

**CHINED** (Conference on Historical News Discourse) took place in Florence on 2-3 September 2004. The conference organisers were Nicholas Brownlees (Florence) and Patrick Studer (Limerick). Given the historical dimension of the conference, news discourse was considered inclusive of not just the hard news of daily newspapers but also other forms of news discourse in genres preceding or existing alongside the creation and development of the traditional press.

The conference was very fortunate to have three excellent plenary speakers. They were Maurizio Gotti (Bergamo), Andreas Jucker (Zurich), Susan Herring (Indiana).

Maurizio Gotti's paper was entitled: "Disseminating Early Modern Science: Specialized News Discourse in *The Philosophical Transactions*". Susan Herring gave a paper on: "Relating Historical Discourse Genres and New Media Genres: The Case of Weblogs", while Andreas Jucker's paper was entitled: " 'But 'tis believed that ...': speech and thought presentation in early English newspapers".

The other speakers were: Udo Fries (Zurich): The Style of 18th-Century English Newspapers: Word frequencies; Nicholas Brownlees: The Battle for Hearts and Minds, or, the Cut and Thrust of Civil War News Discourse; Patrick Studer: Discourse Organisation in 18th Century Newspapers; Ellen Valle (Turku): Early Modern scientific news: the origins and development of scientific news discourse in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society of London; Anne McKim (Waikato): Daniel Defoe, Newsmonger; Marina Dossena (Bergamo): Forms of Argumentation and Verbal Aggression in the Darien Pamphlets; Mirella Billi (Viterbo): Ladies Fashion Magazines: Social Life and Consumerism in Eighteenth-Century England; Beate Dreike (Cork): The Beginnings of Ephemeral Novels in Germany; Valerie Wainwright (Florence): Contextualising Sterne's Sentimental Journey: Anglo-French Relations and the *Critical Review*; Andreas Stuhlmann (Cork): Polemical Interventions. Swift, Lessing, and the Question of Intellectual Combat in 18th News Discourse; Gabriella Del Lungo (Florence): Nineteenth-century business correspondence in English: Some handbooks for teaching letter writing to Italians; Laura Wright (Cambridge): Street addresses and directions in mid-eighteenth century London newspaper advertisements; Susan Kermas (Lecce): From Herbal to Advert.

All the papers were warmly received, and none more so than Udo Fries's. A special word of mention must go to Udo in that it was thanks to his initiative, encouragement and support that the ZEN corpus was created. The Zurich English Newspaper corpus, the largest historical news discourse in existence, is of immeasurable use to historical news scholars.

The conference had been organised with a certain trepidation. As far as the convenors knew, it was the first of its kind, and so there was little idea as to how much interest it would create. In brief, would it really be international, would the participants find the work of their colleagues useful and stimulating, and what about the wine at the Conference dinner? We had booked in at Ristorante Frescobaldi, a Florentine restaurant owned by one of the most renowned wine producers in Tuscany, but just how good would the wines be?

I would like to think that the answers to all the above questions were affirmative. Certainly, when at the end of the conference Andreas Jucker and Udo Fries announced that CHINED2 would be held in Zurich, everyone was very pleased.

Selected papers from the conference will be published by Peter Lang. The title of the volume is: *News Discourse in Early Modern Britain*.

Nicholas Brownlees