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## PREFACE

### THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF *BRNO STUDIES IN ENGLISH*

This year marks an important anniversary in the history of the present journal: It has been fifty years since the first volume of *Brno Studies in English* was published in 1959, under the editorship of its founder, Josef Vachek.

The beginnings of the journal are closely bound with Professor Vachek, who was more than merely the founder. On the one hand, he actively encouraged his colleagues to present the results of their research in the journal. On the other, he contributed some of his best manuscripts himself. Many of his crucial studies, published in the early volumes of *Brno Studies in English*, have since become classics and proven indispensable for any scholar engaged in the study of the English language using the methodology of analytical comparison, i.e., contrasting typologically different and genetically unrelated languages such as English and Czech.

Professor Vachek, a member of the Prague Linguistic Circle, was also instrumental in re-invigorating the English Department at the Faculty of Arts, which has continued the tradition in functional and structural linguistics of the Prague School. For decades, the journal was associated with the work of various members of the English Department, most notably Professor Jan Firbas. *Brno Studies in English* has been a platform for not only developing the discipline of Firbas's 'functional sentence perspective', which has had its home in Brno for almost half a century, but also other fields within the Central European concept of 'Anglicist' studies. Since its first issues, the journal has also published studies in literature and, more recently, cultural studies and translation. Though it initially began publishing research by Brno scholars, the journal became quickly established in its field and has published numerous articles by leading international linguists and literary scholars.

The journal was initially published at irregular – usually biennial – intervals. The annual issue became the norm in the 1990s. Associated with this were changes to the editorial board and in the nature of the peer review process. This year,

*Brno Studies in English* has adopted another major change: henceforth, it will follow the model common for most academic journals – the publication of two issues per year. The first issue will continue to include standard contributions from various disciplines of English studies, the second will be monothematic, focusing on more narrowly defined topics, edited by guest editors.

The editorial board is confident that *Brno Studies in English* will continue to be a modern journal, offering international scholars a valuable platform for the discussion of their research in various disciplines of English studies.

Brno, October 2009

Jan Chovanec