

Daniel T. Brink, Jr.  
1940–1997

Daniel T. Brink, Jr., a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the journal and professor of English at Arizona State University, died on October 17, 1997. After a three-year illness, he succumbed at age fifty-seven to cancer of the brain.

Professor Brink was born on May 26, 1940. He held a B.A. in German with a minor in mathematics from Lawrence University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His 1971 dissertation is titled “Problems in phonological theory: A generative phonology of Dutch.” In 1976, after having taught at the University of California at Berkeley and as a Fulbright senior lecturer at the University of Amsterdam, he came to Arizona State University with his wife, Jean R. (Wise) Brink, also professor of English at ASU, and their two sons, Robert and Peter. Throughout his time at ASU, he continued periodically to be a visiting professor at Berkeley, the University of Texas at Galveston, and the Universität Tübingen, Germany.

In the twenty-one years he was a member of the ASU faculty, Professor Brink pursued his primary academic interests: phonological issues in historical linguistics — chiefly comparative West Germanic, language standardization and officialization, and humanities computing. Among his most recent publications were his 1994 *Research in humanities computing*, 3, coedited with Don Ross and published by Oxford University Press, his 1990 *Perspectives on official English*, coedited with Karen Adams and published by Mouton de Gruyter, and his 1994 “Issues in Early American English: Using evidence from the *Journal of Madam Knight*,” in *American Journal of Germanic Linguistics and Literatures* 6.199–210. His work in these fields brought prestige to ASU and national recognition to Professor Brink.

Because of his achievements, he was elected to the executive committees of the Society for Germanic Philology, the Modern Language Association (MLA) Discussion Group for Netherlandic Language and Literature, the MLA Discussion Group for Germanic Philology, and the MLA Discussion Group for Humanities Computing. He was also a member of the National Executive Committee for the

Association for Computing and the Humanities. In addition to being on the Editorial Advisory Board for the *American Journal of Germanic Linguistics and Literatures*, he wrote regular editorial columns for both *Modern Language Journal* and *Computers and the Humanities*.

His contributions to linguistics and humanities computing at Arizona State University were many. He was a driving force behind the development of linguistics at ASU, serving as the chair of the University Committee on Linguistics and the director of the English department's M.A. program in linguistics, and he worked closely with colleagues in library development. He mentored numerous students in the linguistics, Germanic, and TESL programs, who sought him out not only for his expertise and enthusiasm but also for his patience and humor.

Professor Brink conceived of, planned, and oversaw construction of an \$850,000 computerized humanities training facility for the Language and Literature Building at ASU. He was appointed manager of the Office of Technical Assessment and Development (1987–88) and associate dean for technology integration in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at ASU (1990–92), and he served on numerous other university committees dealing with technology integration. Even with these major projects, he always found the time to tutor his colleagues on an individual basis and save us from periodic computer disasters. Before falling ill in 1994, he was continuing to develop technologically innovative courses in historical linguistics, Modern English grammar, and introductory linguistics and helping to create a state-of-the-art language laboratory for use by the language and linguistics programs at the university.

Daniel Brink was a man of considerable intellect and integrity and a major force of reason, innovation, and humor for his colleagues, students, and family. He dealt with his final illness as he did all else, with honesty, grace, and concern for others, never failing to remind us what really matters in our lives. The halls at ASU are quieter now, and we miss him. [KAREN L. ADAMS and ROBERT E. BJORK, *Arizona State University*]

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