

## *Prólogo*

Emilio Lorenzo has received wide recognition as the most active promoter of English studies in Spain. This festschrift goes to press as he approaches the enviable landmark of forty years' university teaching, as Professor and Professor Emeritus, at the Universidad Complutense. At least some of the broad range of his interests will, we hope, be reflected in this issue of a new academic journal which we like to think is the daughter journal of *Filología Moderna*, the journal founded by Emilio Lorenzo in 1960 and edited by him until 1975.

There are, therefore, certain main themes in this collection: Old English and Middle English studies, lexis and translation, linguistics and literature. The articles are grouped around these themes, but without divisions, since one section tends to merge into another, reflecting the present diversity of the research being carried out in English Departments in Spain. It also allows us to include certain contributions on specialised areas in which Professor Lorenzo has not been directly engaged, but which in their innovativeness reflect his ever-active and inquiring mind.

Emilio Lorenzo's first impact on philology in this country derived from his insistence that the study of modern languages in the university should be accorded the dignity of an academic discipline; with this conviction always in mind, he promoted English and German medieval studies, and was the first university lecturer in Spain to deliver a lecture on Old English. Equally innovative, and even polemic, at the time of his taking up the Chair in English and German Linguistics in 1962 was his interest in Applied

Linguistics and his defence of language teaching in the schools with an emphasis on the contact between them and the university. His founding of the *Instituto de Idiomas* of the U.C.M. forms part of his energetic promotion of language studies for the widest possible spectrum of student participation.

At the same time, his interest in contrastive linguistics, grammatical description and translation opened up new horizons to many of his students and future colleagues. With an immense breadth of knowledge and a familiarity with many languages, fomented by contacts with some of the contemporary leading scholars in English and German-speaking communities, his energy and tenacity found another outlet in the creation of the *Instituto de Lenguas Modernas y Traductores*. The founding of this university institute, together with the *Instituto de Idiomas*, filled an urgent need while at the same time creating teaching posts for many young graduates.

Translation went hand in hand with a sensitivity to literature, and his own translations of Swift and the *Nibelungenlied* bear witness to this facet of Emilio Lorenzo's personality.

Not reflected here, for reasons of space and the character of this journal, is his commitment to and vigilance of the Spanish language, reflected in such works as *El español de hoy, lengua en ebullición*, first published in 1966, *El español y otras lenguas*, published in 1980 and his maiden speech to the Real Academia in 1981 with the title *Utrum lingua an loquentes?* His keen awareness of the development of Spanish, the introduction of new words and the evolution of others, has been shared again and again, with his characteristic generosity and delight, by those of us who have had the fortune to be able to drop in for a chat on any and every topic. Invariably hospitable and enthusiastic, he was and is always eager to relate his own findings and to read and hear of the publications of others. His keen critical eye has sometimes been the despair of the receiver, but the criticism is always tempered by tolerance and leavened by encouragement.

The diversity of themes in this volume gives testimony to many of Emilio Lorenzo's virtues as an academic and a teacher. But one in particular has earned the gratitude and respect of those who have worked under him. This is his lack of dogmatism, which united with his intellectual curiosity, has unfailingly provided encouragement to the younger generation to branch out on their own into new ventures and fields of research. This kind of support is of the utmost value to a growing department as well as to those in other parts of Spain who have benefitted from his participation in academic events and doctoral theses.

Professor Emeritus since 1986 and member of the Real Academia since 1981, Emilio Lorenzo has been a constant presence in the Departamento de Filología Inglesa, as the progression of visitors shows. We cannot in fact imagine the department without D. Emilio.

The first trial issue of *Estudios ingleses de la Universidad Complutense*, originally intended as a festschrift offered by members of the department,

was not published as such, since we became aware that many others outside the department wished to contribute. The avalanche of offerings received more than surpassed our expectations. At a late stage in the editing of this second issue, budget restrictions at management level made it necessary to reduce the extent of the publication from the proposed two or three volumes to one. It was with great regret that we proceeded to make a drastic selection of the contributions with the double aim of providing, on the one hand, a testimony of affection and respect for Emilio Lorenzo, while on the other a representative view of the diversity of research currently being carried out in the English departments of Spanish universities. We are sorry to have disappointed so many of our potential contributors. Many of them have enjoyed, as the editor and editorial team have, Professor Lorenzo's support at some time either as students or in their professional lives. We dedicate this volume to him as a small token of our gratitude.

**Angela Downing**  
October, 1993