

**A 'particular study': John Trim's work for modern languages in Europe (1971-1997)**

b. 1924

1966-1978: Director of Cambridge University Department of Linguistics

1969: Organized 2<sup>nd</sup> AILA Congress, in Cambridge

1971-1997: Director of the Modern Languages Projects of the Council of Europe (part-time); chaired its working party on European unit-credit system for adult language learning which produced *The Threshold Level* (later adapted as *Un Niveau Seuil*).

Unit-credit scheme

1971 – initial Rüşchlikon symposium, Switzerland

1973 – initial set of papers published

1974 – *The Threshold Level* produced

1975 – *The Threshold Level* published

1976 – *Un Niveau Seuil* published

1977-81: *Modern Languages* (Project 4)

1981-1988: *Learning and Teaching Modern Languages for Communication* (Project 12)

1978: became Director of CILT (the UK's national Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research)

Support for Graded Objectives movement in UK ('ossified' in 1988 into National Curriculum in England and Wales)

1989-1997: *Language Learning for European Citizenship*

A Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment

1991 – initial intergovernmental Rüşchlikon symposium, Switzerland

1997: Publication of first draft of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

2008 – Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers (re. use of the Framework)

European Language Portfolio

1994: European Centre for Modern Languages, Graz, Austria.

2001: European Year of Languages

d. 2013

## Some sources

### 1) Published interviews

Smith, R. and McLelland, N. (2014) 'An interview with John Trim (1924—2013) on the history of modern language learning and teaching' *Language and History* 57/1: 10-25

Little, D. and King, L. (2013) 'A Career in Phonetics, Applied Linguistics and the Public Service'. *Language Teaching* 46: 409–424.

Little, D. and King, L. (2014). 'Three decades of work for the Council of Europe'. *Language Teaching* 47: 118–32.

### 2) Recorded interviews

With D. Little: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j7YKB4YdmU>

With N. Underhill:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL33753FF2F7614EC0>

With R. Smith:

[http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/research/collections/elt\\_archive/resources/johntrim](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/research/collections/elt_archive/resources/johntrim)

### 3) Published reports

Council for Cultural Co-operation of the Council of Europe. 1981. *Modern Languages (1971-1981)*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe.

Trim, J. 2001. *The Work of the Council of Europe in the field of Modern Languages, 1957-2001*. Graz: European Centre for Modern Languages.  
Online: <http://archive.ecml.at/efsz/files/Trim.pdf>