

50 and counting

Our current issue, *ET50*, completes twelve and a half years of reports, insights, comments, and discussions which have been as accurate, concise, informative, and *accessible* as we can make them, so that they sustain their value for academics and other professionals while being as transparent as possible to interested lay people (who often also contribute). Many readers worldwide have commented favourably on this experiment in 'open scholarship' and, in a world long on information and short on time, it is good to hear that many subscribers often read each issue from cover to cover.

It's even good to know (in a rueful sort of way) that *ET* is heavily photocopied, so that many people have read many of our articles without ever setting eyes on a full copy! Or, the coup de grâce, to hear about eager miscreants who photocopy their department's or library's latest copy from cover to cover, at no personal cost. So, one way or another we reach thousands worldwide, our contributors working at the cutting edge of a vastly complex global subject whose relevance grows more apparent with each passing year. Witness how many periodicals and books now regularly discuss 'international English'.

When this enterprise began, one critic wondered how we would maintain the standard of our first issue, some of whose articles have become classics, especially David Crystal's massively-cited *How Many Millions?* (of speakers of English in the world). But there has never been a shortage of material, and in the 13th year of publication submissions are as numerous, as rich, and as varied as ever.

Indeed, the greatest challenge comes from our contributors, whose articles expand while the journal's 64 pages remain the same. Fitting everything in has endangered *Kaleidoscope* (a department ably sustained for so long by Dale Roberts); and *Post & Mail* is now at risk, because we now get more articles than letters. Finally, the quantity of books received for review is so great that we continue to experiment in *Reviews & Displays* on how to get a gallon of titles into our pint pot of text.

Tom McArthur

The editorial policy of *English Today* is to provide a focus or forum for all sorts of news and opinion from around the world. The points of view of individual writers are as a consequence their own, and do not reflect the opinion of the editorial board. In addition, wherever feasible, *ET* generally leaves unchanged the orthography (normally British or American) and the usage of individual contributors, although the editorial style of the journal itself is that of Cambridge University Press.

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