

Richard Milne Hogg

Richard Milne Hogg was born on May 20 1944, and died suddenly on 6 September 2007 of a heart attack. Richard was born in Edinburgh and attended both school and University in the city, all of which, much later, meant that his election to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2004 was particularly special to him. Richard graduated with first class honours in English Language and Literature in 1967 and subsequently worked as a graduate student both on his doctorate on modern English syntax, and on Angus MacIntosh's Middle English Dialect Project, now the Institute of Historical Dialectology. His first lectureship was in Amsterdam, and he then moved to Lancaster and then in 1980, at the age of 36, to the Smith Chair of English Language and Medieval Literature at the University of Manchester, where he remained, with brief excursions into faculty administration, as the University restructured itself around him.

Richard became increasingly engaged with the history of English, and alongside a range of books and articles on sounds and their theoretical analysis, he embarked on his *Grammar of Old English*; the first volume was published in 1992, and the second was well towards completion when he died. In addition, he showed his great skills as an editor, and as conceptualiser and director of large and complex projects, in his championing of the multi-volume and multi-author *Cambridge History of the English Language*, which appeared between 1992 and 2001. He, Bas Aarts and David Denison also established the journal *English Language and Linguistics* in 1997; it has become increasingly important to the growing and thriving community of English Language scholars and students. However, Richard also became increasingly interested in variation in modern English, and in attitudes to accents and dialects; characteristically, as a historical linguist, he then chose to explore earlier traditions of scholarship on dialects, and was deep in the (sadly unfinished) *History of English Dialectology* at the time of his death.

Not only was Richard Hogg an outstanding researcher, but he was also a superb teacher and lecturer whose talks regularly enlivened conferences (and whose outrageous laugh tended equally to enliven the social sessions afterwards). He inspired enormous loyalty and affection among his colleagues and students, and was a tireless encourager of more junior linguists. As well as his FRSE (2004), he was a Fellow of the British Academy (1994), and played a leading role through his work with the British Academy in bringing together the professional associations and other bodies associated with linguistics, for instance in chairing a central nominating group for the 2001 linguistics RAE panel. His family was also extremely important to him: he and Margaret, who married in 1967, had two sons, Daniel and Robert.

An annual prize of £500 has been set up in his memory by the International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE). The Richard M. Hogg Prize is open to students and early-career scholars and is for a paper of up to 10,000 words on any research-related topic in English language or English linguistics. Given Richard's enormous influence on his discipline, and his concern for his students, this is surely the most fitting of memorials.

April McMahon

Richard Milne Hogg, MA, PhD(Edinburgh), Diploma in General Linguistics, MA (Manchester), FBA. Born 20 May 1944, elected FRSE 1 March 2004, died 6 September 2007.