

## PROLOGVS SEV PROLECTIO

*Many Sundry Wits Gathered Together* is the title of this miscellaneous book of essays on English Literary Studies. A classical term for the vague humanist connection of the parts integrated here. It has been born as the direct result of many papers read at the «I Congreso de Filoloxía Inglesa» held at the University of Coruña, their discussion with the audience and the specialists, their revision by their authors, and the final adjustments effected by the editors. The title is really just a wish of the editor to express the authoritative diversity that enhances English Studies these days in the fields of literary criticism and appreciation. It would also like to convey the underlying and pertinent idea that gatherings such as that one tend to improve the state of the art in the area. At least if we believe in the statistical principle that out of many things some will be commonplace, some will be good, and some will be excellent. Some, of course will also be deleterious and even contemptible, but let us assume that those may be absent from this publication.

*Many Sundry Wits Gathered Together* is also the result of many efforts, many hours of silent work and preparation, and the enthusiasm of many people who gathered at the University of Corunna in the Spring of 1995 (23-25 March). The conference, a special event to celebrate the full *licenciatura* studies in English at the Universidade da Coruña, was attended by hundreds of students, professionals, scholars and public interested in this area of study. Six plenary lectures, over 80 papers, 5 plenary discussion panels, and several parallel activities composed a summary of activities that we will not enumerate here in detail. All in all, over 30 different Spanish universities sent delegates and these represented a wide range of ages, positions, interests, and scientific approaches. It is only natural that a selection of the whole had to take place for the ensuing volumes to be published, and that despite that selection took place quite naturally, we also allotted a quota so that the younger scholars could be represented. We hope that a set of these divergent features is depicted in the selection that conforms *Many Sundry Wits Gathered Together*.

This volume embodies 43 articles dealing with English, American and Other Literatures in English. There are authors belonging to 15 different institutions of higher education, and the range of topics goes from Anglo-Saxon related debate poetry to *Double Yoke* (a book that appeared in 1992) and they include not just poetry, but also theatre, novels, short stories, and some indefinable works (at least in traditional or canonical terms). Three languages, English, Spanish and Galician are also gathered together in this book as working languages so as to further prove that spirit of secluded multi-perspective humanism that has been one of the main targets of the editor.

On behalf of the organising committee and the editors of this volume I would like to express our acknowledgements to the following persons and institutions who have backed *Many Sundry Wits Gathered Together*:

Our institutional supporters and sponsors: Rectorado, Vicerrectorado de Extensión Universitaria, Vicerrectorado de Investigación, Secretaría Xeral, Departamento de Filoloxía Inglesa, Facultade de Humanidades (Coruña), and Oficina de Cursos e Congresos from the Universidade da Coruña; The Fundación Barrié de la Maza — Banco Pastor, the Comisión do V Centenario da Universidade de Santiago de Compostela and the Consellería de Educación of the Xunta de Galicia.

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The English degree students of the University of Coruña deserve a very special place in our appreciation for their help and interest. It is unlikely that this book would have existed if they had not been there.

It is now time for me to start parting from these Western coasts, o gentle reader, thus to take my leave from you and to leave you with this many coloured company of wits, scholars and friends that the table following contains and accommodates. And if *Many Sundry Wits Gathered Together* passes jeopardy, come and tell what was said of me, and I will send more after it. Fare thee well, I acquitted shall be.

S. G. Fernández-Corugedo

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