

# The old order changes

## ● *Verbatim*

Sad to report, there is one less periodical devoted to English in the world. With Vol. 23:3 (Winter, 1997), *Verbatim: The Language Quarterly* (published since 1974 from Old Lyme, Connecticut) has come to the end of a distinguished run of 23 years. During that time, under the editorship and ownership of the internationally renowned lexicographer and publisher Laurence Urdang, *Verbatim* has been a platform for everything from statements by leading scholars and writers, through a vast variety of reports on all kinds of language to a kind of cumulative autobiographical encyclopedia of reviews by its editor on a vast range of works of reference. Urdang notes in his valedictory: 'One of our proudest moments came when, upon first loading into our computer the CD-ROM of the *Second Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary*, we discovered that it contains 121 quotations from *Verbatim*.' *ET* and *Verbatim* were jointly equated by Deborah Cameron in her book *Verbal Hygiene* (1995: viii) with magazines for gun-lovers, comic-book enthusiasts, and Trekkies. Now we must sustain that honour alone, but can hope that Larry, if he ever feels the need to fulminate or simply inform, will choose our pages to do so.

## ● *Lost departments*

I am happy to announce that 'Post & Mail' has revived, partly as a result of 'The last post?' (Comment, *ET* 51, Jul 97) and partly because several readers happened to write in about other things. And several have also endorsed Karen Kreibohm's appeal from Berlin for the retention of 'Kaleidoscope'. We can work on restoring 'Kaleidoscope' at this end, but only a steady flow from readers can sustain 'Post & Mail'.

## ● *Academic pressures*

There is an on-going and increasing pressure on academics these days to publish or just fall by the wayside, a pressure reflected in much of the material that comes to us. Keeping the length of our articles down and their style as transparent as possible is therefore not easy, because the academic stereotype is dense and lengthy argument accompanied by thickets of references. However, we'll go on seeking the mix of economy, clarity, immediacy, and readability for which *ET* has become known.

*Note* The Editor's new personal email address is [Scotsway@aol.com](mailto:Scotsway@aol.com).

Tom McArthur

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**Letters to the Editor:** write to Dr Tom McArthur, Editor, *English Today*, 22-23 Ventress Farm Court, Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 4HD, UK. Tel 01223 245934, Fax 01223 241161. Email: [Scotsway@aol.com](mailto:Scotsway@aol.com)

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