

THE RING OF WORDS
IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

Edited by
Ulrich Goebel
and
David Lee

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Henry Kratz

DEDICATION TO HENRY KRATZ

David Lee

Bright is the ring of words
When the right man rings them,
Fair the fall of songs
When the singer sings them.

Robert Louis Stevenson
Songs of Travel, XIV.

In May 1992 Henry Kratz retired after a career of over forty years of full-time teaching and research. His active scholarly life since that date encourages us in the belief that his retirement simply marked the casting off of the drudgery of academic work without any diminution of the intellectual curiosity, the clarity of thought, and the scholarly energy that has always characterized his work. But his assumption of the new rank of emeritus and his new professional status does offer us the opportunity to acknowledge his contribution to the field of Germanic philology. This volume, together with a conference on lexicography held in his honor in Knoxville on April 6, 1992, are two small tokens of his colleagues' appreciation for the years of intellectual stimulation and guidance he has provided.

Henry Kratz was born in Albany, New York, on March 23, 1922. His father was a machinist in the locomotive repair shop of the New York Central Railroad, his mother a homemaker who had formerly worked as an office clerk. Three of his grandparents were born in Germany; the fourth came from New York City and was of German extraction. Henry Kratz attended public schools in Albany. As a high school student he took both German and Spanish. At New York State College for Teachers in Albany he majored in English and

German while continuing to pursue courses in Spanish, and he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1942. He then worked in industry until the end of the war.

On the advice of his college German teacher he applied to Ohio State University for graduate study. He started there as a Teaching Assistant in the fall of 1945 and received his Master's degree in 1946 and his Ph.D. in 1949. In his final year at Ohio State he held the rank of Instructor. Among his fellow students were H. N. ("Bud") Milnes, Arne Lindberg, and Leland Phelps. On the faculty were Wolfgang Fleischhauer, Reinhold Nordsieck, Fritz Kramer, Walter Gausewitz, Bernhard Blume, Oskar Seidlin, August Mahr, and the person who made the greatest impression on him, Hans Sperber.

Sperber's interest in and contributions to the field of semantics and his insistence that emotion was a powerful force in language and in semantic change were influences which had a lasting impact on Henry Kratz's intellectual development. Both his Master's thesis, "Zur Bedeutungsentwicklung des Wortes *sere* im Mittelhochdeutschen," and his doctoral dissertation, "Über den Wortschatz der Erotik im Spätmittelhochdeutschen und Frühneuhochdeutschen," were done under Sperber's direction.

For the first four years of his postdoctoral career (1949-1953) Henry Kratz was an instructor at the University of Michigan. While at Michigan he married Marjorie Thiel, a registered nurse who came from Adams, Massachusetts. In 1953 he took a position at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he taught for two years. While at the University of Massachusetts he published his first two articles: he co-authored "Kitchener German" with H. N. Milnes, a study of Pennsylvania German spoken in the area around Kitchener, Ontario, and he wrote on the "Fóstbrœðrasaga and the Oral Tradition." Frustrated by a system that offered advancement on the basis of seniority rather than training or merit, he left academe in 1955 to join the staff of the G. & C. Merriam Co. of Springfield, Massachusetts.

As an Assistant Editor at the Merriam Co. he worked under Associate Editor Charles R. Sleeth in creating the etymologies for *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language: Unabridged*. Charles Sleeth had been a student of Harold H. Bender, who had compiled the etymologies for the second edition of *Webster's*, and Sleeth had worked out the theory and rationale for the new edition. Henry Kratz's contribution was threefold: he systematized the process whereby the etymology of a word was inserted into the definition, he wrote over half the etymologies, and he supervised much of the work of editorial assistants and outside consultants who created etymologies in specialized language areas. The time spent in the Merriam Co. was both enjoyable and educational—he describes it as a kind of second Ph.D. program—and he particularly valued his association and interaction with Sleeth and with Associate Editor H. Bosley Woolf. The traditionally long lunch hours at the Merriam Co. also encouraged extra reading, and it was at this point that the Welsh language and literature were added to the catalogue of languages and literatures with which he had thus far been concerned, namely the Germanic languages in all their phases of development, the major Romance languages, Latin, and Greek.

An opening at the University of Oregon induced him to return to university teaching in 1960. An article also appeared in that year which had been written while he was at the Merriam Co., "The Phonemic Approach to Umlaut in Old High German and Old Norse." The article was a polemic against the prevailing tendency to explain umlaut through a phonemic approach. He cheerfully admits that the piece "won him no friends," but he is pleased by several later publications that looked at the work in a positive light. Eight more notes and articles followed in the next five years, as did promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. His wife completed her switch from the field of nursing to history, earning her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon.

A decision at the University of Tennessee to start a Ph.D. program led the chairman at Tennessee, Reinhold Nordsieck, to contact his former student from Ohio State, and in 1965 Henry Kratz joined John Osborne as part of the core group of faculty hired to define and establish the program. Robert Hiller became the third member of this group a year later. The remaining twenty-seven years of Henry Kratz's career as a full-time researcher, teacher, and administrator were spent in Knoxville. His first book-length publication was the bibliography *Frühes Mittelalter* in the Francke Verlag's *Handbuch der deutschen Literaturgeschichte: Zweite Abteilung, Bibliographien* (1970). This 286-page selective bibliography covers the earliest Germanic languages and literatures, the early history of German literature through the Old High German period, and the Middle Latin literature of the same period.

Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival: An Attempt at a Total Evaluation followed in 1973. In this voluminous study, Henry Kratz attempts to counter what he sees as an overemphasis in medieval studies on the religious/theological interpretation of works through a balanced approach. He does not deny the religious foundation of all medieval thinking but rather accepts it as a given and highlights other aspects of *Parzival*, particularly its political implications. Besides publishing another twenty-six scholarly articles, he also translated Adelbert von Chamisso's *Reise um die Welt...* He was active as a reviewer and published over one hundred and fifty evaluations of works of scholarship and belles lettres. These appeared primarily in *Colloquia Germanica* and in *Books Abroad* and its successor, *World Literature Today*, for which he covered modern Icelandic literature and some works in Afrikaans.

Henry Kratz was one of the founders of the linguistics program at the University of Tennessee, and he was especially active in the medieval studies program. Besides graduate students in German, he frequently taught students from the English department who enrolled in his Gothic, Old Saxon, and Old Norse courses. He also di-

rected eight dissertations on topics ranging from the anthropomorphic monster figures of Old English and Old Norse literature to turn-of-the-century German detective fiction. He became Head of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages in 1972 and served in that capacity for fifteen years. As Head he was recognized by his colleagues in the department and throughout the university as a proponent and guardian of rigorous intellectual standards. Although a man of definite opinions who left his colleagues with no doubt where he stood on professional issues, he was nonetheless tolerant of other approaches to professional life and supported younger faculty even when he did not agree with the path they were following. His flexibility also demonstrated itself in the guidance he provided when outside pressures made changes in the traditional Ph.D. program necessary.

Good linguists earn our admiration through their understanding of the inner workings of language, and accomplished philologists lead us through the intricacies of the historical development and interrelationship of languages. The sensitive literary scholar shows us the expressiveness of the written and spoken word—from raucous humor and farce to the beauties and rhythms of fine poetry. A very few scholars can work effectively in all these areas over a wide range of different languages and dialects. Henry Kratz is one of those rare individuals who combines these skills and talents in one person, and we are pleased to present this volume of essays to him.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS OF HENRY KRATZ

Dictionaries:

About 500 etymologies in *Webster's Secondary School Dictionary*. Chicago and Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1959. Rpt. under several different names.

Better than half the etymologies in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language: Unabridged*. Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1961.

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PREFACE

These sixteen essays dedicated to Henry Kratz focus on the literature of the Middle Ages. In keeping with Henry Kratz's work as a lexicographer and etymologist, many of the articles focus on particular words. The essays are arranged in this volume in alphabetical order according to the name of the author, but the following brief summary of the contents groups them according to subject matter.

Three essays deal with problems of early Germanic words and literature. ANATOLY LIBERMAN examines some Germanic words for "or," including Gothic *aiþþau*—which he derives from the proto-form **e-h-þau*—Old Saxon *eftho*, and Old High German *erdo*. He discusses how the numerous Indo-European words for *or* are compounds of more or less similar structure, and how even in one group (Germanic) they are traceable to different etymons rather than a single source. On the basis of evidence provided by the *Microfiche Concordance to Old English*, MARY P. RICHARDS demonstrates the shortcomings of previous interpretations of the adjective *andlongne* in *Beowulf* 2695a and suggests a new translation consistent with the meaning of the scene and other stylistic effects found in the poem. PAUL SCHACH takes as his point of departure Henry Kratz's derivation of *Hrafnkels saga* from a putative *Heldenlied*. He discusses several recent contributions to the ongoing dialogue about the literary significance of *Hrafnkels saga* and the applicability of Kratz's method to sagas other than those based on skaldic verses. He judges stylistic attrition through scribal transmission to be the most serious impediment to an application of this method.

Devotional biography and autobiography is the subject of another group of three essays. THOMAS J. HEFFERNAN points to one of the very earliest saint's lives of late antiquity, the *Passio sanctorum*

Perpetuae et Felicitatis as a skillful blending of autobiography and hagiography, and he demonstrates how what he calls "paradigmatic or patterned associations"—one of which revolves around the use of the Latinized Greek word *fiala*—give historical verisimilitude to the unique events being narrated. The mystical concept of the divine fire of love is the focal point of UTE STARGARDT'S examination of the inspirational nature and public reception of Johannes von Marienwerder's German *vita* of the fourteenth-century Prussian anchoress Dorothea von Montau. She determines that in both subject matter and language the text is carefully constructed to reach a broad audience. PAUL BARRETTE provides a preliminary evaluation of the approximately twenty-five extant French saints' lives from the fifteenth century. As a group the texts have been long neglected. He points out that some are "modernizations" of the lives of saints who had been popular for many centuries, while others introduce new saints whose virtues correspond to newly perceived needs.

Six articles revolve around German literature of the late twelfth and the thirteenth centuries. GEORGE E. HARDING analyzes the many instances in *Erec* and *Iwein* when Hartmann rhymes two words—*wîp* and *lîp*—that embody opposing aspects of Hartmann's ideal of *mâze*. Harding seeks to demonstrate how the couplet reflects courtly existence both on the theoretical and practical level and how its use is varied throughout the two texts. WILLIAM C. McDONALD sketches the process by which Hartmann in *Iwein* redefines *hövesch* and its word-field to include compassion, charity, consolation, and other virtues directed at alleviating the suffering of the weak and needy, while RUTH H. FIRESTONE emphasizes the importance of Boethius for Hartmann by suggesting that the *Philosophiae consolatio* provided the foundation for an alternative interpretation and reformation of the *joie de la curt* episode from Chrétien's *Erec et Enide*. HUBERT HEINEN continues a trend of recent years whereby attention is shifted from the use of certain key terms as ethical concepts to their use as indicators of manners when he examines the use of a