

# Preface

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International Conference on Historical Linguistics,  
Vancouver, 9–13 August 1999**

**Edited by Laurel J. Brinton**

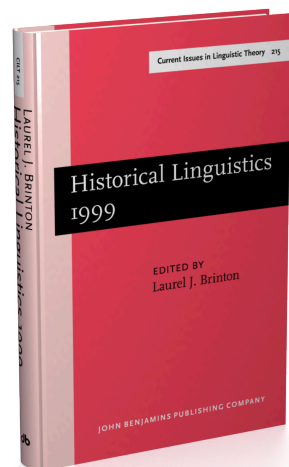
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## Preface

The volume contains a selection of papers from the 14th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL 14) held August 9–13, 1999, at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Attendance at the conference included over 220 participants from 27 countries ranging from Iceland to Vanuatu. In addition to the pleasures of Vancouver and its surroundings, participants enjoyed a rich and diverse program of papers on historical linguistics. Over the five days of the conference, there were 4 plenary addresses, 117 papers in three parallel sessions, and 42 papers in 4 workshops (on Historical Pragmatics, Japanese and Korean Linguistics, Patterns of Actualization in Language Change, and Grammatical Relations and Grammatical Change). The choice of just twenty-three papers — intended to display the state of current research in the field of historical linguistics — from such a broad display of scholarship posed quite a daunting task. This volume would have been impossible without the expert opinions of a large group of anonymous referees, who gave generously of their time and advice in this very difficult selection process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank as well those organizations and individuals who contributed to the success of the conference itself. External funding for the conference was supplied by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada under the “Aid to Occasional Research Conferences and International Congresses in Canada” (Grant #646–98–1047). Local funding was extended by the Dean of Arts, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Vice President Research, the Department of English, the Department of Linguistics, and the Department of Language Education of the University of British Columbia. The Dean of Arts of York University (Ontario, Canada) also provided support for the conference, as did the City of Vancouver. Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Mouton de Gruyter, Rodopi, and John Benjamins provided funding, books, and/or displays at the conference. I would like to thank all of these organizations for their financial support.

While financial support is, of course, essential, the contribution of individuals is invaluable to the smooth running of a conference. For their special assistance, I extend a large debt of gratitude to my colleagues in the English Department, especially Leslie Arnovick and Lilita Rodman, to Dieter Stein of Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, to Sheila Embleton of York University, to David Denison

of Manchester University, and to Henning Andersen of University of California, Los Angeles. The support staff in the Department of English at UBC was extremely helpful to conferees during the course of the conference; I am also very grateful to Mrs. Patricia Lackie, whose knowledge of the intricacies of university financial accounting was invaluable both before and for many months after the conference. Beth at the UBC Conference Centre provided assistance in the planning stages of the conference. For vetting the abstracts of papers that were presented at the conference, I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the International Society of Historical Linguistics, Barry Blake, Kate Burridge, Dorothy Disterheft, Sheila Embleton, Alice Harris, and Dieter Stein, as well as my colleague Leslie Arnovick and a number of other specialists. I am indebted to Ralph Brands for computer assistance, especially in the early stages of organizing the conference. To my graduate student assistants, Michael Lapointe, Desirée Lundstöm, and Gudrun Dreher, who both before and during the conference put in effort beyond the call of duty (and learned a little about historical linguistics in exchange), I extend my sincerest gratitude. I would especially like to thank Monika Schmid and Alex Bergs, from Düsseldorf, who generously volunteered both their time and their conference-organizing expertise (gained at ICHL 13).

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Laurel J. Brinton  
 Vancouver, B.C.  
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