

Rigour and range: the work of Manfred Görlach

Among the editors of periodicals that deal with English, the German Anglicist Manfred Görlach has – first from the university of Heidelberg then from Köln – been engaged since the early 80s in three linked activities:

- editing the biannual journal *English World-Wide (EWW)*, first published by Julius Groos, Heidelberg, then John Benjamins, Amsterdam & Philadelphia, to which many scholarly pioneers have contributed;
- supervising the series *Varieties of English Around the World (VEAW)*, also published by Groos then Benjamins, which has provided profiles of communities from Caroline Macafee's Glasgow to Joyce Penfield and Jacob L. Ornstein-Galicia's Chicano English.
- writing and editing works that include *English as a World Language* (co-edited with Richard W. Bailey: University of Michigan Press 1982, Cambridge 1984) and an *Introduction to Early Modern English* (Cambridge, 1991: based on his *Einführung ins Frühneuenglische*, Heidelberg, 1978).

Professor Görlach has recently passed the editorship of *EWW* to his colleague and compatriot Edgar W. Schneider at Regensburg, who has been closely involved in the Benjamins projects, his work including the editing of *VEAW English Around the World Vols 1 and 2* (studies in honour of Görlach) and *VEAW Focus on the USA*. *ET* wishes him every success.

Görlach's own most recent publication is *VEAW Even More Englishes* (1998), a collection of his papers that covers emigrant Englishes, relic words, Scots, Celtic Englishes, and the Englishness of varieties of language that are classed as English. Intriguingly, the volume's frontispiece is the first of his several contributions over the years to *ET*, a letter in response to the question on the cover of our preview issue at the end of 1984 – 'English: Who owns it?' His plea was that those born to the language should not regard it as either a commodity to sell or their own exclusive property. The letter appeared in *ET2* Apr 85.

When I consider the range, depth, and detail of the Görlachian oeuvre (and there is more to come), I can only conclude that an organic encyclopedia of English / the Englishes / the English languages has been emerging from mainland Europe over almost two decades. May it flourish – and its rigour and range be recognised as widely and as fully as they deserve.

Tom McArthur

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