

that Spanish is a language they want to learn. Enrollments in Spanish are at an all-time high at colleges and universities throughout the country, and Spanish departments are having great difficulties meeting the demand for their services.

Spanish departments are in urgent need of substantial additional resources. Unfortunately, this need has occurred just as resources of all kinds have reached their lowest levels in years. Accordingly, universities have tended to ignore the change taking place in Spanish departments and to continue to treat them like foreign language departments rather than like the national language departments they have become. In terms of size and resources, Spanish departments now should fall somewhere between English departments and the most active foreign language departments. Spanish has almost as many students as all foreign languages combined, yet it has only a fraction of the faculty members.

As Van Cleve points out at the end of his courageous letter, these truths may be inconvenient and may result in dislocations. However, as he states, "our mission is the pursuit of truth," and I applaud the initiative he shows in raising this issue openly.

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### A Vote for *Anglicist*

To the Editor:

In search of an appropriate single-word appellation for English professors, Lila M. Harper suggests *philologist* (Forum, 111 [1996]: 130–31). A fine word, it de-

serves to be kept in the wider sense that its etymology implies, but since there are Romance philologists, Germanic philologists, and so forth, the need arises again for a qualified term, such as *English philologist*, for those who don't profess a broad competence in world languages and literature. I therefore recommend the Latinate *Anglicist* to designate those whose specific area of study is the body of literature composed in English. The term has near equivalents in Romance languages (in Spain, Harper would be considered an *anglicista* without further ceremony, and in Italy she would be an *anglista*), and it implies a general knowledge of the language and its literature without presupposing a critical orientation.

While waiting for the term to reach widespread use, however, I wonder if the rarity of terms more concise than *English studies* or *English professor* doesn't simply stem from the fact that an excessive number of fields are associated under the umbrella of the language: a "professor of English" may be interested in a particular period, region, or literary genre and concerned with linguistics, literary history, comparative literature, critical theory, and so forth. A blanket term for these different specialties has been needed less urgently than terms that split this unruly horde of scholars into a series of more legible disciplines (medievalists, folklorists, etc., as Harper rightly notes). Naturally, a Chinese professor in a US university will have a niche in Chinese studies, but within the institution this lonely individual is likely to be considered first and foremost a "Chinese specialist." The field of English in an English-speaking country inevitably encompasses too many people pursuing too many distinct lines of inquiry for a single term to pigeonhole them accurately.

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