

THIS ISSUE OF *RCEI*
IS DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF
DR. PEDRO JESÚS MARCOS PÉREZ
COLLEAGUE, FELLOW SCHOLAR, MASTER,
1924-2004



EDITOR'S NOTE

The field of English Studies in Spain has lost one of its most gifted and valued members. The death of Dr. Pedro Jesús Marcos Pérez on October 6, 2004, will be mourned not only here in Spain but also in the United Kingdom and in the United States. We are deeply saddened by this loss. Dr. Marcos was an institution in himself, benefiting as he did, both students and staff with his enthusiasm and dedication to the organization of the Department of English at the Universidad de La Laguna (ULL). As a very special and inspiring master he encouraged the application of rigorous methodologies, work warranting international aspirations.

Dr. Marcos enjoyed a rich personal and professional life. It goes without saying that his wife, Dr. Asunción Alba, and his four sons have lost a beloved husband and father, but students at many universities will also mourn the absence of both kind a colleague and sure guide. His teaching career was distinguished by diversity teaching at various universities such as Valladolid, La Laguna, Alicante, and UNED. Major texts like *La expresión de ruego y mandato en inglés* (1976), or *Un diplomático inglés en la corte de Isabel II de España, 1801-1871: su vida y sus obras* (1992), exemplify his academic commitment and authoritative capacity for research. His presence in the small ULL central campus was definitive for students and members of staff alike. For many of us he will be remembered as "Dr. Marcos," a professor of the old school who passed on what he knew through stimulating lectures. He encouraged critical commentaries and felt fascinated by the inquiring minds of his young students. As an advisor he mentored numerous graduate students, among them myself, all of us seeking and appreciating his guidance as well as his command of the discipline. He was a true mentor to many and felt very happy to see how we were taking professional responsibilities in the academic world.

Those of us who produce and read the *RCEI* will be always indebted to Dr. Marcos for his role in the early stages of this journal. Following his suggestion the *RCEI* was founded with the idea that it should contain an international cast of contributors, both the known and the newer faces in English Studies. Since its launch in 1980, *RCEI* has been Spain's principal international journal of English Studies, continually committed to serving international scholarship, with the inclusion of essays, reviews, interviews and bibliographies. When Dr. Marcos left ULL, he became the first editor of the *Revista Alicantina de Estudios Ingleses*, and he

continued in the same vein. Both journals appeared during his busy academic career and both celebrate his intellectual enthusiasm for widening the scope of our discipline. In an era of narrow specialization he characterized his editorial work by expanding the scope of interests in both journals.

Today, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary, and 50 issues of *RCEI* have been published marking a long and fruitful tenure at ULL, *RCEI* continues working with the exemplary model of Dr. Marcos combining varied contributions in theory and literature, historical and applied linguistics, cultural and translation studies. This 50th volume is dedicated to his memory. We can fill a dozen volumes more with various tributes to this special man. These would come from sources other than colleagues, to include students, porters, printers, and the many others who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

It is with great sadness that I must also inform you of the unexpected passing away of Lorenzo Ramón García Ramos at the age of 45 on November 15, 2004. Lorenzo was associated with the Publications Service at ULL and played a crucial role in the *RCEI* from his own position as the staff member in charge of the Exchange Section. Our tribute and admiration for him.

It is our hope that the essays in this volume will add to the expanding field of the connection between literature and science, new critical strategies to understand the complexities exhibited in our contemporary culture. These articles are, I believe, excellent examples of Dr. Marcos's capacity to challenge and stimulate. It is in the spirit of such a heritage that the staff of *RCEI* honors this exemplary colleague, fellow scholar, and master.

Manuel BRITO

