

Conference Report

The Association for French Language Studies held its Annual Conference at Clyne Castle, University of Wales Swansea, from 3rd to 5th September 1999. The conference was organised by Dr Dulcie Engel of the French Department, and the theme was «Évolutions du français: problèmes posés à la recherche et à l'enseignement». The conference attracted around 60 delegates from the UK, Ireland, France, Belgium, Denmark and Israel. These included five distinguished plenary speakers: Professor L.-J. Calvet (Paris–Sorbonne) spoke on the language of youth; Dr C. Vettors (Littoral) spoke on the past tenses of French; Professor C. Sanders (Surrey) spoke on linguistic thought in and around 1876; Professor J. Green (Bradford) spoke on fillers and hesitations in French phonology; Professor D. Trotter (Aberystwyth) spoke on variation and the history of French. In addition, there was a workshop on the year abroad led by Professor J. Coleman (Portsmouth) and Dr M.-M. Kenning (UEA); a forum on variation led by Dr T. Pooley (London Guildhall) and Dr D. Hornsby (Kent); plus 27 papers in parallel sessions, covering many aspects of research and pedagogy.

The delegates enjoyed the warm September sun and the wonderful ambience of the 18th century castle set in botanic gardens leading down to the sea. The excellent cuisine was also appreciated, as was the *vin d'honneur* sponsored by Hodder & Stoughton Educational; the sherry reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robin Williams; the conference dinner and *Twmpath* (Welsh folk dancing), where great fun was had by all. The weekend was rounded off by a guided walk along Swansea Bay to Oystermouth Castle and The Mumbles.