

**THE TEACHING OF
GERMAN IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649211968

The teaching of German in secondary schools by Elijah W. Bagster-Collins

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK

FOREIGN AGENTS

HUMPHREY MILFORD

AMEN HOUSE, E.C.

LONDON

EDWARD EVANS & SONS, LTD.

30 NORTH SZECHUEN ROAD

SHANGHAI

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THE TEACHING OF GERMAN

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New York

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

1916

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350947
26. 5. 38.

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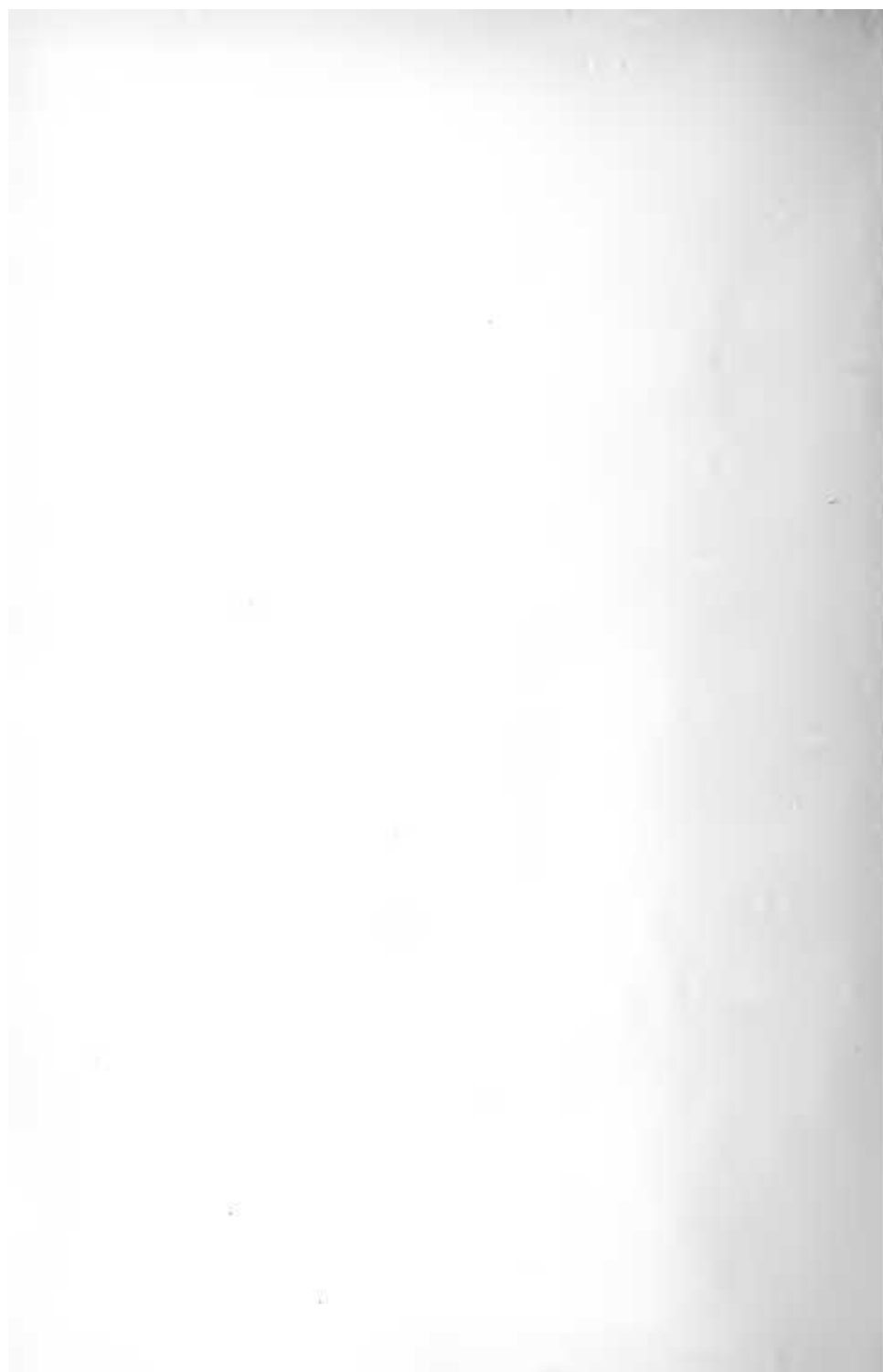
By THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

Set up, electrotyped and published, October, 1904;
Reprinted, April, 1907; October, 1908;
October, 1910; September, 1912
July, 1915; June, 1916

PRESS OF
THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY
LANCASTER, PA.

Printed in U. S. A.

TO MY HELPMATE



PREFACE.

THE following pages represent the outgrowth of experience in high school work, of lectures given to intending teachers, and of a first-hand study of modern language instruction in various parts of Germany. The book is planned to give teachers, in book form, a helpful discussion of the main elements that go to make up a modern language course in secondary schools. Much of the material has long since been common property, perhaps, but has never, to my knowledge, been presented in so detailed a form, with the possible exception of "The Practical Study of Languages," by Sweet, which also serves a different purpose.

This book will have to deal largely with answering two questions :

Firstly, what is the best work we can hope to do in a course extending over a maximum period of four years in the high school ?

Secondly, what has experience to teach us as to the best way to do it ?

We are still in the experimental stage of language teaching, and probably shall be for some time to come. The time is not ripe for any man to come and say, and scientifically prove, "my method is THE METHOD of language teaching." We still lack scientific data with regard to the mental processes involved in learning a foreign language. Any exposition of method, then, will have to be broad and eclectic in nature, and derived very largely from one's own

experience, and from the experience of other teachers of the same and different generations working under similar conditions. It must consist in describing a plan loosely enough jointed to work successfully under varying conditions, one containing important points in method the teacher should keep in mind, and an attempt has been made to set this forth in the present book.