

# **ELEMENTARY GERMAN FOR SIGHT TRANSLATION**

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Elementary German for sight translation by R. Clyde Ford

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**R. CLYDE FORD**

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*FOR SIGHT TRANSLATION*

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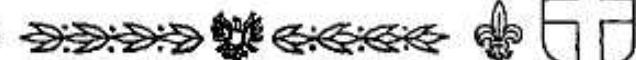
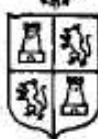
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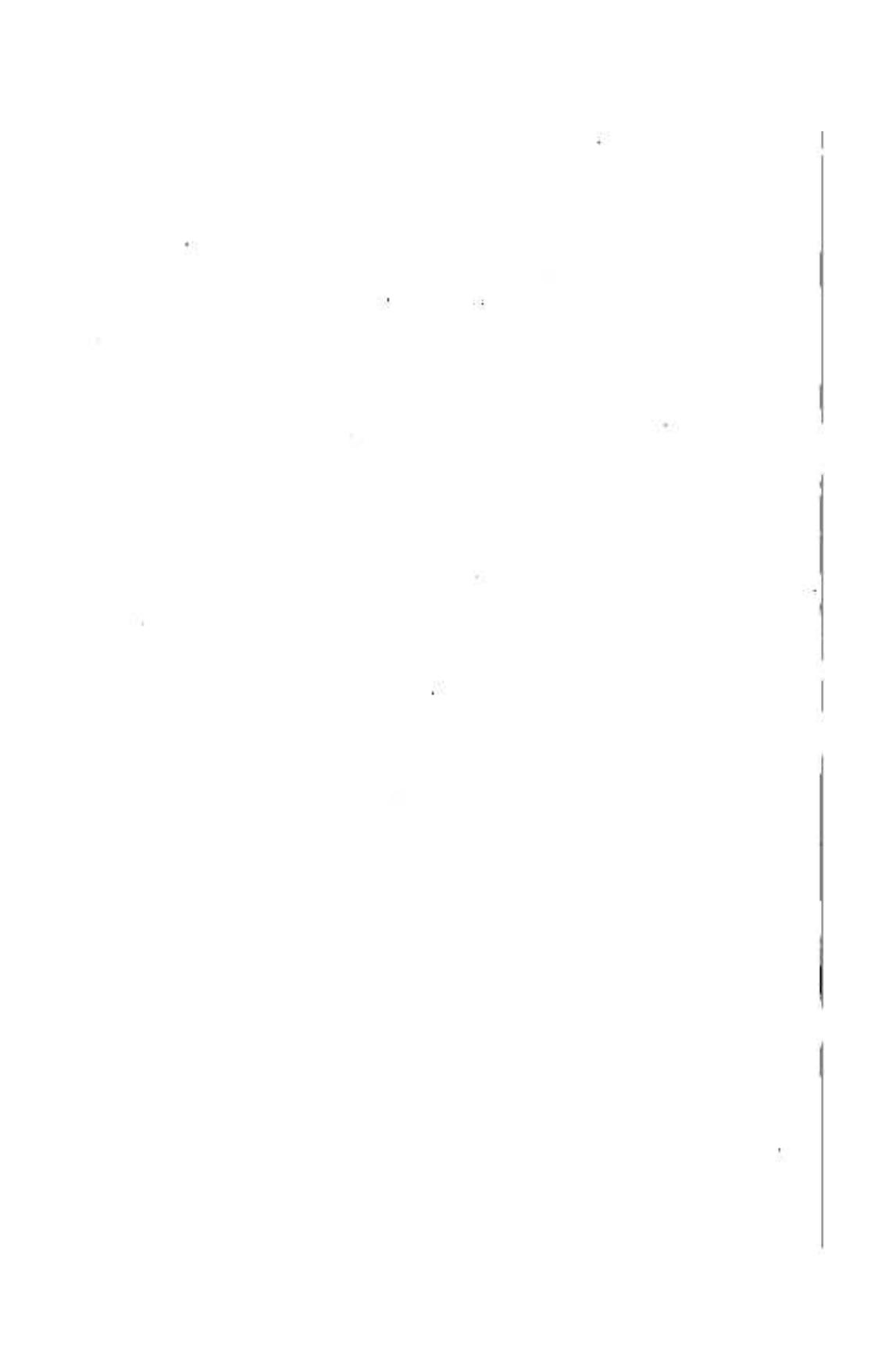
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## PREFACE

IN my own classes I have found drill in sight translation to be extremely valuable in cultivating the student's quickness of perception, accuracy, and confidence in himself and his ability to get along unaided, except by his own wits, in a new language. Believing that a text for such a purpose would be acceptable to a good many teachers, I have been led to prepare the present collection of elementary exercises for use in the first year or two of work in German.

While the book has been designed primarily for sight translation, still it has been thought best to introduce a few notes at the bottom of the pages to explain the more difficult words and phrases. This will save the student some embarrassment, and perhaps prove a welcome feature to those who may wish to use the exercises as prepared matter in beginning reading.

R. C. F.



# ELEMENTARY GERMAN

## PART ONE

### EXERCISE I

Es war ein heiterer Frühlingsmorgen, ich stand im Dorfe auf dem Kreuzwege, wo das kleine Brückchen rechts gleich in die Schule führt, der größere Fußweg aber links nach der Kirmeswiese sich fortschlängelt. Da hörte ich, wie zwei Knaben folgendes sprachen:

„Guten Tag, Karl!“

„Guten Tag, Michel!“

„Wo gehst du hin, Karl?“

„In die Schule, Michel!“

„Ei was! In der Schule ist's häßlich, da muß man lernen; draußen auf der Wiese sollst du einmal sehen, da ist's jetzt hübsch! Komm, wir wollen dahin spielen gehen, Karl!“

„Am Abend, Michel; jetzt geh' ich lernen; ade!“

„Meinetwegen, geh' du arbeiten, Karl, ich geh' spielen; ade!“ — —

2. **Kreuzweg** (= cross + way): *crossing, cross-roads, corner.*

4. **Kirmeswiese** (Kirch + Messe + Wiese): *fair-ground.*

14. **ade** (French *adieu*): *good-bye.*

Twenty years afterwards I stood in the same village at the same place. It was a cold winter day. A pale, poor, shivering man knocked at the schoolhouse door. The schoolteacher, a stout, good-looking man, opened it, and I heard them say:

„Guten Tag, lieber Herr!“

„Guten Tag, lieber Mann!“

„Ach, mein Herr, erbarmen Sie sich mein!“

„Was verlangen Sie denn von mir?“

10 „Arbeit, Herr! Ich will Ihnen die Schulstuben fegen,  
ich will Ihnen die Öfen heizen, oder andere Dienste der Art  
tun. Nehmen Sie mich auf!“

„Können Sie denn nicht bessere Arbeit tun als die?“

„Nein, mein Herr!“

15 „Warum denn nicht?“

„Ich hab' nichts gelernt.“

„Wie heißen Sie?“

„Ich heiße Michel.“

„Kommen Sie herein, Michel, draußen ist's heute schlecht,  
20 in der Schulstube ist's schön. Da werden Sie hoffentlich  
auch jetzt noch etwas lernen.“ —

Sie gingen beide hinein, und die Tür ward wieder  
geschlossen. Der um Arbeit bittende Mann wußte in jenem  
Augenblicke noch nicht, wer der freundliche Schullehrer war.  
25 Wir wissen es besser.

R. Reindl

8. *mein*: for *meiner*, genitive, with the verb *sich erbarmen* = *have pity on me*.

23. Literally, *the for-work-begging man*, = *the man who was begging work*.