

**THE YEAR BOOK OF
MODERN
LANGUAGES, 1920**

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The Year book of modern languages, 1920 by Gilbert Waterhouse

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GILBERT WATERHOUSE

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OF
MODERN LANGUAGES
1920

EDITED FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

BY

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1920

PREFACE

THE GENERAL EDITOR hopes that the first volume of the *Year Book of Modern Languages* will be received with the indulgence usually given to a new venture. He could have wished that the task of introducing it to the public had been undertaken by more competent hands, but sharing the opinion of the Council of the Modern Language Association that a *Year Book* ought to be one of its principal publications he decided to accept the responsibility.

As originally designed, the *Year Book* was to include general articles on the progress of Modern Language study from 1914 to 1919, followed by special articles on the various languages, with select Bibliographies. In view of the relatively short period available for preparation it was impossible to enforce a uniform type of article on the contributors who kindly responded to the call for help, but the following general principles were laid down:

- (1) Original research should be reserved for the *Modern Language Review*. The *Year Book* is to be a plain record of work done and progress made.
- (2) In dealing with language and literature, contributors should give an account only of events or theories which have provided new matter for discussion, or contributed definitely to the advancement of learning.
- (3) Bibliographies should be select, only those publications being quoted which contain a definite contribution to knowledge, or are really worthy of recommendation.

It was hoped that the interests of school teaching would be represented equally with those of University study, but the claims on the time of members of the former profession were clearly too serious to admit of contributions at such short notice. No doubt this defect in the present volume will be made good in future issues. There was also great difficulty in compiling an adequate panel of contributors from the ranks of University teachers. Many had been away on war service

in various capacities and they returned to find stagnation in their Departments and themselves in need of preparation for their ordinary work.

Another difficulty was encountered, strange though it may appear, in securing contributors for the French section of the *Year Book*, and the General Editor is particularly indebted to those colleagues who came forward at the last moment to fill the gaps. Even so the proposed article on French Literature of the 19th century must be deferred until the appearance of the second volume.

Little attempt has been made to co-ordinate the various articles, as they differed so much in style and plan. It was thought better to print them as they stood, so that both contributors and readers could discover precisely what form the *Year Book* ought to take in subsequent editions. One principle already laid down above will be firmly maintained in the next volume, viz. that Bibliographies must be select, and that no space will be wasted on any book or article that does not represent an addition to our knowledge or that is not thoroughly worthy of recommendation. Inclusion in the *Year Book* will, it is hoped, be a guarantee of merit and importance.

The General Editor's thanks are due to Professor O. H. Prior for help rendered in connection with the French section, and to Mr Edward Bullough, Chairman of the Council of the Modern Language Association (1919), whose ready collaboration has on all occasions proved invaluable.

G. W.

DUBLIN,
May, 1920

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
I. THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE. By the GENERAL EDITOR	1
II. THE CIVIL SERVICE AND MODERN LANGUAGES. By EDWARD BULLOUGH, M.A., Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge	10
III. THE PROGRESS OF PHONETICS SINCE 1914. By MISS LILIAS E. ARMSTRONG, B.A., Assistant Lecturer in Phonetics, University College, London	25
IV. FRENCH	
1. ANGLO-NORMAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (1914-1919). By PAUL STUDER, M.A., D.Litt., Taylorian Professor of Romance Languages, University of Oxford	28
2. FRENCH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND HISTORY. MIDDLE AGES AND FIFTEENTH CENTURY. A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (1914-19). By MISS K. T. BUTLER, Girton College, Cambridge	34
3. SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES, LITERATURE AND TEXTS. By MISS D. W. BLACK	48
V. PROVENÇAL LITERATURE. By the REV. H. J. CHAYTOR, M.A., St Catharine's College, Cambridge	69
VI. GERMAN	
1. THE GERMAN LANGUAGE. By R. A. WILLIAMS, Litt.D., Professor of German, Queen's University of Belfast	72
2. OLD AND MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN LITERATURE. By L. A. WILLOUGHBY, M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer in German, University of Sheffield	86
3. MODERN GERMAN LITERATURE DURING THE WAR. By FRANCIS E. SANDBACH, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of German, University of Birmingham	99

	PAGE
VII. ITALIAN	
1. DANTE AND EARLY ITALIAN LITERATURE. By E. G. GARDNER, Litt.D., Professor of Italian, University of Manchester	104
2. ITALIAN LITERATURE: Fourteenth to Eighteenth Centuries. By CESARE FOLIGNO, M.A., Taylorian Lecturer in Italian, University of Oxford	107
3. ITALIAN LITERATURE: Nineteenth Century. By THOMAS OKAY, M.A., Professor of Italian, University of Cambridge	113
4. ITALIAN PHILOSOPHY: Nineteenth Century. By ANGELO CRESPI	118
5. RECENT GENERAL LITERATURE. By EDWARD BULLOUGH, M.A., Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge	124
VIII. SPANISH	
1. CERVANTES. By JAMES FITZMAURICE-KELLY, F.B.A., Litt.D., Cervantes Professor of Spanish Language and Literature, University of London	139
2. SPANISH LITERATURE—SIXTEENTH CENTURY. Some Recent Revolutionary Attacks on old-established Theories. By H. THOMAS, Litt.D., British Museum	151
3. SPANISH AMERICA. By F. A. KIRKPATRICK, M.A., Reader in Spanish, University of Cambridge	158
4. RUBÉN DARÍO. By JAS. FITZMAURICE-KELLY, Litt.D.	166
IX. RUSSIAN LITERATURE (1914-1919). By A. P. GOUDY, M.A., Lecturer in Russian, University of Cambridge	169
X. CELTIC. By the late E. C. QUIGGIN, M.A., Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and E. J. GWYNN, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin	187
APPENDIX. THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION	
1. CONSTITUTION, OBJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS. By the GENERAL EDITOR	190
2. THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN. By MISS F. M. S. BATCHELOR	197
3. THE ITALIAN SUMMER SCHOOL AT CAMBRIDGE. By MISS K. T. BUTLER	198
4. "MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHING." By J. G. ANDERSON, M.A.	202
5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE M.L.A.	204

I

THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE¹

THIS document may be justly termed the "Magna Carta" of Modern Languages. It sets forth plainly the history of modern studies in Great Britain, reveals their present position in our educational system and points out the road before us.

The Committee to whose labours we are indebted for this investigation was appointed by the Prime Minister in August, 1916, "to enquire into the position of Modern Languages in the Educational System of Great Britain." It was composed of the following members:

Mr STANLEY LEATHES, C.B. (Chairman); Sir C. A. MONTAGUE BARLOW, K.B.E., M.P.; Mr E. BULLOUGH; The Rt Hon. Sir MAURICE DE BUNSEN, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.; Mr A. C. COFFIN; Dr H. A. L. FISHER, F.B.A.; Miss M. A. GILLILAND; Mr H. C. GOOCH; Mr J. W. HEADLAM; Mr L. D. HOLT; Dr WALTER LEAF; Dr G. MACDONALD, C.B., F.B.A.; Mr A. MANSBRIDGE; Mr NOWELL SMITH; Miss M. J. TUKE; Sir JAMES YOXALL, M.P.; Secretary, Mr A. E. TWENTYMAN.

Note. Miss GILLILAND was added to the Committee on October 12, 1916.

The Report is signed by all except Dr Fisher, who resigned on his appointment as President of the Board of Education on Dec. 13, 1916. Four of the signatories, viz.: Miss Tuke and Messrs Headlam, Leaf and Mansbridge, make reservations on certain subjects².

¹ Report of the Committee appointed by the Prime Minister to enquire into the position of Modern Languages in the Educational System of Great Britain. Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty. To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or from E. Ponsonby, Ltd, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin. 1918. Price 9d. net.

² (1) Educational Value of French and Latin. (2) Compulsory Latin at the University. (3) Languages in the First School Examination. (4) Modern Sides. (5) Age at which Modern Languages should be begun. (6) Preparatory Schools. (7) Classification of Schools.