

Preface

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Italic and Romance: Linguistic studies in honor of Ernst Pulgram

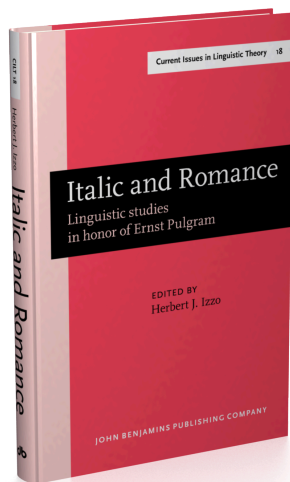
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PREFACE

Ernst Pulgram's contribution to linguistics has been extraordinary, as have been the honors awarded him in recognition thereof. A glance at his bibliography, now containing over 160 items, reminds one that he has written influential works on such diverse topics as the theory of names, the application of linguistics to language teaching, theories of syllable structure, the reality of reconstructed languages, and the use of the sound spectrograph in phonological analysis. When he was still a young assistant professor, only a few years away from his Harvard Ph.D. (and from his Dr. phil. from the University of Vienna), the University of Michigan recognized the excellence of his research with the granting of its Henry Russell Award. Thirty years later it created for him the R. Hayward Keniston Chair of Romance Linguistics. Between times Pulgram has twice been a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies (1951-52 and 1959-60), twice been a Guggenheim Fellow (1954-55 and 1962-63), has held important posts in the Linguistic Society of America, has been Visiting Professor at the Universities of Florence, Cologne, Heidelberg, Regensburg and Vienna, and President of the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States.

Always of independent mind, never a follower of fads or the adherent of any school other than the school of good sense and careful attention to facts, Ernst Pulgram opposed alike the mentalistic excesses of Crocean-Vosslerian Idealism and the Behaviorist rigidity of American Structuralism, as he now combats the absurdities of Generative Transformationalism. (Cf. especially his "Noam Chomsky's *Language and Mind*" [1971] and "Pulgram's Progress" [1980] .) And on all topics he has expressed himself, both in speech and in writing, in elegant, balanced prose that is always clear, incisive and graceful, often humorous and sometimes lyrical.

But while Ernst Pulgram has dealt with almost every area of linguistics, he is above all a ROMANCE linguist, as he himself has often emphasized. The prehistory, history and structure of Latin and the Romance languages,

especially Italian and French, have been the chief object of his research and the usual focus of his teaching for more than three decades, during which the University of Michigan, to a considerable extent because of his activity and influence, became *the* place to study Romance linguistics in America.

It is for this reason, as well as in the interest of compiling a relatively coherent collection of essays rather than the usual *Festschrift* potpourri, that the papers of this volume are restricted to the languages of ancient Italy and the Romance dialects that grew from them, even though this restriction has meant that certain of Pulgram's most distinguished colleagues and students could not be invited to contribute and that a few papers had to be rejected as not within the scope of the volume.*

Perhaps as much by chance as by design the amount of space devoted to the different parts of the Romance world seems to reflect, in a rough way, the degree of Pulgram's own occupation with them, the greatest number of papers dealing with languages of the Italian Peninsula and decreasing attention being given to the more peripheral areas of the Romania.

The arrangement of the papers is intended to be topical, starting with ancient Italy and moving upward in time and outward in space through general Romance to Italian, French and Provençal, Spanish, Romanian and Sardinian, and closing with a contribution to the history of Romance linguistics in Pulgram's native Austria.

Unfortunately the appearance of this volume, first scheduled for 1976, was delayed by the failure of its originally-intended publisher to fulfill his commitments. When the book was reset in the spring of this year, not all of the authors found time to revise their essays on rather short notice.

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H. I.

*To the authors of those papers and to anyone who should have been but, through oversight, was not invited to contribute an essay or to sign the *Tabula Gratulatoria*, the editor offers his apologies.