

FACT AND FICTION

From the Middle Ages
to Modern Times

Essays Presented to Hans Sauer
on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday –
Part II

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Preface

Each scholar is presented with the *Festschrift* that they deserve. This may sound like a hackneyed phrase but it is certainly very true for this particular *Festschrift* in honour of Professor Hans Sauer. It is true in several respects.

First of all, the number of academic connections and scholarly friendships fostered and maintained by Hans Sauer is enormous. In addition to holding the Chair for English Linguistics and Medieval English Literature in Munich (Germany), he also teaches at Wyższa Szkoła Zarządzania Marketingowego I Języków Obcych (WSZMiJO or Gallus) in Katowice (Poland). Every semester his Munich *Oberseminar* hosts scholars from home and abroad, some of whom, having once had the pleasure of enjoying Hans Sauer's hospitality, are glad to return to give another talk. From Asia to America, Hans Sauer himself is frequently invited to give papers. The best evidence for his huge academic network are the three big conferences he has hosted since he took over the chair in Munich in 1997: the *Anglistentag* in 2003, the ISAS conference in 2005, and the ICEHL in 2008 (not to mention the smaller conferences). The scale of Hans Sauer's extensive international academic network is reflected by the fact that we have contributors from four of the five known parts of the world.

The wide thematic range of papers offered to Hans Sauer with these two volumes bears witness to his exceptionally broad field of interest, comprising historical linguistics and the history of the English language as well as medieval literature and culture. Hans Sauer as a scholar has contributed seminal work especially to (Old) English lexicology and lexicography, for which *The Dictionary of Old English Plant Names* is only one of the latest examples (cf. List of publications). Besides, he has recently devoted much of his time to the more human side of medieval studies, that is, to emotions, and to *Beowulf* and its adaptations (although, admittedly, the latter is not only about human beings).

The essays presented here pay tribute to Hans Sauer's two main specialist fields. The first volume, *More than Words*, focuses on English lexicography and lexicology past and present. The contents of the articles range from insights into current lexicographical projects to glimpses into the work of eminent (and also lesser known) philologists; they range from lexical studies based on manuscripts and printed editions to those based on electronic data; they include morpho-syntactic, semantic, taxonomic and etymological theories and approaches.

The second volume, *Fact and Fiction*, devotes itself to literary and cultural studies and shows what we can safely infer from medieval or early modern texts and where we need to be cautious or should reassess what has hitherto been suggested. The volume shows what the Middle Ages inherited from earlier days and transformed during their own time, what they gave to later eras, and what clearly belongs into the realm of fantasy films. The contributions to both volumes are presented in a roughly chronological order.

On the human side, apart from being a scholar and colleague of international repute, Hans Sauer is known as a subtly-humoured teacher with encyclopaedic knowledge, who is aware of his responsibility for young people and who does not regard teaching as an add-on to his profession. He is also a modest person who has never made any

fuss about his editorial and administrative duties – of which he has many indeed. To mention only a few, he is co-editor of *Anglia* and *Texte und Untersuchungen zur Englischen Philologie*, and editor of *Middle English Texts*. He was co-editor of *Lexikon des Mittelalters* and later editor for its section “Old and Middle English Literature”. He is a member of the international advisory boards of *Lodz Studies in Language*, *Studies in English Medieval Language and Literature*, *Publications of the Richard Rawlinson Center*, *Studia Anglica Posnaniensia* and *Warsaw Studies in English Language and Literature*. In Munich, in addition to being the *Studiendekan* of Department 13, he also participates in the *Zentrum für Mittelalter- und Renaissancestudien* and the *Doctoral Programme in Linguistics (LIPP)*.

It would take much more than a preface to a *Festschrift* to enumerate and show adequate appreciation for Hans Sauer’s contributions to English linguistics and medieval studies on all levels of academic life. This preface is better used as a way to offer the editors’ and contributors’ most cordial wishes on the occasion of Hans Sauer’s 65th birthday on 9 September 2011. Our contributions are hopefully the best way to express our esteem and gratitude.

Acknowledgements

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Like all editors, we were caught between the wishes of the individual authors, the stylesheet, reader friendliness and our own convictions. We have always tried to reach a compromise that, on the one hand, grants each paper its very own style and feel and, on the other, allows us to be consistent. We thank all the contributors for working with our queries and comments, and we hope that they like what has become of their papers.

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