Worldwideness

The April 2005 issue, ET82, was hardly out when I began to think I'd been premature in what I wrote in its Comment. I noted there that the issue 'had the smallest number of contributions ever listed: seven titles in all, whereas traditionally there have been ten or more'. The reason of course was the length of several of the articles: closer to 'papers' in standard academic journals (yet none the worse for it, readability being as safe as ever). However, I may have jumped the gun. In this issue we are back where we have usually been, with twelve reports and commentaries that are remarkable in terms of both their geographical spread and their topicality:

From China  Betsy Hu Xiaoqiong on China English
Jong Jin on China ELT

From Denmark  Robert Phillipson on David Crystal

From England  Gerry Abbott on calling people names
Keith Davidson on franglais
Paul Rastall on word formation

From Hong Kong
Li Lan on the intricacies of online dictionaries
Myself on the world's 'communicative ecology' (the what?)

From Scotland  Anne Seaton on oneself

From France  Michael Bulley on 'duty'

From Wales  David Crystal on being called a purist.

So, no more predictions for the time being.

A word, however, on e-technology. Almost nothing connected with the creation of ET is done now as it was done in 1984, when we began. Most notably at the present time, it is being edited in East Asia, in Hong Kong, and produced in Western Europe, in Cambridge (as always), and as easily as if it was all being done as usual in Cambridge. Nowadays, almost everyone in education and linguistics is 'wired', almost nothing comes by post any more, and if it does a diskette is included. There is a feature waiting to be written somewhere, on the ties that bind and blend English and other languages with this constantly evolving global technology, and the sheer speed with which it is all evolving.

Tom McArthur