

LISTENING TO THE PAST

Audio Records of Accents of English

Audio recordings of English are available from the first half of the twentieth century and thus complement the written data sources for the recent history of the language. This book is the first to bring together a team of globally recognised scholars to document and analyse these early recordings in a single volume. Looking at examples of regional varieties of English from England, Scotland, Ireland, the USA, Canada and other anglophone countries, the volume explores both standard and vernacular varieties, and demonstrates how accents of English have changed between the late nineteenth century and the present day. The sociophonetic examinations of the recordings will be of interest to scholars of historical linguistics, the history of the English language, language variation and change, phonetics, and phonology.

RAYMOND HICKEY is Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Duisburg and Essen, Germany. His main research interests are varieties of English (especially Irish English and Dublin English) and general questions of language contact, variation and change. Among his recent book publications are *Irish English. History and Present-day Forms* (Cambridge, 2007), *The Handbook of Language Contact* (2010), *Eighteenth-Century English* (Cambridge, 2010) and *The Sound Structure of Modern Irish* (2014).

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