

Preface

This volume is a collection of papers read at the Eleventh International April Conference held at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, on April 23–25, 2008. By now a regular scholarly event organized every three years by the Institute of English Philology, over the decades the April Conference has brought to Kraków thousands of scholars from all over the world. In 2008, 138 researchers participated in the congress, 120 papers were presented and almost 90 were submitted for publication.

The title of the present book, *Ambiguity and the Search for Meaning: English and American Studies at the Beginning of the 21st Century*, echoes the theme of the Conference. The contributions included in the volume are both theoretical and practical: they deal with a vast range of topics and offer a broad and multifarious treatment of the key issues from multiple perspectives and various points of view. In this way the articles showcase diverse theoretical agendas and specialist interests of the authors.

The articles explore the themes of ambiguity and the search for meaning from four different inroads: linguistic and communication phenomena, translation, foreign language teaching, and culture, which is indicated by the way they are grouped into sections.

We would like to thank all the participants of the conference for their involvement and for making the conference such a worthwhile academic event. Special thanks are due to the two plenary speakers who delivered thought-provoking and inspiring lectures on language-related issues: Professor Daffyd Gibbon and Professor Eugene Casad. We warmly thank all the reviewers for their helpful comments and invaluable suggestions.

We would also like to express sincere thanks to the Faculty of Philology of the Jagiellonian University, as well as to the Institute of English Philology for their generous financial support which made this publication possible.

M. J. & J. L.