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IN MEMORIAM DIETER KASTOVSKY

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Dieter Kastovsky, Professor Emeritus of English Linguistics at the University of Vienna and one of the most influential morphologists of recent times, died of a heart attack on November 23rd 2012 during a visit in Poznań (Poland).

Born in Freudenthal (Bruntal, Czech Republic), Kastovsky grew up in Esslingen (Schwaben, Germany), and studied English, Romance and German Philology at the universities of Tübingen, Berlin (Free University) and Besançon. Important influences in those early years were his supervisor in Tübingen, the Anglicist Hans Marchand, and Eugenio Coseriu, with whom he studied Romance philology.

After receiving his PhD Kastovsky worked with Hans Marchand in Tübingen from 1967 to 1973. He was then appointed Professor of English Philology and Linguistics at Bergische Universität, Wuppertal, and since 1981 until his retirement in 2009 held the chair of English Linguistics at the University of Vienna, where he was head of the Department of Interpreting and Translation (1986-1990, 1994-2004), head of the English Department (1990-1992), and director (dean) of the Centre for Translation Studies (2004-2006).

Ever since writing his dissertation on Old English deverbial substantives (Kastovsky 1968) at the University of Tübingen, his scientific interest was captured by the structure of English words, the dramatic changes undergone by English morphology in the transition from Old to Middle English, and the typological questions raised by those changes. In one way or another, these early interests are reflected in much of his published work; witness the monumental chapter on Old English semantics and vocabulary that he contributed to the *Cambridge History of the English Language* (Kastovsky 1992), and studies such as Kastovsky (1999, 2001, 2005, 2006), among many others, where he explored the nature of drifts, that is, global changes extending over several centuries, sometimes even millennia, to work their way through the community and the language. Along with this life-long concern for morphological and typological restructuring, following his marriage to Barbara Kryk Dieter developed an interest in fields new to him, including pragmatics and discourse analysis; see, for instance, Kryk-Kastovsky & Kastovsky (2006), Kastovsky & Kryk-Kastovsky (2008).

Beyond his research activities, Dieter, as aptly pointed out in a recent obituary, was "an 'activist' who believed in the importance of ... building networks of personal and professional contacts" (Beck 2012). His fondness for networking was manifested, for instance, in his commitment to the two most important European organizations in the fields of linguistics and English studies respectively, the *Societas Linguistica Europaea* (SLE) and the *European Society for the Study of English* (ESSE). In the case of the former, he was actively involved in setting it up in the late 1960s, serving from 1991 to 2006 as its Secretary and Treasurer. He also showed unfailing support for

ESSE from the moment of its establishment in 1990, serving as the President of the Austrian Association AAUTE and as Austria's representative on the ESSE Board. He also had a deep connection and friendship with the east of Europe, no doubt rooted in his family history in the Czech town of Freudenthal, while his long membership and active role in AEDEAN, the Spanish Association for English and American Studies, bears witness to his passion for building bridges between all corners of the continent. Indeed, it is symptomatic of Dieter's status as a true European that his last, and posthumous publication (Kastovsky 2012) is a written version of the plenary talk he delivered at the *22nd Conference of the Spanish Society for Mediaeval English Language and Literature (SELIM 2010)*, held at the University of La Rioja, Spain, in September 2010.

The world of English studies has become an emptier place following his loss. We will dearly miss Dieter the professional scholar, the generous colleague, and the great friend.

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