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Foreword

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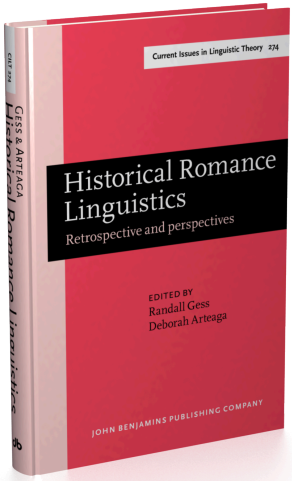

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EDITORS' FOREWORD

In February, 2003, the editors of this volume, former students of Jürgen Klausenburger, put out the following call for papers.

> As former students of Jürgen Klausenburger, we are planning a volume dedicated to him, entitled *Historical Romance Linguistics: Retrospective and Perspectives*, and we are writing to invite you to submit an article for inclusion in the volume. It is not a festschrift per se, as Jürgen Klausenburger is aware of the project, and has agreed to provide the "retrospective" referred to in the title; moreover, the volume will be refereed. It is not necessary that you know Professor Klausenburger personally in order to contribute to the volume. If you do not know him, our invitation to you is simply a reflection of our admiration of your work on diachronic Romance.
>
> Professor Klausenburger's retrospective will include references to contributions in the volume, and how they fit into the overall development of the field of historical Romance linguistics over the past thirty years or so, as he sees it. In the volume, we intend to include a broad range of theoretical perspectives, and we hope to include work on a wide variety of Romance languages. We are looking for substantial studies, not previously published, on the historical development of one or more Romance varieties that contribute to linguistic inquiry in one or more of the following ways:
>
> - by investigating cognitive, functional and/or sociolinguistic constraints on the historical development of language systems.
> - by informing current theoretical models of language and/or language change, including models of grammaticalization.
> - by enhancing our understanding of specific language systems of the past, related to either their structure or use.

In reflecting now on the outcome of this project, for which we cast a fairly broad net, it is clear to us that our original goals have met with great success. The reader will see that each of the accepted contributions, which underwent a two-stage review process, indeed conforms to our request that it inform linguistic inquiry in one or more of the ways mentioned above.

In 1972, Yakov Malkiel wrote that the decisive issue in Romance linguistics will be "the ability of the pacesetters to rejuvenate the methodology, to set new goals (clearly defined and attractive to talented, ambitious workers), and to re-establish a much-needed rapport with general linguistics" (1972:835). In his final paper for a Romance Linguistics course with Klausenburger in the winter of 1993, Gess argued that Malkiel's goals had been met with "some success," but lamented the dearth of research into diachronic research,

expressing the hope that this lack would be remedied in future. The present volume is intended in part as a contribution to such a remedy.

The studies in the current volume represent well an established rapport with general linguistics, while at the same time focusing on diachronic issues. As such, it is interesting to consider how this volume stands with respect to Malkiel's (1961) first definition of Romance linguistics, according to which the field has a primary allegiance to general linguistics and is only valid diachronically. This definition, considered "classic" by Klausenburger (2001), has largely supplanted Malkiel's other two definitions of Romance linguistics (the second involving the application of analytical methodologies originally acquired through the study of Romance languages to non-Romance data; and the third referring to the analysis of Romance languages by persons who are themselves of Romance background, which may entail a "national style of doing linguistics."). At the same time, the field of Romance Linguistics has witnessed the growing importance and eventual dominance of synchronic studies at the expense of diachronic studies. The focus on diachrony in this volume, then, contributes to an as yet modest (but hopefully growing) resurgence of the importance of historical studies outlined in Malkiel's first definition of Romance linguistics. Whether diachrony will ever completely reassume its definitional status in Romance linguistics remains to be seen.

Since the conception of this project, major life events (both positive and negative) have imposed themselves at various points along the way. We would like to thank the contributors for their willingness to participate in this project, and for their assistance in helping it come to fruition. In closing, and as promised in our original call for contributions, we dedicate this volume to Jürgen Klausenburger, whom we admire and respect greatly.

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