

**HISTORICAL PRIMER  
OF FRENCH PHONETICS  
AND INFLECTION**

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Historical Primer of French Phonetics and Inflection by Margaret S. Brittain

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**MARGARET S. BRITTAIN**

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OF  
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*BRITAIN*

HENRY FROWDE, M.A.

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HISTORICAL PRIMER  
OF  
FRENCH PHONETICS  
AND INFLECTION

BY

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*WITH INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY*

PAGET TOYNBEE, M.A.

EDITOR OF BRACHET'S HISTORICAL FRENCH GRAMMAR

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

THIS little book of phonetics is intended to serve as a historical primer, introductory to my enlarged edition of Brachet's *Historical French Grammar*<sup>1</sup>. The want of some such elementary book has long been felt by English students. The scheme of the *Historical French Grammar* made it impracticable to detach the phonetic section of that work and issue it separately. It was, therefore, considered advisable to supply an independent book on the subject, which, while complete in itself, should serve as an introductory primer to the larger work. It is hoped that the present handbook may meet this want.

The *Primer* is written on the same historical principles as the *Grammar*; and care has been taken to preserve as far as possible the same terminology, so that the student may pass from one book to the other without risk of being confused by conflicting

<sup>1</sup> *Historical Grammar of the French Language*, from the French of Auguste Brachet. Rewritten and enlarged by Paget Toynbee M.A. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1896.

systems of nomenclature. A few chapters have been appended on inflection, which will be found useful by the beginner; and a full index has been provided, in two divisions, on the same plan as the index to the enlarged edition of the *Grammar*.

It was originally intended that the preparation of this handbook should be undertaken by myself. A press of other work, however, having compelled me to abandon my intention, the task, at my suggestion, was entrusted to the hands of Miss M. S. Brittain. Miss Brittain's practical experience in teaching has enabled her to remedy several defects and deficiencies which have been noted in the phonetic section of the *Grammar*; and, at the same time, she has had the advantage of being able to introduce such modifications as have been called for by the advance of the science of phonetics during the four years which have elapsed since the publication of my own work.

By their issue of a series of books on French philology, comprising *Specimens of Old French*<sup>1</sup>, the revised edition of Brachet's *Historical French Grammar*, and the present *Historical Primer of French Phonetics*, the Delegates of the Clarendon Press have

<sup>1</sup> *Specimens of Old French (IX-XV Centuries)*. With Introduction, Notes, and Glossary. By Paget Toynbee, M.A. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1892.

done much to remove a long-standing reproach against English scholarship. It is to be hoped that the facilities thus afforded may serve to attract an increasing number of students to a branch of study which has hitherto been somewhat neglected in this country.

PAGET TOYNBEE.

July, 1900.

\* \* \* Miss Brittain desires to acknowledge her obligations to the following works in particular, among others of which she has availed herself, viz. Meyer-Lükbe's *Grammatik der romanischen Sprachen*; Schwan's *Grammatik des Altfranzösischen*; Suchier's *Altfranzösische Grammatik*; and Darmesteter's *Cours de grammaire historique*.