

**STUDIES IN SOUTH AMERICAN NATIVE
LANGUAGES. OBSERVATIONS ON THE
CHINANTEC LANGUAGE OF MEXICO:
AND ON THE MAZATEC LANGUAGE
AND ITS AFFINITIES**

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Studies in South American Native Languages. Observations on the chinantec language of mexico: and on the mazatec language and its affinities by Daniel G. Brinton

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DANIEL G. BRINTON

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*Compliments
of the Author.* *Anal.*

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STUDIES

-IN-

South American Native
Languages.

FROM MSS. AND RARE PRINTED SOURCES.

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University of Pennsylvania.

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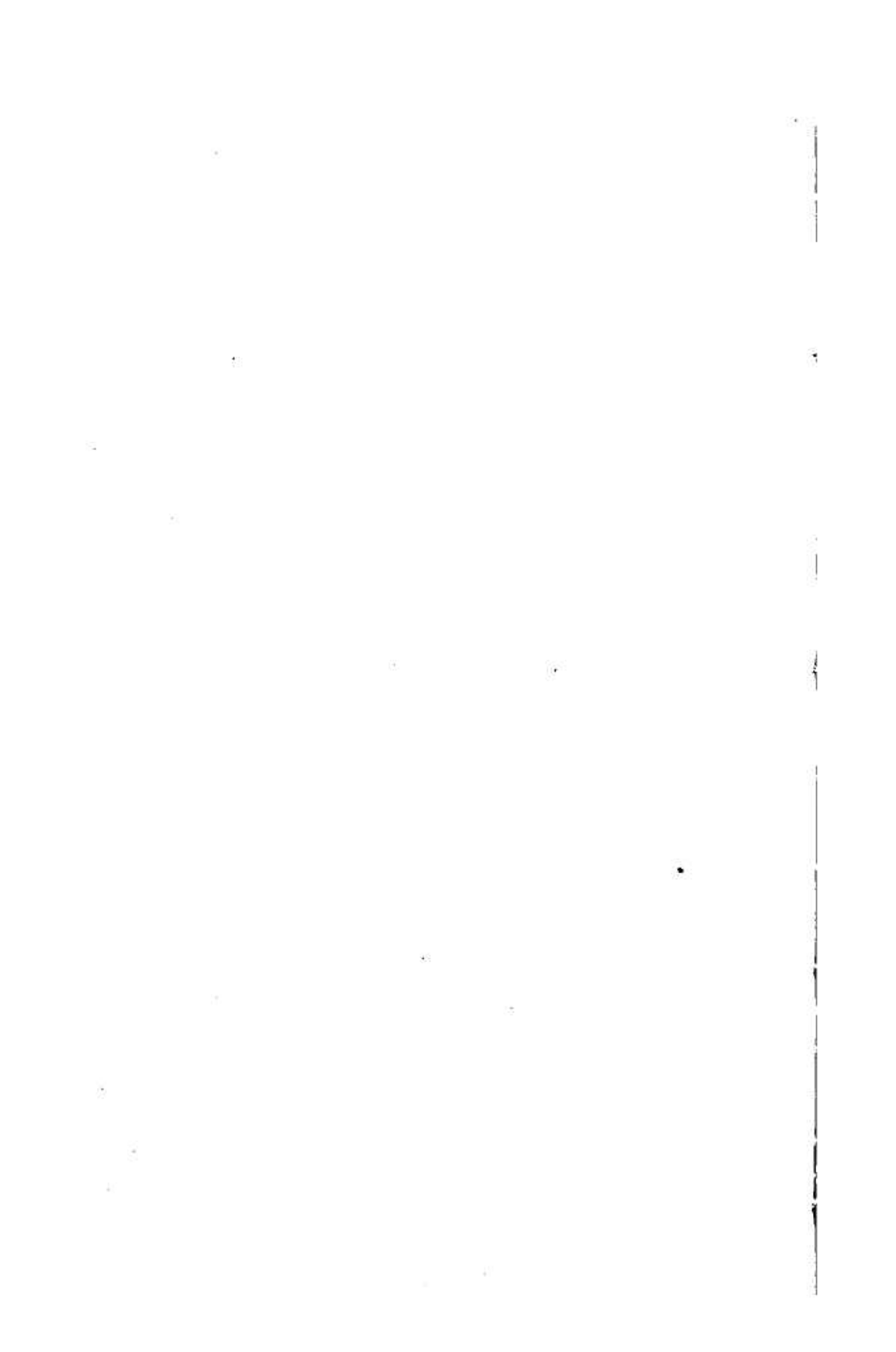
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Prefatory Note.

The papers which follow were contributed to the *Proceedings* of the American Philosophical Society in the early months of 1892. Most of them are based upon unpublished manuscripts in European and American Libraries, which I have had the opportunity of examining within the last year. They include material on at least four linguistic stocks, hitherto wholly unknown to students of this interesting branch of anthropologic science.

I have added two studies of Mexican languages, one with South American affinities, the other apparently standing isolated among all American languages and strikingly simple in construction.

Philadelphia, April, 1892.

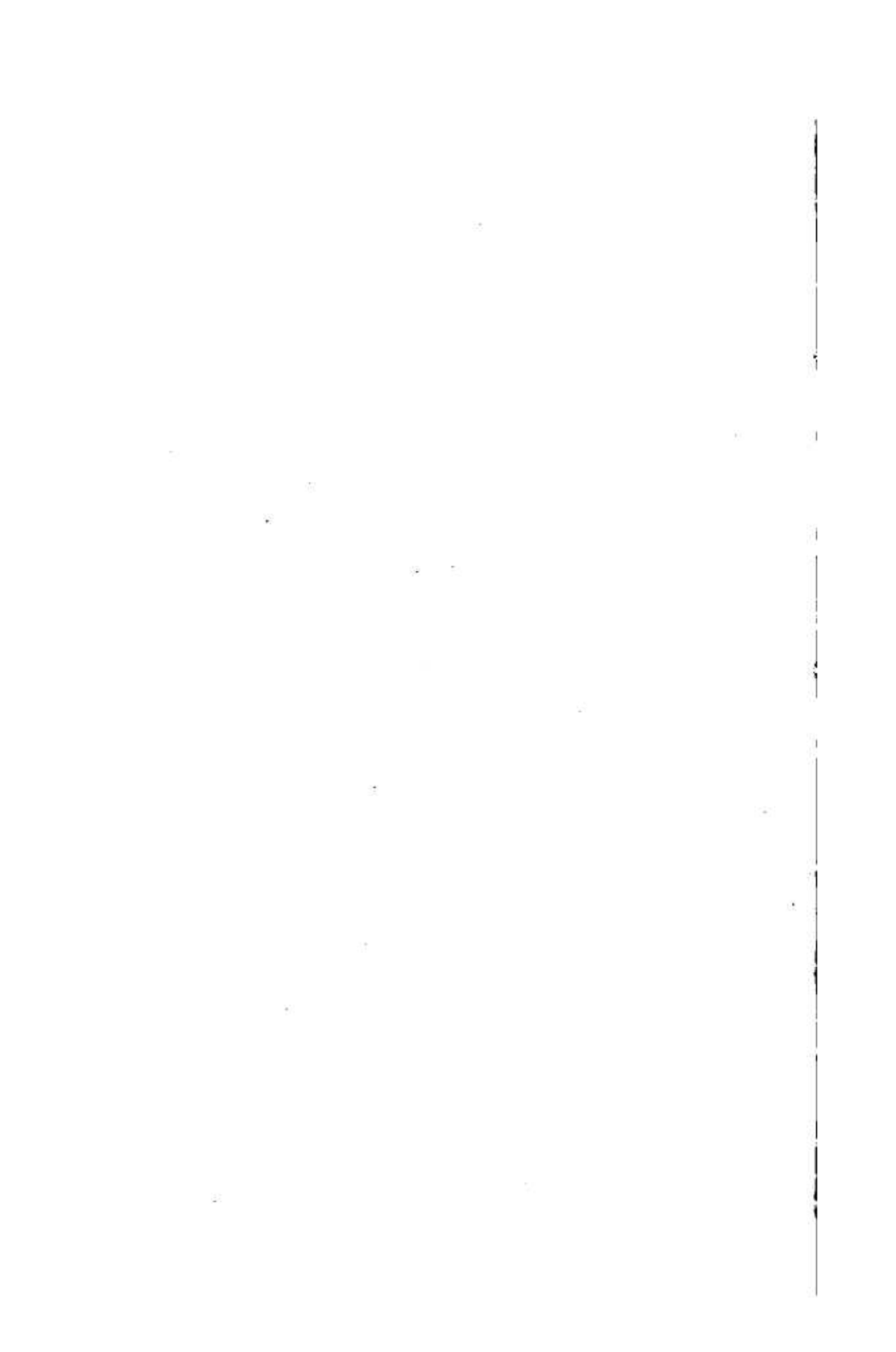


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INTRODUCTORY.

It is not too much to say that the languages of the native tribes of South America are the least known of any on the globe. The problems they present in their grammatical character and affinities remain the furthest from solution, and the materials to undertake such a task are the scantiest from any equal area on the earth's surface. In spite of the labors of such earnest workers as Von den Steinen, Ehrenreich, Adam, Ernst, Darapsky, Middendorff and others, there are numerous tongues of which we know absolutely nothing, or have but bare and imperfect vocabularies.

In the present series of studies I present a variety of material from either unpublished or rare works, accompanied by such suggestions as to its character and relations as have occurred to me in its preparation, and by some observations on the ethnography of the tribes mentioned. As I am convinced that the only ethnographic classification possible of the native tribes of America is that based on language, I do not hesitate to apply this whenever possible.

I.

THE TACANA LANGUAGE AND ITS DIALECTS.

In my work on *The American Race*,* I offered the following classification of this group:

TACANA LINGUISTIC STOCK.

<i>Araonas,</i>	<i>Isuiamas,</i>	<i>Pukapakaris,</i>	<i>Tumupapas,</i>
<i>Atenes,</i>	<i>Lecos,</i>	<i>Sapiboconas,</i>	<i>Tuyumiris.</i>
<i>Cavinas,</i>	<i>Maracanis,</i>	<i>Tacanas,</i>	
<i>Equaris,</i>	<i>Maropas,</i>	<i>Toromonas,</i>	

From this list we must strike out the *Atenes* or *Atenianos* and *Lecos*, as I shall show that these spoke a tongue nowise akin to the

* *The American Race: A Linguistic Classification and Ethnographic Description of the Native Tribes of North and South America.* By Daniel G. Brinton. 1 vol., 8vo, pp. 392 (N. D. C. Hodges, New York, 1891).