

# Foreword

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**Sociocultural Dimensions of Lexis and Text in the History of English**

**Edited by Peter Petré, Hubert Cuyckens and Frauke D'hoedt**

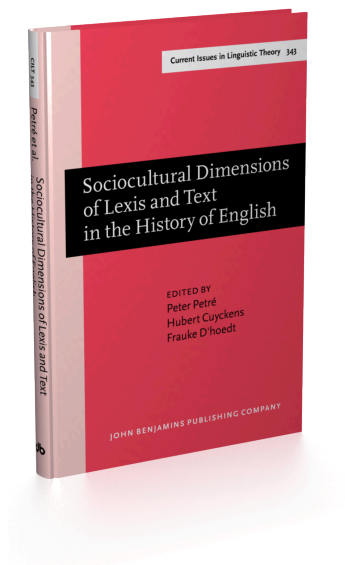
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## Foreword

The chapters in the present volume spring forth from work that was first presented at the 18th *International Conference of English Historical Linguistics* (ICEHL18), held at the University of Leuven, 14–18 July, 2014. ICEHL, which is held in Europe biennially, has alternated since 1992 with the International Conference of Historical Linguistics. Its long tradition goes back to 1979, when it was organized for the first time by the University of Durham. Yet it had never been organized in Belgium before. It is no coincidence that the University of Leuven should be the first Belgian university to have done so. After all, English historical linguistics has been at the heart of its linguistics department ever since Xavier Dekeyser started a History of English class in 1971.

For turning the conference into a success, we are first of all obliged to all the presenters and conference participants, who created a stimulating atmosphere of intellectual exchange. Special thanks also go to the plenary speakers Charles Boberg, Robert Fulk, Peter Grund, María José López-Couso, and Marit Westergaard, who demonstrated that English historical linguistics is truly a multifaceted research domain. We would furthermore like to thank our co-organizers Hendrik De Smet and Liesbet Heyvaert, Lauren Fonteyn, Charlotte Maekelberghe, and Nikki van de Pol, and all our student helpers, as well as Lieselotte Brems (Université de Liège). For financial support, we are grateful to the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO).

There is a longstanding tradition of publishing a selection of ICEHL papers with John Benjamins, and we are happy to continue this tradition. To ensure thematic coherence, accepted submissions were divided into two volumes. The present one, which is published in the time-honored series *Current Issues in Linguistic Theory*, focuses on the cultural embedding of change. A companion volume entitled *Explorations in English historical syntax*, is to appear in another venerable series by Benjamins, *Studies in Language Companion Series*. For the present volume we have made a careful selection from a generous number of submissions. This would not have been possible without all of the detailed review reports, for which we would like to thank all the reviewers: Birgit Alber, Kathryn Allan, Renate Bauer, Cristiano Broccias, Luisella Caon, Claudia Claridge, Jonathan Culpeper, Hans-Jürgen Diller, Marina Dossena, Robert Fulk, Peter Grund, Ryuichi Hotta, Joan Houston Hall, Luis Iglesias-Rabade, Elisa Mattiello, Lynda Mugglestone, Leonard Neidorf, Elisabeth Okasha, Päivi Pahta, David Parsons, Carol Percy, Javier Pérez Guerra, Betty

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Peter Petré, Hubert Cuyckens & Frauke D'hoedt