

Anonymous of 1555, name under which a Spanish grammar was published by the renowned editor Bartolomeus Gravius in Louvain, Belgium.

Although this appellation has been linked to various people, e. g., by A. → Alonso (1951) to Francisco de Villalobos (not to be confused with the physician of Charles V, Francisco López de Villalobos), A. Roldán (1977:xxix—xxxiii) has rejected all such attempts at identification. After the appearance in 1520 of an equally anonymous *Vocabulario para aprender frances, español y flamini* (Antwerp), this was the first Spanish grammar for foreigners (1555). It is a book full of enthusiasm for the national language, emphasizing its proximity to Latin, as shown for example in its ending with an *Epistola Latina & Hispanica*. Its outstanding characteristics are brevity and a minimum of theory. Even today it is not without interest for the contrastive linguistics of Spanish and French.

Relying heavily on Latin grammar, particularly on A. → Nebrija's Castilian version of *Introducciones Latinae*, as it accepts seven cases for Spanish (the *effectivus* included), the *Útil y breve institución* nevertheless pays scarcely any attention to orthography or syntax, and it completely forgets about prosody. Instead, it focuses on morphology, termed *etimología*, and more specifically on declensions. The author classifies words into nine groups (the adjective being omitted in order to allow the presence of the article): article, noun, pronoun, verb, participle, preposition, adverb, interjection and conjunction, arranged according to their variability or invariability (non declinability). As usual for that time, the combination of article and preposition is the way that the different cases manifest themselves. The orthographic principle followed by the author is clearly phonetic in aim, and stated in the following words: "los españoles así como los latinos escriben como hablan, y hablan como escriben" [Spaniards, as well as Latin people, write in the same way they pronounce, and pronounce in the same way they write] (1555: 5).

(1555): *Útil y breve institución para aprender los principios y fundamentos de la lengua hespañola*, Lovaina (repr., A. Roldán ed., Madrid, 1977). Catalographic description and commentary by Centro Virtual Cervantes <http://cvc.cervantes.es/obref/fortuna/expo/lengua/lengu0113.htm#arriba>.

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(1988): *El complemento en la tradición gramatical hispánica (1492–1860)*, Madrid [108–09, 235–36]. ROLDÁN, A. (1977): "Estudio", in: (1555), above. SWIGGERS, P. (1987): "Les premières grammaires vernaculaires de l'it., de l'esp. et du port.", *HEL* 9, 157–81. ID. ET AL. (1989): "Les deux grammaires espagnoles de Louvain (1555, 1559)", in: Dutz, K. D. ed., *Int. Conf. on the Hist. of the Lang. Sciences*, Münster, 179–87.

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