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A Dutch version of Adelung's Mithridates (1826-1827)

Noordegraaf, J.

published in

Henry Sweet Society Newsletter
1988

document version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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citation for published version (APA)

Noordegraaf, J. (1988). A Dutch version of Adelung's Mithridates (1826-1827). *Henry Sweet Society Newsletter*, 11.

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A DUTCH VERSION OF ADELUNG'S *MITHRIDATES* (1826-1827)

A bibliographical note

Jan Noordegraaf (VU University Amsterdam)

As far as I know, the fact that Johann Christoph Adelung's (1732-1806) (and Johann Severin Vater's, 1771-1826) *Mithridates oder allgemeine Sprachenkunde* (1806-1817) also appeared in a Dutch version, has always been overlooked in historiographical literature. The Dutch edition was entitled *Geschied- en letterkundige nasporingen omtrent de afkomst en verspreiding der talen van de onderscheidene volken* (2 vols., 354, & 480 pp., Delft: J. Allart, 1826-1827). Its author was the Hague jurist Jacob Carel Willem Le Jeune (1775-1864).

This abridged and adopted edition of the *Mithridates*, from which Le Jeune incidentally left out all specimens of the 'Vater Unser', was preceded by an 'Algemeene inleiding, tot de algemeene taalkunde' of some 60 pages. In this introduction Le Jeune shows, among other things, his acquaintance with *De Spreeckonst* ('The Art of Speech') of 1635 by Petrus Montanus (1594/95-1638), the Dutch pioneer in phonetics, and the works of the well-known Dutch linguist Lambert ten Kate (1674-1731).

Le Jeune also refers to Charles de Brosses' (1709-1777) *Traité de la formation mécanique des langues* (1765) and Antoine Court de Gébelin's (1728-1784) *Histoire naturelle de la parole* (1776), works that are not frequently quoted in contemporary Dutch linguistic literature.

Reference

For a more extensive discussion of Le Jeune's work see Jan Noordegraaf, 'Taalkunde "voor ongeleerden". Inleiden anno 1826', in *Nauwe betrekkingen. Voor Theo Janssen bij zijn vijftigste verjaardag*. Ed. by Ronny Boogaart & Jan Noordegraaf. Amsterdam: Stichting Neerlandistiek VU / Münster: Nodus Publikationen 1994, 183-191. (Repr. in *Voorlopig verleden. Taalkundige plaatsbepalingen 1797-1960* by Jan Noordegraaf. Münster: Nodus Publikationen 1997, 28-41).

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OMTRENT

DE AFKOMST EN VERSPREIDING DER TALEN
VAN DE ONDERSCHIEDENE VOLKEREN,

MET EENE

INLEIDING

TOT DE

ALGEMEENE TAALKUNDE.

BEARBEID VOOR ONGELEERDEN.

DOOR

M^r J. C. W. LE JEUNE.

EERSTE STUK.

Te DELFT, bij
de Wed. J. ALLART.
1826.