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The Editorial Board of Moderna Språk 1957-1989.

In 1957 when Moderna språk was handed over to the Modern Language Teachers' Association of Sweden by the previous owner Nils Otto Heinertz, Johannes Hedberg, Gustav Korlén and Börje Schlyter accepted to be the new editors. In 1980 Schlyter was succeeded by Mats Forsgren.

During a period of 33 years this editorial board has published no less than 133 (!!) numbers of Moderna språk to be spread all over the world from the USA in the west to Japan in the east.

Among many other things the editors have tried very hard to be a link between the university and the school. They have published valuable information about various aspects of language-teaching thereby inspiring their readers to seek more knowledge. For many teachers and scholars Moderna språk has been an appreciated reading-companion.

On behalf of the Modern Language Teachers' Association of Sweden I want to thank the retiring editors for their excellent work and wish them all the best for the future.

Lennart Ericsson
 President

Moderna språk is an international academic journal published biannually by the Modern Language Teachers' Association of Sweden (LMS)

Articles and reviews in *Moderna språk* are normally written in English, German, French or Spanish.

Ever since it was first founded in 1906, the primary aim of *Moderna språk* has been to form a bridge between language research and language teaching, by discussing linguistic, literary and cultural aspects of the major school languages. In their inaugural address in 1957, Messrs Korlén, Hedberg and Schlyter, former editors of *Moderna språk*, wrote: "The purpose of the periodical is [...] twofold: to promote the study of modern languages and literature, and also to provide for the discussion of appropriate and satisfactory teaching methods." It will be the aim of the new board of editors to go on honouring these intentions.

What makes *Moderna språk* unique is that it aims at presenting the results of current research in a style and format accessible to expert and non-expert alike. This makes the journal indispensable to everyone who is interested in the scientific study and teaching of modern languages.

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J.C. WELLS

A Phonetic Update on RP

J.C. Wells, efterträdare till Daniel Jones och A.C. Gimson som professor i fonetik vid University College London, ger här en översikt över RP-uttalets utveckling under de senaste hundra åren. Wells publicerade 1982 *Accents of English 1-3*, det ledande standardverket om engelskans uttal regionalt och socialt, och är ensam ansvarig för den nya *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* som utkom i mars 1990.

Daniel Jones, Britain's best-known phonetician, was born in 1881. His codification of Received Pronunciation as a standard for the teaching of English as a foreign language (EFL) dates from the end of the first World War: the first edition of *An English Pronouncing Dictionary* was published in 1917, that of *An Outline of English Phonetics* in 1918. Today's secondary school pupils were born in 1970-1980, ninety to a hundred years after Jones. Clearly it cannot be right to insist on their following a pronunciation model that represents the usage of English people born almost a complete century before they were themselves. This article, therefore, is an attempt to summarize the most important phonetic changes that have taken place in RP over the last hundred years, and ways in which the Jones model is no longer fully appropriate. Many of the points, I have no doubt, will already be familiar to EFL teachers in Sweden; but some may come as a surprise.

The RP phoneme inventory of vowels and consonants remains unchanged, except for one development among the diphthongs: namely, the disappearance of /ɔə/ as a distinct phoneme, through its falling in with /ɔ:/. Thus the possibility which used to exist, of distinguishing between *floor* /flɔə/ and *flaw* /flɔ:/, is no longer available, and in modern RP these words are categorical homophones. So likewise are *pour*—*pore*—*paw*, *lore*—*law*, and *drawer* 'draglåda'—*draw*. (A consequence of this merger is the widespread tendency to use intrusive /r/ not only after /ə/ but also after /ɔ:/, as in *thawing* /'θɔ:riŋ/). Jones himself readily admitted that 'many speakers ... do not use the diphthong ɔə at all, but replace it always by ɔ:' (1932: §458); hence I find it disappointing that even such a generally up-to-date work as *Stora engelsk-svenska ordboken* still feels it appropriate to include [ɔə] in its list of symbols—though it does quite rightly make virtually no use of it in the transcriptions of headwords.

The diphthong /ʊə/, too, has fallen into a decline, though it remains a part of the system inasmuch as *jury*, for instance, still does not rhyme with *story*: /'dʒʊəri, 'stɔ:ri/. However, many words which once had /ʊə/ are now increasingly pronounced with /ɔ:/ instead. In