of usage handbooks (Burchfield). Part II surveys the major non-native (Belgian, Dutch, Czechoslovakian, German) contributions to the grammar of English, among them the grammars of Kruistinga, Maetzner, Deutschbein, and Lamprecht. Confining the view to small grammatical portions like the treatment of noun phrases (Aarts), of articles (Lyons), of tense and aspect (Niemeyer), or of modality (Walton), the authors of Part III provide an even closer look at the development of traditional grammar. In fact, it is these analyses that most clearly reveal the general trends in grammar writing that began in the second half of the nineteenth century: a tendency towards descriptive adequacy, synchronic description, a sentence-based perspective, and a growing consideration of spoken English.

As might be expected, the authors differ on what makes a grammar 'traditional'. Is a grammar traditional, when it is 'Latin-based', 'prescriptive', 'descriptive' (as opposed to explanatory), 'eclectic', 'word-class based', or 'pedagogic'? Or are only some of these approaches - if so, which ones? - 'traditional'? Generally, the book confirms the tendency to widen the applicability of the notion 'traditional grammar' so as to cover all kinds of grammars which are non-theoretical. An extreme stand is taken by Algeo. Arguing that any modern approach to grammar is eventually absorbed by tradition - and thus becomes 'traditional' - his survey of twentieth-century American grammars of English also includes avowedly structuralist grammars. This inclusion makes an already imprecise term virtually useless for grammatical historiography. But, then, the terminological embarrassment only seems to reflect the state of the (young) art. In order to find both more precise and less controversial categorizations of what we all, more or less reluctantly, call 'traditional grammar', we need to know more about the grammars of the period, to which this valuable monograph draws our attention.

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Michael Isermann

Murphy, James J. (ed.), *A Short History of Writing Instruction. From Ancient Greece to Twentieth-Century America.* Davis, California: Hermagoras Press, 1990. vi + 241pp.

The main title of this volume is somewhat misleading. The book is not 'a short history of writing instruction' but a collection of seven essays by divers hands on writing instruction in various places at various times. It begins with an account by Kathleen E.Welch of writing instruction in ancient Athens after 450 BC and a very substantial piece by James Murphy on Roman writing instruction as described by Quintilian. The teaching of writing in medieval Europe is discussed by Marjorie Curry Woods, and this is followed by Don Paul Abbott on rhetoric and writing on Renaissance Europe and England. Thereafter developments in continental Europe are lost from view. Winifred Bryan Horner discussed writing instruction in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain, and then the focus of attention shifts to the USA with S.Michael Halloran outlining the teaching of writing in America up to 1990 and James A.Berlin bringing the story up to date with his essay 'Writing instruction in school and college English, 1890-1985'.

There is much of value in the book, though Kathleen Welch's discussion of the situation in ancient Athens, while interesting, is rather too brief to be very informative. Murphy's piece on Rome is full and very useful, giving for example a detailed account of the so-called *progymnasmata* of Hermogenes of Tarsus. In Abbott's contribution the discussion of the curriculum of a typical late sixteenth-century English grammar school is of interest, while Horner's paper offers useful insights into education in Scotland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Halloran is particularly informative about eighteenth-century America - he prints in full a rare survival of student writing from Princeton in 1772. Finally, Berlin examines the way in which the teaching of education in a democratic society against a background of competing views on the nature of the curriculum in the context over broader economic, social and political issues in the United States.

John L. Flood, London.

Scott, Izora, *Controversies over the Imitation of Cicero in the Renaissance.* Davis, California: Hermagoras Press. 1991. viii + 124, [2], 145pp.

Izora Scott's study of Ciceronianism - in the specific sense of Cicero's influence on the teaching of rhetoric and the Renaissance debate over the use of Cicero as a model for imitation in composition - is a classic that has been out of print for far too long. It was first published under the title *Controversies over the Imitation of Cicero as a Model for Style and Some Phases of their Influence on the Schools of the Renaissance*, as volume 35 in the series 'Contributions to Education' by Columbia University in New York in 1910. Since the book will not be very widely known in Europe, Hermagoras Press are to be congratulated on their decision to bring out a reprint at this time. Clearly, scholarship in this field has advanced since 1910, but if one leaves aside the need to dot a few j's and cross a few t's here and there, the book can stand as an admirably rounded discussion of the subject.

The book comprises two parts which are separately paginated - unnecessarily in my view since it merely complicates the index.   The first consists of seven chapters discussing

the history of the controversies. They treat of the influence of Cicero before 1450; Ciceronian controversies in Italy (Poggio, Valla, Politian, Scala, Cortesi, Pico and Bembo); the Ciceronianism of Erasmus and his quarrels with Guillaume Budé and Jacques Tusan; the views of J.C.Scaliger, Etienne Dolet; the later phases of the controversy up to 1600; and conclude with an overview of the influence of Ciceronianism upon educational practice. Scott's facit is that whereas the aim of Renaissance education had been the mastery of the Greek and Latin languages, the cult of ultra Ciceronians had degenerated into purely imitative treatment of the authors studied, with Cicero being given the greatest prominence.

The second part of the book makes three key texts available in English translation. These are: the pamphlets on imitation by Gianfrancesco Pico and Pietro Bembo, written at the end of 1512, and Erasmus's *Ciceronianus* of 1528.

There is a bibliography and an index. James Murphy has noted details of a few recent contributions to the study of the debate in his brief Foreword, but perhaps a more thoroughgoing revision of the bibliography would have been helpful. Murphy cites as probably the best recent summary of the Ciceronian controversy in English Martin L.McLaughlin's thesis *Imitation in Literary Theory and Practice in Italy, 1400-1530* (Oxford, 1983).

<div align="right">John L.Flood, London</div>

Sundby, Bertil; Bjorge, Anne Kari; and Haugland, Kari E. *A Dictionary of English Normative Grammar 1700-1800.* Amsterdam and Philadelphia: Benjamins. ix + 486 pp.

Despite all linguistic arguments, prescriptivism is still very much with us. Besides the general need for correctness and style, which sociolinguists can perhaps account for, this fact may still reflect the importance of normative eighteenth-century grammar which has continued to influence ever since, and still influences, language teaching on a popular level. That century witnesses a great demand for textbooks serving educative purposes, whose normative messages, as is well known, were given negatively, i.e. by quoting bad usage. Thus, the around 190 English grammars produced between 1700 and 1800 contain a store of quotations pleading for purity, precision and perspicuity in language by giving examples of impurity, imprecision and lack of clarity.

The three authors from the University of Bergen have assembled these examples into an inventory which, they claim 'is practically complete as far as authorship is concerned' (p. 14). It will enable all historiographers, by comparing the many quotations, to escape the subjective predilections of individual grammarians and to view the overall picture of (negatively defined) norms of language use at that time. It is obvious that research on eighteenth century English grammar can from now on not be done without consulting DENG.

The Introduction to the Dictionary, besides giving guidelines for its use, shows the intricate work that had to be done over and above collecting the masses of material. Error categories had to be found (ambiguity, collocation, concord, contraction, co-occurrence, differentiation, ellipses, government, phraseology, redundancy, sequence, tautology, and transposition) and to be specified using a grammatical code. This code shows a structuralist approach, working mainly with patterns of word classes. The eighteenth century authors'

stylistic characterisations, often vague and redundant, had to be ordered using the index of labels ('absurd', 'affected', 'barbarous', etc., 33 in all). Both systems are elaborate and complex, the first in a grammatical, the second in a stylistic sense. They allow each quotation to be allocated a certain place in the wide field of the norm by the grammatical and stylistic characterisation of deviations it contains. The error categories are the heads of the main sections of the dictionary. A typical entry is: 'Br88:72 (Shakespeare) obs: "Whose violence grew of fury." ('from')', which may according to the authors be read as follows: 'Lewis Brittain, in his *Rudiments of English grammar* (1788), page 72, objects to the use of the preposition of with the verb grow, exemplified by a quotation from Shakespeare, on the grounds that the construction is obsolete. He suggests that of should be replaced by from' (p. 54). The entry is to be found under 'Collocation, 8.V PREP, V(act)' on p. 97. As a rule, no more than three quotations are given for each error, with an exhaustive codified list where others can be found.

What the eating is for the pudding, continuous use is for every dictionary, and certainly for DENG. It cannot be done without intensive study of the Introduction, which however is clear and convincing. After perusing it, this reviewer at least found reading the entries quite easy, though in long ones the compact printing may be found tiresome. Intensive as well as extensive work with the material, which is now at everybody's disposal, may lead to the investigation of many questions, e.g. what the precise meaning of such terms as 'bad', 'inelegant', 'not pleasing' is; whether the authors conform to their own rules of style; which rules are still valid today, etc. At the moment, before DENG is being used in this way, we cannot but admire the quantity and the complexity of the work that has been done here.

Werner Hüllen, Essen

Schmitter, Peter (ed.), *Sprachtheorien der abendländischen Antike.* Tübingen: Narr. 1991. xii + 430.

This book constitutes the second volume in Schmitter's series *Geschichte der Sprachwissenschaft*, the first volume of which appeared in 1987. Further volumes are planned, and Schmitter emphasizes (pp.viii-ix), that in the organization of such a series geographical distinctions as well as chronological ones are essential, particularly in relation to ancient cultures, if a proper perspective is to be achieved. Volume 1 contained general theoretical articles on various aspects and periods of linguistic history and historiography. The present volume consists of four parts: 1. Two articles on Hebrew and Greek mythological accounts of the origin of language; 2. Eight articles on Greek theories of language from the

Presocratics to the Neoplatonists; 3. Five articles on descriptive and didactic work in Hellenistic Greece and the Roman Empire; 4. A single article on Graeco-Roman rhetoric.

The majority of the articles are written in German; four are in French, and three in English. The coverage is extensive, and this volume shows how, in the light of current research and publication, it is necessary, for a comprehensive study of the history of linguistics, even in a chronologically delimited period, that is to go beyond an elementary textbook or a brief overview, that specialist writers should contribute articles in their own fields to be edited as chapters in a single book.

It is beyond the scope of this short notice to list all the persons and subjects covered, but one can draw attention to specific accounts of topics not usually dealt with in a single relatively brief book. As well as the Socratic dialogues, Plato, and Aristotle, we have a whole chapter (57-86) devoted to the Presocratics; and besides a chapter on the Stoics, wherein once again the author has to lament the almost total absence of primary sources, we find separate chapters on the Epicureans (217-37) and on the Sceptics and Neoplatonists (238-72). Within the chapter on the emergence and development of Greek grammar in the Alexandrian period, there is an excellent summary of current controversy on the date and authorship of the importantly *Téchne grammatike* assigned to Dionysius Thrax, with full bibliographical references to recent literature on this question (307-15).

Further volumes in the series will appear, and we look forward eagerly to the publication of Volume 3.

R.H.Robins, London.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

THE HENRY SWEET SOCIETY'S COLLECTION AT KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the collection continues to expand, as is evident from the following list of recent acquisitions, and the general Checklist of the collection which appeared in June 1990.

We are sorry to report that Mrs Jean Robinson, who has acted as our librarian since the inauguration of the collection, has now moved to another post in the college; we should like to take this opportunity to thank her warmly for all the assistance which she has given to members of the Society in recent years, and especially during conferences. At such times, she has not only directed members to the Library, and generally assisted them in finding books, but has also been kind enough to show them the beautiful medieval manuscripts which are among the treasures of the College Library.

We welcome her successor, Mrs Marjory Szurko, who, as a graduate in English Language and Literature from the University of Manchester, has a special interest in the work of Henry Sweet. She may be found in the Library on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and will be happy to show members the collection, which is housed within the main College Library.

During this period of transition, it is possible that acknowledgments have not been

sent to members who have kindly submitted publications, or that their works were not included in published lists of acquisitions, as with the works cited below by Professor Wolf and Dr Elffers van Ketel. Our apologies to these scholars - the Editor will be glad (in one sense, at least) to hear of any further omissions of this kind.

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