

Preface

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Recent Developments in Germanic Linguistics

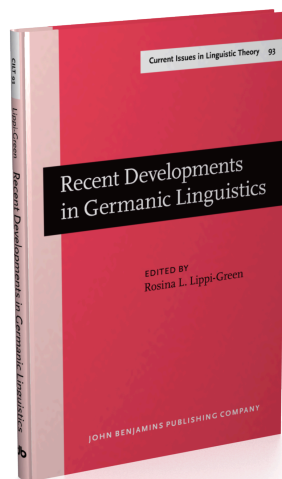
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PREFACE

From April 12 through 14, 1991, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures of the University of Michigan hosted the Second Annual Michigan/Berkeley Germanic Linguistics Roundtable. Thirty-six scholars from the United States, Canada, England, Germany and Austria came together for four days to present their work for discussion. The credit for the conception and creation of this annual meeting belongs to Robert Kyes of Michigan and Irmengard Rauch of Berkeley, who in the course of an informal discussion in 1989 agreed that we required more opportunities to meet as colleagues.

The animated discussions which followed each presentation and which were often pursued over coffee breaks and meals proved them right. Person-to-person exchange vitalizes; it promotes productivity. It is from such exchange that we experience encouragement and difference of opinion, both elements crucial to the creative process. At the Roundtable, we were reminded that controversy is a necessary tool in our trade: it is dissention, not unreflecting advocacy, which fuels our work and which fosters innovation.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with William Moulton were distressed at the last-minute misfortune which kept him from presenting to us his work on phonological variation in manuscripts A, B, and C of the *Nibelungenlied*. While our first concern was his well being (he has, as of this writing, recovered sufficiently to begin working for a short time every day), I was personally disappointed that the graduate students would not have the opportunity to meet him. In my own graduate education I profited greatly from my contact with him. He was then and has remained the model of professionalism, innovative and insightful technique, sharp but constructive and nurturing criticism, and not least, of kindness.

Many people were helpful in the organization of the Roundtable and in the preparation of this volume. I would like to thank Konrad Koerner for his assistance and encouragement; Bob Kyes for his calm reassurances and the benefit of his experience; Joe Salmons for his always useful and often amusing commentary; the anonymous reviewers for their hard work, high standards, and invaluable contributions; Monika Dressler for her efficient and often innovative resolution of various problems along the way; Desiree Baron, Anne Dickens, David Fertig, George Hinman and Michael Liebe for the great deal of work they did in making the conference run smoothly; Bob Ebert for getting on a train to come to Ann Arbor; and the staff of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, particularly Mechthild Medzihradsky, for reliable support in the face of the usual last minute requests and disasters.

Here at Michigan, the Roundtable was made possible by the contributions of the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Max Kade Foundation. To all these organizations, our thanks.

Rosina Lippi-Green
Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 1992