

A Baudouin De Courtenay Anthology: The Beginnings Of Structural Linguistics

406

Slavic Review

Gurke, and *Quark*, which may have entered East Middle German by way of other dialects, as is almost certainly the case with *Kretscham*, where a form of Old Czech origin eventually won out over forms of Polish or Sorbian origin.

Bellmann's book, though it contains about ten entries which should not have been included, gives a solid and at times ingenious treatment of Slavic loanwords in a German dialect and should not be absent in major Slavic library collections.

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A BAUDOUIN DE COURTENAY ANTHOLOGY: THE BEGINNINGS OF STRUCTURAL LINGUISTICS. Translated and edited by *Edward Stankiewicz*. Indiana University Studies in the History and Theory of Linguistics. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press, 1973. viii, 406 pp. \$19.50.

This book is a collection of twenty-two studies covering Jan Baudouin de Courtenay's most representative and important writings in general and Slavic linguistics, presented for the first time to the English reader in an excellent translation by Edward Stankiewicz, who has not only done a fine editing job but in many cases has succeeded in his translation in clarifying passages which are difficult reading in the author's own style. This selection of Baudouin's writings gives a fascinating picture of the work of that famous Polish linguist of French origin, founder of the Russian school of linguistics at the University of Kazan. He, no less than Ferdinand de Saussure, was one of the pioneers of the structural school in linguistics, but is much less known, because only a few of his works were written in a West European language. His writings contain a wealth of original ideas that were elaborated on and advanced by all subsequent contributors to modern phonology and morphophonemics in structural linguistics in Europe and the United States. More than that, Baudouin's theories about the functions of linguistics are in line with the most recent approaches to the subject, as Stankiewicz demonstrates in his introduction (p. 16). The forty-three-page introduction by Stankiewicz, a valuable essay in itself, gives the reader an excellent idea of Baudouin's importance. The "phoneme," "morpheme," "phonetic alternations," and other concepts of structural linguistics are traced back to their origins in Baudouin's ideas and compared with similar notions set forth and elaborated further by the other founders of structural linguistics (Jakobson, Trubetsky, Shcherba, Martinet, and others).

The original writings contained in the book cover most of the theoretical issues and fundamental questions raised by Baudouin (which remain significant today), such as the nature of language as a system of signs, the place of linguistics among other sciences, methods of linguistic comparison, the social and psychological aspects of language, external and internal forces in language, and the synchronic and diachronic approaches to language study. His contributions to Slavistics included here are inseparably connected with his work in general linguistics, because the study of empirical facts concerning Slavic languages (for example, in "An Outline of the History of the Polish Language") serves him as a springboard for theoretical generalizations. Thus the historical and theoretical value of this book will certainly make it an indispensable item, not only for Slavic linguists but for everyone interested in theoretical linguistics.

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