

Editorial: Twenty years of *Diachronica*

With this issue, *Diachronica* reaches its twentieth year of publication. After discussing how best to mark that occasion, we have decided to reprint below the inaugural editorial written by our founding editor, E. F. K. (“Konrad”) Koerner. Two decades ago, Konrad wrote about a “revival of interest in historical linguistics” and it is reassuring to see today that he was absolutely right about that renewal. In fact, the very examples he cited then continue to show just how vital the field is today. Consider three of his major pieces of evidence: First, Konrad mentioned the Current Issues in Linguistic Theory (CILT) series as a still-young series, but one showing increasing focus on language change. Today, that series has over 240 titles, with many dozens on historical topics, covering every aspect of language change and comparative linguistics. Second, a then-new journal with a historical focus, *NOWELE*, thrives. (Naturally, other new historical linguistics journals have come along and, in a couple of cases, gone, over these years as well.) Third, the International Conference on Historical Linguistics, mentioned by Konrad in 1984, has grown and it certainly counts as a major international conference; at this writing, abstracts are being submitted for ICHL XVI in Copenhagen (2003) and planning is well underway for ICHL XVII in Madison, Wisconsin (2005). It goes without saying that *Diachronica* itself is thriving, with a steady stream of high quality submissions from around the world and across the field. All this, I suppose, is just leading up to saying thank you to Konrad for his work and dedication to the enterprise of historical linguistics, exemplified by his work on this journal.¹

One happy sign of the current state of things is that *Diachronica* was one of six linguistics journals represented at a symposium on “Academic Journal Publishing in Linguistics”, during the just-past Linguistic Society of America meeting in Atlanta, January 2–6, 2003. In preparing for the symposium, we developed a fairly detailed overview of how we operate, including who does what, how books get reviewed, and the basic processes from submission

1. See “Koerner’s Korner” in *Diachronica* 15.385–386 for additional history of the journal.

through production. That statement, along with those of the other participating journals, is available now at <http://ling.wisc.edu/lisa.symp.htm>., and we are planning to post these statements to LINGUIST, where we hope to include them under their journal links. Along with the symposium, a number of editors of linguistics journals held our first LSA “office hours”, as editors of *Language* have long done. That experience too was a positive and productive one, and I look forward to continuing it at future LSAs. We hope that this will provide an opportunity for readers and potential authors to come by with any questions or just to say hello.

This column also provides a chance to thank Mary O’Brien for her service as editorial assistant and, at the same time, to welcome Kimberly Miller on board as her replacement.

Joe Salmons
Madison, Wisconsin
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