## 1. Our new premises

Thanks to a generous grant from the College, the Survey research room and office have been completely refurbished. The refurbishment has allowed us to make maximum use of our space and has enhanced the facilities for our computational work.

The Survey rooms and hallway have been redecorated, re-carpeted, and re-furnished and a flexible system of shelving has been installed. The two rooms have been equipped with new lighting that minimizes glare on the computer screens, and a belt of computer outlets and ports is available for our present computers and printers and for future expansion. Our premises have become more congenial for staff and visitors to work in.

## 2. Progress on the corpus

The remaining spoken texts have been transcribed and are being typed on slips. The texts are also being computerized in the reduced transcription used for the London-Lund Corpus.

The concordance browser has been improved in a number of ways. It is now indexed for reverse as well as forward retrieval, so that the concordance lines can bring together words preceding the specified item and researchers can call for suffixes. Most of the spoken texts have now been concordanced and can be used through the concordance browser. The concordance program is available free of charge to academic institutions. Anyone wishing to receive a copy should contact Geoffrey Kaye at the following address:

IBM United Kingdom Ltd.
UK Science Centre
Athelstan House
St. Clement Street
Winchester
Hampshire SO23 9DR

We have begun checking and editing the word-tagging of the written texts.

The tagging program, which is being applied to our texts at the University of Lancaster, assigns a grammatical tag automatically to each word of the text and a tag to each punctuation mark from a repertoire of 166 tags.

A system for coding the texts syntactically has been devised and tested and will be improved in the coming year. The coding is manually assigned, but is computer-assisted through a sequence of pop-up menus that list the possible selections. A retrieval system for the coding is being developed that will enable researchers to call for words or strings of words with specified syntactic functions. The word-tagging will be utilized in this system.

## 3. A new corpus

We have entered into preliminary discussions on the establishment of a new Survey corpus of spoken English that will be linked with parallel corpora in other English-speaking countries. The first firm commitment for cooperation in this venture has come from the United States, where Professor Charles M. Meyer (University of Massachusetts-Boston) has undertaken to initiate an American spoken corpus in collaboration with the Survey. We hope to elicit similar collaboration from scholars in other English-speaking countries, including those where English is primarily a second language.

## 4. Finances

We are grateful to a number of sources for financial support of the Survey's work. We are continuing to receive an annual donation of #1,000 from the Sir Sigmund Sternberg Charitable Foundation and an annual donation of #5,000 from Longman. This year we received #5,000 from IBM UK Scientific Centre and #5,000 (a second instalment) from the Esprit Project under a contract. IBM has funded the purchase of a computer and a printer and we have secured funding for computers from the College and from the University of London Central Research Fund.

## 5. Visitors

The Longman Research Fellow for 1987-88 was Professor Josef Taglicht of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During his stay at the Survey, Professor Taglicht worked on segmentation into tone units and accentuation in relation to syntactic structure and on the reliability of the Survey transcription of prosodic features. He taught a postgraduate course at University College on intonation and syntactic structures.

During the year we have been pleased to welcome the following scholars who have made use of our materials:

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| Dr K. Aijmer | University of Lund | conversation analysis |
| Mrs T. Dutsyak | Lvov University USSR | make and do |
| Mr J. Elsness | University of Oslo | tense and aspect |
| Ms D. Genova | University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria | colour adjectives |
| Mr R. Geluykens | Trinity College Cambridge | right dislocation |
| Mr L. Hoye | University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania | modal auxiliaries and adverbs |
| Prof. O. Kujore | University of Ibadan | articles |
| Prof. M. Ljung | University of Stockholm | lexicon |
| Dr. C. Mair | University of Innsbruck | For/To-infinitival clauses |
| Prof. C.M. Meyer | University of Massachusetts-Boston | apposition |
| Mr. H. Nordmo | University of Tromso | intonation |
| Dr. A.-B. Stenström | Telemark College, Norway | discourse markers |

A group of seven university teachers from Sweden visited the Survey in January on a tour of England for investigations into methods and resources for foreign language teaching. Others who paid us brief visits were:

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| Prof. R. Baumgardner | The Asia Foundation, Pakistan |
| Prof. L.E. Breivik | University of Tromso, Norway (now at the University of Bergen) |
| Dr. J. Buysschaert | Provincial Hogeschool voor Vertalers en Token (PHVT), Belgium |

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| Prof. E. Finegan | University of Southern California |
| Prof. Filpulla | University of Joznsuu, Finland |
| Ms J. Hughes | Australian National University |
| Ms M. Hardcastle | Oxford University Press |
| Prof. M. Kohda | University of Osaka, Japan |
| Prof. I. Koike | Keio University, Japan |
| Dr J. Nunnally | Auburn University, USA |
| Dr M. Nadkarni | National University of Singapore |
| Dr W. Ramson | Australian National University |
| Prof. H. Sato | Nara University of Education, Japan |
| Prof. P. Sgall | Prague University |
| Ms J. Sinclair | Kingston Polytechnic |
| Mr A Seward | Batsford Ltd |
| Ms P. Southall | London School of Economics |
| Prof. M. Sridhar | SUNY-Stony Brook, USA |
| Prof. S.N. Sridhar | SUNY-Stony Brook, USA |
| Prof. J. Stalker | Michigan State University |

## 6. Staff

Sue Boase, who worked on the transcription of spoken texts for several years, left the Survey to do a PhD at the University of London on intonation in aphasia. She has produced guides to the full and reduced transcription system. We will miss her and the quality of her work, and we wish her success in her research.

Dr Ewa Jaworska joined the Survey in November 1987 as a Research Assistant to Professor Greenbaum on a year-long project funded by the British Academy on research into time and place adverbials. Because of problems in implementing the syntactic database and retrieval system, the linguistic side of the project has been seriously delayed, though work is progressing on certain other aspects of adverbials. In consultation with Professors Greenbaum and Kaye, Dr Jaworska has

worked on the design of a system of categories for manual, computer-assisted coding of the syntax of the Survey Corpus: Each clause and phrase is described for its structure, function, and linear position; adverbials are further described for their semantic roles. She has tested the coding of adverbials on four texts. Dr Jaworska has written a manual for Survey users of the concordance browsing program and is preparing a manual on the coding system. She is engaged on the design of a mapping scheme between the word-class tags from the Lancaster program and word-class covertags that will be automatically assigned in the syntactic coding. She is also preparing an extended report on the design of the coding system. Dr Jaworska has lectured at Oxford and Georgetown University, and collaborated with Professor Kaye on a presentation at ICAME conference in Birmingham.

We welcomed four other new people to the Survey this year. Michael Curwen, a part-time voluntary worker, has been engaged on computerizing the reduced transcription. Bas Aarts, who began research (under the supervision of Professor Greenbaum) for a PhD thesis this year, has been working part-time on reviewing the coding system and other matters. Jill Taylor, who has just been awarded a PhD in the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics, is transcribing spoken texts. Robert Ferris, a second-year undergraduate in the Department of Linguistics, is working during the summer on the collection of prosodic marks, and post-editing word-class tags.

Oonagh Sayce has typed most of the remaining spoken texts, and shared the proofreading for them with Rosalind Tricker. Oonagh Sayce has also worked more than anyone else on computerizing spoken texts with the reduced prosodic transcription. Nicholas Jones, Andrew Rosta, and Robert Ferris have been collecting prosodic marks on slips for filing, and Oonagh Sayce has been checking their work. Andrew Rosta and Robert Ferris have begun post-editing the printouts of word-class tags in written texts, derived from the Lancaster tagging program, and Dr Ewa Jaworska has been checking their work. Andrew Rosta has been generally useful on the computational side, where he has used his initiative to good effect. René Quinault has continued to maintain the files of the extensive

Survey offprint collection and to record the progress of all aspects of Survey work. During the refurbishment of the Survey premises, the staff and all the Survey equipment and material moved into temporary accommodation for over two months. We are grateful for his quiet efficiency in effecting the moves from and back to the Survey premises. Finally, staff and visitors alike are indebted to Marie Gibney, who organized the moves, for her untiring efforts to accommodate their needs.

Sir Randolph Quirk lectured at Keble College (Oxford), Brussels, Queen Mary College (London), English-Speaking Union (London), University of Granada, University of Barcelona, The Ateneo (Madrid), Universidad Complutense (Madrid), Tesol International Congress (Madrid), and the Isle of Man (Arts Council). As British Academy Leverhulme Visiting Professor, he visited India, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the East-West Center (Hawaii). He received honorary doctorates from the University of Southern California, Bar-Ilan University, the University of Glasgow, and Brunel University.

Professor Sidney Greenbaum lectured at the University of Birmingham and the IBM Scientific Centre (Winchester), and chaired a session at the ICAME conference in Birmingham. He has become editor of Studies in English Language, a new series to be published by Cambridge University Press, in addition to being co-editor of the Written Communication Annual, a series published by Sage Publications (California). He has been elected Dean of Arts at University College London.

Professor Geoffrey Kaye of the IBM UK Scientific Centre, who is a Visiting Professor in the Department of English at the College, has continued to be responsible for the computerization of the Survey Corpus. He is enhancing the concordance browser and developing the database and retrieval system for syntactic analysis.

Dr Robert Ilson has continued to check the transcription of spoken texts, and has resumed his teaching for the English Department at University College London. He contributed as a lexicographer to the second edition of the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1987). The first two issues have appeared of

the quarterly <u>International Journal of Lexicography</u> (Oxford University Press), of which he is editor.

Dr Bernard Lott has begun a full-scale study of the syntax and semantics of the prepositional phrases in he Survey corpus. He was the external examiner of a PhD candidate from the Indian Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages.

## 7. <u>Publications</u>

A recent publication co-authored by Robert Ilson was 'highly recommended' in an award presented by the Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace: <u>The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English: A Guide to Word Combinations</u> by M. Benson, E. Benson, and R. Ilson (John Benjamins 1986). This brings to four the number of books by Survey members that have been honoured by awards at the Palace. The previous three were <u>A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language</u> by Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Jan Svartvik (Longman 1985), which received first prize, and two books that were highly commended: <u>The Right Word at the Right Time</u> (Reader's Digest U.K. 1985), of which Robert Ilson was Consultant Editor, and <u>The English Language Today</u> (Pergamon Press 1985, now distributed by Prentice-Hall) edited by Sidney Greenbaum.

We draw attention to a new series edited by Sidney Greenbaum. The series, entitled Studies in the English Language, will be published by Cambridge University Press. A flyer describing the series is enclosed with this report.

We remind scholars who have used Survey material to send books and offprints to the Survey, so that we can include them in our library. The publications will be listed in our annual reports and in our Survey bibliography. We do not list reviews (unless they are review articles) or articles in newspapers and popular magazines.

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