

Introduction

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Celtic Linguistics / Ieithyddiaeth Geltaidd: Readings in the Brythonic Languages. Festschrift for T. Arwyn Watkins

Edited by Martin J. Ball, James Fife, Erich Poppe and Jenny Rowland

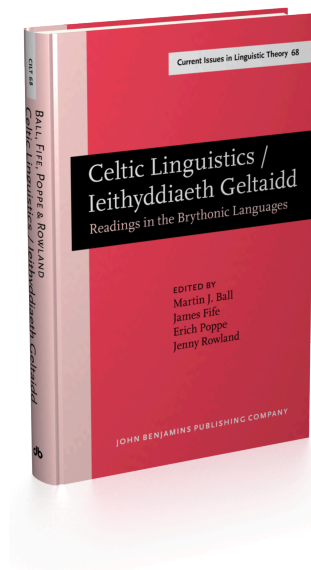
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INTRODUCTION

This collection of work on the Brythonic languages of the Celtic group has been prepared in honour of Professor T. Arwyn Watkins, to recognise his outstanding work in both linguistics and Celtic studies. To reflect the interests of Professor Watkins, the collection is divided into four parts: Welsh linguistics, Breton and Cornish linguistics, literary linguistics and historical linguistics. This has resulted in a book providing a thorough and comprehensive coverage of this branch of Celtic studies prepared by the leading scholars in their field. Naturally, there are several contributions which overlap the somewhat artificial boundaries just described. In these cases the article has been placed in that section which seemed to the editors to be most appropriate considering the topic covered overall.

The majority of the articles in this volume are written in English. However, the editors felt that his pioneering work in introducing modern linguistics to a Welsh-speaking audience could not be adequately recognised without the inclusion of a study written in Welsh. Furthermore, Professor Watkins' links with European celticists is demonstrated by a number of contributions written by continental scholars.

The preparation of this tribute required an editorial team covering the four main areas of study. Martin J. Ball edited Part 1 on Welsh linguistics, and acted as co-ordinating editor, James Fife edited Part 2 on Breton and Cornish, literary aspects were under the control of Jenny Rowlands, while Erich Poppe had charge of studies in historical linguistics. Each member of this team wished to include their own tribute to Arwyn Watkins in this introduction, and so these initial remarks conclude with some

words from each of them. Apart from the editorial team, especial thanks must go to Gary King for preparing the bibliography of Professor Watkins' published work.

The late Heinrich Wagner had wished to contribute to this collection, but his untimely loss allows us only to include his wishes to Arwyn. The editors would like to express their sorrow at this loss, and take the opportunity to acknowledge the debt of all celticists to the work of this leading scholar.

James Fife writes:

The Welsh title of this collection of articles uses the word *ieithyddiaeth*. Nearly thirty years ago another book appeared having this word in its title, an introduction to modern grammatical analysis by a young scholar named T. Arwyn Watkins. In the years that intervened Professor Watkins has published a wide range of studies of major importance in a number of fields of Celtic language and literature. In compiling a volume to suitably honour one who has been such an active and productive contributor to Celtic scholarship, the editors had their work cut out in covering all the areas to which Professor Watkins has extended his impressive expertise. Nothing better demonstrates the breadth of this expertise than the need to share the work of editing this collection between four other scholars.

In the four-part division of this work it fell to my lot to supervise the section on Breton and Cornish studies. My qualification for this assignment rests more with my great respect for the honouree than any real mastery of the field. All of the small amount of learning I have in this area I owe to Professor Watkins, and I am a fitting editor for this section at least in as far as this is one of the many cases where he has greatly aided, encouraged and enlightened me.

The breadth of Professor Watkin's work is one criterion determining the structure of this anthology, but the inherent latitude of a collection dealing with the Brythonic languages as a whole also demands attention for a number of different fields of study. The part which combines Breton and Cornish studies includes work in historical linguistics, synchronic syntax, phonology, morphology and contrastive studies between languages. If space were unlimited, there are other topics worthy of discussion and colleagues desirous of contributing to a volume in

honour of Professor Watkins; for the omission of both, I express regret. But the need to constrain the space devoted to any one field, in this case the south-west Brythonic languages, is adequately recompensed by the high quality of the studies which are included. I would like to thank all the contributors to this section for their impressive work and their friendly cooperation.

I want to thank also Professor Evans for his essay of appreciation, and my three fellow editors for their hard work and patience. I think I speak for my fellows in extending a special thanks to Martin Ball in his role of managing editor of the volume, an office carrying far more work than glory.

Department of English Philology
Catholic University of Lublin

Jenny Rowland writes:

It is a great pleasure to present the papers of Part 3 to Professor Watkins, a teacher, friend and colleague over the last few years. Although not all the papers deal directly with linguistic matters, they show the directions the study of Welsh literature of the Middle Ages has taken in the last few years. This has in part been based on increased linguistic knowledge, and Professor Watkins has not only contributed to original research, but also helped to interpret it to younger scholars. I myself can attest to this, both as a student in Aberystwyth and a colleague in Dublin. His lively and informative style of lecturing has always assured an extra audience for his courses, and attracted those who might have considered Welsh or Welsh linguistics were outside their field. I first met Professor Watkins by sitting in on his lectures while writing my thesis in Aberystwyth. This tradition has carried on in Dublin, with postgraduates and colleagues from other departments following his courses over the last few years, both in UCD and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

This enthusiastic contact with his students, official and unofficial, undoubtedly accounts in part for the fact that so many have turned to him for help or comment on their work. (The other factor, of course, is his undoubted mastery of his field.) Professor Watkins has given very freely of himself in this respect, in the official channels of thesis supervision and editorial guidance, as well as casual and friendly casting of a critical linguistic eye over work in progress. I have often benefitted from

this kindness, and have seen the time and care the most informal query elicits from him.

It would have been easy to fill this section which is more peripheral to Professor Watkins' own studies many times over, and the limiting of contributors was somewhat arbitrary. Most of us have had personal experience of Arwyn Watkins as a teacher and advisor, and all have reason to honour his pioneering scholarship. Fortunately we can look forward to his continued scholarly activities from new surroundings in Swansea.

Department of Welsh
University College Dublin

Erich Poppe writes:

When I came to University College Dublin as a postgraduate student, T. Arwyn Watkins was one of my teachers, but very soon he became more than just that. He is one of those academics who combine high scholarly standards with an outstanding ability to teach and to impart their own enthusiasm for their subjects to their students. In my own case, Arwyn's classes on Middle Welsh thus became a formative influence on my scholarly inclinations, and my interest in questions of Middle Welsh word-order dates back to his classes on *Branwen*. In the many discussions we had on this and other topics of Welsh linguistics afterwards, Arwyn was more than just a teacher - he became a mentor and a friend whose advice and criticism has always been supportive. *Diolch yn fawr!*

Philipps-Universität Marburg

Martin Ball writes:

I feel the least qualified to write an introduction to Arwyn Watkins' *Festschrift*, never having had the privilege of working with him as a colleague or student. However, I got to know his linguistic work early through his many writings on Celtic linguistics: especially his seminal work *Ieithyddiaeth*. Indeed, I first met Professor Watkins at a meeting of the Welsh Dialectology Circle, when he kindly agreed to sign a copy of *Ieithyddiaeth* proffered by an unknown member of the audience. That copy now has pride of place among my Welsh linguistics collection (which, incidentally, contains three more copies of the work).

Further evidence of the hospitality of both Arwyn and Gwalia came from my visit last year to Dublin when, with very little notice, I was invited to their home in the city. There, not only was there fruitful and friendly discussion, but the finest smoked salmon I have tasted! My regret at not having had the chance to work with Arwyn is mitigated to some extent by the opportunity that I have had with Glyn Jones of cooperating with him on a project on Welsh linguistics that will shortly reach a conclusion. In his work for this project I can not help but be impressed by his depth of knowledge and breadth of vision.

The studies presented to him in the Welsh linguistic section cover dialectology, syntax, morphology, and phonology and include pioneering work on child language. As my colleagues have already noted, we have been able to include only a small number of potential contributors, but we trust those that are included in this section, and the volume as a whole, will bring pleasure to our honouree. The *Tabula Gratulatoria* bears witness to the many scholars who wish to pass on their best compliments to the leading modern linguist that Wales has produced.

At the Eighth International Congress of Celtic Studies in Swansea the four of us were sitting in the coffee lounge one morning when Arwyn came by and asked what we were planning so seriously. We couldn't say then: but now we can, and the following collection is the fruit of that initial meeting.

Department of Behavioural and Communication Studies
Polytechnic of Wales