Linguistics

From the earliest surviving glossaries and translations to nineteenth century academic philology and the growth of linguistics during the twentieth century, language has been the subject both of scholarly investigation and of practical handbooks produced for the upwardly mobile, as well as for travellers, traders, soldiers, missionaries and explorers. This collection will reissue a wide range of texts pertaining to language, including the work of Latin grammarians, groundbreaking early publications in Indo-European studies, accounts of indigenous languages, many of them now extinct, and texts by pioneering figures such as Jacob Grimm, Wilhelm von Humboldt and Ferdinand de Saussure.

Introduction to the Science of Language

Archibald Henry Sayce (1845–1933) became interested in Middle Eastern languages and scripts while still a teenager. Old Persian and Akkadian cuneiform had recently been deciphered, and popular enthusiasm for these discoveries was running high when Sayce began his academic career at Oxford in 1869. In this two-volume work of 1880, Sayce attempts to give ‘a systematic account of the Science of Language, its nature, its progress and its aims’. As he explains, the methods and theories which underlie the work were set out in his 1874 Principles of Comparative Philology (also reissued in this series). Volume 2 deals with language groups (both ancient and modern), examining separately the inflexional families with their root/inflection system, and the systems of agglutinative languages, before discussing comparative mythology, the origins of language, and the place of the science of language in the wider social sciences. Sayce also provides a bibliography for students.
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Introduction to the Science of Language

Volume 2

A.H. Sayce
INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF LANGUAGE.
INTRODUCTION TO THE

SCIENCE OF LANGUAGE.

BY

A. H. SAYCE,

DEPUTY PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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1880.
“Ille demum foret nobilissima grammaticæ species, si quis in linguis tam eruditis quam vulgaribus eximie doctus, de variis linguarum proprietatibus tractaret; in quibus quæque excellat, in quibus deficiat ostendens.”—Bacon (“De Aug. Scient.,” vi. i).

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