

Packing it all in

A typically ambiguous phrasal-verb headline – referring in this case not to giving up *ET* but another matter altogether. Indeed, this is one of the better problems to have: the volume of material coming in from every corner of the world.

We have never been short of material, but in the last two years more people than ever have been seeking publication in *ET* or responding promptly to invitations to write for us. Many who want to be published have never been able to get hold of a copy (because of where they live in the world and/or the cost), but have heard that the journal is important – a point emphasized by the number of our articles quoted or listed in periodicals and new books.

In addition (a rueful point for our publishers), many people read items individually reproduced from *ET* who have never seen a complete issue – or felt the need to see one.

In the last year or so we have gone from comfortably filling our 64 pages (with room for some fun or even for trivia) to wondering how to fit in everything significant without losing the lighter side. In this issue, Peter Ducker and I have engaged in a bit of serious shoe-horning to get as much as possible in, something that looks like becoming standard practice.

How we've got things in may not of course be obvious – no one but the authors know what gems have been sacrificed. But in a periodical called *English Today* I feel obliged to draw attention to the kinds of device we have used to make space.

Contributors have moved (sometimes massively) into adding notes and references, a practice we once discouraged. I haven't resisted because they have often had a point; for certain articles, such matter adds value, providing background information that many may need (immediately or later). Articles have often also tended to be longer.

Our latest solution to the space problem has been to drop down a type size for notes and then a further size for references, in this way keeping as much room as possible for *Crossword*, *Kaleidoscope*, etc. We have also been using smaller print for *Recent Titles*, a practice I am now extending to the whole of *Reviews and Displays*. These tricks seem to work well, but your comments are welcome(d) in these as in other matters.

Tom McArthur

The editorial policy of *English Today* is to provide a focus or forum for all sorts of news and opinion from around the world. The points of view of individual writers are as a consequence their own, and do not reflect the opinion of the editorial board. In addition, wherever feasible, *ET* generally leaves unchanged the orthography (normally British or American) and the usage of individual contributors, although the editorial style of the journal itself is that of Cambridge University Press.

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A call for papers: In *ET*'s files we have cuttings/clippings from a wide range of British and North American newspapers, and a scattering of material from many other sources. If readers would care to add to our files by sending in occasional (titled and dated) materials from their local newspapers, etc., this would be a great help in widening the range of usage which we can quote.

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