

Introduction

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How shall I honour thee for this success?

(*Henry VI, Part 1*, 1.2)

In the early 1990s, Andreas had an idea that was to become his *Leitmotiv* for several decades: he wanted to promote research on language use in the past. There had been some sporadic articles before this time, but Andreas issued an open call for papers with the widest possible distribution, and assembled and edited a coherent volume called *Historical Pragmatics*, which appeared in 1995. It had twenty-one original contributions and an important Introduction that set an outline for the field by, for example, coining the terms form-to-function and function-to-form for different approaches to analysis. The book proved a best-seller for years to come, to the extent that the John Benjamins Publishing Company wanted to encourage a continuation and founded a novel journal under the same name. The *Journal of Historical Pragmatics* (JHP) was launched in 2000 with an inaugural issue that contained seven articles on a wide range of topics and a book review. JHP has now run for twenty-two years and achieved an esteemed status among specialist journals in pragmatics (impact factor 1.1, April 2022).

We wanted to celebrate Andreas's birthday and honour his role as the founder of the field and the journal. This Special Issue contains a selection of articles by some of his devoted friends and colleagues with shared interests. We are grateful for the inspiration that he has given to the field, and, with this present, we would like to thank him for his contribution to Historical Pragmatics and wish him all the best for the future – a future which we know will be as dazzling as the past.

These papers, reflecting the diversity of research in historical pragmatics, fall into two broad groups. The first group are form-to-function studies; the second group are somewhat closer to function-to-form. In addition to this rough division, we noticed some trends that run through them, such as the role of context and interpersonal negotiation. The following short summary will highlight our interpretations.

Traugott's paper begins the issue with a focus on the specialised concessive formula [*but (Pro BE) X all the same*] (e.g., “She smiled. Not a big smile, but a smile all the same” [1963 COHA]). This paper is a good example of historical prag-

matics work located on the pragmatics–grammar interface. Brinton widens the focus on forms that serve a particular speech act by examining a lesser-studied speech act, responses to thanks. This paper also represents the many historical pragmatics works exploring matters of politeness. Culpeper, Oliver and Tantucci's paper also involves thanks. Their primary focus is on the nature of the interaction between the Thanker and the Thankee, and the effect this has on language use. This paper reflects an embryonic trend in pragmatics more generally towards the greater use of statistical sophistication and visualisations. Finally in this group, Lutzky's paper examines interjections in Early Modern English, bringing a socio-pragmatic angle of class and gender to the discussion. This paper shows the power of the corpus-based method – a popular branch of research in historical pragmatics. Taavitsainen's study continues, on the one hand, the above-mentioned line of polite (and impolite) speech acts but, on the other hand, it introduces an additional trait of historical pragmatics with genres as discursive macrostructures of written language use; her paper traces the early stages of scientific book reviews. The following two papers fall on the interface between semantics and pragmatics. Smith works on the lexical level, assessing ideologically charged terms that function as key words in differentiating various Anglican communities of practice in Early Modern English. Context plays an important role in all historical pragmatic studies, but the last paper by Fitzmaurice takes the broadest possible view on it and discusses encyclopaedic knowledge as a component in meaning-making processes. The focus is on quads as discursive constellations appropriated for rhetorical purposes in Early Modern English religious, political and ideological discourses.

The papers of this special issue reflect the success of the field of historical pragmatics, a success which does credit to its contributors and most of all its founder, Andreas. The field's plans for the future are ambitious – as evidenced by the fact that many papers in this special issue are part of larger projects – and its prospects are brighter than ever.

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(Helsinki and Lancaster, Easter 2022)

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge Dawn Archer's role in making this Special Issue of the *Journal of Historical Pragmatics* happen and thank her for her collaboration. In addition, we thank Matthew Davies, whose sharp eyes and sage advice have improved the quality of every paper.

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