

Editors' Foreword

PRINCE HENRY: ... What hast thou found?
PETO: **NOTHING BUT PAPERS, MY LORD.**
PRINCE HENRY: Let's see what they be: read them.
[*Henry IV*, Part I, Act II]

Gentle Reader! You hold in your hands a volume composed of 'nothing but papers,' yet, be not deceived, for 'tis a fine selection of twenty pieces, including three plenary lectures and seventeen essays, on sundry aspects of the Early Modern English period: linguistics, literature and literary theory, history, cultural and comparative studies, translation ...

It has been the editors' wish, in accordance with recent SEDERI policy regarding the qualitative improvement of its annual reviews, that only the finest contributions to the SEDERI XIII conference –held in Vigo from March 21st to March 23rd 2002– should be published. Accordingly, all papers have undergone an independent and anonymous peer-reviewing process, which has resulted in the editing or correction of some, and, alas, the rejection of others. Also in consonance with this policy, the papers in this volume share a common space, in strict alphabetical order, with the three plenary lectures by well-known scholars in the fields of historical linguistics and Renaissance literature, who were our guest speakers at the conference: John Drakakis (University of Stirling), Terttu Nevalainen (University of Helsinki) and Jacqueline Pearson (University of Manchester).

The successful outcome of the SEDERI XIII conference would not have been possible without the excellent facilities and attentive staff of our venue, the *Club Financiero Vigo*, but neither would it have been accomplished without the invaluable and good-humoured willingness of the following graduate and undergraduate students of the English Studies degree at Vigo University: Victorina González, María Platas, Rosalía Rodríguez, Aida Rosende and Nuria Yáñez.

We would also like to transmit our heartfelt thanks to Karen Duncan, director of the University of Santiago Theatre Group, and to her 'company' for their staging of Shakespeare's *Love's Labours Lost* at the *Centro*

Cultural Caixanova on the second evening, a refreshing interlude amid so much scholarly debate.

Finally, the organizing committee of SEDERI XIII is also indebted to the following institutions and publishers for official, financial and material support, as regards the organization of the conference and the edition of the present volume: Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología, Xunta de Galicia (Secretaría Xeral de Investigación e Desenvolvemento), Universidade de Vigo (Vicerrectorado de Investigación; Servicio de Publicacións; Departamento de Filoloxía Inglesa, Francesa e Alemana), Sociedad Española de Estudios Renacentistas Ingleses (SEDERI), Oxford University Press and Palgrave Ltd.

The Editors