

Introduction

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The second International Symposium on New Approaches to Historical English Lexis was held in Lammi, Finland, 25-28 April, 2008. The venue was the Helsinki University Biological Research Station just outside Lammi in rural Finland, which provided a pleasant and entirely self-contained venue, as well as nature trails to enjoy and a lakeside sauna to relax in. Delegates came from a number of countries other than Finland, including the US, Canada, Britain, Austria, France, Spain, and Russia, and represented interests from historical linguistics to professional lexicography. Thirty-four papers, including three plenaries, were read. This volume represents a selection of these papers.

The papers which were read ranged over an extensive area of lexical studies. The conference was designed, like its predecessor, to attract both professional scholars and professional lexicographers—needless to say these categories often overlap, to the general benefit of everyone who takes a serious interest in lexical studies. Such a coming together of scholars also allows for a range of approaches, from the relatively theoretical to the largely data-driven. This is sometimes seen as a divide between schools, but this need not be inevitable. Both approaches have something to learn from the other.

We were privileged to have three distinguished plenarists at the conference: Professor Dieter Kastovsky (University of Vienna), whose subject was the so-called “combining forms”, Julie Coleman (University of Leicester), who lectured on slang dictionaries, and Elizabeth Knowles, formerly of Oxford University Press, who spoke about dictionaries of quotations.

Word studies obviously feature largely in this volume, represented by studies by Minna Nevala and Marianna Hintikka, Pascaline Dury, Ville Marttila, Daniela Cesiri, and several others. The perceived audience and readership, as well as the words themselves are considered in several of these studies. Nevala and Hintikka survey and evaluate the rich array of terms for prostitutes and prostitution in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, tracing a marked shift in the way this social problem was conceived. Marttila examines a large body of terms applied to various cutting processes in cookery, which covers a range of specialised actions. Marttila traces the fate of such terms through the history of the language. Cesiri is particularly concerned with readership and reception on her survey of nineteenth century gardening and cookery books, identifying a distinction between specialist-to-specialist strategies and specialist-to-general audience strategies.

In other lexical papers, Pascaline Dury turns her attention to the strikingly diverse terminology used in the nineteenth century for petroleum, while Joanna Kopaczyk writes on Scots legal terminology, in particular multi-word units. Kopaczyk is interested in exploring the way in which these lexical units relate to the requirement of transparency in legal writing. Hans-Jürgen Diller offers a detailed account of the meaning of the Old English *mōdig* in cognitive semantic terms. Diller identifies the core meaning of this important term and offers a resolution to the problem of its apparently contradictory senses. Another word study is Samuli Kaislaniemi’s account of the words for interpreter, based primarily on data from the records of the East India Company, a resource which still awaits systematic exploitation.

Quotations give our own speech authority, enshrine popular culture, including misconceptions, and change as a body of accepted wisdom as language does. Elizabeth Knowles, editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* and the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*, discusses the long-established, but rather neglected lexicographical tradition of quotation dictionaries, surveying the nature and use of these dictionaries and their contents.

The paper by Mirosława Podhajecka, which concerns the history of lexicographical genres, arises from her contribution to the *Słownik metaleksykografii*, a dictionary of metalexicography in Polish, but which also refers to English, French, Russian and German. Her paper deals with issues of classification, especially as regards the disparate usage between language traditions. Another

dictionary-maker, Anatoly Liberman discusses an aspect of work on his dictionary of etymology, in relation to various lexemes, such as *galoot*, *dwarf*, and *pimp*, explaining the varied and sometimes unexpected factors that characterise etymological research and the solutions to particular problems.

To understand the text, you must first understand the book, a fundamental point in textual scholarship which underlies David Vancil's paper on the miniature Johnson dictionaries, works which were popular, but have not been the subject of much research. They were instructional in nature and have little to do with their eponymous patron, but were nevertheless an enduring commodity with their own value. Jukka Tyrkkö and R. W. McConchie take up medical lexicography, another rather overlooked area. Tyrkkö discusses the origins and nature of the *Physical Dictionary* (1657) in the context of its publication history, research which casts this and other medical works of the time in an original and interesting light, driven by the wish to know about the publishing history of the work as well as to identify its compiler, while McConchie considers the place of George Motherby's 1775 medical dictionary in the tradition of medical lexicography and in relation to its sources, outlining both the traditional and innovative and up-to-date influences which went into its making.

Dieter Kastovsky makes some suggestions as to how to handle the conceptually awkward notion of "combining forms" with particular reference to its lexicographical use in the OED. Kastovsky argues that the range of other word-formation types is sufficient to provide an explanatory account of the largely borrowed patterns of word-formation in English. In a contribution to data-based word-formation studies, Mark Kaunisto has produced a thorough survey of adjectives in *-ive* and *-ory*, as well as raising some questions and matters for further research. Andras Cser's paper deals with issues of purist tendencies in relation to dictionaries and language, seeing the matter from a broadly European point of view, with special reference to English and Hungarian.

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