

## SAUTE 1947-2022 A Brief History

*by Andreas Fischer*

On 21 May 1947 two professors of English, Eugen Dieth of Zurich and Georges Bonnard of Lausanne, sent the following letter to a number of their colleagues:

We beg to inform you that the University teachers of English were invited to form an association so as to be able to join, as an association, the “Humanities Association of Switzerland” (Schweizerische Geisteswissenschaftliche Gesellschaft [SGG] – Association Suisse des sciences morales – Società svizzera di scienze morali), recently constituted with the aim of fostering humanistic studies.

The Association of English Teachers (founded a few years ago as a branch of the Verein Schweizerischer Gymnasiallehrer) could not be asked to join on account of its interests being, or appearing, more professional than strictly scientific. So a new and distinct association became necessary, and Professor Straumann called a meeting of his colleagues and laid before them the proposal of founding a “Swiss Association of University Teachers of English”. That meeting took place at Bern on May 18th 1947. Were present Professors Bonnard (Lausanne), Dieth (Zürich), Funke (Bern), Straumann (Zürich), Wildi (St. Gallen) and P.D. Stamm (Basel).

At that meeting, the decision was duly taken of founding the proposed association, with the purpose of joining the “Humanities Association of Switzerland”.<sup>1</sup>

SAUTE was thus officially founded on 18 May 1947 and it is appropriate that we celebrate its 75th anniversary this year.

Even before it was founded, however, SAUTE had a spectral presence in the Swiss academic landscape: According to its official history the Schweizerische Geisteswissenschaftliche Gesellschaft was established half a year earlier, on 24 November

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<sup>1</sup> Letter by Eugen Dieth and Georges Bonnard to colleagues dated 21 May 1947. The documents referred to in Notes 1, 3 to 7 and 16 were made available to me by Anita Auer, the current president of SAUTE. All websites referred to were last accessed on 30 October 2022. I am grateful to Anita Auer and Martin Mühlheim for corrections and suggestions.

1946 as a parent association of nine professional organisations representing history, classics, art history, German studies, Romance studies, English studies, folklore studies, prehistoric archaeology and philosophy.<sup>2</sup> Heinrich Straumann, who was present at the inaugural meeting of the SGG on 24 November 1946, thus represented an association that, at the time, did not in fact exist.

To set itself apart from school teachers this new association called itself an association of *university* teachers of English. At the same time, the choice of the term *teachers* rather than *professors* seemed to strike an inclusive note, suggesting that the membership envisaged comprised professorial as well as non-professorial members of staff. Its aim was (and is) a simple one, “to promote and to develop English studies in Switzerland.”<sup>3</sup>

The beginnings of SAUTE were rocky, to say the least. Writing to Eugen Dieth, SAUTE’s first president, on 30 October 1948 Georges Bonnard complains that a circular letter of his elicited practically no response:

I suppose you will agree with me in interpreting their [i. e. our colleagues’] silence as the proof of their complete indifference to the Association and the work it might do.

I therefore suggest that you convene a general meeting of the Association, according to our bye-laws, No. 9, with the express purpose of dissolving it.<sup>4</sup>

Such a meeting did indeed take place in Berne on 26 November 1948, but it “could not do anything owing to most of us being unable to attend.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Gisler, *Zwischen Wissenschaft, Gesellschaft und Politik*, p. 25. The nine professional organisations, in Gisler’s words, were the Allgemeine Geschichtsforschende Gesellschaft, the Altphilologen-Vereinigung, the Gesellschaft für Schweizerische Kunstgeschichte, the Akademische Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Germanisten, the Romanisten-Vereinigung, the Anglisten-Vereinigung (represented by Heinrich Straumann), the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Volkskunde, the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Urgeschichte and the Fachgesellschaft für Philosophie. Also present were representatives of the Vereinigung Schweizerischer Hochschuldozenten.

<sup>3</sup> “Der Zweck der Gesellschaft wird in den Statuten wie folgt umschrieben: ‘L’association se propose de favoriser et de développer les études anglaises en Suisse’” (Fricker, 25 Jahre SAGA). The statutes of SAUTE were revised by the AGM of 23 April 2004, but the wording of this paragraph was not changed; see ESSU 2004–2005, pp. 3f. and 7–9.

<sup>4</sup> Letter by Georges Bonnard to Eugen Dieth dated 30 October 1948.

<sup>5</sup> Letter by Georges Bonnard to the members of SAUTE dated 21 May 1949.

SAUTE soldiered on, limiting its activities to an absolute minimum: It held an annual meeting every year and submitted a report to the SSG. Problems persisted all the same. In 1954 Eugen Dieth wrote to Max Wassmer, the treasurer of the SSG:

Our association was founded only a few years ago and solely for the purposes of the Humanities Association, it has only 10 members and does not have any activities of its own. There is, apparently, no need to be organized, and there are no agenda items. What had to be discussed has been dealt with along the way. [...] This way of handling business has proved to be necessary since it has been well-nigh impossible to have a quorum at the official annual general meetings.<sup>6</sup>

Fortunately, things eventually began to pick up, and on the occasion of SAUTE's 25th anniversary in 1972 its then president, Robert Fricker, could present the Association in a more positive light. He reported that the

annual meetings, after encountering difficulties at first, met with considerable interest. In the last few years some hours of these get-togethers, to which the wives were invited as well, were devoted to personal conversations and for visiting institutions, which, although not directly relevant for English studies, nevertheless had many things to offer to interested non-specialists.<sup>7</sup>

Providing a forum for members to inform each other of important events, institutional developments and research activities was and is one of the most important functions of the association. During the first twenty years of its existence this exchange of information happened mostly on the occasion of SAUTE's annual general meetings. From 1967 onwards SAUTE also produced a mimeographed bulletin called 'Swiss Information Sheets', replaced ten years later "by an offset-printed booklet of some thirty pages entitled *English Studies in Swiss Universities*."<sup>8</sup> This annual booklet, called ESSU in short,

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<sup>6</sup> Letter by Eugen Dieth to Max Wassmer dated 17 April 1954, my translation: "Unsere Gesellschaft ist erst vor einigen Jahren und nur zu S.G.G. Zwecken gegründet worden, zählt nur 10 Mitglieder und kennt eigentlich keine gesellschaftseigene Unternehmungen. Das Bedürfnis nach Organisation scheint nicht zu bestehen, und somit fehlt es uns auch an wichtigen Traktanden. Was in letzter Zeit zu besprechen war, wurde gleichsam nebenbei [...] erledigt. Diese Art der Geschäftserledigung ergibt sich auch aus der Tatsache, dass wir an offiziellen Jahresversammlungen kaum ein Quorum zusammenbringen können."

<sup>7</sup> Report by Robert Fricker on the occasion of SAUTE's 25th anniversary, my translation: "In den Händen der Vorsitzenden lag auch die Durchführung der Jahresversammlungen, die nach Ueberwindung der anfänglichen Schwierigkeiten einem erfreulichen Interesse begegneten. In den letzten Jahren wurden jeweils einige Stunden dieser Zusammenkunft, zu der auch die Gattinnen eingeladen waren, dem persönlichen Gespräch und der Besichtigung von Institutionen gewidmet, die mit dem Fachbereich zwar nur in mittelbarem Zusammenhang stehen, deren Kenntnis aber auch dem Aussenstehenden mancherlei Anregung bietet."

<sup>8</sup> Decision taken by the AGM of 26 May 1979; see ESSU 1979-1980 (the first of these booklets), p. 3.

has been published every year since the academic year 1979/80 – as a booklet from 1979/80 through 2014/15 and as a pdf-document since 2010/11. It contains the minutes of the association’s AGMs and other reports, overviews of the teaching staffs of every department in the country as well their teaching programme for the past academic year and, finally, a list of publications as well as dissertations and “Habilitationsschriften” (published, completed and in progress). ESSU has proved to be extremely useful, both as a work of reference and as a chronicle that documents SAUTE’s activities.<sup>9</sup> SAUTE, of course, also has its own website and it contributes to <lang-lit.ch>, the “Portal der Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften [...] der Philologien in der Schweiz”.

SAUTE has maintained and developed contacts with other organisations that pursue similar aims. First and foremost this is the former SGG, now SAGW/ASSH, the Swiss Association of the Arts and Social Sciences.<sup>10</sup> Not only has the SAGW been SAUTE’s parent association from the start, but it has also funded SAUTE throughout its existence.<sup>11</sup> In 1991 SAUTE became a member of the newly founded ESSE, the European Society for the Study of English.<sup>12</sup> It also maintains friendly relationships with newer organisations that testify to the fact that the field of English studies has become more diversified and more specialized: they are SANAS, the Swiss Association for North American Studies,<sup>13</sup> SAMEMES, the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early

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<sup>9</sup> *Inter alia* ESSU also contains obituaries of some of its former members, see Appendix 1.

<sup>10</sup> The SGG changed its name to “Schweizerische Akademie der Geisteswissenschaften (SAGW)” in 1985 and to “Schweizerische Akademie der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften” in 1991; see Gisler, *Zwischen Wissenschaft, Gesellschaft und Politik*, pp. 112 and 121. The number of its member societies has grown from nine in 1946 to 62 in 2021; see the list in Gisler, *Zwischen Wissenschaft, Gesellschaft und Politik*, pp. 188-191).

<sup>11</sup> SAUTE’s main sources of revenue are the SAGW contributions for publications (SPELL), its membership fees (currently CHF 60.00 per person) and the SAGW contributions for conferences (mostly the biennial symposia).

<sup>12</sup> “ESSE was created in Rome in January 1990. The Society is a European federation of national higher educational associations for the study of English. The Society endeavours to reflect the cultural and geographical diversity of Europe in its institutions. The aim of the Society is to advance the education of the public by promoting the European study and understanding of English languages, literatures in English and cultures of English-speaking peoples.” <<https://essenglish.org/what-we-do/>>.

<sup>13</sup> “The Swiss Association for North American Studies was founded in 1978 to provide a structure that would facilitate contact among Swiss scholars interested in American Studies and allow them to be represented institutionally in the European Association for American Studies (EAAS).” <<https://www.sagw.ch/sanas>>.

Modern English Studies,<sup>14</sup> and SWELL, Swiss Works in English Language and Linguistics, an informal network of mostly junior linguists.<sup>15</sup>

For well over thirty years of its existence, SAUTE was a fairly exclusive “club”, membership being restricted to professors and to persons with a “Habilitation”. As Robert Fricker wrote in 1972, on the occasion of SAUTE’s 25th anniversary,

[e]ven though, according to article 5 of the statutes, membership is open “à toute personne résidant en Suisse qui poursuit des travaux dans le domaine des études anglaises” it has been restricted in practice to university teachers with a “Habilitation” [i.e. professors and “Privatdozenten”]. This is the reason why the association has only 27 members even today.<sup>16</sup>

SAUTE had nine members when it was founded and it grew only slowly, to 27 in 1972 and to 58 in June 1984. In that year, however, membership requirements were relaxed considerably. It was decided that

SAUTE membership is open to

- 1) All persons who are professors or Privatdozenten and who teach English at a Swiss university;
- 2) persons who are neither professors nor Privatdozenten may be accepted, if
  - a) they have a doctorate and if
  - b) they have a long-term teaching position at a Swiss university, which is their chief occupation and involves research on a scholarly (post-doctoral) level (exclusive of teachers of ‘service courses’).
- 3) distinguished scholars in English studies.<sup>17</sup>

Ten years later, in 1994, this ruling was replaced by a new, even more inclusive one:

Membership is open to all persons with a first degree in the field working towards advanced degrees and/or involved in continuing substantial research.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See <<https://www.unil.ch/samemes/en/home.html>>.

<sup>15</sup> “SWELL is an informal organization for the networking of all Swiss doctoral and Habilitation researchers working on the English language”; see <<https://swell.philhist.unibas.ch/en/>>.

<sup>16</sup> Report by Robert Fricker on the occasion of SAUTE’s 25th anniversary, my translation: “Obwohl die Mitgliedschaft nach Art. 5 der Statuten ‘à toute personne résidant en Suisse qui poursuit des travaux dans le domaine des études anglaises’ zuerkannt werden kann, hat sie sich seither auf habilitierte Hochschullehrer beschränkt. Dies ist der Grund, weshalb die Gesellschaft auch heute nur 27 Mitglieder zählt [...]”

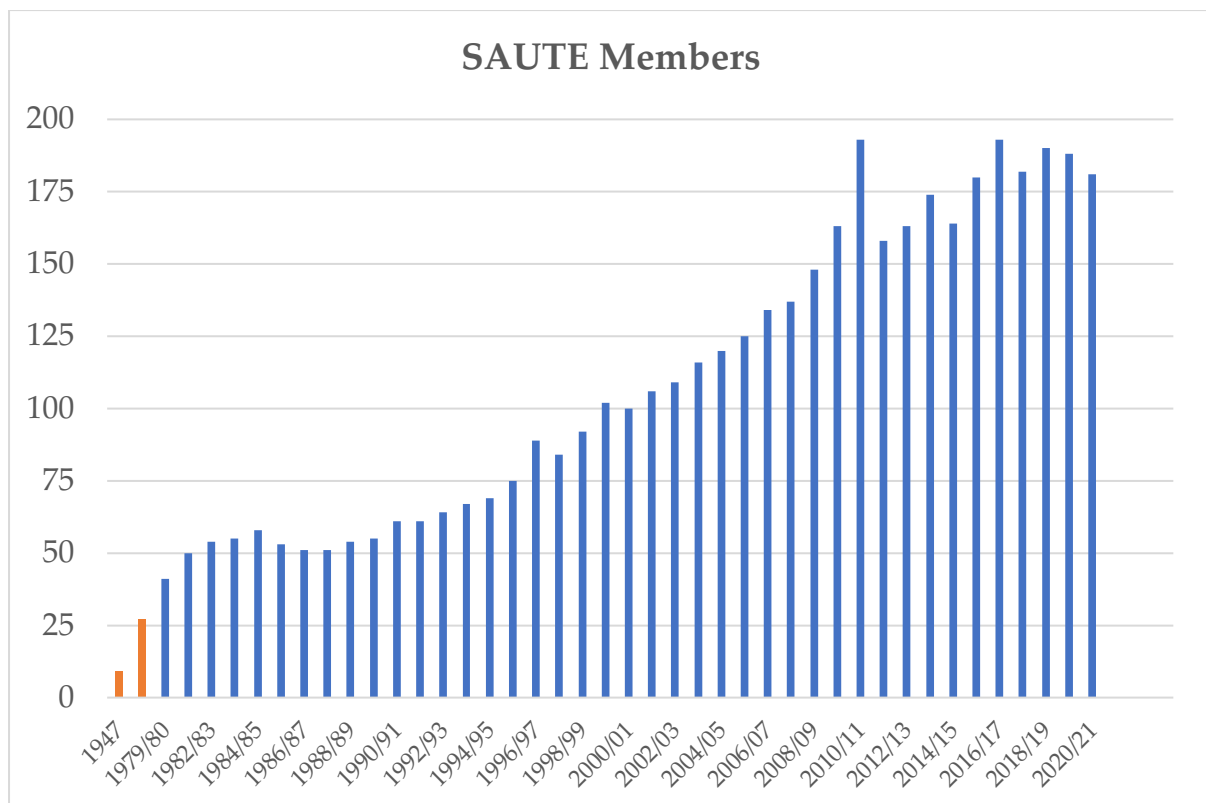
<sup>17</sup> Decision taken by the AGM of 26 May 1984; see ESSU 1984-1985, p. 8. On 7 May 1988 this ruling was discussed at length and it was amended slightly in that “long-term teaching position” was defined to mean “at least four years”; see ESSU 1988-1989, p. 3.

<sup>18</sup> Decision taken by the AGM of 7 May 1994; see ESSU 1994-1995, p. 3.

SAUTE’s statutes were revised in 2004, and the admission requirements, reformulated again on that occasion, are now the following:

Membership is open to persons who teach at a university and/or who are involved in scholarly research. The AGM decides on applications for membership.<sup>19</sup>

We have seen that the requirements to become a member of SAUTE have become more and more liberal over the years. Together with the fact that in the same period all eight Swiss departments of English have grown substantially this has resulted in a impressive increase in SAUTE’s membership – from 58 in 1984 (when the rules were relaxed for the first time) to 103 in 2000 and to between 150 and 200 from 2010 onwards.<sup>20</sup>



<sup>19</sup> My translation; the statues are in German (and French): “Die Mitgliedschaft steht Personen offen, die an einer Hochschule unterrichten und/oder wissenschaftlich tätig sind. Über Beitrittsgesuche entscheidet die Generalversammlung.” The Decision was taken by the AGM of 23 April 2004; see ESSU 2004-2005, pp. 3f. and 7-9.

<sup>20</sup> See Appendix 2 for details. At the AGM of 28 April 2017 it was announced that the SAUTE board had decided to introduce three types of membership status: full members, non-paying members and former members (ESSU 2017-2018, p. 5). The difference matters: According to the list published in ESSU 2017-2018, SAUTE had 182 members in January 2018, but according to SAUTE’s accounts for 2018 (ESSU 2019-2020, p. 10) only 137 paid their membership dues.

SAUTE's membership has also become younger and more fluctuating: Young people join it when engaged on a MA or a PhD thesis<sup>21</sup> and may leave it when opting for a career outside of the university. This has meant a change in what one might call SAUTE's mission: Originally and for a long time it was an association of established, mostly senior professionals; now it is one of people who are engaged in English studies, but not necessarily for the whole of their career.

The activities of SAUTE mentioned so far may be called standard: SAUTE did (and does) bring its members together, it collects information about English studies in Switzerland and distributes it for everyone's benefit. The question must now be asked whether SAUTE has gone beyond this, whether it has developed and implemented projects over and above those of the individual departments, whether it has created added value and whether it has increased the visibility of English studies in general. One may mention four such projects, two that unfortunately never took off and two that did.<sup>22</sup>

A question that came up repeatedly in SAUTE's history was whether the libraries of the various departments and universities should collaborate in order to allow specialisation and whether SAUTE should coordinate this. A possible model for such an enterprise was the "Nordamerikabibliothek" proposed by Heinrich Straumann in Zürich in the late 1960s.<sup>23</sup> Straumann's vision was a central, specialized library that would collect all books and periodicals published in North America, an estimated 20,000 items per year. A proposal submitted to the Swiss National Science Foundation in 1969 was rejected as too ambitious, but a reduced variant was supported by the government (Regierungsrat) of the canton of Zurich in the subsequent year. The

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<sup>21</sup> SAUTE supports doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers with travel awards, a funding scheme introduced in 2004; see ESSU 2004-2005, p. 4 and <<https://www.saute.ch/en/saute/funding/saute-travel-award>>.

<sup>22</sup> This may be the place to mention two earlier, pre-SAUTE projects involving – in principle – all departments of English: In 1936 two professors based in Switzerland, Bernhard Fehr (Zürich) and Henry Lüdeke (Basel), joined the journal *English Studies* (established in 1919 by R. W. Zandvoort) as associate editors, and the journal has had at least one "Swiss" associate editor ever since. Also in 1936 Fehr, Lüdeke and Otto Funke (Bern) established a book series called "Schweizer Anglistische Arbeiten [SAA] / Swiss Studies in English" to accommodate outstanding doctoral dissertations, "Habilitationsschriften" etc. The nearly 150 volumes published since 1936 bear witness to the range and quality of English studies in Switzerland over the years.

<sup>23</sup> This paragraph is based on Nikola Leudolph, "Die Nordamerikabibliothek" in Fischer, *Es begann mit Scott und Shakespeare*, p. 117f.

Nordamerikabibliothek (NAB) was opened in 1972 as a separate library within the Zentralbibliothek; in 1994 it became an integral part of the Zentralbibliothek.

The Nordamerikabibliothek was not a SAUTE project, but similar ideas were discussed repeatedly – and never came to fruition. In the minutes of the AGM of 1981 one reads:

The idea of a specialization of our university libraries was also discussed again. The question had been raised for the first time in 1972! It was then proposed that each seminar library should on the one hand continue to purchase outstanding works in any field of English and American lit. and language, and on the other hand concentrate on a comparatively small field and try and achieve completeness of material in it. It proved difficult, however, to agree on a reasonable share-out of fields, and present budget restrictions seem to preclude adequate specialization anyway. It was therefore decided that such a distribution was not practicable. Each university is, of course, free to specialize as it wants and can.<sup>24</sup>

Discussions continued, but the AGM of 1990 came to the same negative conclusion:

The specialization of department libraries was seen to be too closely linked with research interests to be amenable to any sort of formal division and agreement between English departments.<sup>25</sup>

Another project that never took off was the writing of a history of English studies in Switzerland. The plan for such a history was discussed and accepted at the AGM of 28 September 1982 “and a committee was formed to pursue this plan. It consists of Professors Fricker, Straumann, and Zimmermann.”<sup>26</sup> Half a year later, on 27 May 1983, Professor Zimmermann gave a progress report, noting that the committee “envisages a synthetic account rather than a series of monographs on each university.”<sup>27</sup> Another year later, on 26 May 1984, it was reported that the project “has not made much progress yet, but discussion continues.”<sup>28</sup> Nothing more was heard of the committee, and the project seems to have been quietly abandoned. However, members of SAUTE have published articles on aspects of the history of English studies in Switzerland since.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> AGM of 13 June 1981; see ESSU 1981-1982, p. 3f.

<sup>25</sup> AGM of 5 May 1990; see ESSU 1990-1991, p. 6.

<sup>26</sup> ESSU 1982-1983, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup> ESSU 1983-1984, p. 7.

<sup>28</sup> ESSU 1984-1985, p. 9.

<sup>29</sup> See Zimmermann (1983) on “English Studies in the Universities of French-speaking Switzerland”, Fischer (1993) on “Medieval English Studies in Switzerland” and Engler (2000) on “English Studies in



From two SAUTE projects that never came to fruition, let me move on to two that did.

In the minutes of the AGM of 26 May 1979 it is reported that

[i]t was [...] decided that the association would continue to investigate the possibility of creating a Swiss scholarly yearly publication or series. Each number could be centred on a certain topic, and it might be connected with the organization of symposia coinciding with the annual meetings of the association. Professor Mortimer accepted to chair a committee which will prepare projects for the next meeting; other members are Dr Engler and Dr Halter. Professor Nänny will be invited to join the committee.<sup>30</sup>

The two ideas forming the core of this proposal, biennial symposia and a publication, were realized within a relatively short period of time: SAUTE's first symposium took place in Lausanne in 1981, followed by a second in Geneva in 1983, and the first volume of its publication (to be called *Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature*, or – in short – SPELL) was published in 1984.<sup>31</sup> Both the symposia and SPELL have become core aspects of SAUTE's identity.

The two-day symposia have taken place every two years since 1981; they are hosted by one of the eight Swiss departments of English in turn<sup>32</sup> and have become a central part of SAUTE's activities, bringing together members of SAUTE and other interested parties under a heading that is of interest to scholars of literature, language and culture.

SPELL has also flourished: Until 1993 it was a biennial publication containing a selection of papers given at the SAUTE symposia. In 1994 it became an annual,<sup>33</sup> and from 2009 onwards the publication rhythm was increased from one volume per year to

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Switzerland". The only monograph on English studies at one university so far is Fischer's book on Zurich (2016). See the Bibliography for details.

<sup>30</sup> ESSU 1979-1980, p. 3. See also ESSU 1981-1982, p. 3 and ESSU 1982-1983, pp. 1 and 4ff.

<sup>31</sup> From 1984 until 1993 SPELL was a biennial and not, as originally envisaged, an annual publication.

<sup>32</sup> During the first "cycle" (1981-1995) the symposia were organised by the English departments of the universities of Lausanne, Geneva, St. Gall, Neuchâtel, Basel, Fribourg, Zurich and Berne in this order. The third "cycle" (in which St. Gall did not take part) will end with the 2025 symposium to be hosted by the English department of the University of Berne. For details see Appendix 3.

<sup>33</sup> This is documented in the minutes of the AGMs of 9 May 1992 and 7 May 1993; see ESSU 1992-1993, p. 6 and ESSU 1993-1994, p. 5f.

three volumes every two years.<sup>34</sup> From being a SAUTE project at the beginning, SPELL has developed into a publication that documents the activities of SANAS and SAMEMES as well.<sup>35</sup> To date SPELL has been the responsibility of four general editors: Max Nännny (1984-1994, vols. 1 to 7), Andreas Fischer (1995-2007, vols. 8 to 19), Lukas Erne (2007-2018, vols. 20 to 36) and Ina Habermann (2019ff., vols. 37ff.).<sup>36</sup> Up to volume 40 SPELL was a print publication published by Narr Francke Attempto Verlag (originally Gunter Narr Verlag) in Tübingen, but all volumes are available electronically, on E-Periodica, a service by the ETH Library.<sup>37</sup> From vol. 41 onwards SPELL will be an online publication hosted by Winter Verlag in Heidelberg.<sup>38</sup>

It would be easy – and entirely fair – to look back on the 75 years of SAUTE with a feeling of complete satisfaction. The association has grown steadily and, with at present nearly 200 members, brings together and represents the vast majority of English scholars in Switzerland. It has organised more than twenty biennial symposia, published forty volumes of SPELL and, mainly through being a member of ESSE, it is the voice of English studies in Switzerland abroad.

Let us, nevertheless, end by also looking at what SAUTE has not tried to do. I see three such areas. First, SAUTE has never involved itself in the development and possible coordination of English studies in the various departments: It has not spoken out for or against the creation of new professorships and other posts and it has not attempted to influence curricular developments within the individual English Departments. This has been realistic and wise, for in Switzerland the development of universities (and thus of faculties and departments) are cantonal affairs. Any contributions from outside (even if well meant) would thus not only be perceived as, but actually constitute problematic acts of interference. As a result the eight departments of English in

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<sup>34</sup> See ESSU 2009-2010, p. 4.

<sup>35</sup> See the General Editor's Preface in SPELL 22 (2009), p. 7: "Non-symposium volumes are usually papers given at other conferences organized by members of SAUTE, in particular conferences of SANAS, the Swiss Association for North American Studies and, more recently, of SAMEMES, the Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies. However, other proposals are also welcome."

<sup>36</sup> See ESSU 2019-2020, p. 4f. and Appendix 3.

<sup>37</sup> See <<https://www.e-periodica.ch/digbib/volumes?UID=spe-001>>.

<sup>38</sup> See the Minutes of the AGM of 15 May 2021, confirmed by Ina Habermann (email dated 17 August 2022).

Switzerland have developed independently – each with its own programmes and research foci.<sup>39</sup>

SAUTE, secondly, has until recently not taken an interest in the teaching of English in schools (notably grammar schools) and in engaging with school teachers of English. This is perhaps due to the fact that SAUTE, from the outset, was conceived as a project distinct and apart from the Verein Schweizerischer Gymnasiallehrer “on account of [that institution’s] interests being, or appearing, more professional than strictly scientific.” I am not sure that this distinction (and the slight disdain for “professionals” it implies) is still valid today; intensified contact between SAUTE and secondary education in Switzerland may well be a project worth pursuing.

SAUTE as an organisation, thirdly, has largely stayed away from discussions concerning the place and the value of the arts / humanities versus those of the sciences. This debate has been one of the chief preoccupations of the SAGW, and while some members of SAUTE have made contributions as individuals, SAUTE as an organisation has not. On the basis of the historical record, it is impossible to establish whether this has been a deliberate decision or simply due to a lack of interest or time.

Let me conclude with an anecdote that takes us back to Classical Antiquity: When writing about Apelles, the most celebrated of Greek painters, in his *Naturalis Historia*, Pliny the Elder tells the story of a shoemaker who criticised Apelles for having misrepresented some details (a shoe and a leg) in one of his paintings. Apelles, according to Pliny, is supposed to have said “ne supra crepidam sutor iudicaret” (the cobbler should not judge beyond his shoe).<sup>40</sup> This proverb has survived to the present day, mostly in the form “A cobbler should stick to his last”. This, I think, is what SAUTE has done, and done well, throughout the 75 years of its existence: As a professional organisation it has stuck to its last and has been highly successful in its trade. This is an achievement SAUTE, and all of us today, can be proud of. *Ad multos annos*, or, in English, many happy returns!

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<sup>39</sup> Attempts to facilitate student mobility within Switzerland are documented in ESSU 1992-1993, pp. 3 and 5, ESSU 1993-1994, pp. 3 and 6 and, in connection with the Bologna Reform, in ESSU 2002-2003, p. 5 and ESSU 2003-2004, p. 5.

<sup>40</sup> See *Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, Centenary Edition, revised by Ivor H. Evans (London: Cassell, 1975), p. 240.

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## Appendix 1

### **Obituaries of members of SAUTE (published in ESSU)**

- Allerton, David J., 1936-2019 (ESSU 2019-2020, p. 11)
- Bonjour, Adrien, 1912-1979 (ESSU 1979-1980, p. 4)
- Eisenring, Albert J. Th., †2006 (ESSU 2006-2007, p. 8)
- Fricker, Robert, 1914-2000 (ESSU 1999-2000, p. 5)
- Giddey, Ernest, 1924-2005 (ESSU 2005-2006, p. 7)
- Kirby, Ian John, 1934-2017 (ESSU 2017-2018, p. 8f.)
- Kolb, Eduard, 1924-2010 (ESSU 2010-2011, p. 8)
- Leisi, Ernst, 1918-2001 (ESSU 2001-2002, p. 6f.)
- Meier, Hans Heinrich, 1924-2021 (ESSU 2020-2021, p. 12f.)
- Nänny, Max, 1932-2006 (ESSU 2005-2006, p. 7f.)
- Rehder, Robert, 1935-2009 (ESSU 2009-2010, p. 7)
- Schroeter, James, 1927-1985 (ESSU 1985-1986, p. 6)
- Stamm, Rudolf, 1909-1991 (ESSU 1990-1991, p. 7)
- Straumann, Heinrich, 1902-1991 (ESSU 1991-1992, p. 6)
- Utz, Hans, 1919-2002 (ESSU 2002-2003, p. 6)
- Wildi, Max, 1904-1982 (ESSU 1982-1983, p. 3f.)
- Wolfensperger, Peter, 1945-2005 (ESSU 2005-2006, p. 8)
- Wyler, Siegfried, 1919-2020 (ESSU 2020-2021, p. 12)

## Appendix 2

**SAUTE Membership**

The figures from 1979/80 onwards are based on the lists of members published in each issue of ESSU; see, however, Note 20 above.

1947	9	1998/99 (January 1999)	92
...		1999/00 (March 2000)	102
1972	27	2000/01 (February 2001)	100
...		2001/02 (February 2002)	106
1979/80 (October 1979)	41	2002/03 (February 2003)	109
1980/81		2003/04 (January 2004)	116
1981/82 (December 1981)	50	2004/05 (January 2005)	120
1982/83 (December 1982)	54	2005/06 (March 2006)	125
1983/84 (December 1983)	55	2006/07 (February 2007)	134
1984/85 (June 1984)	58	2007/08 (2008)	137
1985/86 (January 1986)	53	2008/09 (February 2009)	148
1986/87 (January 1987)	51	2009/10 (February 2010)	163
1987/88 (January 1988)	51	2010/11 (March 2011)	193
1988/89 (January 1989)	54	2011/12 (January 2011 [?])	158
1989/90 (January 1990)	55	2012/13 (February 2013)	163
1990/91 (1991)	58	2013/14 (January 2014)	174
1991/92 (1992)	61	2014/15 (March 2015)	164
1992/93 (February 1993)	64	2015/16 (January 2016)	180
1993/94 (February 1994)	67	2016/17 (January 2017)	193
1994/95 (February 1995)	69	2017/18 (January 2018)	182
1995/96 (February 1996)	75	2018/19 (January 2019)	190
1996/97 (January 1997)	89	2019/20 (March 2020)	188
1997/98 (February 1998)	84	2020/21 (April 2021)	181

## Appendix 3

### **Biennial symposia organised by SAUTE & SPELL volumes based on them**

- Contemporary Approaches to Narrative, Lausanne, 12 and 13 June 1981 (see SPELL 1, 1984)
- On Poetry and Poetics, Geneva, 27 and 28 May 1983 (see SPELL 2, 1985)
- The Structure of Texts, St. Gall, 31 May and 1 June 1985 (see SPELL 3, 1987)
- Reading Contexts, Neuchâtel, 22 and 23 May 1987 (see SPELL 4, 1988)
- Strangeness: The Breaking of Conventions and the Disruption of Norms, Basel, 26 and 27 May 1989 (see SPELL 5 “On Strangeness”, 1990)
- Writing & Culture, Fribourg, 10 and 11 May 1991 (see SPELL 6, 1992)
- Repetition, Zurich, 7 and 8 May 1993 (see SPELL 7, 1994)
- Families, Berne, 12 and 13 May 1995 (see SPELL 9, 1996)
- Performance, Lausanne, 23 and 24 May, 1997 (see SPELL 11, 1999)
- The Limits of Textuality, Geneva, 28 and 29 May 1999 (see SPELL 13, 2000)
- Globalisation, St. Gall, 22 and 23 June 2001 (see SPELL 15, 2002)
- The Space of English, Neuchâtel, 23 and 24 May 2003 (see SPELL 17, 2005)
- Cultures in Contact, Basel, 10 and 11 June 2005 (see SPELL 19, 2007)
- Mediality and Intermediality, Zurich, 4 and 5 May 2007 (see SPELL 21 “Mediality / Intermediality”, 2008)
- Performing the Self: The Construction of Modern and Pre-Modern Identities in Language and Literature, Fribourg, 8 and 9 May 2009 (see SPELL 24 “Performing the Self”, 2010)

- On the Move: Mobilities in English Language and Literature, Berne, 6 and 7 May 2011 (see SPELL 27 “English on the Move: Mobilities in Literature and Language”, 2012)
- Emotion, Affect and Sentiment: The Language and Aesthetics of Feeling, Lausanne, 19 and 20 April 2013 (see SPELL 30, 2014)
- Economies of English, Geneva, 24 and 25 April 2015 (see SPELL 33, 2016)
- The Challenge of Change, Neuchâtel (instead of St. Gall), 28 and 29 April 2017 (see SPELL 36, 2018)
- Brexit and Beyond, Basel, 3 and 4 May 2019 (see SPELL 39 “Brexit and Beyond: Nation and Identity”, 2021)
- Migrations and Contacts, Zurich, 14 and 15 May 2021 (to be published as SPELL 41)
- Trust and Uncertainty: Perspectives from Linguistics and Literary Studies, Fribourg 5 and 6 May, 2023
- Berne 2025