

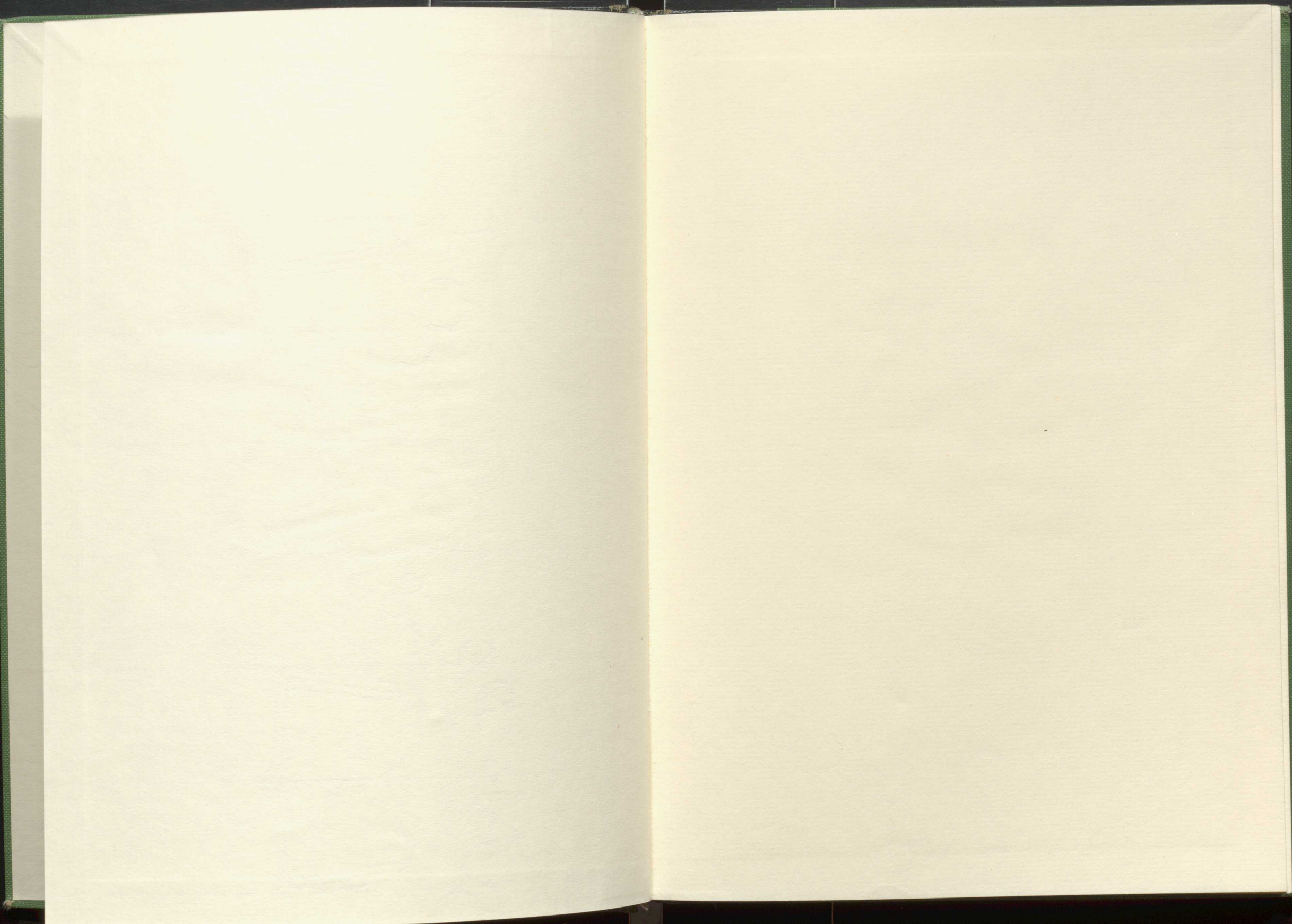
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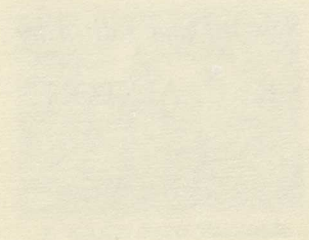
LODOWYCK • GROUND-WORK 1632 • SCOLAR

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Selected and Edited by

R. C. ALSTON

No. 103

THE SCOLAR PRESS LIMITED
MENSTON, ENGLAND
1968

FRANCIS LODOWYCK

THE GROUND-WORK
OF A NEW PERFECT
LANGUAGE

1652



A Scholar Press Facsimile

THE SCOLAR PRESS LIMITED
MENSTON, ENGLAND
1968

THE SCOLAR PRESS LIMITED
20 Main Street, Menston, Yorkshire, England



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AUG 5 - 1968

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The Scolar Press Limited
Menston, Yorkshire, England

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NOTE

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Francis Lodowyck was one of a distinguished group of linguists who, during the period extending roughly from 1645 to 1670, attempted to solve the problem of constructing a universal language. His output was not large, and he certainly never refined and elaborated his system in the way that Bishop John Wilkins did in his monumental *Essay towards a Real Character* (1688), but his two surviving works on the subject, the *Groudwork*, and *A common writing* (1647), are undoubtedly significant landmarks in a highly important movement in seventeenth century linguistics. Lodowyck also wrote, for the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* (1686, Vol. XV, no. 182 pp. 126-137), an "Essay towards an universal alphabet" — a work which is important for the history of phonetic theory but not, in fact, concerned with universal language as such. The "Essay" was subsequently reprinted, doubtless for private circulation. At the end of this volume one page from the original "Essay" has been reproduced to illustrate Lodowyck's proposed alphabet.

NOTE: J. I. H. Mendels, "Een Phonicus uit de 17de Eeuw", *Neophilologus*, XXI, 1936, 219-225; D. Abercrombie, "Forgotten Phoneticians", *Transactions of the Philological Society*, 1948, 2-11; E. J. Dobson, *English Pronunciation 1500-1700*, Oxford, 1957, 271-280.

Reference: Alston, VII, 280.

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THE

GROUND-WORK, K

OR

FOUNDATION LAID,

(or so intended)

For the Framing of a New Perfect

LANGVAGE:

And an Vniverfall or

COMMON WRITING.

And presented to the consideration of
the LEARNED,

By a Well-willer to Learning.



Printed, Anno M DC LII. 14



(1)



The Introduction.



The expression of the minde or thoughts, is either by the Tongue or Pen most generally performed, in both these, as at present used, I have observed these inconveniencies:

1 Concerning language, which, for the common use it hath with rationally creatures, should be in rules certain and easie, the contrary of which I have observed in most Languages at present in use amongst the Nations of these Western parts of the World, and more especially in those called Learned Languages, which are, as it were, become common Languages, by reason of the knowledge and learning by them divulged; and which should in all reason be the easiest and certainest, both for the truer description of things, and the easier attaining of the said

A 3.

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