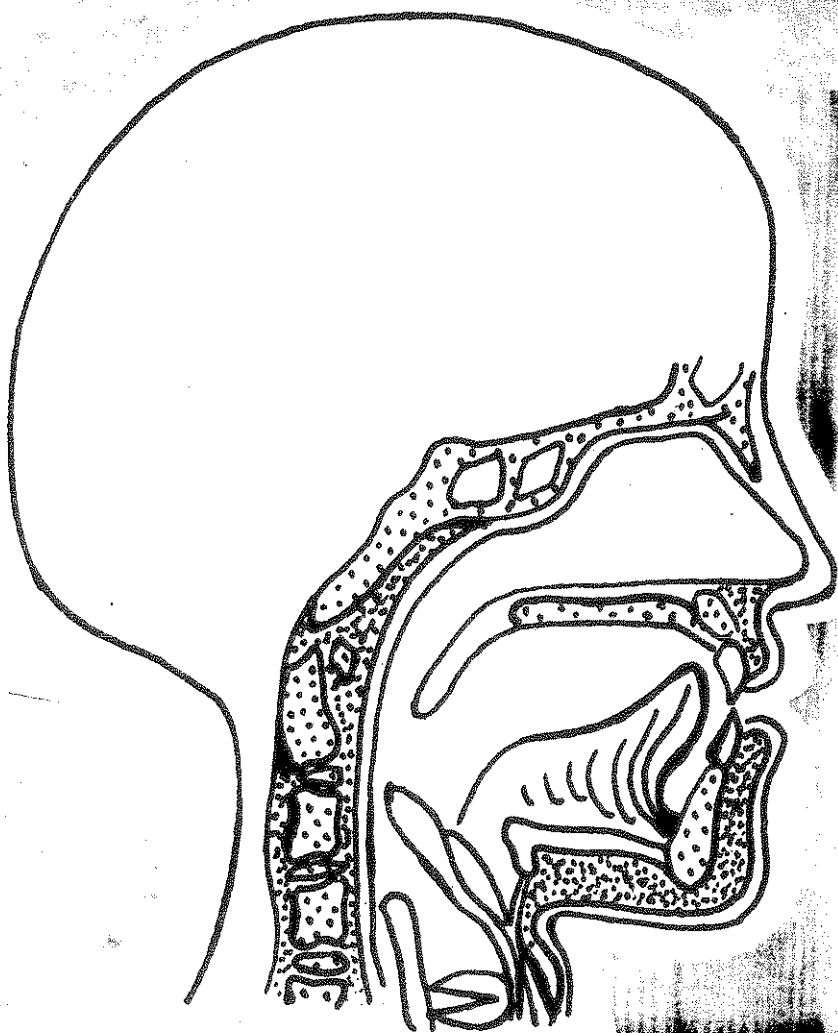


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BEITRÄGE ZUR  
PHONETIK UND LINGUISTIK

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THE CULTIVATED AUSTRALIAN  
Festschrift in Honour of Arthur Delbridge



Band 48

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HELMUT BUSKE VERLAG HAMBURG

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FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF ARTHUR DELBRIDGE

BEITRÄGE ZUR PHONETIK UND LINGUISTIK 48 (1985), pp. 5-6.

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

This Festschrift has been produced for Arthur Delbridge, BA Dip.Ed.(Sydney), MA (London), Foundation Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University, at the time of his retirement in recognition of his contribution to studies in language and communication in Australia.

Some 40 of Arthur Delbridge's colleagues from Australia and elsewhere have contributed by invitation the papers it contains, and these contributions reflect the range of Arthur's professional interests. The volume is subtitled "The Cultivated Australian" as an acknowledgement of Arthur Delbridge's contribution to the widely used phonetic categorisation of Australian speech types as 'broad', 'general' and 'cultivated'. Moreover, as may be inferred from the accompanying biographical note, it is an apt description of the man himself.

The papers in the volume are divided into six broad categories: Language and Linguistics, Prosody, Style and Text, Lexicography, Australian English and Communication Disorders.

The production of a volume such as this would not be possible without the contribution of many people. It is a great pleasure to thank the publishers, Buske Verlag of Hamburg, for undertaking the project, and in particular Professor Dr. Jens-Peter Köster of the University of Trier for his help and co-operation in arranging publication. At Macquarie University I am extremely grateful to the Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor E.C. Webb for generous financial assistance which ensured that my editorial responsibilities in producing final camera-ready copy could be fulfilled to a high standard. I am grateful to colleagues in the Linguistics discipline for their support, encouragement and helpful advice in many ways during this project. Particular thanks go to Jennie Winton for much discreet secretarial and administrative help, to Pamela Peters for proof-reading, and especially to David Blair for not only giving a great deal of

time to proof-reading, but also for arranging the Delbridge bibliography and making himself generously available for much help and discussion in establishing the shape of the volume both before and during its compilation. Finally, I wish to thank Merle Pym for typing copy and overseeing the total typographical quality, layout and consistency of the volume in her usual meticulous way. All of these people have greatly simplified the editor's task, and resulted in a better publication.

J.E. Clark

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contributors	11
Arthur Delbridge - A Biographical Note	15
Publications of Arthur Delbridge - A Bibliography	23
 <u>SECTION 1 - LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS</u>	
Referential and Conceptual Roles BARRY J. BLAKE	29
The Renaissance Magi in an Information Society H.E. COLLINS	35
Th-Clefts and All-Clefts PETER COLLINS	45
Lending and Borrowing: From Grammar to Lexis RUQAIYA HASAN	55
English Verbs of Movement: Semantic Problems for the Learner JOHN PLATT	69
Challenge, Care, Defy - The Semantics and Lexicography of Speech Act Verbs ANNA WIERZBICKA	77
Interpretation in Phonetics and Phonology COLIN YALLOP	93
 <u>SECTION 2 - PROSODY</u>	
Prosodic Features and Meaning G.R. COCHRANE	101
English Intonation as a Resource for Discourse M.A.K. HALLIDAY	111
Modals and Prosody: Some Aspects of How They Interact in English ROGER WALES	119

SECTION 3 - STYLE AND TEXT

The Problem of Solipsism and the Semiotician's Reply DAVID BUTT	129
The Plain English Debate in Australia ROBERT D. EAGLESON	143
'Voiceprints' in T.S. Eliot's Poetry E.M. LIGGINS	151
Judicial Discourse: The Case of the Legal Judgment YON MALEY	159
In the Shadow of the Axes: Relationships between Syntagm/Paradigm Retrospectivity and Reader Participation JOHN STEPHENS AND RUTH WATERHOUSE	175
The Linguistic Structure of Intertextuality: Dialogue, Debate and the Social Construction of Hell in Milton's <u>Paradise Lost</u> TERRY R. THREADGOLD	191
The Language of Literature G.W. TURNER	209

SECTION 4 - LEXICOGRAPHY

Dictionaries and the Credibility Gap: Informant Responses to Some English Quantifiers DAVID BLAIR	221
Computation in the Macquarie Dictionary DAVID BLAIR AND PAT KREUITER	231
Developing a Text to Speech System Dictionary J.E. CLARK AND C.D. SUMMERFIELD	251
Reactions to the 1979 Austrian Dictionary - Conservatism or Cultural Cringe? MICHAEL CLYNE	263
The Making of The Macquarie ARTHUR DELBRIDGE	273
Surveying the Needs and Skills of the Dictionary User R.R.K. HARTMANN	289
The Australian National Dictionary: A Preview of the Letter B W.S. RAMSON	299
Towards Producing a Dictionary of an Unusual Pacific Language S.A. WURM	307

SECTION 5 - AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH

Some Local Effects of Post Vocalic [l] JOHN BERNARD	319
The Phonetic Realisation of a Morpheme Boundary in Australian English DAVID BRADLEY AND MAYA BRADLEY	333
Talking About Which RAY CATTELL	341
Australian Idiom CHITRA FERNANDO	349
Going Bush JOHN GUNN	361
On the Origin of Australian English GÖRAN HAMMARSTRÖM	369
Postvocalic (r) in a Non-Rhotic Dialect of English BARBARA M. HORVATH AND SANDRA HARRISON	373
Between Empire and Anzus: Orthographic Adjustments in Australia PAMELA PETERS	381
A Note on Darg H.L. ROGERS	391
Linguistic Evidence of the Americanization of Australian English: Preliminary Report ROLAND SUSSEX	395

SECTION 6 - COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

Phonological Coding Deficit: A Comparison of Spelling Errors Made by Deaf, Speech Disordered and Normal Children BARBARA DODD AND HELEN COCKERILL	405
Profiling Lingual-Palatal Contact Patterns in Normal and Dyspraxic Speech W.J. HARDCASTLE	417
Hearing Aid Fitting and Cochlear Implant Programs P. NEWALL	429

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FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF ARTHUR DELBRIDGE

BEITRÄGE ZUR PHONETIK UND LINGUISTIK 48 (1985), pp. 15-21.

ARTHUR DELBRIDGE

A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Arthur Delbridge was born in 1921 in Lindfield, Sydney, Australia. He was educated in Sydney at the Lindfield and Gordon public schools, and North Sydney Boys' High School from which he matriculated in 1937 with a reputation as a good scholar. He entered the University of Sydney as a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1938, where he quickly came under the influence of both Professor Holme who encouraged him to take up English honours, and Dr. Alec Mitchell who fostered his interest in language. He graduated with first class honours and the University medal in 1941.

These were dark and uncertain days on the Pacific front of the second world war, and only two days after graduation he joined the Sydney University Regiment and went into army training. He served with the artillery in various parts of Australia from 1942 onward, and during 1945 served in Balikpapan, Borneo.

He remained in Borneo for 6 months after the cessation of hostilities, then returned home to Australia where he was discharged from the army. He entered Sydney Teachers' College as a student in 1946, where he became editor of the College magazine, and won the Jones medal on graduation.

In 1947 as an employee of the Department of Education he was sent to Cootamundra to teach, but by 1948 his evident abilities had been recognised in his appointment as a lecturer at the Armidale Teachers' College. It was here that he met fellow lecturer Jean Smith with whom he rapidly found an enduring mutual interest in many things, including music, literature, language, the arts, and travel. They were married in 1949, and those interests continue on even wider horizons to this day.

In 1950 Arthur won the Lever-Hulme scholarship and an Imperial Relations Trust Fellowship which allowed the Delbridges to travel to Britain where he spent two years at London University to com-

plete an M.A. degree. He also supervised student teachers for London University at the same time. He returned to Armidale Teachers' College in 1952, and in 1953 was appointed to lecture at Sydney Teachers' College. During this period he began his university teaching career by taking some part-time classes at the University of Sydney. In 1955 he was appointed as a lecturer at the University of Technology (now the University of New South Wales) where he taught English until 1958 when he was appointed to a lectureship in the English Department at the University of Sydney.

At the University of Sydney Arthur's interest in the linguistics of English strengthened with increasing research and teaching responsibilities in this area. These were principally in phonetics, phonology, lexicography, language variation, and stylistics, with a particular focus on Australian English. These were new directions in language studies for most English departments, which traditionally were predominantly philological in orientation. At Sydney, they were greatly strengthened by Arthur's presence, and resulted in his collaboration with Professor Alec Mitchell in undertaking a survey of the speech patterns of adolescents throughout Australia. The data from that survey remains definitive.

Whilst at the University of Sydney he was responsible for setting up the phonetics laboratory which has now been in active use by researchers and students for nearly three decades. That he did so, is a measure of his understanding of contemporary developments in linguistics at that time, and so ensured that state of the art facilities were available to students and researchers. In consequence, he established a strong and enduring empirical perspective to linguistic studies in that University.

Arthur has always seen speech and language studies as having a broad and pervasive influence on the total study of human communicative processes. Thus it is not surprising that he became involved from his early period at the University of Sydney onwards in teaching phonetics and linguistics to speech therapy students.

In 1965 he went on sabbatical leave, and spent time working in a

number of centres including the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, London University, and the University of Chicago. This placed him in direct contact with key researchers and research facilities in his own specialties, and it is typical of Arthur's entire professional career that he has kept abreast of contemporary developments in his current areas of interest.

In 1966 when the nucleus of senior staff were being recruited to undertake the planning and establishment of Macquarie University, Arthur was invited to be foundation Professor of English (language and linguistics) in the School of English Studies. It was with considerable success that he used this opportunity to develop linguistics as a distinctive discipline within the School, and by 1974 the School itself had changed its title to the School of English and Linguistics, with all academic staff in linguistics specifically designated as such.

Again reflecting his commitment to empirical aspects of language and communication studies and research, he successfully established the Speech and Language Research Centre within the School, and became its Director. This Centre began in a modest way, housed in one of the disused cottages on the new campus and having one technical officer. It has since been moved into larger accommodation and developed into an extensive laboratory with speech, hearing and language research facilities that include very sophisticated computing and data analysis capabilities. There are now four full-time technical staff, and the Centre supports a large program of staff and post-graduate research, as well as undergraduate and post-graduate teaching.

From quite early days, Arthur began to develop what can be broadly described as specifically applied components along with the mainstream and theoretical components to the teaching program of the discipline. Perhaps the earliest of these was a general education course in English language which placed a primary emphasis on the practical development of structural, grammatical and stylistic skills in writing from a sound linguistic basis, and encouraged the establishment of courses and workshops in basic writing skills. He encouraged work in English as a second language, and was involved in the establishment of an

interdisciplinary graduate Diploma in teaching English to migrants. He also established courses in language acquisition, and communication disorders, and in more recent times oversaw the establishment of a graduate program in audiology which is clinically accredited and one of only two such programs in the country. Quite early in the history of the School, he was influential in the establishment of Mass Media (now Mass Communication) studies which have developed with great success into a major independent discipline within the School. All of this is a reflection of Arthur's broad view of the role of linguistics in human communication.

As one of the longest serving members of the University professoriate, Arthur has also contributed actively and continuously to its academic administration. From the foundation years onward, he has served terms as Head of School of English and Linguistics, and worked on various university committees such as the academic senate, the committee to advise the Vice-Chancellor, migration studies, post-graduate studies, the working party on outside earnings, and the concert and theatre committee.

Administrative responsibilities in the University at large and in his own discipline did not prevent him from maintaining an active involvement in linguistic research. In his early years he worked on intonation, and on the instrumental assessment of pronunciation by radio announcers, and in the mid '70s was responsible for compiling a survey of Australian speech styles. In 1970, he commenced work on the Macquarie Dictionary project, and although its history is detailed elsewhere in this volume (by an author who will be somewhat surprised to find himself included) it must be recorded here that the successful completion and publication of this dictionary was due primarily to Arthur's immense reserves of patience, persistence, and not inconsiderable political acumen.

From the original dictionary project there has developed a major working group in lexicographical research and publication under Arthur's aegis. It has produced a stream of dictionaries and related publications, and has an ongoing research program in

(amongst other things) the compilation of historical lexicographical data and the utilisation of computing techniques in lexicography. This group occupies a cottage on the campus, and has now been formally established as the University Dictionary Research Centre, of which Arthur has been appointed the first Director.

The overall development of linguistics at Macquarie University very much reflects Arthur's own broad-based and eclectic view of the subject. Its formative years at Macquarie have coincided with a period in which there have been some major theoretical controversies, and it is to Arthur's credit that he remained unswayed by the sometimes strident demands of particular schools of thought. Throughout, he has deliberately set a course that has encouraged the development of open-handed representation from all schools and theoretical models amongst staff, and has nurtured an atmosphere of democratic intellectual freedom unblinkered by spurious ideological commitments.

Arthur has made a wide professional contribution to the community. For many years he has served on the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Standing Committee on Spoken English, since 1967 as Chairman. He has acted as an external examiner for Newcastle University, is an advisor on English style to the Australian Government, and in recent times has been involved in the rewriting of the Commonwealth Style Manual. He is also a member of the editorial board of the New Oxford English Dictionary.

We have so far focussed on Arthur's professional career in language and communication. It is now appropriate to mention Arthur the musician. At an early age he played the mouth organ, and even made broadcast performances on the Australian Broadcasting Commission's children's session. It appears that this made a sufficient impression on one listener to arrange for him to have piano lessons. This generous gesture provided the start to his musical career which is probably now more active than it has ever been. He went on in those early years to become Busby organ scholar at the University of Sydney, studying under the well-known G. Faunce Allman and learning the carillon from John Gordon (who taught several generations of players).

He was encouraged in music at the University by Professor Holme, and in a somewhat curious way by Enoch Powell who was Professor of Greek at the University of Sydney before the war. Powell made a bargain with Arthur that he would take him to hear a series of Wagnerian concerts given by Kirsten Flagstad if only he would stop playing awful arrangements of hymn tunes on the Carillon at 8 a.m. when Powell was trying to write in his office under all the noise! While studying at the University he also attended classes at the State Conservatorium of Music where such luminaries as Charles Mackerras were fellow students.

Musical performance and appreciation has always been a major part of life in the Delbridge household. Arthur was for a time involved as a singer in a capella choir, but his principal enthusiasm has been as an instrumentalist, playing the 'cello, the gamba, and notably, keyboard instruments. Private musical performance was greatly stimulated by his purchase of a harpsichord in the late '60s; an event greatly encouraged by Jean as a diversionary tactic when Arthur suggested that he might attempt to build himself a small pipe organ! It was from private musical evenings of performance at the Delbridges that Arthur developed an important contribution to University life, the Macquarie Baroque Players. This chamber orchestra based on a group of talented amateur players was formed by Arthur in 1979.

The orchestra has gone from strength to strength in the ensuing period. It gives several concerts each year and from time to time attracts guest artists, often of professional international standing, a notable example being James Bowman the counter-tenor. It is also regularly broadcast on FM stereo radio. The University has recognised this substantial contribution to its extramural life, and through the good offices of the Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Edwin Webb, the orchestra has been provided with a practice harpsichord. Several years ago the Vice-Chancellor also provided funds for a magnificent concert harpsichord to be built for general University recital and concert usage, and this would not have happened without Arthur's impetus and musical contribution to the University.

Lastly, we must turn to Arthur the man. It must be apparent from what has already been said that he is a person of energy, with a breadth of vision in his pursuit of professional and personal interests. In all his dealings he works in a calm, considered fashion and is not one to make hasty or ill-considered decisions, taking wherever possible a strategic view of the outcome of events before making any move. In his role as Professor, he has always been ready to talk with his staff, has shown then unswerving loyalty, and has been ready to support them in obtaining preferment in their own careers both within and beyond the University. He has always prized, and provided, a real sense of academic freedom for his staff. They have always been made to feel free to develop their own academic interests in whatever direction they chose, knowing that Arthur's support would always be there.

Arthur has always prized harmonious personal relationships highly, having a personal temperament which is always quietly good-humoured, and he has studiously avoided needless confrontations. The result at Macquarie has been a linguistics group in which personal rivalries have been notably absent, and has been positively marked by a happy working atmosphere which is very much a reflection of his personal style. Perhaps best of all, he has treated his staff as personal friends. Arthur and Jean have been hospitable almost to a fault, and we have over the years enjoyed many social occasions at their home not least in their garden which reflects a remarkable combination of theoretical and practical horticultural knowledge.

This volume marks Arthur's retirement and is intended as a tribute to his contribution to linguistics in Australia and in particular at Macquarie University. He has somewhat unwittingly set a formidable standard for his successor. We will be sad to see him relinquish his formal professorial role; but those of us who know him well are quite certain that 'retirement' will really only be an administrative formality and that he will be as active as ever in his chosen fields of interest, but without the distractions of office. We all wish him well in this continued association.

Sydney, 31st May 1985

J.E. Clark

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