

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/sihols.11.preface>

Pages v–vii of

**Western Histories of Linguistic Thought: An annotated
chronological bibliography, 1822–1976**

E.F.K. Koerner †

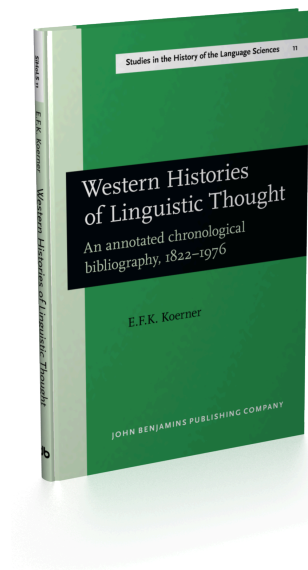
[*Studies in the History of the Language Sciences*, 11]

1978. x, 113 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



PREFACE

Several years ago, when first steps were taken to compile a bibliography of secondary literature on the history of linguistics, there were few, if any, sources available to the researcher. As a result, few titles were consulted by scholars working in the field, to the extent that some of them were regarded as definitive accounts, e.g., Benfey (1869), Thomsen (1927), or Pedersen (1931) for 19th-century historical-comparative work; Robins (1967), Arens (1969), and others for general overviews of the field from antiquity to the present; or Malmberg (1964), Ivić (1965), and similar books for more recent works in linguistics. These above-mentioned studies have significantly contributed to a better understanding of the history of linguistics, but in matters of detail many of these cannot be regarded as either definitive or reliable sources of factual information: For first-hand information on particular topics or epochs there are numerous other secondary sources which may offer a much better point of departure. A number of these can be found in the present bibliography.

Following the foundation of *Historiographia Linguistica* (Amsterdam 1973/74-), there have appeared a number of important publications devoted to the history of linguistics (e.g., Hymes 1974, Benware 1974, Fischer-Jørgensen 1975, Padley 1976, etc.), some of which contain fairly detailed bibliographies. The largest publication is the 2-volume *Historiography of Linguistics*, which appeared in 1975 as volume 13 of Thomas A. Sebeok's *Current Trends in Linguistics* (cf. pp.39 and 75-76 for details). Yet there is no bibliographical survey that gives a comprehensive account of the vast amount of secondary literature available in the field.¹

The present bibliography suggests that the history of linguistic historiography extends far beyond the works mentioned above, and that there has been a constant flow of publications which survey the discipline at its various stages of development. The bibliography makes no claim to completeness, although an attempt has been made to offer a comprehensive coverage of *general* accounts of the history of linguistic thought in the western world. Monographs exclusively devoted to a particular phase, author, or aspect in the history of linguistics have been omitted, at times with regret, though this principle has not always been rigorously applied, in particular where modern accounts are concerned.

1) A bibliography of the kind found in Manuel Mourelle de Lema, *Historia y principios fundamentales de la lingüística* (Madrid: Edit. Prensa, 1977), pp.731-853, for example, cannot satisfy this requirement.

If for no other reason than for economy, the year 1822 has been retained as the starting point of the chronological bibliography, which now spans the time of 155 years. Of earlier titles, the following might have been included because of special interest:

1747. Reichard, Elias Caspar (1714-91). *Versuch einer Historie der deutschen Sprachkunst*. Hamburg: J. A. Martini, [XVII,] 496 pp. in-16°
1782. Rüdiger, Johann Christian Christoph (1751-1822). *Grundriss einer Geschichte der menschlichen Sprache nach allen bisher bekannten Mund- und Schriftarten, mit Proben und Bücherkenntnis*. Part I: *Von der Sprache*. Leipzig: P. G. Kummer, 134 pp. (No further volumes were published.)

Between 1782 and 1793 Rüdiger also published a bibliographical survey, *Neuester Zuwachs der teutschen, fremden und allgemeinen Sprachkunde in eigenen Aufsätzen, Bücheranzeigen und Nachrichten*.⁵ Stücke [parts]. Leipzig: P. G. Kummer, 1782-85 (= parts I-IV); Halle: Michaelis & Cie., 1793 (= part V), 118, 236, 148, 232, and xii + 235 pp. in-16°, respectively.

I have already mentioned (p.2) J. G. Eichhorn's *Geschichte der neuern Sprachenkunde* (= vol. 5, part II of the author's *Geschichte der Litteratur von ihrem Anfang bis auf die neuesten Zeiten*), which appeared in 1807. Very recently it has been argued, quite convincingly, that the "Discours préliminaire", which François Thurot (1768-1832) added to his 1796 translation of James Harris' *Hermes; or, a Philosophical inquiry concerning universal grammar* (1751), should be regarded as the first true historical account of linguistics or, rather, of grammar.² In 1815, Johann Severin Vater (1771-1826) published his bibliographical survey, *Litteratur der Grammatiken, Lexika und Wörtersammlungen aller Sprachen der Erde*, which Bernhard Jülg (1825-86) reworked extensively for a second edition in 1847, and there are other publications that might have been considered for inclusion in the present work.

The material previously published in *Historiographia Linguistica* 1, Nos. 1-3 (1973-74) have been reprinted, at times with considerable alterations. In many instances I have followed suggestions made by interested scholars, three of whom deserve special thanks: Dr. Helmut Genauast of the University of Freiburg and Docent Dr. Jivco Boyadjev of the University of Sofia, for sending me lists of corrections and additions; and Professor Dr. F. M. Berezin of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Moscow, for supplying me regularly with

2) Cf. Julie T. Andresen, "François Thurot and the First History of Grammar", *Historiographia Linguistica* 5:1/2.45-57 (1978).

recent Russian publications and thus helping me to fill the most serious lacunae.

New publications devoted to the history of linguistics will continue to be reviewed in *Historiographia Linguistica*; I would appreciate receiving information on earlier publications that have so far escaped my notice, and if their number is significant, a list of addenda to the present bibliography will be printed in the Miscellanea rubric of the Journal.³ In the meantime I hope that the present volume, with its substantial additions (pp.66ff.) and the very detailed index of authors (105-113), will prove a useful reference tool for anyone working in the history of western linguistic ideas.

Ottawa, 5 February 1978

E. F. K. K.

3) Compare the entries Bakker & Dobbets 1977, Christmann 1977, Graur & Wald 1977, Lang 1977, Rieber & Salzinger 1977, and others in *HL* 5: 1/2. 207 ff. (1978).