

# Worldwideness

The April 2005 issue, *ET82*, was hardly out when I began to think I'd been premature in what I wrote in its *Comment*. I noted there that the issue 'had the smallest number of contributions ever listed: seven titles in all, whereas traditionally there have been ten or more'. The reason of course was the length of several of the articles: closer to 'papers' in standard academic journals (yet none the worse for it, readability being as safe as ever). However, I may have jumped the gun. In this issue we are back where we have usually been, with twelve reports and commentaries that are remarkable in terms of both their geographical spread and their topicality:

*From China* Betsy Hu Xiaoqiong on China English  
Jong Jin on China ELT

*From Denmark* Robert Phillipson on David Crystal

*From England* Gerry Abbott on calling people names  
Keith Davidson on *franglais*  
Paul Rastall on word formation

*From France* Michael Bulley on 'duty'

*From Hong Kong*

Li Lan on the intricacies of online dictionaries  
Myself on the world's 'communicative ecology' (the *what?*)

*From Scotland* Anne Seaton on *oneself*

*From Spain*

Ross Smith on Tolkien, the book and the movie (the first of two)

*From the United States*

Bob Blaisdell with another tale from New York

*From Wales* David Crystal on being called a purist.

So, no more predictions for the time being.

A word, however, on e-technology. Almost nothing connected with the creation of *ET* is done now as it was done in 1984, when we began. Most notably at the present time, it is being edited in East Asia, in Hong Kong, and produced in Western Europe, in Cambridge (as always), and as easily as if it was all being done as usual in Cambridge. Nowadays, almost everyone in education and linguistics is 'wired', almost nothing comes by post any more, and if it does a diskette is included. There is a feature waiting to be written somewhere, on the ties that bind and blend English and other languages with this constantly evolving global technology, and the sheer speed with which it is all evolving.

Tom McArthur

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**Contacting the Editor:** Email Dr Tom McArthur at <Scotsway@aol.com> or write to him at 22-23 Ventress Farm Court, Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge CB1 8HD, UK. Tel 01223 245934.

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