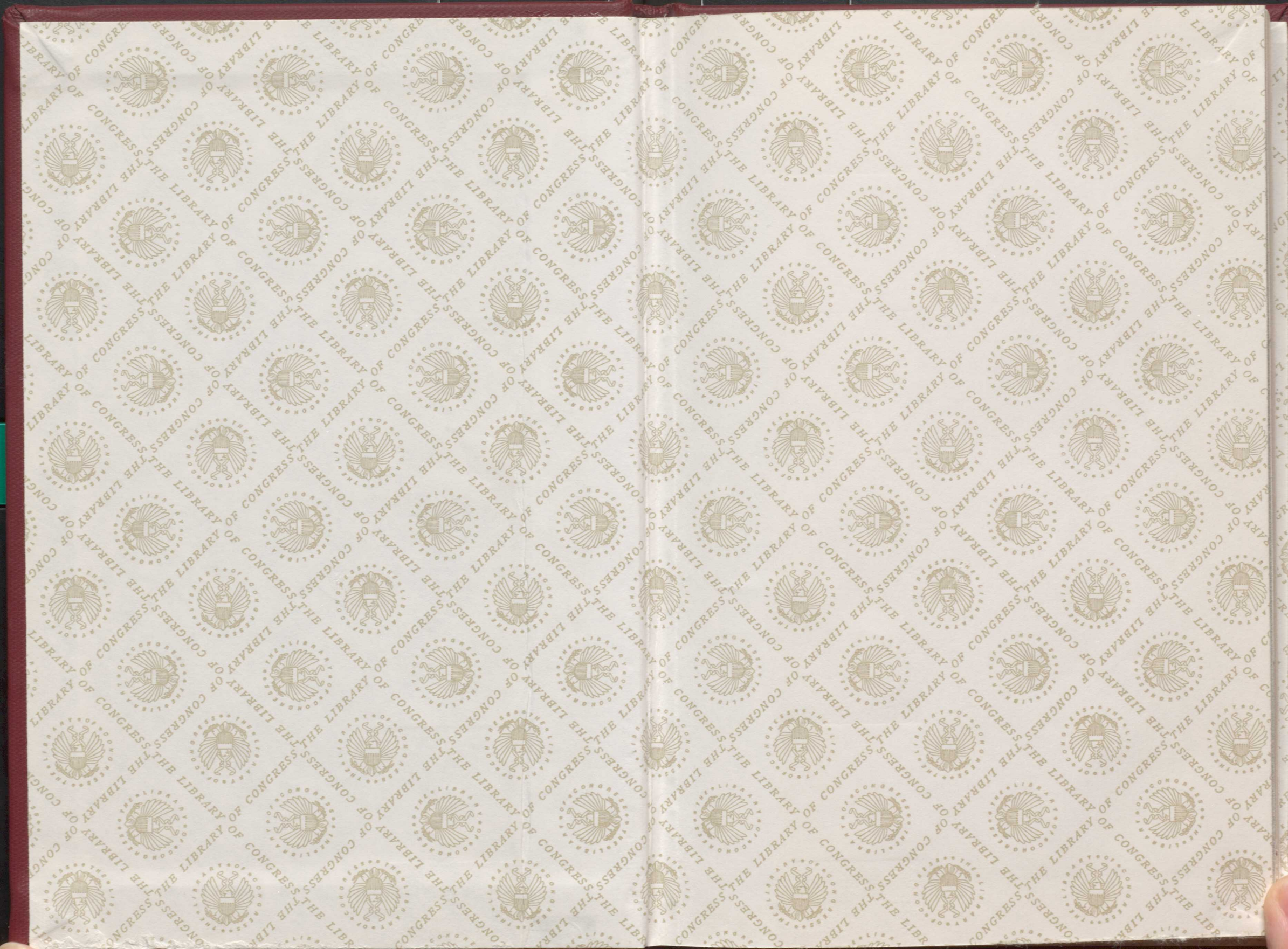


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THE
MASTER LANGUAGE

AN OUTLINE

OF THE

PRINCIPLES AND RULES

OF A PROPOSED

INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE

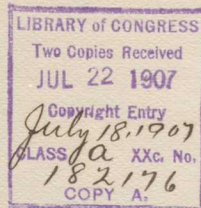
BY

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INTRODUCTION.

In the summer of 1900 the Société Philomatique de Paris inaugurated a movement looking to the devisement and adoption of an artificial language, adaptable to the requirements of international intercommunication in general and to the needs of science in particular—a language to be used as a vehicle for conveying standard scientific works to the readers of all nations. The several conventions and congresses of scientific organizations which convened in Paris during the year named were addressed on the subject, and all of these, to the number of twenty-four, joined in the movement, thirty members of the Institute subscribed their names to its support, and scholars in all parts of Europe expressed approval of the project. L'Association National des Académies assumed charge of the movement, a delegation representing all the societies referred to was chosen, and this delegation appointed a sub-committee to take active charge of the matter. Under the direction of the sub-committee a "Declaration" was prepared, published and spread broadcast, setting forth the urgent need of a **Langue Internationale Auxiliare**, and the conditions required to be met in its construction, and calling upon scholars throughout the world to "prêter leur concours a la délégation et de hâter ainsi cette grande réforme, qui marquera dans l'histoire de l'humanité une époque comparable à celle de l'invention de l'imprimerie, et qui contribuera puissamment aux progrès de la science et de la civilization."

In the "Declaration" it was prescribed that the international auxiliary language should satisfy the conditions following:

1. It must be capable of serving for the habitual relations of social life, for commercial exchanges, and for scientific and philosophical reports.
2. It must be easy of acquirement by all persons of fair education, especially Europeans.
3. It must not be an existing national language.

While the sense of need of scientific Europe in this regard and an earnest desire on the part of its representatives that the need shall be supplied are thus made manifest, and the conditions required to be met are sufficiently simple and reasonable, it is undoubtedly the fact that the acceptable new language must be truly and thoroughly scientific, both in foundation and superstructure. For a scientific basis the mind at once turns to Latin, for centuries the universal language of scholarship and literature, rich and prolific mother of mother tongues, substantial foundation of English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and the other Romance languages of today and of the past, supplying to a greater or less degree elements to all the languages of modern civilization, chief basis of the nomenclature of science, and familiar to the scholars of all lands. Obviously, Latin, more than any other source of supply, affords material for a broad and homogenous foundation for the proposed innovation.

But pure Latin, complex, unwieldy, out-of-date, is inadaptably to present-day requirements. The key-note of the desired artificial language must be simplicity. It should be logical, systematic and exact. It should have few forms, few rules, few exceptions. If upon Latin may be built up such a language, one which, while preserving the universally recognizable lineaments of the royal parent, shall be modern, simple, scientific in root and in construction, free from the complications, irregularities and involved methods characterizing the great mother tongue and inherited in great degree by her progeny, so nearly akin to existing languages as to be easily learned and readily adapted to the ordinary uses of international intercommunication, and at the same time so precise and complete as to meet the exactions of science, such a language should satisfy the required conditions, if they may be satisfied at all.

The elaborate terminology of the Latin must, of course, be discarded, and a modernized syntax provided. The regular terminology of the inflected words of the language is made up of the vowels a, e, i, o and u, giving a resemblance in appearance and sound to that most systematic and most melodious of tongues, the Italian. The advantages to be derived from the adoption of an established syntactic system are manifest and

controlling; and since the English is simpler than that afforded by any other Latin-derived tongue, it is here followed, with few modifications.

This publication is issued with the purpose of submitting to scholars and others who may be interested an exposition of the fundamental principles and rules of the proposed artificial language, in the hope of eliciting criticisms and suggestions which may aid the author in improving the plan of the language before presenting to the public a complete grammar.

No attempt is here made to demonstrate the adaptability of the language to general social and commercial usages. The translations from various languages, though few and brief, are deemed sufficient for present purposes.

Rome, N. Y., July, 1907.

