



La Maison Curtat (1772)

La Cure des Professeurs (13th century)

The English Department at Lausanne University

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The English Department at Lausanne University

An informal account of its first hundred years

G. Peter Winington

2009

Preface

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As the time for my retirement approached, several things struck me: that the English department had just passed its first centenary, quite unnoticed; that I had taught there for almost half that time, during which it had undergone enormous changes; and that as the history of the department was unrecorded, my colleagues were largely unaware of those changes. So this account both celebrates an anniversary and aims to supply a modicum of perspective.

It comes in two parts. The first comprises mini life-and-works biographies of the holders of the various chairs, in order of appointment, stopping short of professors still in harness. The second is unashamedly anecdotal and autobiographical, organized around place. Punctuating the moves, I have listed the members of the department, by year of arrival. (My apologies for any errors and omissions.) Some stayed as little as one semester, others are still with us after many years. As with the current professors, I have not written mini bios, or listed publications; these can be found on the University website. Instead, I mention – when I know it – what has become of past members.

My printed sources were primarily Olivier Robert and Francesco Panese's *Dictionnaire des Professeurs de l'Université de Lausanne dès 1890* (2000) and Catherine Saugy's history of *L'Ecole de Français Moderne, 1892–1987* (1987), both published by the University of Lausanne. The internet has proved a variable resource, and a few colleagues have answered my questions. I won't name them here, lest they be held responsible for my mistakes. I thank them for their time.

I am grateful to Eloi Contesse of the Musée historique de Lausanne, Constance Lambiel of the Service des archives at the University, and Patrick Monbaron of the Gymnase de la Cité for permission to use the illustrations they supplied.

May 2009

The Chairs

NOTE

To avoid over-frequent use of italics, I have left all proper names in roman, irrespective of whether they are English or French.

AFTER the Bernese annexed the Pays de Vaud, bringing with them the reformed faith, they created a seminary in 1537 for the training of Protestant pastors. Out of the seminary grew the first French-speaking academy in Europe, the Académie de Lausanne, which in 1890 became a university. English was added to the syllabus of the Faculty of Letters in 1906 – or rather, a chair of English was created.

There would appear to have been some teaching of English literature prior to that, given by Professor Alexandre Maurer, who was the last rector of the Academy and first rector of the University. He held a chair of German, English and Russian literatures in the Faculty of Letters, and for thirty years dispensed a theory of his own, *l'éthnopsychie littéraire*, based on what he perceived to be the respective mentalities of various national literatures. He continued teaching this for years after the chair of English was instituted.

The first to hold the chair of English was a German, Emile Hausknecht, who had taught pedagogy in Tokyo between 1887 and 1890. What brought him to Lausanne? It may be relevant that just one year before his appointment he made a late marriage to a teacher of elocution (or *diction*) from Geneva. To him at any rate we owe a foundation endowed in 1912 with two thousand francs for the purchase of books in English philology, no small sum when we recall that in 1906 there were but 125 students in all the Faculty of Letters. (By 1917, they had dwindled to a mere 71.) Hausknecht left in 1916, recalled – it is said – to serve his country in the Great War, although he was 61 by then, so one wonders what services he was to expected to render. He died in 1921.

HAUSKNECHT was succeeded by Georges Bonnard, who headed the department for forty years. A Vaudois (born in Nyon in October 1886),

Bonnard was both an Anglophile and a natural academic, earning his first doctorate in Paris at the age of 21. He taught in England from 1907 to 1910, making a trip to Paris in 1909 to collect a diploma in English. Then he began his career in Lausanne, teaching first at the Collège (there was only one in those days) and then, from 1916 to 1920, at the Gymnase. Also in 1916 he collected a second doctorate (on the Martin Marprelate controversy of 1588–90) from Lausanne, making him the obvious successor to Hausknecht. A *privat docent* from 1916, he was made *professeur extraordinaire* in 1919, then *professeur ordinaire de langue et littérature anglaises* in 1928. He was dean of the Faculty of Letters from 1922 to 1926 and again from 1936 to 1938; he directed the *cours de vacances* (which were instituted in 1895, more than ten years before the chair of English!) from 1920 to 1931, and was chancellor of the University from 1939 to 1949. Bonnard was a founding member of the Société des Etudes de Lettres, its first president (from 1920), and editor of its journal, *Etudes de Lettres*, right up to 1949. He died within six months of his retirement in 1956, aged 70.

As a teacher of French in England and English in Lausanne, Bonnard was an early convert to the phonetic approach, and in 1915 Heffers (of Cambridge) brought out his *Elementary Grammar of Colloquial French on a Phonetic Basis*, with an introduction by Daniel Jones. He also produced a *Manuel de phonétique française: théorie – exercices – lectures* (1927) that was much used by the *cours de vacances*, and a handbook of English irregular verbs. However, his main interest, on which his reputation as a scholar is founded, was in the life and autobiographical writings of the great English historian, Edward Gibbon.

It will be remembered that in the summer of Gibbon's second year at Oxford (where he commenced his studies in 1752 at the age of 15), he converted to the Catholic faith. At once his father despatched him to Lausanne, with orders not to return home until he had renounced Papism. Thus Gibbon spent five years in Lausanne, lodging with a Monsieur Pavillard, first at number 16 rue Cité-Derrière – a stone's throw from the Ancienne Académie which faces the rue Cité-Devant – and then in a house on the Escalier des Grandes Roches, which disappeared when the Pont Bessières was built. The house in the Cité-Derrière, however, survived until the late 1930s, although it had fallen

on bad times, having been used as a prison by the neighbouring Gendarmerie.

Georges Bonnard produced authoritative editions of Gibbon's 'Lausanne Journal' (17 August 1763 to 1 April 1764), of his *Journey from Geneva to Rome*, and of his memoirs.

WHEN Bonnard retired in 1956, his successor was René Rapin, another Vaudois. Born in Lausanne in April 1899, he obtained his *licence ès lettres* at Lausanne in 1921. Thereafter he shared his teaching hours between the Gymnases cantonaux (1924–55) and the Ecole de Français Moderne (as the Ecole de français langue étrangère was called until quite recently) between 1926 and 1956, where he taught phonetics and translation from English. He also taught at the *cours de vacances* from 1923, and he co-directed them from 1930 to '38 alongside the famous Pierre Gilliard (who had tutored the ill-fated children of the last Tsar of Russia). Illness kept him on sick leave throughout the academic year of 1936–37.

After the war, he and his American wife Mary-Coe (whom he had married in 1926) spent a year in Connecticut, where he polished up his English – although he never caught a trace of an American accent – and did some teaching there too. This prepared him for the post of *chargé de cours* in English and American literature in the department from 1948 to '56. He was made *professeur extraordinaire* on his appointment to the chair in 1956, and *professeur ordinaire* in 1963. Like Georges Bonnard, he taught until he was 70, retiring in 1969. He died in the recovery room at the CHUV after a minor operation just two days before his 75th birthday.

Rapin never wrote a doctoral dissertation, but he did produce a pioneering essay on *Willa Cather* (published in New York in 1930) which emphasized what she had learned from Henry James. (It was reissued by Folcroft Library Editions in 1973 – the year Rapin died.) He also produced a critical edition of the *Lettres de Joseph Conrad à Marguerite Poradowska, précédée d'une étude sur le français de Joseph Conrad* (publications of the Faculté des Lettres, issued by Droz, Geneva, 1966). Of the fifteen articles that he wrote, many of them for *The Explicator*, nine were published after he retired; two were on Conrad, another on

Gide's translation of *Typhoon*; others were on Shakespeare, Herbert, Marvel, Milton, and Emily Dickinson, which gives an idea of the range of his interests.

IN the mid-twentieth century, old and medieval English was given by Professor Adrien Bonjour, who was born in Vevey. After his degree at Lausanne he picked up an MA at Harvard in 1938 and wrote a doctoral dissertation on Coleridge (Lausanne, 1942). In 1944 he was made a *privat-docent* to teach old English at Lausanne, then in 1948 *chargé de cours* for medieval English and German. He was appointed professor of English language and literature at Neuchâtel in 1956 (*ordinaire* in '57), but he returned to Lausanne once a week to give old and middle English. He wrote many articles on *Beowulf*, some of them collected in *Twelve 'Beowulf' Papers 1940–1960* (published by the Faculty of Letters at Neuchâtel in 1962). However, he had to stop teaching in 1968 after he was badly injured in an accident at a level crossing on one of his journeys by car between Neuchâtel and Lausanne. He was replaced during 1968–9 by Christoph Hauri, who was the professor of medieval German (plus the history and grammar of German) in the Faculty. Awaiting the appointment of a full-time successor to Bonjour at Lausanne, a young American, Rick Halpern, stood in for a year, communicating his enthusiasm for middle English, and Paul Taylor, from Geneva, did two years.

IN English literature, Ernest Giddey succeeded to René Rapin. Like his predecessors, he was very much a local product, although he was born in Brigue, where his father was a customs official. After gaining his degree at Lausanne in 1945, he went off to be a *lecteur de français* in Florence – his mother was Italian-speaking – and started researching his PhD on *Agents et ambassadeurs toscans auprès des Suisses sous le règne du grand-duc Ferdinand Ier de Médicis : 1587–1600*, which was accepted at Lausanne in 1953. Meanwhile he spent 1947–48 at the Institute of Historical Research in London and then returned to teach at the *collège scientifique* in Lausanne (1948–54).

He was also an assistant at the Ecole de Français Moderne (hereafter abbreviated EFM) during 1948–50 and did two four-year stints there as a *lecteur* (50–54 and 55–59). In the gap (54–55), he directed the *Institut*

Suisse in Rome. On his return he was appointed director of the EFM and ran it until 1969. That was no sinecure: in 1960 there were two thirds as many students (110) at the EFM as in all the Faculty of Letters (166), and in 1962 it was three quarters the size of the Faculty (158 as against 207). Moreover, he completely reorganized the structure of the school, adding the *cours spécial* for German-speaking students who came in quite large numbers to do a year in Lausanne as part of their law studies. Much of the subsequent success and international reputation of the EFM can be traced back to Giddey's input and impetus. He was made a *professeur extraordinaire* in 1959, *ordinaire* in 1965, and appointed to the chair of English in 1969.

Giddey wrote an *Histoire générale du XIVe au XVIIIe siècle*, published by Payot in 1957, which was used for something like thirty years (there being a revised fourth edition in the early 1980s) in all the *collèges* of the canton. It formed part of the collection of history books for schools directed by Georges Panchaud that for the first time situated Swiss history in the same volume as the history of Europe and even included '*incursions dans les civilisations autres que la nôtre*' (from Panchaud's Preface to Giddey's book). He was twice president of the Société Vaudoise d'Histoire et d'Archéologie (1959–61 and 63–65) and served on the editorial board of *Etudes de Lettres* from 1978 to 1982.

While Giddey's first love was historical research, he was also an Anglophile, and he combined the two interests by tracing the impact of British authors on French-speaking Switzerland and, conversely, the effect of their Swiss sojourns on their lives and works. One of his earliest publications was on '*Quelques aspects des relations anglo-suisse à la fin du XVIIIe siècle : Louis Braun et Hugh Cleghorn*' in 1947, and the last, in 2002, dealt with '*D. H. Lawrence en Suisse*'. Between the two came many articles, including several on Byron, and books, notably *L'Angleterre dans la vie intellectuelle de la Suisse romande au XVIIIe siècle* (in the Bibliothèque Historique Vaudoise, 1974), and *Hors des sentiers battus : le passage en Suisse de quelques voyageurs anglais peu conventionnels* (Ed. Ouverture, 1998).

He also enjoyed reading detective novels. The index at the end of his *Essai sur les structures du roman policier de langue anglaise*, titled *Crime et détection* (Peter Lang, 1990), lists some 270 writers. When the

Société d'études holmésiennes de la Suisse romande decided to publish the manuscript of the last Sherlock Holmes story, 'The Adventures of Shoscombe Old Place', which is preserved in the manuscripts department of the Bibliothèque Cantonale, he contributed two essays to the volume, one in French and one in English. (He did not often write in English.)

Giddey was an excellent administrator. In addition to directing the EFM, he was on the *commission fédérale des bourses* for many years, and during the 1970s he served two four-year periods of office as vice-rector of the University. After that, he was appointed *délégué aux affaires universitaires* at the Département de l'instruction publique et des cultes (DIPC, now the Département de la formation, de la jeunesse et de la culture). During the year before he retired (1989–90), he was *chef de service des affaires universitaires et des cultes*. Throughout this time he was active in promoting accommodation for students through the foundation 'Maisons pour Etudiants', and of course in planning the move of the University to Dorigny. He joined the Conseil Synodal (which oversees the reformed church of the canton) in 1966 and presided it from 1978 to 1982. He also presided the Académie suisse des sciences humaines et sociales (ASSH) from 1984 to 1992.

After he retired, he wrote four novels, all of which were published by local presses.

THE first to hold a chair of old and medieval English language and literature at Lausanne was Ian Kirby; he was also its first native British professor. Having got his degree at London in 1955 (at the early age of 21), he laboured long on his PhD, identifying quotations from the Bible in old Norse religious literature. It was accepted by London in 1973 and finally printed in 1976 as *Biblical Quotation in Old Icelandic-Norwegian Religious Literature* (delayed by a shortage of printer's ink in Iceland during the cod wars). Meanwhile he spent 61–67 as a lecturer at Uppsala, Sweden, and 67–71 as a professor at the University of Reykjavík in Iceland. Appointed in 1972 shortly before Giddey started his first term of office as vice-rector, Kirby found himself tossed into much of the day-to-day running of the department almost before he had got his bearings; in the end he served as its head for nearly twenty years.

He retired in 2004 and was succeeded by Denis Renevey (who had already worked in the department for a while in the mid-90s).

Although Kirby's main interest was in *Bible Translation in Old Norse*, a volume published by Droz (Geneva) in 1986, he published widely in medieval studies, both English and Norse. In later years he devoted much energy to investigating the origin and authenticity of North American runic inscriptions. Outside the University, his fondness for the stage has seen him participate in numerous productions by local amateur players.

WITH the steady growth of student numbers (which started from an annual intake of a mere dozen at the beginning of the seventies to reach 82 by 1982), there was need for a chair of American literature, a field which Professor Giddey did not feel equipped to cover. Jesse Bier was the first to be appointed, in 1972. He had served with the American army occupying Europe after the war and married a woman from Toulouse in 1950. After twenty years in American colleges, they were ready to try Europe, but they did not find Lausanne to their taste and returned to the States after one year. Bier spent the rest of his career at Montana University, rounding it off with a year at the Sorbonne in the mid-90s.

SOON after he was succeeded by James (Jim) Schroeter who had previously been at Chicago (53–61), Temple (61–62), Nebraska (62, as an invited professor), Nantes (68–69 – Lausanne must have seemed a haven of calm after that!) and the Illinois Institute of Technology (69–74). His only book publication was a volume that he edited on *Willa Cather and her Critics* (1967); of his articles, the one on 'Redburn and the Failure of Mythic Criticism' and another on Poe's 'Ligeia' (now much contested) are best remembered.

Schroeter was not a happy man. I remember hearing him, quite soon after his arrival, accusing Geneva colleagues of stealing books from his office in Lausanne. His paranoia was not improved by an accident: riding a *véloMOTEUR* in the south of France, where he had bought a holiday house, he found his road cut off by a van and fell heavily onto his face. Mistrustful of French medical care, he discharged himself from hospital against his doctors' advice and hastened back to Switzerland. Despite

reconstructive surgery, he was left looking as though he had a cleft palate and he found it very hard to face his students. He started to leave long silences in his courses, and his assistant would have to take over. In the end, after many uncomfortable, embarrassing and distressing moments for all concerned, he was persuaded to quit teaching on medical grounds. He died shortly afterwards, in April 1985, of heart failure.

DURING Schroeter's long illness, a string of professors from other universities stood in for him. Eric Bubloz, from Neuchâtel, who started as a part-time *chargé de cours* in 1972, also taught in the department until contractual time limits ran out; now retired, he exhibits his photographs. Bruce Robbins came from Geneva for a year; he has since become well known in his field and is currently in the department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia. However, much of the burden of day-to-day matters fell on Roelof Overmeer, then an assistant, who assured continuity and contact with students.

Meanwhile, Giddey having been appointed *délégué aux affaires universitaires*, his courses were given by Jean-Paul Forster, who had been a part-time *maître-assistant* in the department since 1975. To this end he was made an assistant professor in 1981, again part time; his other job was teaching English at the Gymnase de la Cité. He had done his degree and written his thesis on *Robert Graves et la dualité du réel* at Lausanne, and outside the section it was widely assumed that he was to succeed Professor Giddey. However, this post was the first in the department to be renewed by public competition, and when it came to the *concours*, Neil Forsyth, who was already a professor at Geneva, was preferred. After returning to the Gymnase in 1985, Forster lectured on various occasions at the Université de Franche-Comté and at CTU Nancy, in France. In addition to reading conference papers on a wide variety of topics, he wrote *Jonathan Swift: The Fictions of the Satirist* (Lang, 1991) and a survey for *gymnase* pupils called *A First Approach to English Literatures: from Beowulf to Salman Rushdie* (printed and distributed by the secondary educational supplies office in Lausanne).

WHEN finally a new professor was appointed to the chair of American literature in 1987, the choice fell on a Swiss, Peter Halter. He had done

both his degree and his doctoral dissertation at Zurich; the latter, on Katherine Mansfield and the short story, was published by Franke as *Katherine Mansfield und die Kurzgeschichte* in 1972. Having been a post-doctoral fellow at Yale, he taught at Zurich and also, as *professeur invité*, in Geneva 1980–81. His combined interests in poetry, modern art and photography led to his *Revolution in the Visual Arts and the Poetry of William Carlos Williams*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in 1994. He also contributed to various books, including 'The Endings of *King Lear*' in *On Strangeness*, edited by Margaret Bridges (1990), and an essay on Williams in *Form Miming Meaning: Iconicity in Language and Literature*, edited by Max Nänny and others (1999). On his retirement in 2005, a collection of essays, *The Seeming and the Seen: Essays in Modern Visual and Literary Culture* (edited by Beverly Maeder et al., Peter Lang, 2006) was published in his honour. He taught for a further a year awaiting the appointment of his successor, Agnieszka Soltysik. He continues to take and exhibit photographs.

THROUGHOUT the 1970s and '80s the teaching of English linguistics and phonetics was assured by Raymond Peitrequin, as an *agrégé*. At the end of the 1980s, the University decided to create a chair of English linguistics and Peter Trudgill was appointed in 1992. He arrived with a worldwide reputation for his scholarship in socio-linguistics and English dialects, having already published no less than twelve books (*Introducing Language and Society* came out in '92). He had previously taught at the University of Reading from 1970 to 1986, and then at the University of Essex, where he was professor of socio-linguistics. He infused fresh life into the department at Lausanne, but he did not find the support that he had expected, so after only five years he moved to Fribourg, from where he retired in September 2005. He is now a part-time professor of socio-linguistics at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway, and adjunct professor at the Research centre for linguistic typology at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, as well as honorary professor at the University of East Anglia in England – with a further five books behind him, plus revised editions of earlier ones. He was succeeded in 1998 by Jürg Schwyter, who had already done a semester in the department in the early nineties.

People and Places

L'Ancienne Académie

The Protestant seminary that was created in 1537 was accommodated in a series of patrician houses, aligned on the very edge of the steep hill at the heart of old Lausanne, the Cité, overshadowed by the west end of the Cathedral. For the Academy a magnificent L-shaped building, complete with belltower and spire, was built in 1587. A thirteenth-century house adjoining it became a residence for the professors. In 1771, a further house, la Maison Curtat, overlooking the Escaliers du Marché, was added, extending the line towards the Cathedral. When the Academy became a university in 1890, the courses were still given in these fine old buildings. Restored in the late twentieth century, they are still used by the Gymnase today.

Thanks to a bequest of one-and-a-half million francs from a Russian aristocrat whose mother came from Lausanne, the new University built the Palais de Rumine, overlooking the place de la Riponne – itself overlooked by the line of what was now dubbed the *Ancienne Académie*, along the crest of the hill. Thanks to the Palais de Rumine – first used in 1902 but only actually finished in 1904 – the University could start to expand, which accounts for the creation of the English department in 1906. However, the Palais soon became the home of various museums and the Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire (BCU), so seminars and lectures to small groups – and of course all the groups were small until the 1970s – continued to be given in the old familiar rooms of the Cité.

In 1962 it was decided to unite the two cantonal Gymnases (*classique* and *scientifique*) under the one roof of the 1587 Académie, leaving the Faculties of Letters and Theology, plus the Ecole de Français Moderne, to occupy the less practical structure, with a kink in the middle, which straggles down towards the Cathedral. Law and business studies (HEC)



Looking up towards the Ancienne Académie from the place de la Riponne, during the construction of the Palais de Rumine c.1900

were shoehorned into the rambling warren of old private houses in the Cité (quite unidentifiable as university buildings), some of them decidedly ramshackle and all of them death-traps in case of fire. They were akin to the 'old inconvenient house' in 'a narrow, gloomy street' that Edward Gibbon lived in during his banishment in the early 1750s. To his horror the 'companionable' English open fire, with its cheerful flames, was unknown to them, replaced by 'the dull invisible heat of a stove.' Dull, perhaps, but so much safer. Also in the early 1960s the Faculty of social and political sciences (SSP) emigrated to a concrete and plate glass building on the other side of the place de la Riponne, on the Valentin hill; medicine had also left the Cité and moved to a purpose-built school close to the hospital, but Chemistry was still in its magnificent Ecole de Chimie, on the place du Château. The central administration and rectorate occupied part of what is now the Musée historique de Lausanne, on the south side of the cathedral.

This then was the Ancienne Académie in the Cité that I discovered in 1963 and that remained the official home of Letters for another twen-

ty years. There was a labyrinthine Faculty library on the ground floor; above were lecture rooms with benches set on uneven, creaking wooden floors. Each had a dais and a desk for the professor; several rooms still boasted a pulpit as well, dating from the Protestant seminary, and a few professors lectured from them. Some rooms had panelled walls; most had rather small, high-set windows so that on summer days a professor could disappear behind a blinding shaft of sunlight, spangled with motes of dust, that fell across an otherwise dimly lit room. There were no offices except for the secretariat, where a dragon called Mademoiselle Bonnard administered three Faculties single-handed by breathing fire at anyone who approached her door at any other time but between ten and twelve in the morning. (Encountered off campus, she was charming: the smoke and flame were purely professional.) There was a Salle des Professeurs, which I never entered, where professors left their coats and shuffled their papers. They saw students in their courses, and that was it, most of the time. (Once I was invited to a professor's house to go over an essay I had written in philosophy, but found the experience so intimidating that I could barely function.) By and large, it was positively medieval, in a town that was hastening to modernize as it prepared to host the 1964 national exhibition.

To me Lausanne seemed filled with small shops, not just the expected butchers, bakers, and cobblers, but also countless watchmenders, for in those days Switzerland not merely manufactured but also serviced the wind-up watches of the world. Among the bulbous Panhards, Peugeot's, Mercedes, Simcas, and VW Beetles in the streets, there were Chevrolet Valiants that looked curiously flat – and long, of course – in comparison. They were in fact Plymouths, assembled at a GM factory in Switzerland from 1962 onwards, but rebadged in honour of Chevrolet's home country. Among them groaned, clattered, and clanged the last of Lausanne's trams as they laboured up from St.-François to La Rosiaz, screeching hideously as they negotiated the bends at the place St.-Pierre.

At mealtimes, students had the choice of going down to the town with all its restaurants and cafés – both independent and situated inside large stores – or walking along the spine of the Cité to the Foyer restaurant universitaire (FRU), situated immediately above the Tunnel. It provided substantial meals at subsidized prices, but was closed for reno-

vation for many months in the mid-60s. This was a shame; the closure caused a permanent change in student community life and the FRU lost for ever its antique cachet, epitomized by a long, low, oak beam, along which were carved the words, 'LES BUVEURS D'EAU SONT DES MÉCHANTS: LA PREUVE EN EST LE DÉLUGE' (Drinkers of water are wicked, as confirmed by the Flood). The irony is that the FRU was run by the Département social romand, a *ruban bleu* (teetotal) institution.

Although it was perched up in the Cité, the Ancienne Académie was no ivory tower: the University participated fully in the life of the town, educating the offspring of the *bonne société lausannoise*. (In fact, the Faculty of Letters was sometimes said to serve as the *antichambre au mariage* for their daughters; few students in Letters were male.) I became aware of how information flowed between gown and town after I read a paper on Kierkegaard in a philosophy seminar: the professor praised it, and a couple of weeks later I was invited to tea on a Sunday afternoon by Madame de Cérenville (the nearest thing to royalty in Lausanne, the family being on the Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal) in her magnificent property at Béthusy. A photograph was taken.

Proximity to the Gymnase also favoured close contacts of all kinds; male students would hurry towards the school gate as the pupils came out, and not a few teachers had a foot in each institution. I began teaching there in 1965 and shuttled to and fro several times a day, even for consecutive hours. The headquarters of the Gendarmerie was in the Cité as well. When the Commandant organized an international conference on traffic control and wanted the documents in English, he had but to step from the Cité-Derrière to the Cité-Devant to seek a recommendation from the Gymnase (under the unforgettable Georges Rapp, headmaster from 1947 to '76 and father of a recent rector of the University). I did several translations for Commandant Mingard and on more than one occasion celebrated the completion *en tête à tête* with him and a bottle of wine, down in the *carnotzet* in the truly ancient cellars of the Gendarmerie. (That was one of the comforts that they lost and no doubt regretted when they moved to new, purpose-built headquarters by the Lausanne by-pass. Those in the cells, on the other hand, jumped forward something like a thousand years, with little regret, I expect.)

Teaching

In the 1960s, the students in the Faculty of Letters were almost exclusively local. The 'foreigners' were German- or Italian-speaking Swiss. Two degree programmes were proposed. The first, leading to the *licence d'Etat*, comprised five subjects, and was required of anyone intending to teach in the Canton of Vaud; the *licence d'Université* was slightly more specialized, since it comprised only three *branches*, but the courses were the same. (Quite separate from the University was another qualification for secondary teachers, open to girls only: the Brevet de maîtresse secondaire. It merits a her-story of its own.)

In English, Rapin did all the teaching of modern British and American literature. This was possible because there was but one seminar for the first part of the *licence*; another for the second; a lecture; and an hour of translation on Saturday mornings. (We continued to use that slot until the early '70s, abandoning it only because it conflicted so frequently with the geography department's excursions.) The notion of critical theory had not yet crossed the Atlantic and there was no discussion at all of exactly what was to be analysed in a text – or how.* One proceeded by imitation, and gaily mixed biography and intuitive stylistics. Linguistics (*pace de Saussure*) was unheard of by the literary side of Letters at this point. There was no phonetics.

Rapin himself graded and returned the weekly translation, alternating *thème* and *version*. He had set up an exchange with the University of Pennsylvania, and one of the few tasks of the year's American assistant was to make the translation into English too. When I became Rapin's English assistant in 1967, I was introduced to his method. The American and I handed in our efforts at the same time as the students, and he corrected them alongside the students' work. Then, at a meeting in his conservatory every other Thursday afternoon, he would return our papers and go through the text, asking our opinion, as native informants, of all the alternatives offered by the students (whose work

* For the *explication de textes* seminar on *The Tempest* that I conducted in 1970, Giddey instructed me to '*exiger des étudiants qu'ils aient un plan clair, que la lecture soit correcte et vivante, que le texte soit bien compris jusque dans les détails, que l'anglais soit acceptable, etc.*' Quite simply.

we never actually saw; he had made lists of the alternatives). At the end we were each rewarded with a cup of tea and a biscuit, which awaited us in the saucer. Each year, Rapin chose a different work to translate from; one (while I was yet a student) was *Le Rouge et le Noir*; another was de Vigny's *Servitude et grandeur militaires* (1835). I can still quote (with a sinking heart) from memory: '*l'armée est une nation dans la nation.*' Of the Americans I worked beside I remember only the second, Ellen Laskin; she became the librarian of an American medical library.

René Rapin was already 64 when I arrived, so I knew him only as a gaunt, shy man who was reputed to have survived tuberculosis. (The Swiss army had considered him unfit for service, and I wondered if that explained the Vigny.) We never saw his wife when we went up to his house, but whenever I phoned him, she would answer and call loudly, 'Rennay! Ren-nay! Tay-lay-phone!' and up in his book-lined study under the roof he would pick up the receiver. When Mrs Rapin became too old to live alone and sold their house up in Chailly she asked me to supervise the move of his library to the BCU. In her will, she left \$15,000 to the English department for the purchase of books in memory of her husband – the Fonds Rapin.

Being Rapin's assistant meant teaching, not helping him. Part of my work consisted in giving the students oral practice. It was not on the timetable and there was no scheduled room. Small groups of students were formed on a voluntary basis; I usually took them to the Pomme de Pin, the café opposite the Gendarmerie in the Cité-Derrière, because there was no jukebox there and rarely any *gymnasiens*. (They went to the Lapin Vert, in a modernized building close by, where the school rented rooms on the first floor for classes.) We would sit round a table and read plays together, each taking a part and breaking off every now and then for discussion.

In those days, essays were optional, so that while some students might write an essay during their second certificate studies, for others their first piece of extended writing in English was their *mémoire*, which I would help them revise before they handed it in. Ian Kirby introduced scheduled 'conversation and essay-writing' for first-year students; compulsory seminar-related essays came in only after an epic debate in the mid-1970s.

Lausanne bouge

Things began to change when Professor Giddey took over from René Rapin in 1969. For the next two years, most English seminars were held in a comparatively recent building – meaning that it dated from the nineteenth century (or earlier) – on the corner of the rue de la Madeleine and the place de la Riponne. Our seminar room (with modern chairs and tables) was above the Brasserie viennoise, next door to Romeo furniture. This room is memorable to me for two occasions.

One day I had an urgent message for Jay Blair (from Geneva), who was giving our American literature courses at that time. Entering in mid-seminar, I found him *sitting on a table and smoking*. I had never before witnessed such informality in a university course – or even imagined it, for that matter. In those far more formal days, men – students included – still wore jackets and ties, for instance, and the girls skirts and dresses. Blue jeans had arrived but were not yet worn in public.

It was in this room that Ian Kirby gave his *leçon d'épreuve*. He had



The corner of the rue de la Madeleine and the place de la Riponne, shortly before demolition in the mid-1970s.
The Brasserie viennoise is to the right, behind the lamp post.

advised that he was bringing a tape to play and I prepared a machine for him. The University had only Revox G36s at the time, which weighed about twenty kilos, so it was lucky for me that André Guex, of the EFM, had installed a recording studio in a neighbouring room: I did not have to lug the machine very far. However, it turned out that Kirby had brought along a four-track tape and the University had only professional two-track machines, so he had to read his samples of old and middle English himself, which he did with commendable aplomb. It probably helped him get the job!

In this building on the Riponne I had my first office – oh, little more than a large cupboard, almost completely filled by an old wooden desk. Of course I never received a student there; not only was there no room – and there were cafés enough for that – there were no such things as office hours anyway. (They did not come until the mid-80s.) Still, I felt greatly honoured; after all, who else had an office in those days? Even the director of the EFM had but fifteen square metres of attic which he shared with the director of the *cours de vacances*.

Giddey had me appointed *lecteur* in 1973.* At the same time, he took on recent graduates of the English department as assistants for *thème* and *version*, and I joined them and Giddey to discuss the *thème*. Giddey rapidly became so involved with rectorial matters that he ceased to attend these meetings and I ran them myself. That lasted until the early '80s, when Jean-Paul Forster decided to take over. By that point, *version* had been dropped in view of the increasing number of students who were not native speakers of French. *Thème* was abandoned at the end of the '90s, on the grounds that it was a specialized activity, best taught as an aim in itself; it did not help students learn to write essays in English.

Giddey introduced a phonetics course, which was given in 69–70 (if

* I was, I believe, the first full-time *lecteur* in the Faculty; until then, the title had been reserved for teachers at the EFM. Even there, the first full-time *lecteur*, André Guex, was appointed only in 1956. The post was thus one of Giddey's innovations, both at the EFM and in the Faculty. As it derived from the EFM, it was originally defined as a language-teaching post, but apart from pronunciation in the language lab, I gave nothing but literature courses and seminars until the mid-90s, when Pete Trudgill asked me to give the first-year phonetics course.

LANGUAGE LAB COURSES

In the mid-1960s a group of Lausanne English teachers, under the direction of André Guex, produced recorded pronunciation exercises for the first three years of English, for use in class or in the language labs that were being installed in the *collèges* of the canton. Successive exchange assistants from England provided the female voice; mine was the male voice. The most memorable of these *locutrices* was a sweet, vivacious girl called Myriam Bolton, who at the end of the year made a trip to India with her boyfriend, contracted hepatitis, and was dead by the end of September. When her distraught parents asked if there was anything I could send them in memory of her, I copied onto cassette an unscripted conversation from a recording session, so they had at least the sound of her voice. On a lighter note, I often chuckled in the 1970s when new students in English told me how easy they found it to understand me, as compared with other (particularly American) colleagues. Sometimes I asked if they had learned English from tapes in class or followed the language lab course in the *collège*; they invariably had. I never revealed whose voice had been their model.

For lack of a proper studio the whole course was recorded late in the evenings in the teachers' common room of the Collège de l'Elysée. Even then, we often had to do retakes because of extraneous noises; they ranged from passing motorbikes to the beep-beep of coded pulses coming down the power lines at ten in the evening. Only after we had finished did André Guex get the sound-proofed studio on the place de la Riponne; in the mid-70s it was dismantled and re-installed at Dorigny, and it's still there.

At the end of the 1960s the EFM installed a reel-to-reel language lab in the Ancienne Académie and the English department borrowed it for a couple of hours a week. Although the machines were placed against the walls, behind sliding glass panels, the clack-clack of the drive mechanism made hard work of listening and recording. The second-generation machines were quieter, but only when cassettes were introduced in our Dorigny language lab was the problem resolved – replaced at once by the poor dynamic response and background hiss of the cassettes. They remain on the virtual, computerized machines we now use, because the source material is still cassette based. Still, the students get good practice.

I remember rightly) by Michel Dubois, later director of the Séminaire Pédagogique and then of the Gymnase du Bugnon. He was succeeded by Raymond Peitrequin, who remained in the post until he retired more than twenty years later.

New staff 70–71

Jay Blair (from Geneva), prof. of American literature.

Alexandre Boudry, asst. Has his own wikipedia page. Retired from teaching in Lausanne in June 07.

Jacqueline Buvelot, asst. Later *directrice* of the Collège de Rolle and then the Gymnase du Bugnon, following on from Michel Dubois.

Loyse Guex, asst.

Philippe Janin, asst. Currently at the Gymnase de Burier.

Kathy Murphy, Am. asst.

Raymond Peitrequin for phonetics.

Paul Taylor (from Geneva), prof. of medieval English.

The names of persons mentioned elsewhere in this booklet are in bold.

In 1971, the English and German departments were given fresh (but far less romantic) accommodation in a cul-de-sac off the rue St.-Martin, the chemin de Renou. We were on the fourth floor of a modern building that could be accessed both from the top, directly from the level of the rue César-Roux (just below the Place de l'Ours), and from the rue St.-Martin. The professors' offices looked down onto the chemin de Renou; just under their windows a bold sign read '**DIÉMAND: installations sanitaires**'. In the other body of the building, with windows overlooking the rue St.-Martin, was a large room for the *corps intermédiaire* of the two departments combined, and two seminar rooms. The shared office presented no problem: we were not numerous, and in those days, most people did all their deskwork at home. The extra room meant that in English we were able to divide first- and second-year students into separate seminars. Ian Kirby introduced staff meetings at this point – when necessary. Until then, there had been none, and we continued to work in complete autonomy, often not seeing colleagues for months at a time.

On the same floor, behind the professors' offices, were the English and German books from the Faculty library, on open shelves – 'open' being the operative word: as there was no one at the door, we lost quite a few books. It was inevitable, and I like to think that they went to good homes. This was the first time that I had an overview of our resources,

and at once became involved in planning the merger of the Faculty and BCU collections; in particular, decisions had to be made as to which writers should go on open shelves at Dorigny and which consigned to the closed stacks. A trainee librarian, Chantal Wicht, made the cataloguing of our collection her *travail de diplôme* (presented to the Association des bibliothécaires suisses in 1976) and it was a pleasure to work with her.

It was in the early seventies that for the first time non-professorial staff in the Faculty were identified as the *corps intermédiaire* (the meat in the sandwich, so to speak), and an association (ACIL) was formed. It was shortlived, for lack of objectives and motivation; at a meeting in the middle of the decade the committee decided to suspend its activities, awaiting a time of greater need. I was not on the committee, or even at that meeting, but for some reason they decided to entrust me with the ACIL's papers – and funds! Several attempts were made to resuscitate it – I remember making posters in the early 80s with slogans like *S'associer c'est facile!* – without success. It was not until thirty years later that a fresh association was formed, and the committee were much surprised to discover that they had instant funds (which had of course doubled in the meantime).

Also in the early seventies students and young people in Lausanne became aware of themselves as a social group and we saw the first *manifestations* (demos). The great French student revolt of May '68 had not been marked by similar events in Lausanne. The most we had that summer was when some *gymnasiens* demonstrated – I forget why and I am not sure that they themselves knew really – in front of the Ancienne Académie. Georges Rapp came out and threatened them with a bullwhip – of the kind used by Swiss artillery teams to 'encourage' their six or eight horses. (It says something about Rapp that he had it handy.) Someone took a photograph – not me unfortunately; although I was teaching in one of the huts only a few yards away, my lesson went ahead without interruption, despite all the noise outside, so my class and I missed it all! – and it appeared in the *Canard Enchaîné* the following week. The incident became historic when Jacques Chessex (who started teaching at the Gymnase the following year) made it an episode in his novel *L'Ogre*, which won the Prix Goncourt in 1973.



Le chemin de Renou, off the rue St.-Martin
photographed in 2009.

The English and German sections were accommodated on the 4th floor
(indicated by the arrow), just below the level of rue César-Roux
(hence the cars parked on the roof).

In 1970 and 71, young people (not just students) protested vigorously against the price of cinema tickets in Lausanne. They formed the *Comité action cinéma* (CAC) and organized demonstrations in the streets. This gave rise to the observation that ‘*Lausanne bouge*’ (for once!), and some years later similar youths named their movement in favour of an autonomous youth centre ‘*Lôzanne bouge*’. The local authorities did not take kindly to this behaviour, as the demonstrators were well aware. (I tried taking photographs from a distance and was greeted with cries of ‘*Indic!*’ – i.e., police informer – so I have none to print here.) A colleague in the German department, who had spent the best part of her life in Switzerland, was refused naturalization on the grounds that she had been photographed participating in a demo. During an unauthorized march (involving less than a hundred people) a mature student was singled out by the Lausanne police for a 200-franc fine, imposed *in absentia*. Claiming that she had not been demonstrating, but merely leaving the café where her ex-husband had just handed over that month’s alimony, she contested the fine first through the police court, then the communal, cantonal and federal courts. In the end, she won in the European Court of Human Rights, and the Lausanne police had to refund the fine and pay (some at least of) her enormous costs. (See *Belilos vs Switzerland* in *Landmark Cases in Public International Law* (1998), pp. 659–77.)

My own subversive activity consisted in going to Rank Xerox and suggesting that they offer to supply the Faculty with a photocopying machine. (No, I didn’t, and still don’t, have any shares in the firm.) At that time we used carbon paper for making copies when typing, and cut stencils for class handouts, but there was nothing for copying documents, text or image. Within weeks, a photocopier was installed. It was one of the first machines available in Switzerland that made copies on ordinary paper; for most people it was the first photocopying machine of any kind that they had ever seen. Its use was strictly regulated; in particular, there was no free copying for doctoral candidates! More than two metres long, it looked thoroughly out of place in the Ancienne Académie; it was clearly time to move on.

72–73

Eric Bubloz, *chargé de cours*, Am. lit.
 Claude Graham, Am. asst.
 Jeanine Hürlimann, asst.
Ian Kirby, prof. of old and middle
 English
 Keith Tolan, Br. asst.

73–74

Jesse Bier, prof. Am. lit.
 Frederick McBrien, Am. asst.
 Alison Martin, Br. asst.

74–75

Margaret Bridges, m-asst. medieval
 lit., became prof. at Berne; she
 was president of SAUTE 2000–07.
 John Palesis, Am. asst.
James (Jim) Schroeter, prof. Am. lit.

75–76

Patrick Collins, Am. asst.
Jean-Paul Forster, m-asst.

Helen McFie, Br. asst.

Anthony Pereira started as a student assistant; having got his *licence*, he became an assistant for the summer semester. He has continued to teach in Lausanne ever since and currently runs DIL (Dynamic Institute of Languages Sàrl) in the Grand-Chêne.

76–77

Norman Ellman, Am. asst. Currently teaches French at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, combining his passions for French and music.
 Marion Rose Piller, asst., taught mostly in the Faculté des Sciences. She is now an independent corporate instructor, operating out of Boulder, Co.

Dorigny

The migration to Dorigny in the summer of 1977 was smooth for us; we had but to take possession of our new offices on the top floor of the first Bâtiment des facultés des sciences humaines (soon known simply as the BFSH1, now called the Internef) – but it was quite disorientating at first. Apart from the central administration-cum-rectorate across the Sorge, there were no other buildings in the vicinity: no hum of traffic, no cafés, no town life. Inside, though, the BFSH1 buzzed with life, for in addition to the German department and the EFM, the Law Faculty and school of HEC (soon to become a faculty) were in there too. A regular hive, it was the opposite, in every way, to the Riponne and the chemin de Renou.

We had everything we needed inside the building: our library, in a gallery overlooking the current ground-floor library – the space is now occupied by offices – a cafeteria *and* a restaurant that served copious lunches. (The catering service, Panigas Frères, had made its reputation by supplying meals to the builders of dams in the mountains, so we were fed like manual workers.) There was a photocopying service with a Rank

Xerox machine that looked as if it belonged there (but we continued to cut stencils for a couple of years as well). We all had spacious offices, with office equipment – *that* was a revolution – but the typewriters were not electric. We had purpose-built seminar rooms with blackboards and whiteboards and retroprojectors, and lecture halls with electrically operated blackboards. In fact the technology was so unfamiliar that one assistant carefully wrote up a poem on what he thought was an erasable whiteboard but which proved to be a white-painted wall for retro-projection. The poem remained there until the wall was repainted several years later.

The future had arrived. But not all our students. Only two departments of the Faculty had moved down to the new campus; the rest were still up at the Cité: for a couple of years, the students shuttled to and fro, by bus. (The TSOL – now the M1 – was not even designed at that point.) Although the administration claimed to have made great efforts to adapt the timetables, some unfortunate students made the return journey more than once a day.

The next stage of the migration to Dorigny saw the completion in the late 70s of the library building, immediately dubbed the ‘*Banane*’ because of its curved shape. At once the rest of the Faculty came down to occupy the west end of it. Our books moved from the BFSH1 to their true home on the first floor of the library; our restaurant closed in favour of a vast refectory, café, and classy restaurant (all under Panigas Frères) in the same building. We started to walk about the campus, appreciating its beauty as we took the wooden bridge over the Sorge, passed the old manor house of Dorigny and climbed steps made of recycled railway sleepers to reach the new paths to the Banane (and the two-hundred-year-old *chêne de Napoléon* beyond it). In pens beside the paths, sheep graze among molehills, and herons strut about in search of fieldmice, sometimes coming as close as a metre to the rear windows of the library.

The Faculty was still split, though, and soon work began on the second humanities building, the BFSH2, now called the Anthropole, to accommodate Letters and SSP. The change of name was not without conflict. The Bureau des bâtiments first called our building ‘Humense’ but, in a rare outbreak of corporate spirit, the occupants objected. The administration publicly declared (even in the columns of *Le Temps*)

that we should soon get used to it. We didn’t and they backed down in the end. Ian Kirby was fond of saying of the University administration that it was ‘the tail that wagged the dog’. Just for once, the dog showed it could bark back.

Meanwhile, the micro-computer revolution had arrived and I gained a certain notoriety by requesting one per desk for the English department (which is why we continue to be better equipped than any other non-scientific department. It took more than ten years for some departments to realize what they were missing out on). My first home computer (with an unprecedented 64K of memory), screen and printer – all now in a museum – set me back 15,000 francs in 1982, so I started organizing group purchases for colleagues. (This of course was well before the University’s *centre informatique* was created.) In May 1986, having obtained a reduction of 40% on the list price, I could propose a basic PC, with two floppy-disk drives and no hard disk, 256K of memory, and a 9-inch monochrome screen for 2,430 francs. The first model with a hard disk (10Mb) and a 12-inch screen was a mere 4,266 francs.

77–78

Toni Johnson O’Brien, asst. Came from the American College in Leysin and remained with us for the rest of her career, teaching mainly Irish literature. Published *Synge: The Medieval and the Grotesque* (1983).

Pierre-Eric Monnin, medieval English. He spent most of his career at Neuchâtel and is also known for his singing (as a baritone).

78–79

Roelof Overmeer, asst.

Gerard (Matt) Temme, asst.

79–80

Georges-Denis Zimmermann from Neuchâtel stood in for Giddey. Geneviève Froidevaux, asst. Now at the Gymnase Auguste Piccard.

Françoise le Saux, asst. in medieval English, having done her *mémoire de licence* on Vaudois witches. Made her name with her dissertation on Layamon’s *Brut*. Now a professor of medieval languages and literatures at the University of Reading, England.

80–81

R. E. Davis [?status]
Peter Edwards, asst.

81–82

Michael Flay, Am. asst.
Marie-Claude Grandguillaume, asst.
André Kaenel, asst. Now at Université Nancy II and author of *Words Are Things: Herman Melville and the Invention of Authorship in 19th Century America* (1992).
Jenny Mountford, asst.

Bruce Robbins, m-asst. Now in the department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia
 Michael Swanton, prof. *invité*. Now professor of Medieval Studies at the University of Exeter.

82–83

Ian MacKenzie, asst. He moved on to teach English in HEC, where he developed his *English for Business Studies* (CUP, 1997) and in the Faculté des Sciences. He did a PhD in linguistics and is now an MER at the *Ecole de traduction et d'interprétation* in Geneva.

83–84

Barbara Belyea, asst. from Canada, exchanged house and job with Toni Johnson for a year. Now a professor at Calgary.
 Ruth Glass, asst., whose main inter-

est was in folk and fairy tales.
 Beverly Maeder, asst.
 Alessandra Rapetti, asst.

84–85

Doris Rolli, asst.

85–86

Margaret (Tudeau-)Clayton, asst. Her *Jonson, Shakespeare and Early Modern Virgil*, published by CUP in 1998, not long after she left our department, brought her international critical acclaim. Now professor of English at Neuchâtel.

Alison Elton-Craig, asst.

Neil Forsyth, prof. English lit.

Inès Leario, asst. In 2005 she gained a diploma from IDHEAP in *gestion financière du secteur public*.

Catherine Pereira, asst.

86–87

Robert Rehder, prof. *invité*.

We moved into the BFSH2 in 1987 and immediately found it cramped compared with the BFSH1. At a late stage, the University had decided to house the EFM in there too and the internal layout was revised to make this possible. Instead of having all the offices against the outside walls, with a corridor along the inner wall, the offices were made less deep, and the corridor was moved outwards to make room for additional, rather small offices along the inner wall. (The original layout was maintained in a few places, such as the administrative wings of the Faculty of Letters, and the EFM, both on level 2.) While the outer offices suffer from the sun in summer, the inner ones have neither heating nor ventilation (since they were designed to be corridor), with the result that, until smoking was finally banned from the whole building early in the new century, opening the inner windows merely drew in all the smoke rising from the cafeteria below.

As a result of this short-sighted decision, the BFSH2 became overcrowded almost at once: even small offices had to be shared. While the

THE CENTRE DE LANGUES

I fear I contributed to the overcrowding of the BFSH1 by setting up a Language Centre for the University in 1989, for it drew in people not just from the Dorigny campus, but also from as far as away as the CHUV and the cancer research institute up at Epalinges.

One aim was to relieve the English department of a demand that it could not possibly satisfy: language courses for beginners upwards – and then to add other languages too. Anticipating that the demand would be high, I limited enrolment to teaching and administrative staff during the first year, and it was hard enough to find rooms for all the courses they asked for. The following year, I took on a secretary (who shared my office; the Centre got its own secretariat only in its third year) and we opened the courses to students. It was like breaching a dam. Soon I was running a small business employing sixteen people – while continuing to teach half time; a wonderful challenge. The University provided only the rooms we needed, my salary and accounting services; everything else, and especially the salaries of my staff, had to be covered by those who followed the courses. (Vice-rector Danthine – soon to be at the Swiss National Bank – advised me to practice ‘creative accounting’.) Consequently the most disagreeable task was chasing up people who, having enrolled (thereby causing a group to be formed and a teacher to be promised a year’s pay), then decided, for one reason or another, to drop out and did not want to pay any more. After I returned to full-time teaching, my successor, an ex-student of the English and German departments, was lucky to have the University take over all the costs (and associated risks). She has developed the Centre into a model of its kind.

number of students entering the English department had remained stable during the 1980s (at around 80 per year, based on the assessment tests in the first week), the figure rose sharply in the early nineties, peaking in mid-decade at over 230. At this point, when the department was losing staff as a result of economy measures, the number of students in the Faculty topped 2000. However our intake soon fell back to settle at its current level of around 130, which means that since the turn of the

century there have been generally 400 students in the department at any one time; overall, the Faculty numbers around 2300. During this period, the level of incoming students, as determined by a placement test, showed a slight but steady increase, year by year. By 2007, half of them were already at C1 (i.e., advanced) or even C2 (very advanced) on the Council of Europe scale of language competence.

One aspect of life in the new building took everyone by surprise. Until we moved there, theft was exceptional; in fact I don't remember a single case being reported in the BFSH1. Within weeks of the opening of the BFSH2, many people fell victim to it: the pockets of coats hanging in offices were emptied, handbags left beside desks were rifled, equipment disappeared. And it has continued; the students' laptop computers, mobile phones and briefcases are primary targets, but much larger and far less portable objects have vanished as well; even heavy beamers have been unbolted from high ceilings between courses! Anything in the least desirable has to be chained and padlocked, or screwed down, and constant vigilance of personal possessions has to be exercised. That's the world of the third millennium.

Over the last forty years the English department at Lausanne has undergone a fundamental change. Our accommodation has leapt from the medieval Cité to a modern lakeside campus (just a little further out of town than the site of Expo 64), served by urban trams that may still squeal on bends but run on lines separate from the traffic. We have lost practically every connection with the town and the Gymnases (not to mention the Gendarmerie!) and exchanged them for a thoroughly international outlook at every level – staff, students, curriculum, conferences, exchanges, etc. Even the names of the degrees awarded are British in origin. The numbers of both staff and students have multiplied by a factor of ten and they now come from a great diversity of places, while our best students – whatever their origin – can still become assistants and work their way up the academic ladder. Attitudes towards literature, and teaching generally, have changed just as profoundly, not only at Lausanne but throughout the western world, and we have gained from them. Academic standards are much higher, if only because the students start off with a better level of English and improve more in

the course of their studies, while staff are more specialized and publish far more than their predecessors ever did. Seen from the longer perspective of the department's first hundred years, it has changed out of all recognition, indubitably for the better. And the University can be proud of it.

87–88

Peter Halter, prof. of American lit.
Elizabeth Kaspar-Aldrich, prof.
invitée.

88–89

Martine Hennard, asst., (summer semester).
Cindy Langevad, asst. Now, as Cindy Steiner, resides in San Rafael, Ca., where she 'coaches CEOs and their management teams on their corporate and investor presentations, media interviews, and IPOs.'
Adam Piette, asst. Left shortly before publishing *Imagination at War: British Fiction and Poetry 1939–1945* (Macmillan, 1995), which was closely followed by *Remembering and the Sound of Words: Mallarmé, Proust, Joyce, Beckett* (OUP 1996). He is now a professor of English literature and director of MA Studies at Sheffield.

Patricia Serex, asst. She has been teaching at the Gymnase de la Cité ever since.
Richard (Dick) Watts (from Bern), prof. *invité* (winter).

89–90

Denis Zimmerman (from Neuchâtel) as prof. *invité*.

90–91

total staff 25 (profs *invités* included)
Romy Berger, asst.

Magali Chenevard, asst.

Valérie Cossy, asst.

Udaya Kumar, m-asst., who was just putting the finishing touches to *The Joycean Labyrinth: Repetition, Time, and Tradition in Ulysses* (OUP 1991).

Simone Oettli, m-asst. Still *chargée d'enseignement* at Geneva.

Gregory Polletta, prof. *invité*.

Robert Rehder, prof. *invité*.

Nida Surber, 1ère asst., currently m-asst. in Medieval English Language and Literature at Fribourg.

Michael Swanton, prof. *invité*.

Paul Taylor, prof. *invité*.

Boris Vejdovsky, asst.

91–92 no new staff

92–93

David Jemielity, Am. assist. Came via Oxford where he had presented a thesis on Hume and Sterne. Moved to the University of Neuchâtel in 1997 to work on the teaching of French-to-English translation; in 2001, he joined the Banque Cantonale Vaudoise where he is in charge of quality control of its translations into English. He also teaches in the *Département multilingue de traductologie et de traduction* of the University of Geneva.

Peter Trudgill, prof. linguistics.

93–94

Jim Barnes, the American poet, for one year on a Senior Fulbright Fellowship to Switzerland.

Cynthia (Cindy) Marker, Am. asst. Tony Mortimer (from Geneva) prof. *invité*

Lise-Marie Moser, asst. Taught on and off at the University of Neuchâtel for about 12 years.

Katrin Rupp, asst. Now a part-time *chargée de cours* in old and middle English lit. at Neuchâtel.

Paul Taylor, prof. *invité*, old English.

Lukas Erne, asst. in the summer of 1994 and won a Berrow Scholarship to Oxford, 1994–97. He has since published widely, become head of the English department at Geneva and in 2005 was considered to be ‘one of the six most brilliant Renaissance scholars in the world under 40’.

94–95

Katherine Feldman, asst.

Nina Surber, 1ère asst.

Nell ter Horst, Am. asst.

95–96

Denis Renevey, asst.

Melissa Waldman, Am. asst. Now in the Medieval and Renaissance Interdisciplinary Studies Project at Louisiana State University.

96–97

Romy Berger (later Hill-Cronin), asst.

Katherine Dauge-Roth, Am. asst.

Now associate professor of Romance Languages at Bowdoin College, Maine. Published *Signing*

the Body in Early Modern France (Ashgate, 2008).

Didier Maillat, asst. Now associate professor of English Linguistics at Fribourg, having won a Berrow Scholarship and done his doctorate at Lincoln College, Oxford.

John Minderhout, asst.

97–98

Olivia Gabor, Am. asst. Currently an assistant professor of German at Western Michigan University.

Daniel Schreier, asst. Now associate professor and chair for English Linguistics at the University of Zurich.

Minoo Shahidi, asst. Her doctorate from Lausanne was published as *A Sociolinguistic Study of Language Shift in Mazandarani* (Uppsala University Press, 2008).

Steven Spalding, Am. asst. Now assistant professor of French at Christopher Newport University, Virginia.

98–99

Donovan Anderson, Am. asst.

Completed his PhD on *From conversation to discipline and beyond: a cultural history of early Germanistik (1790–1850)* at the University of Michigan in 2001.

Julia Gallagher, asst.

Stéphanie Janin, asst.

Lucy Perry, asst. Now back in Switzerland after a year in Dublin.

Jürg Schwyter, prof. linguistics

Kirsten Stirling, asst.

Digby Thomas, asst.

1999–2000

Jennifer Cheshire (from Fribourg and Neuchâtel), prof. linguistics
Margaret Lynch, Am. asst.

2000–01

Seth Quartey, Am. asst. Now assistant professor of German at Washington and Jefferson College. His *Missionary Practices on the Gold Coast, 1832–1895: Discourse, Gaze and Gender in the Basel Mission in Pre-Colonial West Africa*, which he worked on in Lausanne, was published by the Cambria Press in 2007.

01–02

Amy Hubbell, Am. asst. Now assistant professor of French at Kansas State University, after getting her doctorate at Michigan.

02–03

Meredith Martin, Am. asst. Now at Princeton, but spending a nine-month sabbatical in Switzerland during 2009.

Ilona Sigrist, asst.

03–04

Alexandre Fachard, asst.

Marcelo Hamam, Am. asst.

Michael Hanley, prof. *remplaçant*

Fabienne Michelet, *chargée de cours*

Sandrine Onillon, asst.

04–05

Elvira Pulitano, Am. asst. Now assis-

tant professor in the Ethnic studies department of California Polytechnic.

05–06

Sarah Baccianti, asst. Won a Berrow Scholarship to study at Lincoln College, Oxford.

06–07

Pauline Genoud, asst. Now at the *Centre de recherches européennes*, Lausanne.

Agnese Fidecaro, *chargée de cours*
Petya Ivanova, asst. Currently in the English department at Geneva.

Adrian Pablé, m-asst.

Myriam Perregaux, *chargée de cours*
Agnieszka Soltysik, assistant prof. American literature.

07–08

Lukas Bleichenbacher, currently in the English department at Zurich.

Joanne Chassot, asst.

Sebastian Ferrari, Am. asst. Currently in the comparative lit. department at the University of Michigan.

Olivier Knechciak, asst.

Marco Nievergelt, asst.

Juliette Vuille, asst.

Najat Zein, asst.

08–09

Antoine Bianchi, asst.

Elena Dalla Torre, Am. asst.

Matthias Heim, asst.

Delphine Jeanneret, asst.