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Autor: Erne, Lukas

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General Editor's Preface

SPELL (Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature) is a publication of SAUTE, the Swiss Association of University Teachers of English. Established in 1984, it first appeared every second year, was published annually from 1994 to 2008, and now appears three times every two years. Every second year, SPELL publishes a selection of papers given at the biennial symposia organized by SAUTE. Non-symposium volumes are usually collections of papers given at other conferences organized by members of SAUTE, in particular conferences of SANAS, the Swiss Association for North American Studies and, more recently, of SAMEMES, the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies. However, other proposals are also welcome. Decisions concerning topics and editors are made by the Annual General Meeting of SAUTE two years before the year of publication.

Volumes of SPELL contain carefully selected and edited papers devoted to a topic of literary, linguistic and – broadly – cultural interest. All contributions are original and are subjected to external evaluation by means of a full peer review process. Contributions are usually by participants at the conferences mentioned, but volume editors are free to solicit further contributions. Papers published in SPELL are documented in the *MLA International Bibliography*. SPELL is published with the financial support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Information on all aspects of SPELL, including volumes planned for the future, is available from the General Editor, Prof. Lukas Erne, Département de langue et littérature anglaises, Faculté des Lettres, Université de Genève, CH-1211 Genève 4, Switzerland, e-mail: lukas.erne@unige.ch. Information about past volumes of SPELL and about SAUTE, in particular about how to become a member of the association, can be obtained from the SAUTE website at <http://www.saute.ch>.

Lukas Erne

Acknowledgements

The papers in this volume were contributed following the University of Bern's hosting of the SAUTE meeting in May 2011. We are grateful to all the speakers who made the conference such a memorable and stimulating event, and would like to especially thank our international invited speakers, Professor Elleke Boehmer and Professor Crispin Thurlow, who gave extremely thought-provoking and lively presentations.

We would very much like to thank the following people for their very significant contribution both to the production of this volume, and to the organisation of the conference: Dr Kellie Gonçalves, Dr Nicole Nyffenegger, Kathrin Reist, Eva Grädel and Bettina Müller from Bern all helped in numerous ways in the editorial production of the volume, and we thank them sincerely for their work. In addition to Kellie, Nicole, Kathrin, Eva and Bettina, we were helped at the conference by Elisa Marenzi and Monika Iseli.

We'd like to thank our international panel of reviewers who performed the task of reading and commenting on submitted papers with great professionalism, dedication and velocity! We are especially honoured to be able to publish Professor Boehmer's paper here alongside those of the SAUTE members. We are also very grateful to Keith Hewlett for his careful copy-editing work on the final volume.

Without the amazing support of SAUTE, this volume simply would not have been possible. SAUTE helped to finance the conference that led to this volume, and we have received especially great assistance from Professor Dr Lukas Erne and Professor Dr David Spurr, who provided us with clear and precise guidelines for the conference and the volume.

And finally we would like to acknowledge our families – Axel, Sue, Timon, Molly, Ella and Mael – who cheerfully and patiently tolerated our absences as we devoted ourselves to this volume.

