

Preface

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PREFACE

The present book is the proceedings of The Second Rasmus Rask Colloquium organized by The Institute of Language and Communication, which was held on 3-4 November 1994 at Odense University as a successor to the 1992 conference (on 'Form and Function in Language') which initiated the series.

The topic of the Second Rasmus Rask Colloquium was 'The Origins and Development of Emigrant Languages'. The papers published in this volume all deal with European languages which were introduced in countries and areas where they were not autochthonous. This applies to the introduction of Latin in Spain and to the exportation of Germanic to Britain as discussed by Roger Wright and David Parsons in their articles on, respectively, early Ibero-Romance and the language of the Anglo-Saxon settlers.

Later (but still early) examples of emigrant languages were the spread of Scandinavian to the British Isles and the introduction of French in England after 1066. Three contributions are devoted to the former topic: Alfred Wollmann is concerned with Scandinavian loanwords in Old English, and Michael Barnes and Laurits Rendboe with the Norn of Orkney and Shetland. No less than four scholars – Douglas A. Kibbee, Thera de Jong, D.A. Trotter and W. Rothwell – deal with various aspects of French influence in England after the coming of the Normans.

After the era of the great navigators and discoverers, European languages were exported to far-off continents (North and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia). Manfred Görlach's paper discusses the origins and development of emigrant Englishes, the papers by Pieter van Reenen & Anna Coetze and J. van Marle focus on Dutch transplanted to southern Africa (Afrikaans), while Yves-Charles Morin's and Juan Hernando Cárdenas's articles are about, respectively, French in Québec and Spanish in Chile. Finally, contact between Danish and American language and culture in the United States is the topic of Marianne Stølen's contribution.

An important aim of the Colloquium was to create a dialogue between scholars working on prehistoric emigrant languages and

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those working on more recent and better documented colonial dialects and eventually to provide answers, however tentative, to some of the questions that are raised when the origins and development of early emigrant languages are under discussion: What were the dialectal affiliations of such languages, and what was the relationship between dialectal links and the geographical origins of the settlers? And what can be extrapolated methodologically from more recent colonial languages whose settlement history and dialectal data are attested in much more detail (cf. Afrikaans, American English, Canadian French)? Some of these questions along with a number of other issues were taken up for debate during the Plenary Discussion at the close of the conference.

The papers of this volume have been arranged more or less in the order in which they were presented at the Colloquium. For a variety of reasons the following lectures have not been included in the proceedings: Michael Benskin (Oslo), 'The English Language in Medieval and Early Modern Ireland'; Gunnel Melchers (Stockholm), 'The Scandinavian, Dutch and Low German Element in English Dialects: the SED Evidence'; Rogier Nieuweboer (Groningen), 'Mennonite Plautdiitsch in Siberia'; and Laura Wright (Hertfordshire), 'The Role of Macaronic Business Writing in the Standardization of English'. The paper prepared by W. Rothwell (Manchester), 'Adding insult to injury: the English who curse in borrowed French', was read by D.A. Trotter (Aberystwyth).

Many individuals and institutions helped to make The Second Rasmus Rask Colloquium a success. It is our pleasant duty to thank especially Hans Basbøll (Odense), Gillian Fellows-Jensen (Copenhagen), Michael Herslund (Copenhagen), Leo Høye (Odense), Riccardo Rizza (Pisa) and Knud Sørensen (Århus) for serving as session chairmen; Flemming G. Andersen (Odense) for opening the Colloquium; John Hines (Cardiff) for chairing the Plenary Discussion; Lis Fischer Nielsen and Peter Stewart for their secretarial assistance; and The Institute of Language and Communication for their financial and moral support. Last but not least we would like to thank Kirsten Albjerg for the painstaking care she has taken in preparing the camera-ready typescript of this volume.

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