

Transferring linguistic knowledge from Asia to Europe. T. S. Bayer's reception of Indian missionary grammars.

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The present paper aims to focus on an overlooked aspect of a more generally neglected chapter in the historiography of missionary linguistics, viz. the transcontinental interaction between fieldworkers overseas on the one hand and European scholars interested in foreign languages on the other. As a matter of fact, the latter group was often entirely dependent on the information provided by the former. All the same, the reception of missionary writings has as yet mainly been limited to Lorenzo Hervás y Panduro (see ZIMMERMANN 2004 for references). Focusing on the interest paid to Asian missionary writings by Gottlieb [Theophilus] Siegfried Bayer (1694-1738), the paper complements the many Hervás studies, most of which discuss his reception of missionary writings regarding American languages.

Whereas Bayer's interest paid to Chinese missionary linguistics has already been investigated (see e.g. LUNDBAEK 1986 and KLÖTER 2007), his curiosity for other Asian languages (see his correspondence with Mathurin Veyssiére Lacroze [1661-1739] in *Thesaurus epistolicus Lacrozianus*) has so far hardly received any attention (see BABINGER 1915, which contains also a list of primary sources). The paper will examine to what extent Bayer used or instrumentalized the new linguistic data (both grammatical and extra-grammatical) he received as well as how he assessed the missionaries' linguistic competences. Moreover, it will investigate to what extent Bayer's treatment of these linguistic data impacted on the further history of 19th-century linguistics. In so doing, the paper hopes to offer an enlightening case-study that illustrates the missionaries' role as go-betweens for European Enlightenment scholars interested in non-European languages.

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