

Preliminary Bibliography

There is an extensive literature on the study and usage of non-vernacular foreign languages, particularly Latin, from antiquity on. However, much less has been written on the medieval study of vernacular foreign languages, particularly in time periods and places which cannot be understood as leading up to Renaissance linguistics. I plan to write a literature review of the study and use of vernacular foreign languages in medieval Europe, roughly 500-1100, although the scope will decrease if there turns out to be enough material. I am particularly interested in all aspects of foreign language use not traditionally studied by philologists – to what extent did clergy and laity need to know foreign languages, to what extent was learning them possible, and how were they learned? Some understanding the place of classical languages in medieval societies will also be necessary to this end, since much thought about language was filtered through classical ideals.

Secondary Sources

Bischoff, Bernard. “The Study of Foreign Languages in the Middle Ages.” *Speculum* 36.2 (1961): 209-224. A “sketch” of the “nature and range of medieval foreign language studies,” both ancient and modern. Good starting point and touches on many issues, but goes into few in any depth.

Brunot, Ferdinand. *Histoire de la Langue Française des Origines à Nos Jours*. Tome I: De l'époque latine à la Renaissance. Paris: A. Colin, 1905-1938. Brunot's still definitive history covers both internal (linguistic) and external (historical) development. The external history in volume I provides some information on who in Europe spoke French, loosely defined as the language of the court. Brunot's *History* is authoritative but teleological, and must be read critically.

Davidson, Linda & Dunwood, Maryjane. *Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages: A Research Guide*. New York: Garland, 1993. Bibliography of sources, mostly English-language translations or originals. Useful for finding reactions of pilgrims to foreign languages, how they dealt with them.

Grundmann, Hilmar. *Zum Deutschunterricht an berufsbildenden Schulen: historische und aktuelle Entwicklungen*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2000. Essays with historical perspective on medieval trade schools, if they existed, would be useful.

Hildebrand, M. *The External School in Carolingian Society*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1992. Information on Carolingian schools, not yet sure if they taught foreign languages along with Latin at all.

Kelly, Louis. *25 Centuries of Language Teaching: An Inquiry into the Science, Art, and Development of Language Teaching Methodology, 500 B.C.-1969*. Rowley, MA: Newbury House, 1976. Basic information on the history of language teaching.

Kibbee, Douglas. *For to Speke Frenche Trewly: The French Language in England, 1000-1600*. Amsterdam: J. Benjamins Pub. Co., 1991. The most comprehensive work on this subject, includes information about the reach of French into English-speaking, non-elite society.

Law, Vivian. *The History of Linguistics in Europe from Plato to 1600*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2003. For information on what academics and the clergy thought about language.

Marraro, Howard. "The Study of Modern Foreign Languages in the Italy of the Past and Present." *The Modern Language Journal* 34.7 (1950): 505-526. A few paragraphs on foreign language teaching before the Renaissance.

Müller, Johannes. *Quellenschriften und Geschichte des deutschsprachlichen Unterrichtes bis zur Mitte der Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts*. Hildesheim: G. Olms, 1969. Haven't looked at it yet, but seems promising.

Penzl, Herbert. "'Gimer mein Ros': How German was Taught in the Ninth and Eleventh Centuries." *The German Quarterly*, 57.3 (1984): 392-401. Basic information on this period, includes the discouraging statement that besides Bischoff's article, "the whole question of the learning of foreign languages in the Middle Ages has not attracted the attention of many scholars."

Privitera, Joseph. *Language as Historical Determinant: The Normans in Sicily, 1061-1200*. Washington, D.C.: American International Book Council, 1995.

Haven't looked at it yet, seems promising.

Richard, Jean. *Orient et Occident au Moyen Age: Contacts et Relations (XIIe-Xve siècles)*. London: Variorum Reprints, 1976. Reprints of Richard's articles on trade and missionary contacts, hopefully includes some information about how medieval travelers dealt with language differences.

Richter, Michael. "Kommunikationsprobleme im lateinischen Mittelalter." *Historische Zeitschrift*, 222 (1976): 43-80. Should shed light on motivations for learning foreign languages resulting from communication problems in Latin and the vernaculars.

Richter, Michael. "Die Sprachenpolitik Karls des Grossen." *Sprachwissenschaft*, 7 (1982): 412-437. We have an unusual amount of information on how Charlemagne dealt with his plurilingual realm and thought about language, this article should give basic information.

Thomas, Margaret. "Medieval and Modern Views of Universal Grammar and the Nature of Second Language Teaching." *The Modern Language Journal* 79.3 (1995): 345-355. Aim is to evaluate the basis of frequent claims that modern ideas about "universal grammar" stem from medieval ones, but hopefully also has some ideas about medieval philosophy of language and second language teaching.

Zapp, Franz Josef et. al., eds. *Kommunikation in Europa: Probleme der fremdsprachendidaktik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*. Frankfurt am Main: M. Diesterweg, 1981. Haven't looked at it yet, but the historical essays might be useful.

Primary Sources

Guide du Pèlerin de Saint Jacques de Compostelle, translation of the 12th century Latin guide to pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. Includes advice and opinions on the foreign languages pilgrims will encounter en route. For example, Basque is a "barbaric tongue," but the Latin-Basque glossary provides our earliest information on the language

Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Includes some information on what languages different monks and bishops know, how that's important in conversion missions and administration.

Einhard's *Life of Charlemagne*, includes references to Charlemagne's interest in ancient and vernacular languages.

Felix' *Life of Saint Guthlac*, according to Bischoff says the Anglo-Saxons thought the devil spoke Briton. Might contain other opinions on language.

Konrad von Megenberg, *Ökonomik*, contains various opinions language and how peasants must learn new ones when they are uprooted in war.

I have not yet explored much of the Medieval Sourcebook (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/index.html>), but there seem to be anecdotes about language:

"But he [Julian] does not know the roads nor which route to take, nor does he know how he can learn them for he did not know the language." (*The Life of Saint Julian*)

"Ethelwerd the youngest, by the divine counsels and the admirable prudence of the king, was consigned to the schools of learning, where, with the children of almost all the nobility of the country, and many also who were not noble, he prospered under the diligent care of his teachers. Books in both languages, namely, Latin and Saxon, were both read in the school." (*The Life of King Alfred*)

There are a respectable number of reprinted medieval phrasebooks for travellers which I haven't yet looked into. Their introductions could be especially helpful.