Editors' Introduction

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Introduction

This collection of papers is offered as a small tribute to one of Germany's leading phoneticians on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.

Klaus Kohler is a phonetician who has successfully brought together the two traditions of auditory and experimental phonetics in both his teaching and his research. Having completed his studies as an undergraduate in Heidelberg and Besançon, he began his phonetic training in the British tradition as a student under Abercrombie. Following the completion of his Diploma in Phonetics in Edinburgh in 1961, he went on to lecture in the Department of Phonetics until 1966. During this period, he completed his PhD on Scottish vowel systems. Returning to Germany in 1967, he continued his phonetic training as an assistant of Gerold Ungeheuer's at the Department of Phonetics and Communication Research in Bonn. He completed his Habilitation in 1968 and was appointed professor for phonetics and head of the Institute of Phonetics in Kiel in 1971. The wide range of topics covered in this volume reflects the many areas of phonetic and phonological research to which Klaus Kohler has contributed during his 30 years in phonetics, ranging from phonological problems in German to the application of phonetics to speech synthesis. Within his interest for the general theories of speech production and perception, he has always maintained a special place for German, and has greatly increased the phonetic knowledge of, and the general awareness of German speech phenomena. His work includes many contributions on the phonetics and phonology of connected speech processes. Kiel has been the source of the most extensive work on the acoustic, articulatory and perceptual aspects of the fortis/lenis distinction in German. In recent years, Klaus Kohler has worked intensively on the intonation of German, research which has culminated in the Kiel Intonation Model (KIM). This model has found a home in the German Infovox text-to-speech system, a system distinguished by the high quality of its rhythm and intonation.

Klaus Kohler's Einführung in die Phonetik des Deutschen is still unsurpassed as a textbook for students of German phonetics. This is a work which, much like Gimson's Introduction to the Pronunciation of English, covers much more ground than the title lays claim to, being a comprehensive account of the phonetics and phonology of German. And only this year, almost 20 years after the first edition came out in 1977, a fully revised new edition has appeared to serve future generations of students.

In recent years, he has been instrumental in building up the largest database of segmented and labelled German read and spontaneous speech, and the fruits of this labour are being made

available to the research community in a series of CD-ROMs, the first two of which appeared this year.

Finally, we must not forget that, as well as being an active contributor to the phonetic community in his own research, he has also functioned as the vehicle for other scientists' phonetic and phonological research, as editor-in-chief of *Phonetica* since 1978, as well as regularly producing the Kiel institute's working papers.

A birthday is a special day, and a sixtieth birthday is very special. But as a person who lives and loves phonetics, Klaus Kohler's enjoyment of his sixtieth birthday will doubtless be as closely linked with phonetics as any other day of the week. In the name of all his friends in phonetics, we would like to wish him a very happy birthday and many more fruitful years of phonetic research.

Adrian Simpson, Bill Barry

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Klaus Kohler." The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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