

Preface to the Twentieth Anniversary Edition

I first started work on the project which, when published six years later, became *Other Floors, Other Voices: A Textography of a Small University Building*. It was little marketed by the original publisher, went out of print after a few years, and then some time later, languished under a somewhat dilatory print-on-demand arrangement. However, the book received good reviews and has always had an enthusiastic following in some quarters, perhaps because of its unusual methodology and for its different perspective on the academic world to that taken by Tony Becher in his well-known *Academic Tribes and Territories* (1989). The University of Michigan Press has always had an interest in the volume because of its study of one small part of the Ann Arbor campus, and in early 2017, the rights reverted to me and a contract was signed with the Press for a twentieth anniversary edition.

The original text has been reproduced generally “as is,” even if a few small matters could have been updated, such as using *email* instead of the now-outdated *E-mail*, and even though some of the photos were not clear in the original edition. Nor have I attempted a new introduction because Professor David Barton of the University of Lancaster drew my attention to a post (dated January 2017) on the Blog for the Literacy Research Centre at Lancaster University that seemed to fill the introductory and reflective role generally found in new editions. This blog-post was written by David Barton’s colleague, Julia Gillen, and is entitled “Revisiting *Other Floors, Other Voices: Rereading Swales’ Textography of a Small University Building*, First Published in 1998.” The text is reproduced here with Dr. Gillen’s permission.

Additionally, this edition includes a new final chapter entitled “The Three Units 20 Years Later.” The story of the Herbarium since 1998 has been co-written by Ryan McCarty, a candidate in the university’s joint

PhD program in English and Education, and me because we had already published a study of the university's Herbarium as it was in 2016. I was the principal author of the section summarizing the post-1998 history of the English Language Institute, while Ryan did the same in outlining what happened to the Computer Resource Site. The new chapter closes with a brief discussion of the concept of discourse community since this concept provided the theoretical undergirding of the original volume.

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