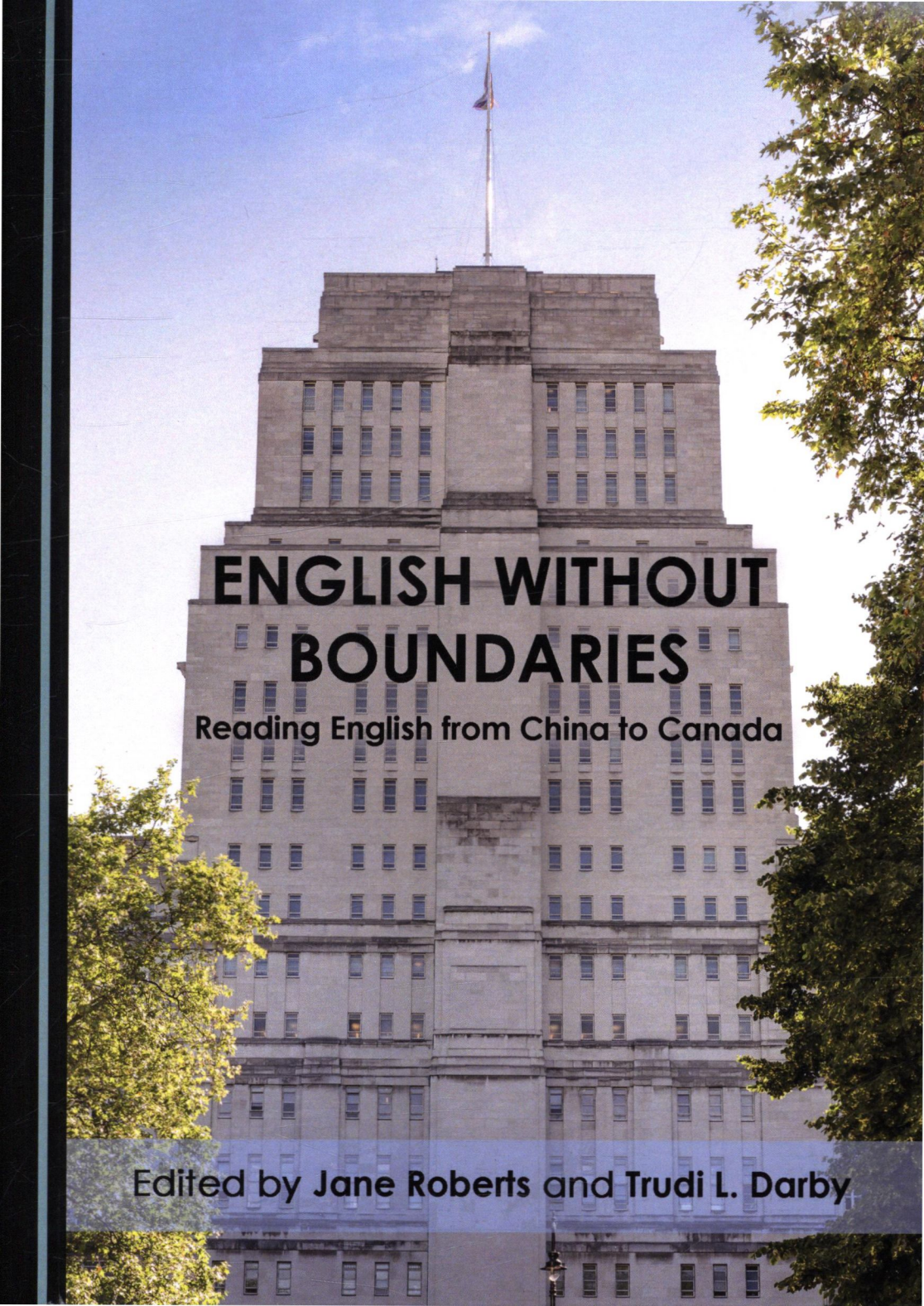
ENGLISH WITHOUT BOUNDARIES
Reading English from China to Canada
Edited by Jane Roberts and Trudi L. Darby

This volume brings together a compendium of world-class research on English, from the Anglo-Saxons to Big Data. Selected from papers presented at the 2016 conference of the International Association of University Professors of English, the essays demonstrate the strength of English studies across the world, with contributions from scholars in China, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan and Portugal, as well as from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. The essays not only cross geographical boundaries, but also disciplinary ones. Contributors write about English through the prism of gender studies, history, linguistics, the digital humanities, theatre history and the history of the book; topics covered include mainstream writers such as Shakespeare and Milton, and shine light on less well-known topics such as Welsh poetry of the Wars of the Roses and captivity narratives in seventeenth-century North America. Bringing together perspectives on English from around the world, *English Without Boundaries* is a unique collection showing the energy and breadth of English studies today.

Jane Roberts is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of English Studies in the University of London and Emeritus Professor of Medieval Literature and History of the Language at King's College London. Publications include *Guide to Scripts Used in English Writings Up to 1500* (2005) and *Kane from Canada* (2016), a memoir by George Kane. She is one of the editors of the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* and the *Thesaurus of Old English*.

Trudi L. Darby is Visiting Research Fellow in the London Shakespeare Centre at King's College London, and has published on the influence of Miguel Cervantes on Shakespeare's contemporaries. She was textual editor for *Much Ado About Nothing* (2016) and edited William Rowley's play *A Shoemaker, A Gentleman* (2002).

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Cover image *University of London's Senate House.* Senate House was the inspiration for The Ministry of Truth in *1984*. George Orwell described it as being unlike anything else, a vast white pyramid of terraces housing thousands of rooms.

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English Without Boundaries

FOREWORD

While the political future of the United Kingdom may be uncertain, the status of London as the intellectual capital of the world of anglophone scholarship in literature and linguistics is assured. When the International Association of University Professors of English issued the call for papers for its 23rd triennial conference at the Institute of English Studies in the University of London in 2016, the breadth of responses and the depth of contributions made for a stunning display of collegiality across disciplinary specializations. The four hundredth anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, commemorated at this conference as well as in countless other venues over the course of the year, added further *gravitas* and attraction to the gathering. More than 170 papers were delivered, resulting in the need to make drastic choices for the representative contributions published in the present volume. Gathered in these pages readers will encounter a generous sampling of work not just from across the fields that constitute 'English' but also from the diverse geographies in which 'English' is alive as a discipline.

Besides in this book, other papers will also be published in more narrowly focused venues, such as in *Studia Neophilologica*, in *Anglistik: International Journal of English Studies*, and elsewhere. These collections will be devoted to the diachronic study of the English language, lexical semantics, the reverberations of World War I a century later, and the study of English in Eastern European countries. The IAUPE conferences that generate this scholarship are not in competition with events held by disciplinary sub-specialties; rather, they provide an alternative that brings scholars back to the roots that originally attracted us to the field—most of us undertook to study 'English' and discovered our specialties later—but also provide opportunities for glancing at new developments in neighbouring fields.

IAUPE conferences set out to prove that disciplinary specialization is fully compatible with successful transmission of specialist knowledge to an audience of non-specialists. The papers gathered in this volume furnish ample proof. The plenary events of the conference did so even more eloquently: Helen Cooper's opening plenary address on 'Shakespeare's Medieval Reading' kept the audience members on the edge of their seats with its sparkling insights. Martin Halliwell's plenary address 'Transformed

States: American Literature, Testimony and the 1990s Health Crisis' combined literary, sociopolitical and therapeutic analysis of a pivotal moment in recent American history that served to illustrate the relevance of an emerging sub-specialty of English, Medical Humanities. A third plenary event took the conference to the South Bank of the Thames, more specifically to Lambeth Palace Library, where a Shakespeare session was followed by conviviality in the palace's Great Hall, generously opened to us by the Lambeth Palace Librarian, Giles Mandelbrote. A final plenary highlight was the question-and-answer session with world-renowned novelist Kazuo Ishiguro, moderated by Richard North and Liliana Sikorska.

Senate House and its first-rate catering service, the neighbouring British Museum, an excursion to Windsor and Bath, and countless reunions among friends old and new over the course of the week-long conference gave us copious opportunities for adding social pleasures to the rigorous academic schedule. In this context, IAUPE President Jane Roberts, her University of London colleagues, the dedicated staff of IES and their graduate student helpers deserve a special thanks!

London has a charm of its own, as Samuel Johnson knew and as all of us had the opportunity to experience. The conference was suffused with this charm and visibly reinvigorated many of its participants. We took advantage of libraries and archives, museums and the cityscape. In its triennial forays into different national contexts in which 'English' is studied, IAUPE tries to alternate between anglophone and non-anglophone venues. Situated between the Beijing conference that preceded it and the Poznań conference that will follow, our London gathering has left us with lasting memories.

Thomas Austenfeld

INTRODUCTION

JANE ROBERTS AND TRUDI L. DARBY

The essays collected here have a unique spread: they range over the whole of English literature, from Old English to the present day, in all its aspects, and are the work of both native-speakers and those for whom English is an acquired language and culture. Together they present a snapshot not only of the state of the subject in 2017, but also of how English is perceived globally. They originated as nineteen of some 170 papers given at the 2016 triennial conference of the International Association of University Professors of English (IAUPE) held in the University of London (a record of the programme forms the Appendix to this volume). IAUPE conferences are about reporting on work in progress, exchanging ideas, discovering new approaches. Members come from all over the world to listen and to talk, and there is no obligation to publish any paper given. The custom has grown up, however, of gathering together a small number of outstanding papers, selected by chairs of the conference sections, to illustrate the width of interests represented at the conference. No other body deals with the full range of English studies undertaken at university level, or makes it possible for its members to sample such a range. The unique character of IAUPE fosters interdisciplinarity, and the understanding of new approaches. Or as one member commented in an email received after the conference: 'I've always been a bit suspicious of the "digital humanities", feeling that they receive far too much funding at the expense of mainstream scholarship; but the two sessions I attended impressed me greatly. It's healthy to confront one's prejudices!'

Overall, the papers attest to the role of interdisciplinarity in English, with boundaries crossed between subjects and cultures, demonstrating the variety of approaches to English literature currently in use around the world, and their success. It is, a generation later, a riposte to Bergonzi's *Exploding English: Criticism, Theory, Culture*,[1] whose book-jacket flap asks 'What is going on in English studies?' and refers in particular to 'the

[1] Bernard Bergonzi, *Exploding English: Criticism, Theory, Culture* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990).

advent of theory and the accompanying bitter controversies' and 'the study of English in higher education as a synthesis that has been potentially insecure ever since it emerged at the end of the nineteenth century'. Bergonzi's opening Preface begins: 'I am not sure how best to describe this book, since it crosses boundaries [...] it is an account, from within, of a changing culture and form of life: the academic study of English Literature'. Bergonzi's thesis was that English was now so diverse that undergraduate degrees should be restricted to the study of poetry. This IAUPE collection is, we believe, a clear demonstration that Bergonzi was too pessimistic: English scholars around the world are studying the written word in a huge variety of forms, using and developing techniques, including Big Data and quantum physics, that have only recently become available.

The opening section, 'Poets and Playwrights', begins with two essays that use historical evidence to disrupt familiar interpretations of their subjects. Our view today of the Wars of the Roses is coloured by Shakespeare's history plays, but Helen Fulton (University of Bristol, UK) turns to Welsh praise poets to give a different view. In 'William Herbert and Richard Neville: Poetry and Nationalism in the Wars of the Roses' she shows how the career of Richard Neville, earl of Warwick—the Kingmaker—ran in parallel with that of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke, an important figure whose death was greatly mourned on the Welsh March. Despite being an ancestor of the Herbert brothers, who were dedicatees of the First Folio, Herbert has been largely ignored in anglophone sources, and Fulton's essay reinstates him in the historical narrative. Under the title '"When Constabulary Duty's to be Done": Constables and William Lambarde's *The Duties of Constables* (1582)', Trudi L. Darby (King's College London, UK) turns to the Tudor antiquarian Lambarde to reassess Shakespeare's depictions of constables, arguing that they should be taken more seriously rather than treated as fall-about comic parts. Characters such as Dogberry are shown not to be as foolish as is often assumed. Darby turns to the civic records of Stratford-upon-Avon, uncovering evidence which reveals that the playwright had family reasons for his interest in the role. Aiko Saito (Setsunan University, Osaka, Japan) starts her examination 'Not Madness, but Reason and Emotion' with the 'nunnery scene' in *Hamlet*, and finds guidance in a book by Kazuko Matsuoka, a translator of Shakespeare who also works closely with actors in stage productions. From actors' experiences of performing the scene, Saito is able to analyze closely the progress of Hamlet's reactions to Ophelia's speeches and to explain why the audience finds them plausible. Next, Yoshiko Kawachi (Kyorin University, Japan),

in '*Enter* the First Shakespearean Actress on the Japanese Stage: Her Contribution to the Theatre World, Cultural Exchange and Feminism', introduces us to the first Japanese actress to play Shakespeare and places her in the context of the Kabuki tradition of the *onnagata*—a male actor specialising in female roles.

Two writers from North America present views of Milton from opposite ends of the telescope. John Leonard (University of Western Ontario, Canada) considers what, precisely, Milton had in mind when he wrote the four words 'To give a kingdom' in *Paradise Regained.* Who was it who gave a kingdom, and in what circumstances? After considering the usual suspects, Leonard turns to the classical world and a close reading of Plutarch for his answer. In 'Milton and Modern Physics' Susanne Woods (Wheaton College, USA), by contrast, looks at a bigger picture: nothing less than Milton's view of the universe in *Paradise Lost.* She looks at the debate in twentieth-century physics between Einstein's view of the universe as organized and deterministic, and Bohr's quantum physics which portrays it as indeterminate. Woods sees a parallel with the problem with which Milton wrestles in his poem: if the universe is preset to glorify God, then how does the poet account for humankind's having free will?

We take another viewpoint on religious debate in 'Keats and the Politics of Gothic Beauty' by Michael Tomko (Villanova University, USA). Starting with Keats's letters of 1819 about Winchester Cathedral, Tomko considers how his poetry was affected by the religious politics of the period. Bishop John Milner, a proponent of Catholic Emancipation, advanced his cause in part by compiling a history of Winchester Cathedral. Tomko argues that while Keats would not have agreed with Milner's views on religion, he would have sympathized with his opposition to the Anglican establishment and was attracted by his aesthetic of Gothic beauty, as seen in 'The Eve of St Agnes' and other works.

Roger D. Sell (Åbo Akademi University, Finland) looks at another of the Romantics and his place in society, in 'The Example of Coleridge: A Utopian Element in Literary Communication'. Sell deliberately puns on 'example'. He takes it to mean a sample of a particular category, and also as something that is exemplary because it is good. Coleridge, Sell argues, placed great store on the writer's role in society, as reflected in his plan to establish a Utopian community in North America and his emphasis on companionship and community. He is therefore an example of a writer behaving well. In 'Knowing Your Place: Auden on Location' Tony Sharpe (University of Lancaster, UK) examines the place in society of the English poet, W.H. Auden, who chose to spend the last years of his life in an Austrian village. In 1965 Auden wrote a poem about one of his

neighbours, 'Josef Weinheber', described as an 'Occasional Poem', and Sharpe considers what this signifies. What does it mean for Auden to have chosen to be in one particular place and not somewhere else? How much of a location's history can, or should, a poet note or ignore? And is the poem's deliberate understatement appropriate to its subject?

In the second section, with a group of essays on North American issues, we leave the old world. Writing from China, Li Jin (Beijing Foreign Studies University, China) looks at a life-writing narrative by an early British settler that describes her encounter with Native Americans. In a thoughtful study of a work that previous generations might not have treated as high literature, but from which much may be gleaned about both the past and about our own cross-cultural society, Li Jin's examination of 'Mary Rowlandson's Indian Captivity Narrative and Her Cultural Border-Crossing in the New England Colony' demonstrates how Rowlandson's publication was transgressive in a number of ways, most notably by breaking into a male-dominated world and by challenging the myth of the new world as a paradise. Rowlandson writes of the Native Americans as alien and savage, but she also shares the knowledge of them that she has acquired during her captivity. Rowlandson's captivity narrative established a new genre of writing and provides an eye-witness account of early American history and culture. For Li Jin, as a Chinese scholar, both the Native Americans and the settlers are 'other' and she writes with detachment and lack of bias. This essay encapsulates the strengths of bringing a global perspective to English studies.

From seventeenth-century North America, Isabel Ermida (University of Minho, Portugal), under the intriguing title '"Astronomically true"', takes us on a journey to the moon in a hot-air balloon, as told by Edgar Allan Poe. His short story 'Hans Phaall—A Tale', published in 1835, was an early example of 'fake news': a newspaper hoax, which he followed with another balloon hoax in 1844. Ermida deploys a multi-modal perspective to analyze Poe's contribution to the genre of spoof news, examining the linguistic, structural, discursive and ideological construction of Poe's texts.

We come back down to earth with a paper on the correspondence between the writer Susanna Strickland Moodie in Canada and her London publisher, Richard Bentley. Mary Jane Edwards (Carleton University, Canada) discusses Bentley as the publisher of *Roughing It In The Bush; Or, Life in Canada* in 1852, showing how the letters between author and publisher give a fascinating insight into the process of bringing a manuscript from a Canadian wilderness to the bookshops of London, including the influence of Susanna's husband on the text, the delays in

getting corrections to Bentley and Bentley's own influence on the book as published.

The American section ends with '*Everyman* and *Nemesis* in Newark: Philip Roth, Hebrew, and American Writing', Hana Wirth-Nesher's essay on two of Philip Roth's late works, published in 2006 and 2010 respectively. These novels, set in North American Jewish neighbourhoods, through their titles signal Roth's ambition—the stories they tell are universal. Wirth-Nesher, writing from Tel-Aviv University (Israel), considers how Roth uses traces of Hebrew in everyday North-American contexts to represent Jewish ancestry and the human condition; and she demonstrates the persistence of language markers long after immigrants have lost the languages they brought to the new world.

The essays in Section III, 'From Syntax to Big Data', are centred on the study of the English language. We begin at the beginning with an analysis of 'Resumptive Pronouns in Old English Relative Clauses' by Michiko Ogura (Tokyo Woman's Christian University, Japan). The sentence construction using resumptive pronouns, common in Old English, is found also in the later medieval period and beyond. Some scholars have argued that, as in more recent usage, resumptive pronouns would have been used dialectically and regarded as vulgar in early times. However, illustrating her argument with examples taken from across Old and Middle English, Ogura establishes that this was not the case, but that the use of resumptive pronouns was then accepted. Minoji Akimoto (Aoyama Gakuin, Japan) does not confine his study to any one period, but in his essay 'On the Development of Idiomatic Prepositional Phrases in Collocation with *bring, put* and *set*' he ranges from Old English to contemporary usage. In modern English, he notes, these three verbs are almost always used with prepositions and rarely stand alone. This practice grew up as English lost its system of inflected nouns, instead using prepositions and modal auxiliaries to imply meaning, and thus changed the way in which verbs are used. Akimoto draws on electronic corpora to show this development in the language.

In 'Word combinations in *The Royal Phraseological English-French, French-English Dictionary* (Tarver, 1845–1849)', Stefania Nuccorini (Roma Tre, Italy) highlights a significant development in lexicography, the introduction of phrases into the bilingual dictionary. Nuccorini asks us to look at words in dictionaries, and in particular at the ways in which lexicographers present definitions of words in collocations. Her detailed examination of the main features of Tarver's dictionary, including close analysis of the entries for *hand* (English) and *main* (French), reveals the influence of Tarver's mid-nineteenth century dictionary on subsequent

dictionary makers. Cynthia Wall (University of Virginia, USA), in 'Allegorical Preposition, Or, The Topography of the Page' then looks at even larger groups of words: the text on the page. Her essay deals with the way in which writers use punctuation, not merely for grammatical purposes but also as an aspect of the physical presentation of the text's meaning, and she draws her examples from a wide range of sources. The diktats of grammarians and lexicographers are brought to bear on selected passages from publications as diverse as Richardson's *Clarissa*, Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho* and Thomas Whately's *Observations on Modern Gardening*.

The two concluding papers take us firmly into the digital world. Bob Owens (The Open University, UK) introduces the Reading Experience Database (RED), an electronic research tool. This database, hosted by the Open University and publicly available, contains some thirty thousand pieces of evidence relating to the history of reading 1450–1945. Using RED, researchers can find out what readers were reading at a particular time; but more than that, they can see the context for reading. How did readers obtain reading matter? How did they read, and where, and when? For what purpose were they reading? RED invites all these questions. Finally, 'Digital Humanities and Big Data', by William A. Kretzschmar (University of Georgia, USA, and University of Glasgow, UK), maps out ways in which the humanities can make use of massive databases, or 'Big Data'. Although Big Data projects are found most often in the sciences, many Big Data collections are essentially linguistic corpora, containing millions, sometimes billions, of words, and they offer exciting resources for the study of the complex system that is language. The digital tools that are becoming available enable scholars to study language across time and in varying situations, allowing subtle analyses to be made of patterns of usage. Kretzschmar sketches out an exciting new Big Data project, aimed at providing a firm foundation for the documentation and description of emergent patterns in English since 1500 and opening up new lines of research.

Bringing together so diverse a body of essays has been exhilarating, as was the conference at which they were originally delivered. It remains to us to thank all the section chairs and co-chairs for selecting and sending these papers to us. Our special thanks go to some fellow members of IAUPE, to Thomas Austenfeld, Krystyna Kujawinska Courtney, Jeremy Smith, and to Professor Akiko Kusunoki (Tokyo Woman's Christian University) for advice and help.

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