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The history of the English language is a vast and diverse area of research. In this volume, a team of leading historians of English come together to analyze "real" language, drawing on corpus data to shed new light on long-established issues and debates in the field.

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Topics covered include polemical issues on the optimal use of corpus linguistic methods, macro-level patterns of text and discourse organization, and micro-features such as interjections and hesitators.

Covering Englishes from the past and present, this book is designed specifically for graduate students and researchers working in fields of corpus linguistics, the history of the English language, and historical linguistics.

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Handbook of Historical Pragmatics (2010, co-edited with Irma Taavitsainen); *Communicating Early English Manuscripts* (Cambridge University Press, 2011, co-edited with Päivi Pahta); *English Historical Pragmatics* (2013, co-authored with Irma Taavitsainen); *Communities of Practice in the History of English* (2013, co-edited with Joanna Kopaczyk); *Diachronic Corpus Pragmatics* (2014, co-edited with Irma Taavitsainen and Jukka Tuominen). He is the editor of the *Journal of Historical Pragmatics* (with Irma Taavitsainen) and the associate editor of the *Pragmatics & Beyond New Series*.

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co-editor of *Nineteenth-century English: Stability and Change* (Cambridge University Press, 2006); and with Jonathan Culpeper, co-author of *Early Modern English Dialogues: Spoken Interaction as Writing* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). In the context of the latter project, the authors compiled *A Corpus of English Dialogues 1560–1760* (CED), and, as a follow-up project, together with Peter J. Grund and Terry Walker, she was co-editor and co-compiler of *An Electronic Text Edition of Depositions 1560–1760*, a manuscript-based corpus, which appeared on a CD accompanying the *Testifying to Language and Life in Early Modern England* authored by the team (2011). With Anke Lüdeling, she co-edited *Corpus Linguistics: An International Handbook* (2008) and, as associate editor of the Salem project, co-edited the *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt* (Cambridge University Press, 2009). She recently edited *English Corpus Linguistics: Crossing Paths* (2012), and, with Päivi Pahta, she is currently co-editing the *Cambridge Handbook of English Historical Linguistics*. She is also co-editor of the *ICAME Journal* and associate editor of *Studia Neophilologica*.

MANFRED MARKUS, Professor Emeritus of English Philology at the University of Innsbruck, has published widely in the fields of English historical linguistics and corpus linguistics. In the 1990s, he compiled the *Innsbruck ME Prose Corpus* and the *Innsbruck Late ME and Early ModE Letter Corpus* (1388–1699). More recently, he has been the director of EDD Online, a project on Wright's *English Dialect Dictionary*, to be finished by the end of 2014.

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focused on the development of adverbial connectives and he has published a number of articles on this topic, paying particular attention to grammaticalization and language contact. He participated as a consultant in the Shakespeare Translation Project (2004–13). He is an active member of the Research Unit for Variation, Contacts and Change in English, at the University of Helsinki.

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JEREMY SMITH is Professor of English Philology and Head of the School of Critical Studies at the University of Glasgow. His areas of interest include English historical linguistics, Scots and English in Scotland, and the history of the book, with special reference to the medieval and early modern periods; he is also a long-standing advocate for the deployment of digital applications in the humanities. Recent publications include *Older Scots: A Linguistic Reader* (2012); *Old English: A Linguistic Introduction* (2009); *Sound Change and the History of English* (2007); and articles on topics ranging from the language of Robert Burns to Chaucer's handling of the demonstrative. Current research includes work on the pragmatics of punctuation in the medieval and early modern periods, and on the linguistic changes – in the broadest sense – English and Scots texts undergo when they move from script to print.

IRMA TAAVITSAINEN is Professor Emerita of English Philology at the University of Helsinki. Her interests cover historical pragmatics and corpus linguistics, genre and register variation, historical discourse analysis, stylistics, and medieval studies. She has published widely in these fields and co-authored and co-edited several volumes, most recently *Diachronic Corpus Pragmatics* (2014, with Andreas H. Jucker and Jukka Tuominen); *English Historical Pragmatics* (2013, with Andreas H. Jucker); *Medical Writing in Early Modern English* (Cambridge University

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Press, 2011, with Päivi Pahta); *Historical Pragmatics* (vol. VIII of *Handbook of Pragmatics*, 2010, with Andreas H. Jucker). Her research team has produced two electronic corpora *Early Modern English Medical Texts* with a book *Corpus Description and Studies* (2010); *Middle English Medical Texts* (2005) and a book based on it, *Medical and Scientific Writing in Late Medieval English* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). A third corpus, *Late Modern English Medical Texts 1700–1800*, is under way. She is the founding co-editor (with Andreas H. Jucker) of *Journal of Historical Pragmatics*, and a board member of several international publication series and scholarly journals.

SEAN WALLIS is Senior Research Fellow in the Survey of English Usage at University College London. He specializes in the development of advanced research methods in corpus linguistics, with a focus on parsed corpora. He is the author of the *International Corpus of English Corpus Utility Program* (ICECUP 3.1 and IV) and worked on the compilation of the *British Component of the International Corpus of English* and the *Diachronic Corpus of Present-Day Spoken English*. He has written a number of articles on corpus linguistics methodology and statistics, and runs a blog on statistics for corpus linguistics. He is the co-author, with Gerald Nelson and Bas Aarts, of *Exploring Natural Language* (2002), and co-editor, with Bas Aarts, Geoffrey Leech, and Joanne Close, of *The English Verb Phrase* (2013).

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Preface

This book has its origin at the IAUPE (International Association of University Professors in English) conference in Malta, July 19–23, 2010, where we combined the sections 'Corpus Linguistics' and 'History of English' into a 'conference within a conference' that lasted for several days. The papers proved so inspiring and exciting – and indeed so coherent in their engagement with current debates – that a publication seemed a natural outcome.

The contributions presented here offer four different facets of current corpus linguistic research into English and its history. We explicitly asked our contributors to consider current trends of linguistic study, theoretical approach(es), and recent insights and innovations in the methodologies, and to project their thoughts on historical data; the draft articles then underwent a single-blind reviewing process. The results show how strong the "digital turn" in linguistics is, and how methodological precision has improved with it. Most contributions deal with the history of English, and to make the book even more coherent we encouraged those who dealt with present-day topics to take the histories of varieties of English into account, and also – rather daringly – to make predictions about future developments. Thus the timeline for the volume extends from the earliest periods of English to the future.

It has been a real pleasure to work for the common goal with the contributors to the volume, and we should like to thank them all for their collaboration. We are grateful to Uppsala University for financial aid, especially regarding the indexing of the book. We should also like to thank Jukka Tuominen for his expert editorial assistance. Helen Barton and Helena Dowson of Cambridge University Press deserve a special word of thanks for their help and encouragement.

December 2013

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