

## German as a Foreign Language Throughout the Centuries

Ever since the 'first fully-fledged grammars' (McLelland 2001: 7) of the German language were published in 1573 by Lorenz Albrecht (Laurentius Albertus, ca.1540-ca.1585) and Albert Ölinger (fl.1574-1587), the earliest German grammars were no mere descriptions of the vernaculars in the vernacular itself. Instead, Latin served as the metalanguage, whereas German "merely" took on the role as the object language in these earliest textbooks which, explicitly or implicitly, targeted a foreign language target public, interested in learning German as a foreign language (GFL). The proper vernacular tradition, however, only kicked off almost half a century later with Johannes Kromayer's (1576-1643) *Zum neuen Methodo* (1618) and Wolfgang Ratke's (1571-1635) *Allgemeine Sprachlehr* (1619), arriving at a first high point with the erudite grammars the philologist Justus Georg Schottel (1612-1676) put forth since 1641 (see McLelland 2011).

Notwithstanding this peculiar beginning of German grammaticography, there is a considerable number of diverse manifestations in handwritten and printed metalinguistic works belonging to the history of GFL throughout the centuries, among which early textbooks like Daniel Martin's *Acheminement à la langue allmande* (1635) or Jean Perger's *La véritable et unique grammaire Alemande* (1665) deserve particular mention. However, even if one considers recent contributions by important monographs such as Glück (2002, 2013) and McLelland (2011, 2015), one may safely state that much research remains to be done in this area – which holds especially true for countries like Portugal and Spain, to name but two examples.

In this sense, this workshop pretends to offer a forum for researchers working on all topics related with the history of GFL worldwide, be it by means of studies of individual GFL textbooks or through contributions that are dedicated to a more institutional point of view.

### References

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