

Friends of the ELT Archive Newsletter – December 2025

The ELT Archive at the University of Warwick (http://warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive), is a stand-alone, browsable historical collection of published and unpublished materials relating to the teaching of English to speakers of other languages and the development of applied linguistics, c.1880–c.2000.

At the ELT Archive, and within the associated 'HoLLT Research Circle' (a small group of interested staff and students meeting regularly in the Archive space in term-time), we're trying to put more resources online, write more blog posts and generally be more active in promoting both our collection and research into the history of English language teaching generally. In appreciation of your support for the Archive now and in the past, we are sending you this, our 'Year in Review' December 2025 newsletter to help you keep abreast of what's been happening and to encourage you to continue to support us and keep in touch. You can always make contact by emailing R.C.Smith@warwick.ac.uk.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

The Warwick ELT Archive

Helping practitioners and researchers worldwide to explore the history and heritage of ELT

ELT Archive News and Updates



Updated catalogue published

A new, updated version of the ELT Archive catalogue (5th edition, 2025) was uploaded in July to the ELT Archive website (http://warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive/catalogue/).

This edition lists 6,372 published items (almost all of them books) which are accessible on shelves. This compares with 4,672 items in the 4th edition (2023). Thanks to sponsorship from the A.S. Hornby Educational Trust, it has now been possible to catalogue items published in the 1980s (previous catalogues only went up to 1979). Our next steps will be to catalogue 1990s items in our collection and put some order into the large amount of miscellaneous archival material we have collected.

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Hornby Trust grant

The A.S. Hornby Educational Trust is continuing its support for the ELT Archive, with the award of a further grant for 2025/26. This will enable further cataloguing of the collection, with a focus on books published in the 1990s, selective purchasing of materials, processing of donations of material and digitisation of more items, liaison with researchers in Europe and South and East Asia, oral history work, development of a new blog and website and maintenance of the Friends of the ELT Archive network.

Work connected with the ELT Archive has increasingly been aligning with the Hornby Trust's '[Decentring ELT](#)' initiative, with continuing support for research into English language education history in Bangladesh, China and India, initiatives to incorporate history into teacher education, and histories of marginalized groups and practices, including work by women in TEFL generally.

ELT Archive Oral History Collection

Early broadcast / published interviews

[Interview with A.S. Hornby](#), by Yoshio Ogawa (1969)

[Interview with A.S. Hornby](#), by Cristina Ruse (1974)

Self-recorded memoirs for an oral history project initiated by Christopher Brumfit and taken forward by John Norrish at the ELT Education, London

[Self-recorded memoir by L.G. Alexander](#) (1981)

[Self-recorded memoir by A.V.P. Elliott](#) (1981)

[Self-recorded memoir by L.A. Hill](#) (1981)

[Self-recorded memoir by D.Y. Morgan](#) (1985)

[Self-recorded memoir by Bernard Lott](#) (1986)

Interviews by Robert Phillipson for his PhD thesis, published later as *Linguistic Imperialism* (Oxford University Press, 1992):

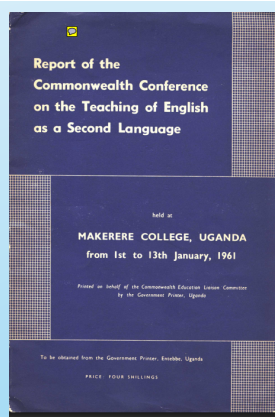
[Interview with Christopher Brumfit](#) by Robert Phillipson (1986)

Launch of the ELT Archive Oral History Collection

We've begun to develop an ELT Archive Oral History Collection, currently featuring interviews with A.S. Hornby (1969, 1974), self-recorded memoirs by L.G. Alexander (1981), A.V.P. Elliott (1981), L.A. Hill (1981), D.Y. Morgan (1985) and Bernard Lott (1986), and an interview by Robert Phillipson with Chris Brumfit (1986).

Recordings can be listened to here: https://warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive/oral-history/

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Digitisation of selected materials

The ELT Archive is primarily a physical collection – a resource for students, researchers and others interested who are able to visit and consult materials on site. However, we are gradually putting some rare items of general interest online – for example, the ‘Makerere Report’ (pictured above), which is extensively referred to as a founding ELT document in Robert Phillipson’s (1992) book *Linguistic Imperialism*. We scanned this and made it [downloadable here](#). Within copyright restrictions, we aim to make more such material available online in the near future.



Developing the China collection

We are pleased to report a small expansion of our [collection of Chinese ELT textbooks](#). The latest additions include two sets of ELT textbooks widely used in the 1950s – *Junior's English Teachers* – and late 1970s / early 1980s - the *English* series pictured above, published by the People's Press. Expanding this collection enhances the ELT Archive's ability to support historical studies of English language education policy and practice in China by students and visiting researchers.

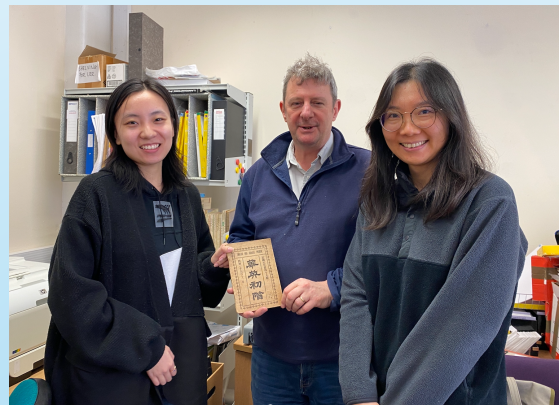
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HoLLT Research Circle

The HoLLT (History of Language Learning and Teaching) Research Circle comprises staff and students who meet every two weeks during term time in the ELT Archive space. Meetings this year have seen a mix of talks, informal presentations of work in progress, discussions, and collaborative planning. Circle members and invited speakers explored a rich range of themes, each shedding light on different aspects of language education and its history.

For example, in September, Professors Richard Smith and Azirah Hashim (previous President of AILA) shared their work on the history of AILA and the [AILA Archive](#) which they have brought together in the ELT Archive. This was followed by new PhD student Simon Dunton's presentation on English language teaching materials in the Soviet Union. Another session focused on Xi Li's current research in China, following award of her PhD earlier in the year, and we were also delighted to welcome her new colleague as a speaker, Dr Wen Chen, who introduced us to the life and work of a notable Spanish educator Lorenzo Luzuriaga active in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The term's meetings ended with Azadeh Moladoost sharing progress on her project about history of English language teaching in the U.S. Defense Language Institute in Iran.

Alongside these talks and presentations, circle members met to discuss the resumption of our collaborative project on L. G. Alexander. The session provided an opportunity to revisit his influential career and to examine *New Concept English*, his best-known textbook series, as we plan the next phase of our work together.



ICHoLLT 2025 papers

On 5–7 June 2025, the International Inter-Association Conference on the History of Language Learning and Teaching (ICHoLLT) 2025 was held at the University of Insubria, Como, in Italy. At this conference, the following papers were given by members of the Warwick HoLLT Research Circle:

Xi Li and Yi Zhang – 'Urban English learning needs amid social changes in early 20th century China: An analysis of editions of *Huaying Chujie*, the first Chinese-compiled English textbook'

Graham Hall and Richard Smith – 'Constructing HoLLT through methods: change and continuity in methods narratives over time'

Xi Li and Yi Zhang (pictured above on the left and right, respectively) have generously donated their copy of *Huaying Chujie* (first published 1903) to the ELT Archive.

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Other News and Updates



HELE-India news

We continue to collaborate with a team led by Professor Amol Padwad in India to develop historical research into English language education ('HELE') there. This year HELE-India launched its own [website](#) and organized a third conference, in Hyderabad, supported by the A.S. Hornby Educational Trust. HELE-India is a voluntary and open group of academics and researchers interested in HELE in India. The Society aspires to evolve into a vibrant community of people interested in HELE and aims to promote historiographical research in ELE, documenting and conserving valuable historical resources and encouraging and supporting the dissemination of knowledge of HELE in India.



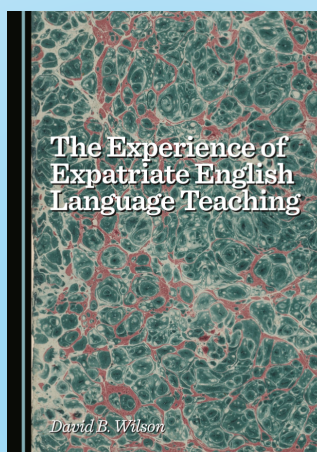
Italy ELT Archive developments

The Italy ELT Archive has been set up at the University of Milan by a team of researchers including Professors Luciana Pedrazzini and Andrea Nava, Dr Emanuela Tenca and Dr Martin Ruskov. Partially inspired by our own ELT Archive at Warwick, the project aims to promote research into and understanding of the principles underpinning ELT materials production in 20th-century Italy. In 2025, three articles relating to the Italy ELT Archive were published: one, in [Italiano LinguaDue](#), describes the design and development of the digital Archive and analyses how it can be used for researching second language teaching awareness in the context of training teachers; another, in [Iperstoria](#), is a case study about the ELT materials production of one of the authors in the Archive, Esther Menascè (1960s–1980s). A further paper, providing more technical detail about construction of the Archive, was published in [CEUR Workshop Proceedings](#).

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Advert

The Experience of Expatriate English Language Teaching by David B. Wilson



We supported completion, publication and promotion of this ELT history-related book by David B. Wilson, with a foreword by John Swales. It was difficult to find a publisher as the book falls somewhere between applied linguistics and literary criticism but Cambridge Scholars agreed to take it on, and full details are [here](#). The book uses a wide range of literary sources and memoirs to consider the experience of being an expatriate 'TEFLer' through the ages. Part One considers the present and recent past through an analysis of 15 fictional works and five memoirs. Part Two is concerned with the experiences of some historical iconic figures from the world of TEFL, beginning with the sixteenth century and ending with figures associated with the British Council and International House. Sample pages can be read [here](#).

And ...

Congratulations to Dr Xi Li on the award of her PhD (on the history of English education in missionary institutions in late 19th century and early 20th century China), and best wishes for her new career in China!



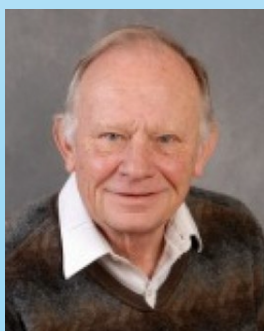
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Mario Rinvoluceri, R.I.P.



Mario Rinvoluceri died surrounded by family in Folkestone on February 19, 2025. He was described in the April issue of *Humanising Language Teaching* as ‘one of the founding fathers of Pilgrims, the founder and first editor of *Humanising Language Teaching* magazine, an ELT author, a visionary and charismatic teacher, teacher trainer, conference speaker, and a dear colleague’. Resource books by him in the ELT Archive collection include *Challenge to Think* (1982, OUP), *Once Upon a Time: Using Stories in the Language Classroom* (1983, CUP), *Grammar Games: Cognitive, Affective and Drama Activities for EFL Students* (1984, CUP), *Vocabulary* (1986, OUP), and *Dictation: New Methods, New Possibilities* (1988, CUP). Many tributes to Mario Rinvoluceri’s innovative and inspiring work can be read in the [April issue of *Humanising Language Teaching*](#), while the [HLT-Digital project](#) aspires to preserve his legacy and that of other humanistic language teaching practitioners.

John Swales, R.I.P.



John Swales passed away peacefully on March 18, 2025. As an [obituary on the University of Michigan English Language Institute website](#) states, he was ‘[b]est known for his groundbreaking work in genre analysis, [and] he leaves behind a legacy of over six decades of work in Applied Linguistics that has shaped how scholars and educators approach discourse analysis, genre studies, and the teaching of second language writing’. In the ELT Archive, we have preserved a [recording of a panel discussion on the history of EAP and BALEARP](#) at the 2013 BALEARP conference where John spoke (12:37 onwards) about 10 ‘lightbulb moments’ in his career in EAP and ESP.

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Focus on...

Women in ELT History

We continue to update information relating to Women in ELT History on this web-page:
https://warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive/halloffame/women/:

Collections ▶ ELT Archive ▶ Biographies ▶ Women in ELT History

Women in ELT History

"When one comes to think of it there are Hordes of Us but less loudly sung." (Shelagh Rixon, personal communication, March 2017)

This page has been constructed (starting in 2021) as a first step towards counteracting the preponderance of male figures in the Warwick ELT Archive 'Biographies' pages, which admittedly offer a kind of "received" or "canonical" selection of methodologists, based on largely UK-focused research. See note at the foot of the present page for more background to its development (see also this associated [blog post](#)).



In 2025, details and links were added for Brita Haycraft, June Derrick, Susan Holden, Jane Willis, Tessa Woodward and Gertrude Moskowitz, among others, on the basis of new information from the International House website, IATEFL Voices and, especially, the valuable legacy-preserving initiative HLT-Digital: <https://hlt.digital>.

English by TV



Walter and Connie
Reporting (1965, BBC TV &
British Council)



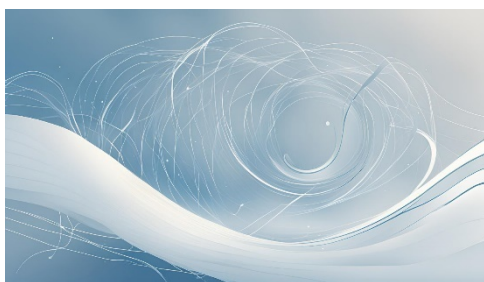
Slim John (1969, BBC TV &
British Council)



Follow Me (1973, BBC TV
& British Council)

On a [new ELT Archive page](#), we've been compiling information about 1960s–1980s English by TV programmes, and links to YouTube videos of episodes or extracts where available. For a snapshot of BBC English by Radio and Television production in 1977, see [BBC Handbook 1977, pp. 62–63](#). The series featured on the web-page – *Walter and Connie*, *Slim John*, and *Follow Me* were very popular outside the UK. The stars of *Walter and Connie* were greeted as celebrities on overseas visits, while *Follow Me* is said to have been watched by 500 million people in China when it was broadcast there from 1981 onwards.

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We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter.

During the coming year, for the most up-to-date
information on Warwick ELT Archive news and activities,
please join us on LinkedIn –

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-elt-archive/>

and/or Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/eltarchive>

and/or check our website:

http://www.warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive

Happy New Year!