

PARLANCE

PALA Newsletter Autumn 2005

Mick Short and Katie Wales cutting PALA's 25th birthday cake at the recent conference in Huddersfield.



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Editorial

Dear PALAns,

Most of you will no doubt be well into the new term now, apart from those of you fortunate enough to be on sabbatical, who will no doubt just be getting ready to mow the lawn or put the kettle on. Whatever you're doing, as the memory of the PALA conferences fades into the distance I hope the latest edition of the PALA newsletter brings some light relief to your day.

You'll notice first of all that the name of the newsletter has changed. Following comments from Katie Wales at the conference, it seemed like a good idea to return to the original name of the newsletter, and so *Parlance* it is. This name was abandoned when *Language and Literature* replaced *Parlance* as the association's journal, but it does seem like too good a name to throw away and so we're happy to re-adopt it.

It was good to see so many of you at the recent conference in Huddersfield. Don't

forget that if you want to submit your conference paper for the proceedings, the deadline for doing this is December 31st. You'll find more details about this below. If anyone has any photos of the conference then feel free to send copies to me by email and we will post them on the conference website. You'll also find in this edition a number of reports from first time conference-goers, which, I think it can safely be said, cover the full range of the conference experience!

Also included in this edition are the minutes of the Huddersfield AGM, and the report from the PALA Chair, Isil Bas.

Finally, congratulations to Mick Short and Geoffrey Leech, winners of the PALA 25 Book Prize for most influential publication in stylistics in the last 25 years. The book, of course, was *Style in Fiction*.

In the meantime, enjoy the new term!

Dan McIntyre

News

Derek Attridge writes:

'I recently examined an outstanding PhD thesis by Matthew Williams, a student in the Classics Department of the University of Adelaide; it's on "The relationship between sound and content in Latin poetry", but its implications extend to all poetry. I thought PALA members might like to know about it; it's permanently available in pdf format at <http://thesis.library.adelaide.edu.au/public/adt-SUA20050308.133438>'

Online resources on the PALA website

We are currently building up a list of links to useful resources on the PALA website at <http://www.pala.ac.uk/links/stylistics.htm>

PALA members are encouraged to send in details of any sites which they find useful to webmaster@pala.ac.uk.

Language and Style course free online!

PALA is thrilled to announce that Mick Short has been extremely generous and given PALA a wonderful birthday present: he has made his introductory course *Language and Style*, as taught at Lancaster University, freely available online. Find out all about it at: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/stylistics/index.htm>

Congratulations!

Our congratulations go to the following PALAns:

Paul Simpson, who has recently been appointed Chair of English Language at Queen's University, Belfast.

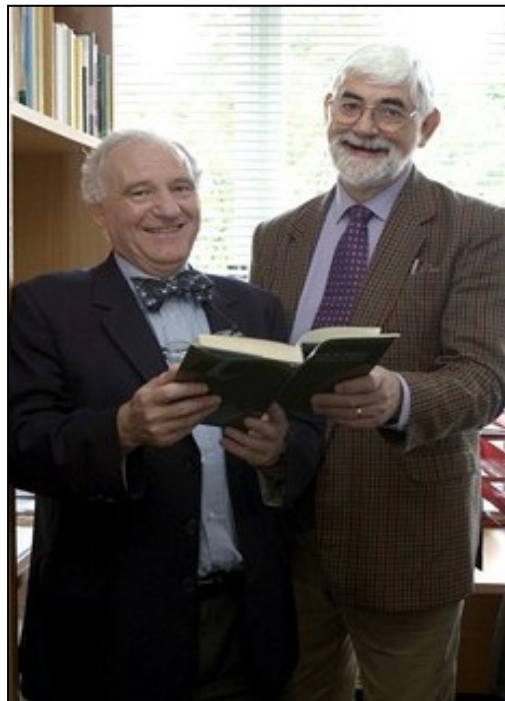
Michi Shiina, who has been awarded her PhD from Lancaster University.

Reiko Ikeo, who has also been awarded her PhD from Lancaster University.

Urszula Clark, who has been appointed Senior Lecturer in English Language and TESOL at Aston University.

PALA 25 Book Prize

Congratulations to Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short (Lancaster University), who were awarded the PALA 25th Anniversary Book Prize, after PALA members voted their book *Style in Fiction* (Longman 1981) the most influential publication in the field of stylistics over the last 25 years.



Mick Short and Geoffrey Leech with their prize-winning publication

A one day symposium on the topic of the book is currently being arranged. More details will follow!

The perils of being a stylistician...

When Willie van Peer (finally!) submitted his abstract for the recent PALA conference at Huddersfield, I was rather intrigued to see that his title was simply "***". This, I thought, was clearly some clever graphological deviation which would no doubt be explained in the ingenious dénouement to his talk.

But no.

Just days before the conference, I received another email from Willie saying 'Dan, I have just realised that I never sent you the title for my talk...'

No doubt anyone other than a stylistician would have worked that out straightaway... (This, of course, will please Peter Stockwell as it means that he wins the prize for this year's shortest title, for his elusively named talk, 'Empathy'.)

Dan

PALA Special Interest Groups

PALA is the home for several Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These are informal networks for groups of PALA members who wish to pursue research in a particular topic together. The PALA Committee is keen to promote and support the creation and ongoing activities of SIGs. At the recent PALA conference, two new SIGs were proposed. These are:

Narrative SIG

The purpose of the PALA Narrative SIG is:

1. To raise awareness of and disseminate research in the field of narrative studies (specifically within PALA, but with links to other projects and groups too)
2. To provide a forum in which researchers might exchange information and support, with a long term possibility of developing corporate research projects in the broad field of narrative studies.

There is now a PALA-narrative mailing list for anyone interested. Please go to <http://www.list.hum.aau.dk/mailman/listinfo/pala-narrative> to join.

For comments, ideas or suggestions please use the mailing list.

Ruth Page (Ruth.Page at uce.ac.uk) and Henrik Schärfe (scharfe at hum.aau.dk)

Corpus SIG

Following suggestions and discussions in July 2005 at the annual PALA conference, and the workshop 'Corpus Approaches to the Language of Literature', held in Birmingham, it was decided that it would be useful to have a forum for discussion of issues relating to corpus stylistics.

The Corpus SIG page on the PALA website will act as a hub for these activities, which may include:

1. an email discussion list (corpus-style@jiscmail.ac.uk);

2. news of events and other initiatives;
3. an archive of resources for literary and linguistic analysis, in cooperation with the AHDS (AHDS Literature, Languages and Linguistics), hosted by the Oxford Text Archive;
4. a bibliography of relevant papers and other publications, including online monographs and working papers;
5. a list of links to online resources (with HUMBUL Humanities Hub)

Please contact Martin Wynne (martin.wynne at oucs.ox.ac.uk) with any suggestions, news or queries, or just to express your interest in being involved.

The Longman Prize

To any postgrads who presented at the recent Huddersfield conference, don't forget that you are eligible to enter a written-up version of your paper for the Longman Prize. The Longman Prize is awarded by PALA in conjunction with Longman publishers for the best paper presented by a student at the annual PALA conference. It is a significant recognition of academic excellence and offers you the opportunity to publish your work in a peer-reviewed volume. To be eligible for entry, you must be a student (either undergraduate or postgraduate – you should not yet have been awarded your PhD) at a recognised institution, and a PALA member. To enter, you should submit two copies of a written version of your paper to the PALA Chair, Isil Bas, by 30 November 2005. In preparing your paper you should follow the style guide in *Language and Literature*.

The winner of the prize will receive the following:

- £100 of Longman books
- Free registration at the conference that follows your award (in practice, this usually means the conference two years after the one at which you presented your paper; the 2005 winner will receive free registration at the 2007 conference)
- Publication of your paper in the conference proceedings

Your paper will be read and considered by the PALA Chair and the editor of the

conference proceedings. The winner of the prize will be announced in the PALA newsletter.

Conference proceedings – call for submissions

Still on the theme of the recent conference, don't forget that if you want to submit your paper for consideration for the proceedings volume, the deadline for doing this is 31 December 2005. Papers should be sent by email to Lesley Jeffries (l.jeffries@hud.ac.uk). Please note that articles should be presented in accordance with the style sheet which can be downloaded from the PALA 25 website (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/mh/pala25/>). Further details about the proceedings volume can also be found at the above web address.

Forthcoming Events

2005

2005 Annual BAAHE Conference
European Business School
Stormstraat 2, Brussels
26 November

Belgian Association of Anglicists in Higher Education

Theme
Common Sense(s) in English Language and Literatures

Please send proposals for papers (a title and 250-word abstract) to Geert Beheydt (geert.beheydt@ehsal.be)

Deadline for submissions: 15 October 2005.

2006

Literature and the Cognitive Science
University of Connecticut, Storrs
6-9 April

This conference represents the first-ever open-format, open-invitation event in the widening field of cognitive approaches to literature and arts; it will also be highly interdisciplinary, featuring, in addition to

literature, arts, and theatre scholars, at least one cognitive scientist as a keynote speaker and others at various roundtables and panel discussions.

Contacts

F. Elizabeth Hart
Associate Professor of English, University of Connecticut:
Elizabeth.hart@uconn.edu

Alan Richardson
Professor of English, Boston College:
alan.richardson@bc.edu

RaAM 6 – Researching and Applying Metaphor – Ten Years On
University of Leeds
10-12 April

First call for papers
This sixth conference in the RaAM series returns to Yorkshire, UK to celebrate 10 years of Researching and Applying Metaphor.

Theme
Metaphor in the real world.

Plenary speakers
Professor Ray Gibbs (Psychology, University of California, Santa Cruz)
Baroness Susan Greenfield, CBE (Director, the Royal Institution; Professor of Pharmacology, University of Oxford; Director, Oxford Centre for the Study of the Mind)

Dr Brigitte Nerlich (Institute for the Study of Genetics, Biorisks and Society, The University of Nottingham)

Time and Place
Start: Monday 10 April at 1400hr.
Finish: Wednesday 12 April at 1800hr.

The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Leeds.

Types of session
We would welcome proposals for any of the following:

Presentation (40 min)
Colloquium of Panel Session (80 min)
Workshop (80 min or 120 min)
PhD report (40 min), from recently or nearly completed doctoral research projects.
Poster/Electronic Poster

Submission of proposals

Submissions should be made electronically using the RAAM website <http://www.psyc.leeds.ac.uk/raam6/>

They should give the title of the session, the type of session, the name of the presenter or co-ordinator, affiliation, contact addresses and email. The text should be a summary of 500 words max. indicating the content of the session and summarising relevant data.

Workshop proposals should explain why the session is valuable and the nature of the data to be explored.

Colloquium proposals should indicate the names of the main contributors and how they would interact with the audience.

The more concrete and clearly worded the proposal, the greater the chance of acceptance.

Deadline for receipt of proposals
30 June 2005

Notification of acceptance
November 2005

Confirmation by presenters
30 November 2005

Registration opens
1 December 2005

International Stylistics Conference, China (ISCC)

This conference will be held at Tsinghua University, Beijing from June 16th to 18th, 2006 (registration on the 15th). The conference is sponsored by China Stylistics Association. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is December 31, 2005. Abstracts of about 300 words should be sent to Liu Nannan, wyxws@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn; tel. +86-10-62795726; fax +86-10-62784969; postal address: Liu Nannan, for Organizing Committee, ISCC, Department of English, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, P. R. China. Submission of abstracts by email is preferred.

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS LINGUISTIC IMPOLITENESS AND RUDENESS:

Confrontation and Conflict in Discourse
3rd - 4th July 2006

University of Huddersfield, UK

This two-day conference aims to foster research on what might be called linguistic 'impoliteness' or 'rudeness'. Whilst all papers will contribute in some way to the understanding of this particular area of language usage, the conference aims to bring together a range of theoretical and methodological approaches exploring the notion of impoliteness and the usage of impoliteness phenomena in discourse. The conference will complement and extend the field of politeness studies, which, hitherto, has paid little attention to impoliteness. Researchers and postgraduates working in fields such as linguistics, sociology, psychology, communication studies, organizational studies, conflict resolution studies, literature and philosophy are welcomed.

This conference is the third in a series backed by the Linguistic Politeness Research Group (for details of the group, see:

<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ea/politeness/>). The conference also ties in with a special edition of the Journal of Politeness Research on impoliteness which will be published in July 2008. The format of the conference will include the presentation of papers (some of which will be plenary) and of posters, and a plenary panel.

Call for papers and posters:

Abstracts of no more than 200 words are invited on any topic relating to linguistic impoliteness or rudeness from any theoretical or methodological perspective. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is the 31st January 2006. Abstracts should include a title and up to 5 keywords. Please send abstracts to impoliteness2006@hud.ac.uk. Please specify whether you intend to present a paper or poster. All submissions will be peer-reviewed. Authors will be notified of paper and poster acceptance by 31st March 2006.

Invited plenary speakers:

Prof. Leslie Beebe, Teachers College, Columbia University, USA.

Prof. Janet Holmes, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Prof. Richard J. Watts, University of Berne, Switzerland.

Plenary panel will also include:

Prof. Lynne Andersson, Temple University, USA.

Prof. Timothy Jay, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, USA.

Conference Organisers:

Derek Bousfield (University of Huddersfield) and Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster University)

Tel: Huddersfield + 44 (0)1484 473592 or Lancaster +44 (0)1524 592443

Email: impoliteness2006@hud.ac.uk

Webpage:

<http://www.hud.ac.uk/mh/english/impoliteness/index.htm>

PALA 26
University of Joensuu, Finland
26-29 July

<http://www.joensuu.fi/fld/pala2006/>

Future PALA conferences

Next year the PALA conference will take place in picturesque and beautiful Joensuu in Finland, from the 26th to the 29th July 2006. Anyone (from anywhere in the world) interested in the possibility of hosting future PALA conferences is invited to contact the PALA Chair, Isil Bas.

Report from the PALA Chair, Isil Bas

Dear Members of PALA,

It is a great honor for me to be reporting to you on our association's 25th anniversary.

25 years ago, the Poetics and Linguistics Association held its first conference after it was formally established by a group of influential stylisticians. One of the founders' main goals, as stated in the constitution, was to make PALA represent the interests of all those who, despite living in different corners of the world and belonging to different backgrounds, shared an enthusiasm for de-mystifying the intricate ways language and reality were related.

I am delighted to acknowledge that PALA has, indeed, fulfilled its promise when I see the international group of scholars gathered here today. By this we can also measure the gulf that separates us from those who want to implement the seeds of enmity among the peoples of the world. But that is another matter and I do not want my report to be laden with gloom but with pride and joy celebrating both the common ground and the diversity of opinions which carried PALA from past to present and will continue to do so in the future.

As part of our celebration events, we have all been busy with a symposium at Nottingham, a workshop in Birmingham, and a book prize the winner of which will soon be announced. Finally we are here at the University of Huddersfield, at our annual conference, which so far proved to be an excellent one for the celebration of our history thanks to the efforts of Lesley Jeffries and her colleagues.

During the past year the PALA executive committee's activities have been mainly characterized by developing administrative and academic issues and consolidating the achievements of the previous years. By now we have fully established the practice of having 2 executive committee meetings each year. We met in Oxford on the 31st of March, the minutes of which are on the committee website. The second meeting took place in Huddersfield, a day prior to the 25th PALA conference.

The peer-reviewed series of conference papers initiated by PALA's previous chair, Willie van Peer now has the name *PALA Papers* because we wanted to make sure that it would not be viewed as a proceedings volume but as a fully-edited, scholarly book. We are indeed very lucky to have Don Freeman as our series editor, and he has done an excellent job, working very hard on our first volume to get it in perfect technical and mechanical shape. In recognition of his work and commitment, in our Oxford meeting we decided to co-opt him onto the committee and I, personally, believe that it is a great honor to have him amongst us.

As Don will give us a detailed report shortly, I do not want to talk further about the series but let me announce that the first volume will be available very soon and that the creation of the editorial board of the series is now finalized. I am

particularly pleased to inform you that the board members are:

Tom Barney
Isil Bas
Jose Maria Perez Fernandez
Don Freeman
Margaret Freeman
Masako Hiraga
Haj Ross
Willie van Peer
Olga Vorobyova
Sonia Zyngier

Our executive committee decided that the members of the editorial board for our journal, **Language and Literature**, will become honorary PALA members and continue to get the journal free in order to bring them all into a closer connection with PALA and strengthen the ties between the journal and the association.

I am happy to say that this year PALA has kept up with technological developments. We have had electronic nominations and we also changed our newsletter from a conventional printed format to an electronic one. I would specifically like to thank Dan McIntyre for implementing and preparing a wonderful e-newsletter.

This year we had the posts of the treasure, secretary and publicity officer and webmaster up for election. The deadline for nominations was constantly extended, but I am disappointed to say that our members remained unenthusiastic about working in the committee. I believe that it is of utmost importance that we have more people willing to take part in administrative positions and to get people from a broader range of cultures and scholarly interests to ensure wider representation. Please do not forget that one of the most important strengths of our association is its internationality and we should broaden it in the next 25 years. Moreover, taking turns in committee posts ensures more commitment among members and establishes a healthier and more efficient executive system.

Thankfully, Peter, Urszula and Martin forwarded us their continued interest in their positions and since the AGM does not have any objections to their re-election, I announce Peter Stockwell as Treasurer, Urszula Clark as Secretary and Martin Wynne as Webmaster and Publicity Officer for another term of office.

It is, I believe, the right moment to ask the AGM for a minor constitutional change. The 3.a item in PALA constitution states that "The Association year will be the academic year, from September to August" 3.c, on the other hand, states that "There will be an Annual General Meeting within nine months of the end of Association year." Because the AGM meets during the annual conferences which often take place during July or August, (a full year after the end of the association year) we suggest that we change the Association year, in item 3.a from "academic year" to "calendar year." May I also remind you that my term as chair expires at the end of 2006, and the post will be up for election which according to the decision of the previous AGM, will be done electronically. You will be notified about the nomination and election procedures before the next AGM is held.

As a final note, I feel the need to refer to two very important issues:

As my last year's report also highlighted, we, unfortunately, have very modest resources. Our association must reach a position of sufficient financial stability to be able to think creatively about progress that will contribute to the future of stylistics. The only source of income is the fee paid by all members and there are, unfortunately, no international funds available. The Roger Fowler fund is the only source with which we support students attending conferences. Once again I ask for donations from individual members to donate to the fund.

Another alternative is to expect at least 1000 pounds from all future conference organizers who are actually using PALA's name, logo and members as participants. We know that all associations ask for such contributions.

Other associations also earn money by mailing labels based on the lists of their members and their academic interests to academic publishers. While our lists are more modest in terms of number, we can still offer them given the interest of such publishing houses as Sage, Rodopi and Blackwell's in our work. It may also be possible to use their banners on our e-newsletter to get funding for students. I believe we should extend awareness of these two issues to UK and non-UK publishers as soon as possible.

Amongst the needs revealed by our work this year has been the need for PALA's archives. I found out that historical materials are not organized for ready access. Previous minutes and important executive records are scattered in various locations. Maintenance of the association's archives is a must for all of us and I would like to make a call to all PALA members knowledgeable about PALA documents to help us collect them to facilitate their use by the present and future committees.

At this point I would like to announce the winner of the 25th year book prize. According to your votes the most influential book in stylistics and the linguistic study of literature in the past 25 years is *STYLE IN FICTION* by Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short. They will receive their prize at a one-day symposium the details of which will soon be announced. Congratulations!

Let me conclude by taking this opportunity to express our thanks to the senior members of our association who have infected a younger generation with their passion for preserving the old and exploring the new in our field of research. To remind us all of our debt to all our forbearers, as the committee of PALA we would like to extend our gratitude to four of our founding members, namely Katie Wales, Mick Short, Peter Verdonk and Ron Carter who are with us here for making PALA what it is today.

Thank you,

Isil Bas

Confessions of a PALA virgin...

And finally... Here for your delight and delectation are some thoughts and reminiscences on the recent Huddersfield conference, by PALA members who were attending a PALA conference for the first time...

Larry Stewart
The College of Wooster

Like many academics, at least those in the United States, I have spent much of my professional life attending large national conventions. However, during the last few years attending the meetings of IGEL and

ACH/ALLC, I have become increasingly convinced of the values of smaller, more focused, and truly international conferences. No group I know exemplifies these values more than PALA.

As a first-timer at PALA 25, I needed little more than the roster of participants and list of founders to recognize that this was the conference for anyone interested in stylistics. After a few days at the conference I came to discover why. First, it was almost immediately apparent that participants were genuinely interested and invested in the conference presentations—something that should go without saying but is not always the case. The movement from one room and presentation to another clearly demonstrated that those attending were making very intentional decisions about the presentations, that they were in Huddersfield to hear what others had to say.

Second, I discovered a remarkable culture of sharing and support that was evident in the presentations themselves, in the many informal contacts, and through the testimony of person after person. Nearly every person with whom I talked had a story about some act of kindness or sharing that had come from attending PALA. Finally, I found a group that welcomed a diversity of approaches and styles while sharing certain common assumptions and values about the study of literature and language. Within the diversity is a shared language and an eagerness to learn the dialects of that language that come from different disciplines and approaches.

My only regret about attending PALA for the first time is that it was my first time. I've missed a lot in the last twenty-five years.

Julie Millward
University of Sheffield

It may have been PALA's twenty-fifth conference, but it was my first. I was a PALA virgin. To say I was apprehensive would be a gross misrepresentation; I was occupying that dim, uncomfortable zone where nervousness takes on dreadful physical manifestations - and I had not even left home yet.

This was to be a week of firsts for me, beginning with leaving my teenage sons unsupervised at home for the first time.

As I packed my bag, one of the aforementioned sons amused himself by trying out sentences containing various permutations of 'International', 'Conference', and 'Huddersfield', then, finding none of these even remotely credible, suggested I just pack a flat cap and a raincoat. I summarily deflated his mirth by sticking to the fridge door a list of Rules to be Observed in My Absence - No parties. No excessive drinking. Don't disturb the neighbours - and left.

As I travelled to Huddersfield with Kate Dorney, I embarked on another first. I had been a Sudoku virgin until now, but, since Kate assured me these abstruse puzzles required such focus and concentration that they put all other concerns - including nervousness - out of mind, I began the introductory puzzle (level of difficulty: elementary) from a book called something like *Sudoku for the Bewildered*. Two absorbed hours later I had tentatively pencilled in three numbers, and had forgotten what it was I was supposed to be nervous about in the first place.

Arriving in the (wrong) University car park at Huddersfield, we were warmly welcomed by an amiable parking attendant (is it just me, or is everybody in Huddersfield so friendly?), who considerably gave us directions to Aspley Hall: 'Tha must turn reet at bottom 'ere, 'ead ovver theer five 'undred yard orso, reet again, rahnd t'rahndabaht, reet again, an yer theer. Reet?' It took another twenty minutes (ten of which were spent in translating the directions) to find Aspley Hall. Was it the University or the Town Planners, I wondered, who decided to build two near-identical Halls of Residence half a mile apart and call both Aspley Hall? After unpacking we registered and joined the other early arrivals for coffee in Canalside West. Kate greeted some old friends while I met some new ones, and it struck me that PALAns were not at all the distant and officious group that I had feared. Rather, they were a convivial, affable crowd, extending a warm, considerate welcome to a first-timer. I was particularly touched when one kind fellow generously filled in a number on my Sudoku as I refilled my coffee cup, then promptly disappeared without waiting for thanks. I would experience this kind of unselfish enthusiasm again before the week was through - notably from Michael Burke, whose dedication and vigour in

collecting membership subscriptions is incredible to behold. As is his admirable restraint in stopping short of any truly illegal practice such as might be termed extortion.

As a conference venue, the Canalside West complex is excellent. The sympathetic restoration of an old Huddersfield mill has provided a functional and contemporary facility of which the University staff are justifiably proud. Conference organiser Derek Bousfield pointed out to me some of the innovations that have been cleverly incorporated into the building's design: paired entrance and exit doors to the lecture theatre, for example, which, he explained, work by channelling people into dedicated uni-directional flows, a simple yet effective solution to the gridlock and collisions that might otherwise occur. (I attempted to take advantage of this creative feature when I noticed the slow-moving queue shuffling toward one door following Ron Carter's closing plenary. In order to avoid the procession still reeling from Ron's exhortation to 'forget about ethics', I made to slip out of the 'Out' door, only to be whacked on the elbow because someone was coming through from the opposite direction. It was Derek Bousfield.)

Throughout Tuesday I listened to a series of papers, all of which were interesting, informative, and perfectly delivered. So interesting, informative, and perfectly delivered, in fact, that my recently-achieved calm began to evaporate, and I became slightly nervous again at the prospect of giving my paper on Wednesday morning. That evening, as I practised, timed, and otherwise tinkered with my paper, I moved from slightly nervous to extremely tense, and from there spiralled, by way of overwrought and frantic, to full-blown panic. Just as I was about to climb out of the window and stumble off muttering into the night, I remembered the mind-numbing properties of the Sudoku, and, heartened by the knowledge that I had the kindly-contributed extra number to work with, puzzled for several hours before falling into a deep and curiously empty-headed sleep.

Wednesday morning I awoke feeling serene and at ease, despite knowing I was due to give my paper at 9.30am. Sudoku could be, I mused, the new universal panacea for all perturbations of the mind:

Sudoku is the new Prozac (I still hadn't completed it. In fact, it seemed more perplexing than ever, but the attempt had taken my mind quite elsewhere. I suspect it may be still there). My paper was to follow Catherine Emmott's, so the room was filled to capacity. Great and worthy stylisticians looked on, but I remained unusually relaxed. The PowerPoint presentation operated more faultlessly than I had dared hope, and I was off. In controlled and measured tones, I began my preamble while glancing at the audience in a way I hoped looked suitably professional. As my gaze skimmed the assembled conferees, it landed on one who clearly didn't like what he was hearing. I stumbled a little over my words as I noted his pained expression. Moments later, as he rolled his eyes, slumped alarmingly in his seat, and gritted his teeth in what appeared to be an effort to resist the urge to shout out, my Sudoku-induced composure abruptly disintegrated. My limbs ceased to function other than to shake maniacally, and my vocal cords reduced their output to a croak. I lurched through the rest of the paper in an adrenalin-fuelled haze, aware only of the onlooker with the increasingly reddening face, who was, I was certain, about to unleash his wrath at my paper in the form of a combative interrogation of my academic ineptitude. When I reached the time allocated for questions, abject terror had grasped me so comprehensively that I have only the dimmest recollection of responding to anything at all as I watched and waited for fury to erupt from the back of the room. Astonishingly, it never materialised, so, weak with relief, I crept back to my place where I sat and trembled quietly for some time. After three cups of strong coffee during the break I had recovered sufficiently to appreciate that I had accomplished a first - my first International Conference Paper! Later that day I was to experience yet another first. I have never before been heard to remark 'Oh, thank goodness for that!' on hearing that someone has been hospitalised with acute abdominal pains.

Giddy with relief, and on something of a roll of firsts, I resolved to ask my first question that afternoon. Determined to become involved in the thrust and parry of academic debate, I selected a paper about which I had some sketchy background knowledge, listened diligently, and made copious notes. I formulated - quite

ingeniously, I thought - a question designed to stimulate informed discussion while demonstrating my undoubted acquaintance with the subject. As soon as the chair invited questions, my hand was raised. I asked the question, aiming to replicate the tone of assured perspicacity I had heard and admired so many times that week. The speaker received the question with equanimity, nodded, and said 'Ah!' before pausing thoughtfully to consider it. In the lengthy silence that ensued as he composed his response, I mentally rehearsed my position on the matter, reviewed my notes, and inwardly listed examples. Finally, he returned his pensive gaze from the ceiling, looked me straight in the eye, and said, quite firmly, 'No'. Next question?

Thursday evening was, I expect, a first for us all (or has anyone dined previously at Huddersfield Town Hall?). The Town Hall is a magnificent example of Victorian architecture, and the home of the Huddersfield Choral Society. Royal visitors, even, have graced its elegant interior (according to the Huddersfield Tourist Information Office, Princess Margaret once confounded the assembled civic dignitaries by entering through the wrong door, thus emerging behind their waiting backs. I'm more surprised she didn't bump into Derek Bousfield). The meal was a splendid example of England's traditional national dish: Beef from Argentina, Yorkshire Puddings from Aunt Bessie's Frozen Food Factory in Milton Keynes, mangetout... Only two weeks before the conference began, Jacques Chirac had reportedly commented on England's 'bad food', saying, 'After Finland, it's the country with the worst food.' Given that the Town Hall's caterers could have responded by pointing out that Huddersfield's home-grown Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, was no stranger to a Yorkshire Pudding, it was an altruistic decision they made to wholeheartedly embrace the spirit of entente cordiale in producing a meal that would not contradict the beliefs of so many international visitors (many of whom, no doubt, will be packing sandwiches for next year's visit to Finland). The after-dinner entertainment similarly embraced cross-border rapport: the Wars of the Roses were consigned to their right and proper place in history as representatives of universities from both sides demonstrated, with a rendition of 'On Ilkley Moor', the degree of harmony that

has been achieved between the two counties.

Arriving home with the merest suggestion of a hangover on Friday morning, I reflected on the events of the week, and concluded that, not only had I had a lot of fun, I had also learned a great deal. I had learned, for instance, that my sons would diligently obey all the Rules while their mother went away and broke all of them; that 'Huddersfield' collocates admirably with 'International' and 'Conference' in a well-formed sentence; that PALAns are great people; that Huddersfield is an exceptionally friendly town, where people in shops call you 'love' and complete strangers will chat to you like an old friend. Most importantly, though, I had learned never to leave a Sudoku puzzle unattended in the presence of Martin Wynne, because he will be unable to resist the temptation to insert a wrong number at random, just for the sheer devilment of it.

Patricia Canning <i>Queen's University, Belfast</i>
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As a PALA virgin I arrived with a million expectations and none. I expected that a million wonderful scholars would be in attendance and that none of them would want to talk to me. I was scared, nervous, scared, apprehensive, scared and lots of other gradable adjectives. My first encounter was with the soft-spoken Dan McIntyre who had confused me with someone else – (incidentally, a beginning which engendered a penchant for identity fraud which I assumed for the remainder of the conference.) His dulcet tones warmed the cockles of my heart and dispelled a little of the fear of all the other 'big' people. I had accompanied Professor Paul Simpson to the conference, a delight in itself, and kept telling myself that all the scholars will be just like him; normal funny, kind and really helpful. Ok, funny kind and really helpful. So, sweating buckets and flooding lakes, I entered the PALA arena with my metaphorical chastity belt firmly clasped.

With the pseudonym Patrician Canning firmly pinned to my no lapel, I spent the first two hours checking out everyone's breast area while simultaneously wishing that I had remembered my glasses. I called time on that for two reasons – fear of arrest and I needed to find a rock under which to crawl. I was saved from a lifetime

of nocturnal activity by the Red T-shirt Brigade, to which my (in)sanity is forever indebted. Having found my sleeping quarters and dumped my bag (to which I had been attached in order to prevent a security alert – Belfast accent, name derivative of Paddy, lifetime history of terrorist activity and all that) I joined the plethora of professionals, a rabbit in the proverbial headlights that has just realised it's also naked and suffering from a severe case of halitosis.

I had thought about how I would conduct myself in the prospective meetings with all the big guys, uttering something intelligent yet witty. However when the time came, rather than discussing the finer points of the linguistic manipulation of powerful social and state apparatuses, this came out; "buthhre mmm mphff, urr ahem." Back to the rock.

Decided against being Mrs Smarty Pants and made conscious decision to be me. Arrived at my first paper, and lost myself in it. I was relieved to find the individual papers were presented in rooms rather than lecture halls, even if it necessarily meant it was harder to hide. However, having big hair made this activity easier for others as I indiscriminately obscured those behind me. It proved difficult to decide which papers to attend as having just embarked on postgraduate work; I had no exclusive area of study influencing my choices. Therefore there were a few papers I missed due to clashes in the schedule. The abstract notes were helpful in the decision making process and being able to email presenters is an invaluable means of gaining a deeper insight into the various topics under discussion. It is also a great way to engineer free holidays.

The wine receptions each night provided an excellent means of fuelling discussion and enhancing geographical awareness, prompting daily trips to Sainsburys for Panadol Extra Max-Strength. Meeting attendees socially affected the nerve-o-meter, reducing readings to an acceptable scale. By day three I got fed up with being me and, swapping name badges, decided to be Professor Jose-Luis Martinez Duenas instead, and by day four, Professor Don Freeman.

I met a lot of wonderful people who made it easy for me to keep afloat in an environment in which I expected to drown, buoyed up constantly by Paul Simpson

whose support was a constant rubber ring. Ok I'm done with the metaphors, particularly as the latter is slightly dubious. It only remains for me to say thank you to all of you for being (semi) normal, welcoming, friendly and susceptible to identity fraud. I intend to return to future PALA conferences (pending the sale of one of my kidneys) and look forward to becoming – in contrast to my current virginal status - a bona fide PALA slapper.

Matt Davies <i>University of Huddersfield</i>
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12pm Monday, registration time. Weeks of sunshine ended, Huddersfield turned its customary grey and a forlorn brass band sat with forced cheeriness outside the Canal Street West building. Derna... dernana da da daaa.. Ah yes, Colonel Bogey, that motivator of the troops. Except the only troops listening were myself and Karla from Mexico (via University of East Anglia). Having just met and attempting to make small talk I stoically tried to convince her that this melodic oompahing was our regional uplifting version of salsa or some other Latin American equivalent. As she stared at me in complete incomprehension and scorn, any remaining dignity dissolved in the puddles underfoot as the gobsmacking strains of The Floral Dance reached their florid climax.

It was then, as we were working out that newly acquired PALA satchels made excellent make-shift umbrellas, I made a mental note to go home and stay put if Terry Wogan put in an appearance.

Hardly an auspicious start to my first year at Huddersfield and initiation into PALA. What next? A Bradford clog-dancing quartet called Abba? (Albert, Betty, Brenda and Arthur!)

However, as the hours progressed and delegates drizzled in with the rain, that feeling of brassed-off-ness slowly dissolved like tears in rain, and as Eye Level, (the theme tune from classic early 70s Dutch detective drama, Van der Valk) kicked in, I amused myself thinking of Barry Foster's hair [nb: our younger readers need to click on www.epguides.com/VanDerValk to appreciate the significance of this – ed].

And so, feeling moist from the rain, and my PALA virginity slowly losing its

intactness, I buried myself in the madness of the ensuing week.

Highlights, there were many:

Urszula Clark desperately trying to divert her interesting opening plenary session on Social Cognition and the Future of Stylistics away from the heated debate on whether Pink Floyd would really have a stand-up comedian as a warm-up act. And was Pink Floyd really sexual innuendo in *Friends*?

Dave from Northumbria University, apparently the founder member of the IA Richards fanclub, name-dropping his idol at every opportunity. "I think you'll find that IA Richards thought up this recipe for cauliflower cheese when Lakoff and Johnson were still in diapers", I heard him whisper to a startled-looking dinner lady in the refectory.

Lesley Jeffries doppelgangers...they were everywhere. You couldn't look up without one of them presenting a talk, chairing a talk, talking on a panel, talking from the floor (often pissed on their own floor), talking from the stage, talking at the Town Hall, talking on the dance floor, and just generally talking.....everywhere, turning up like the spooky clones from the Boys from Brazil.

The titles of some of the talks, and the thought that if you took one word from each title in the top row of the timetable (Carol Vorderman stylee), you could construct an equally incomprehensible paper. 'Narrative in dog: workshop on vagina corpus and interpretation' would have gone down equally well I reckon [you can check this on the Tuesday pm and Wed am timetable of Your PALA timetable – ed].

And what was this obsession with cocks? We had Joanna Gavins on old cocks, somebody (sorry, can't remember name) waxing lyrical about bantams (small cocks I believe) in poetry, and of course, to cap it all, Louise from Nottingham's very own Talking Cock. I did give serious thought to re-titling my paper 'Talking Bollocks' just to get into the spirit of things. As it happens, it didn't need renaming.

Dangerous, desperate Dan McIntyre, he who eats cow pies for breakfast, allegedly threatening to rearrange the façade of a once-reputable local pub(lican) – this I never witnessed, but the fact that the reverent hush of the AGM was

intermittently broken by the cracking of his knuckles and the nervous flinching of his fellow exec members was evidence enough for me.

And, keeping on the theme of thuggish tendencies, an abiding image is a dark-glassed Derek Bousfield leading a pack of hungry delegates across Queensgate dual carriageway to the Town Hall dinner, accompanied by the bass riff from the opening of the Reservoir Dogs theme tune.

The Town Hall entertainment. I was slumped there having polished off my fifth bottle of Blue Nun wondering how on earth they managed to convince Travolta and Newton-John to do a note perfect rendition of 'Ilkley Moor BahTat'. 'Travolta looks fetching in that bow tie' I slurred. 'Not sure I approve of Neutron-Bomb and the mop though....'

And finally, surreal moment of the week – the moment when, listening in awe to fellow Huddersfieldonian Dave Gill crooning his way through several jazz classics, I was (wrongfully, of course) singled out as the conference herb-merchant by an [anonymous] delegate, whilst I was desperately trying to turn down the offer of a £1million advance book deal from the delightful lady from Routledge. I successfully convinced my vegetable obsessed friend that s/he didn't need artificial stimulants as we're all 'fungis' here, and as I nursed the black eye, saw him/her edging purposefully towards the jazz band.....

Oh, almost forgot. Some people talked about stylistics and stuff...

Coral Calvo Maturana
Universidad de Granada

I am very happy to have the opportunity to express my impressions of my first PALA conference, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in Huddersfield.

When Dra. Marta Falces Sierra told me about PALA, she really transmitted me her enthusiasm, which led me to join the conference. I had a wonderful time there and I would like to thank the organisation and all the people who attended the conference for it. All of them were really welcoming and friendly. Among many others, I now remember great people like

Karla Guadarrama García or Patricia Canning.

The organisation warmly showed us the place and prepared lunch, coffee breaks, as well as wine receptions (including a beautiful jazz concert!). These were moments to relax and enjoy meeting different people in this very friendly and international atmosphere. Meetings that would very likely later continue in the restaurants and pubs having a drink. I really liked the conference dinner and the trip to Haworth to visit the Brontë Parsonage (I especially enjoyed going into a steam train on our way to Saltaire!).

Listening to the papers was enriching to get to know the different approaches and emphasis concerning stylistics, especially to learn about the recently highlighted area of cognitive stylistics. What I particularly loved was the chance to join the academic and human side of the people presenting the papers or plenaries. Working on different articles after the conference feels different, closer, and friendlier, since now I am able to recall the author who wrote it explaining his or her thesis. As a young person who is starting working on the subject, meeting, talking, and sharing some moments with specialists from foreign universities like Prof. Donald Freeman, Prof. Paul Simpson, or Prof. Peter Stockwell, among others, was a pleasure since they showed to be not only academically admirable but also personally.

It is not a matter of just knowing about PALA but meeting it! See you in Finland!



*Happy PALAns, post-
conference!*

Minutes of the PALA AGM – 21st July 2005 - Huddersfield

1. a) Accuracy minutes of 2004 AGM agreed.
b) Matters arising: Urszula Clark reported that constitutional changes agreed at 2004 AGM have been effected, and that an up-dated constitution can be viewed on the PALA website.
2. Chair's report. [See above]
3. *Language and Literature* report: Paul Simpson informed membership of the healthy state of the journal. The 2004 PALA prize, awarded to the best journal article for a newcomer to the field, was awarded to Violeta Sotirova for her article in Volume 13, No: 13 216-234. Congratulations!
4. Treasurer's report. Peter Stockwell presented the year's accounts. The issue of conference fees was debated, and future conference organisers were urged to consider means such as, for example, offering a cheaper rate to delegates from low exchange countries.
5. Membership report: Michael Burke reported that membership for the past year had remained stable.
6. Newsletter report: Dan McIntyre announced that dates for submission to forthcoming newsletters would be posted on the PALA website. He requested that members email him any news for inclusion.
7. Publicity report: Martin Wynne reported that the website was up and running with an area dedicated to sharing resources.
8. PALA series report: Don Freeman updated the meeting about the progress of conference proceedings. He announced that Birmingham 2003 volume was imminent and 2004 well in hand.
9. Constitutional changes: Isil Bas outlined the proposal, which was agreed, to change the starting date for a term in office as an executive committee member from September to January, to ensure a period of transition and hand-over.
- 10: Committee elections: Peter Stockwell, Urszula Clark and Martin Wynne were re-elected to the posts of secretary, treasurer and publicity officer. Isil Bas thanked them for continuing in these positions, but urged new candidates to come forward in the future.
- 11: Longman Prize: The Longman Prize, awarded to the best conference paper given at the annual conference was awarded to Sharon Lattig for 2003 and Robin Sowards for 2004. Congratulations to them both. 2005 candidates are asked to submit their contributions by email to Isil Bas and Lesley Jeffries by 30th November 2005.
12. Mini-conferences: A successful one day symposium was held in Nottingham, UK on creativity. A workshop in Birmingham was also organized as part of the 25th year celebrations. A one day symposium is to be held early in December on the work of the winner of the 25th Anniversary Book Prize. Details will be posted on the website.
13. AOB: Mick Short and Don Freeman proposed an informal working group to aid the committee on furthering the future of PALA into the next generation, which was accepted by the committee and the conference. Katie Wales led a vote of thanks from delegates to Lesley Jeffries and her team for hosting such a successful conference.

14. Future conferences: 2006, University of Joensuu, Finland. Thanks to Greg Watson for an informative and lively video presentation to whet our appetites for next year.
2007: University of Kansai Gaidai, Japan. Thanks to Professor Toyota for a preliminary introduction to this exciting venue.
2008: University of Sheffield, UK. Thanks to Jo Gavins for proposing to host this conference.

15: 25th Anniversary Book Prize. Isil Bas announced the winner as *Style in Fiction* by Mick Short and Geoffrey Leech. Mick Short accepted the prize on his and Geoffrey's behalf, and magnanimously donated the £1000 prize money back to PALA, specifically to the Roger Fowler Fund, a fund earmarked for PhD bursaries. Mick also made an appeal for more delegates to contribute to this fund for, by example, paying into it fees paid for refereeing book proposals.