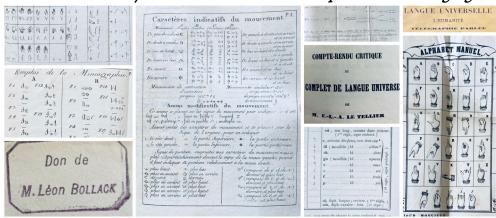
Gerald W. Cloud *Rare Books + Manuscripts + Archives* 410 Hauser Blvd, #10J, Los Angeles, CA 90036

In Search of the key to the Tower of Babel: who speaks the blue language?



From the library of the creator of "La Langue Bleue."

A collection of rare universal languages treatises from the library of Léon Bollack (1859-1925), a Parisian businessman and the inventor of "Bolak", which was also known as "la Langue Bleue", a competing language with Esperanto. Bollack wrote and published several works related to the project: *La Langue Bleue Bolak: langue internationale pratique* (1899), *Grammaire abrégée de la langue bleue* (1900) and *Premier vocabulaire de la langue bleue Bolak* (1902). In 1907 Bollack gave up his project and shifted support to another language system, Ido, a reformed version of Esperanto. His wet stamp *ex dono* appears in eight of the nine titles here. Notably, the works bearing Bollack's stamp (i.e., all but Caumont's *Langue Universelle*) were published before he was born, indicating his dedication to the history of universal languages, which undoubtedly informed his own work when developing "Bolak."

Speed and efficiency in the Industrial Revolution:

The 19th century saw the development of a number of life changing technological forces, such as the telegraph, the steam engine, and the railroad, that increased the speed and spread of communication. Similarly, an increase in the number of language systems like Bolak, Esperanto, and Ido, but also stenography, sign language for deaf-mutes, etc., sought to remove the barriers of native languages and thus increase the speed and efficiency of communication. The creation of universal languages was approached from a number of perspectives, documented by the nine titles offered here.



Writing sign language for deaf-mutes

1). Roch Ambroise Auguste Bébian. Mimographie : ou Essai d'écriture mimique, propre a régulariser le langage des sourds-muets

Paris: Chez Louis Colas, Libraire, rue Dauphine, no. 32, 1825.

(21.5 x 13.3 cm). vi, 42 pages, 3 folded of plates. Cloth spine over marbled paper boards, gilt title on spine. Some spotting, but otherwise excellent copy. Bollack *ex dono*.

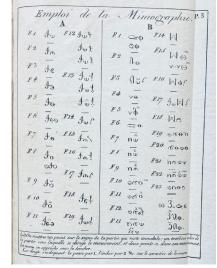
SOLD

Roch Ambroise Auguste Bébian (1789-1839) was one of the first successful educators in French sign language. He published widely on sign language and instruction for deaf-mutes, and in *Mimographie* he developed a

system of writing sign language through symbols, which are illustrated in the text via 3 engraved plates. An uncommon title with only 3 copies listed in North America (OCLC).





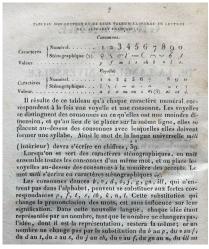


The title page and 2 of the three plates from Mimographie.

2). Augustin Grosselin. Système de langue universelle, par A. Grosselin. Discours prononcé par M. Grosselin, à la séance d'ouverture de son cours de langue universelle, le Dimanche 27 novembre 1836.

Paris: Roret, n.d. [1836] (21.5 x 13.3 cm).24 pp. Cloth spine over marbled paper boards, gilt title on spine, publisher's original wrappers bound in. Some spotting. Bollack *ex dono*.





SOLD

The work opens with Grosselin's speech for the inaugural session of a course on his universal language, followed by an abridged grammar of the language, in which consonants and vowels have numerical and stenographic correspondents, and words may be written in either numerical sequences or stenographic symbols. OCLC: BnF only

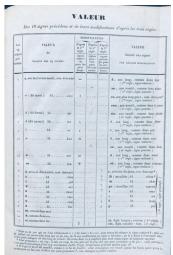
Augustin Grosselin (1800-1870) was an important innovator in stenography, developing his own manual [Système de sténographie, méthode facile, 2nd ed. 1824] and an innovator in the teaching of deaf-mutes.

3). [Charles Louis] Marle. *Manuel de la diagraphie : découverte qui simplifie l'étude de la langue / par M. Marle aîné,...*

Paris, Librairie Normale d'Éducation de Paul Dupont, 1839

(22 x 14.5 cm). 72 pp. Original publisher's printed paper cover over thin boards, soiling to covers, but a solid and very good copy. Bollack *ex dono*. 2 copies in OCLC.





\$1,400

Charles-Louis Marle (1799-1860) was a French grammarian who gained some fame for his attempt at spelling reform, which is presented in this work, in which he describes a purely phonetic script that he called "diagraphie": a 19-symbol alphabet that is employed to represent all the sounds of spoken language. This system was explained by him in two works: *Manuel de diagraphie* (the present title) and *Grammaire théorique*, pratique et didactique, ou texte primitive de la grammaire diagraphique (Paris, Dupont, 1839).

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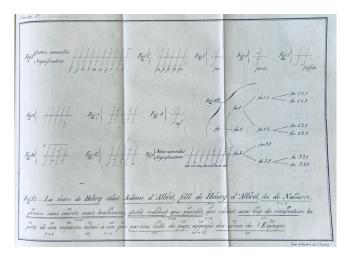
"People are solicited by the same interests; railways bring them closer together; a common language must reconcile and unite them. The fate of mankind depends on the co-operation of three great civilizing powers: the universal language, the telegraph, and the steam engine, symbols of intelligence, activity, and strength." 1 – from the author's preface.

4). Esquisse d'une langue universelle.

Paris: Bertrand, 1843

(22 x 14 cm). [6], xiv, 201, [3] pp. Cloth spine over marbled paper boards, gilt title on spine. Two folding plates of diagrams. Annotations, underlining, and scattered notes from a previous reader clearly studying the text. Bollack *ex dono.*

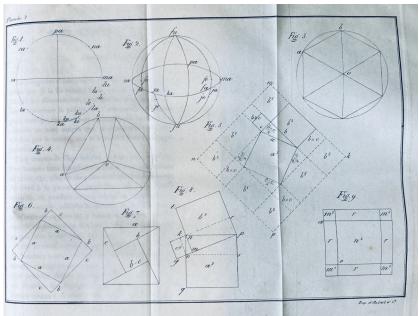
\$2,500



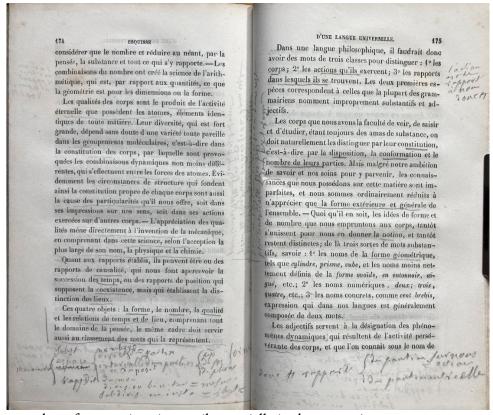


¹ "Des intérêts identiques sollicitent les peuples; des chemins de fer les rapprochent; une langue commune doit les concilier et les unir. Le sort de l'humanité dépend du concours de trois grandes puissances civilisatrices: la langue universelle, le télégraphe et la machine à vapeur, symboles de l'intelligence, de l'activité et de la force. ÉPIGRAPHE DE L'AUTEUR."

An earlier edition appeared under the imprint Librairie orientale de Ve. Dondey-Dupré, Paris, 1837, which appears to be the same sheets with different title page, but without the *post-scriptum*, which in our copy is also annotated by a former reader, as is the main part of the text. Contains a writing system that the author offers as a replacement for stenographic methods. OCLC lists only a single copy of this edition, and only four of the 1837.



The folding plates diagram the author's system, which are complemented by seven explanatory tables.



The copy bears a number of annotations in pencil, especially in the postscript.

5). Frégier, Jh.-Casimir. *De la langue universelle et analytique d'É.-T.-Vidal / par Jh.-Casimir Frégier*.

impr. de Martin, Aix, 1846

(22.5 x 14.5 cm). [2], 20 pp. Cloth spine over marbled paper boards, gilt title on spine. Bollack *ex dono*.

É.T.T. Vidal was a stenographer and author of several texts related to the art of "writing as quickly as one can speak", particularly across languages. In this brief explanatory work, Jh.-Casimir Frégier gives a summary of the benefits of a universal language and more particularly Vidal's system and its virtues, plus a short explanation of its principle mode of operation—it reads like an erudite promotional précis.

ET

Don do
M. Mon BRELOW

ANALYTIQUE

d'Actor. VIDAL

PAR JIM-CASHUR PRÉCIER.

devoit à le Cour Papils et des

Ent même le l'actor l'a

\$800

Vidal's *Langue universelle et analytique* first appeared in Paris, 1844. He was also the author of *Sténographie vertical* (1849). Vidal argued that, to write and translate a language before learning to speak it, it is enough to have the translation of the given work in one's own language.

OCLC: 3 copies in France only.

6). Jean Pierre Rambosson. Langue universelle: langage mimique, mimé et écrit, développement philosophique et pratique.

Paris, France: Garnier, Libraires au Palais-Royal, 1853.

(22 x 13.5 cm). [4], 43, [1] pp. Folding plate illustrating sign language, which is absent in some copies. Cloth spine over marbled paper boards, gilt title on spine, original wrappers bound in. Spotting. Bollack *ex dono*.





SOLD

Chapter one opens with a general definition of the language system: *language mimique* is the expression of thought by gestures, just as verbal language is the expression of thought through the spoken word. Following is an explanation of the system, its application, as well as correcting certain prejudicial assumptions about deaf-mutes. There is a chapter on *language mimique* as a universal language, and, as witnessed by the folding plate, several sections on communication methods for deaf-mutes and sign language—chapter 6 is dedicated to those methods and the application of the gestures used in the *language mimique*. Rare: OCLC lists 3 copies, all in Europe.

Jean Pierre Rambosson (1827-1886), published on a number of scientific topics, and he brings the rigor of his scientific approach to this language for deaf-mutes.

7). Léon Tillard. Compte rendu critique du "Cours complet de langue universelle" de M.C.-L.-A. Le Tellier, par L. Tillard.

Caen: Impr. de Vve Pagny, 1855

 $(22 \times 13.5 \text{ cm})$. 14 pp, an 1pp. table of contents. Cloth spine over marbled paper boards, gilt title on spine. Excerpt from the journal "Le Moniteur du Calvados." Bollack *ex dono*.

OCLC: BnF only.

\$400



In this pamphlet Léon Tillard reviews Cours complet de langue universelle by Charles-Constant Le Tellier (1768-1846), the French lexigrapher, author of Dictionnaire (nouveau) portatif de la langue française, ou Vocabulaire rédigé d'après le Dictionnaire de l'Académie et les ouvrages des meilleurs grammairiens (1827). Le Tellier's Cours complet de langue universelle is a two-volume work that falls into a category of artificial languages that "used more conventional means, that is, letters, syllables, and words, to constitute the vocabulary of an artificial language. In several of these languages, letters and their position in syllables and words were used to reflect a classification scheme, so that the structure of a word indicated the position which the thing designated by that word occupied within the classification." (cf. Maat & Cram, pp. 249-50)

8). Casimir Henricy. Société de linguistique. Extrait du rapport du Comité de la langue universelle, par M. Casimir Henricy ... lu dans la séance du 3 juillet 1856.

Paris: Bureaux du Cosmos, 1856.

(24 x 15 cm). 8 pp. Cloth spine over marbled paper boards, gilt title on spine. Bollack *ex dono.*

OCLC: BnF only.

\$450



Henricy provides his secretary's report for the July 3, 1856 meeting of the Committee to form a universal language of the *Société de linguistique*. The function of the latter, as stated by Henricy, was to "deal with all subjects related to philology and linguistics considered in their greatest extension, and especially from a practical point of view... [also], while carrying out a more or less radical reform of the spelling of the French language, [address the] question of... the idea of a universal language." The report then provides "a summary and quick presentation of the work of the Universal Language Committee... showing you the path that this Committee has followed, the obstacles that have stood under in its path, [and] the magnitude and difficulties of the task it has accepted."

Casimir Henricy (1814-1900), was a linguist, journalist, and French politician who in the 1850-60s collaborated on efforts to create a universal language; it has been noted by Décimo that "his intellectual biography mirrors the ideological atmosphere of a large swath of the republican and bourgeois population at that time, affinity for social and religious utopias, both fascinated by positivism and anchored in traditional patterns of patriotic thought" (cf. Décimo, Marc. (2012). "A propos de l'aventure de La Tribune des linguistes (1854-1860): utopie et dépassement").

9). Aldrick Caumont. Langue universelle de l'humanité, ou, Télégraphie parlée par le nombre agissant: réduisant à l'unité tous les idiomes du globe compris instantanément d'un pôle à l'autre et à toutes distances.

Paris: A. Durand; Bruxelles: Bruylant-Christophe, 1867

(36 x 27 cm). iii, 23 pages; Bright original publisher's yellow wrappers printed in black.

LANGUE UNIVERSELLE

LHUMANITÉ

SUGLAGGARAAPHERE LPARELÉGE

THE MORE MERCE

THE

\$800

	1	2	3	4	1				
	FRANÇAIS-	ANGLAIS.	ALLEMAND.	ITALIEN.		ESPAGNOL.	LATIN.	GREC.	HÉBREU.
1	Ma langue est comme la plume d'un écrivain rapide.	My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.	Moise Junge üt ein Oroffel einer gaten Schreibens.	La mia lingua sarà come la penna d'un veloce scrittere.	1	Ni lengua pluma de escri- licale, que escribe velormiente.	Lingua mea calamas scribe velociter scribeutis.	Ή γλίσσα μιν καλαγος γγαγ- ματόνς όξυγράφαν.	פור עם מפר מחודה
2	Mon cerur agité prenonce une parcle excellente.	My heart is inditing of a good matter.	Man hery dichtet ein janne bieb.	ll mio core sgorga un buon regionamento.	2	Reboso mi corszon palabra bucca.	Erudavit eer nieum verbitm bonom.	Edipolitate è unplia per dépor uyados,	חם לני וני פיב
3	Pai dit: Mes cavrages seront pour le grand lioi qui règne sur isute la terre.	I speak of the things which I have made touching the great King over all the earth.	3d will fingen von einem großen Lönige auf bem gangen Gabeben.	lo recito le mie opere al grao Re sepra tutta la serra.	3	Digo yomis obras al Rey gran- de sobre toda la tierra.	Dico ego opera mea regi magno super ominem terram.	Λέγω έγω τα έγγα μου το βο- ειλεί το μεγόλο έπε πάταν του γέν.	בר אנו מעמי מלך הבוול על כל הארק.
4	Lève-toi, ¢ Diru, juge la terre: toules les nations seront tou héritage.	Arise, 0 God, judge the earth for thou shall inherst all nations.	Gett, made bid auf und eichte bad Land; benn Du bit Gelderr über alle Hoben.		4	Levintate, Dios, junta la tiern: porque la heredaris en todas las maciones.	Surge, Deus, judica terrata: quenam la hereditables in cumi- lus gentitus.	Averta, & Oth, silver the phy in silver the phy in silver transfer the transfer to the silver transfer transfer to the silver transfer t	שת אלחים ססמת הארל י אתה תנהל ככל המים.
5	Dieu, qui est semblable à toi? ne garde pas le silence, et ne demeure pas dans le repos, ô Dieu.	Bold not thy tongue, 0 God: keep not thou silence, and be not still, 0 God.	Gon, idmeige boch nicht alio, und der boch nicht in feille i Gen, halte boch nicht je imme.	O Dio, non istartene cheta, non lacere, e non riposarti, e Dio.	5	Dico, 4 quiem será semejante à la f no le estés en sócucio, ni le delengas, o Dios.	Dens, quis similis erit tibi? ne tacess, neque compessaris Dens.	'O biec, ris dipundentes en ; Me organes, unde navarpalises, à bies;	לדום של דפי לך ל תחרם ול החקם של
6	Car, voici, tea ennemis font da bruit, et ceax, qui te hifissent ont levé la tête.	For, lo, thine enemies make a fumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.	Drum fiche, beine geinde teben, und die bich hoffen, richten ben Kepf aus.	Perciocchè ecco, i tuoi aemici remoreggiano, e quelli che fo- diano aleano il carpo.	6	Para ves, que tus enemiços metra ruido, y los que te abor- recen, alzaron la cabeza.	Quenius ecre inimici tui se- naciust: et qui coerunt te, es- tulerunt caput.	Ore blowed extinction dynamics and of pomounts on figure regulary.	רנה אויכיך ירעיין זכנאיך נפאו ראם.
1	Ils out conspiré en secret confre fon peuple, et tenu con- seil contre ceux que tu couvres de tes ailes.	They have imagined craftily against thy people: and taken counsel against thy hidden once.	Sie maden liftige Andchläge rei- ber bein Bold, und nutfichlagen weber beine Berbergmen.	Homo peso un cacate consi- glio contr at toe popolo, et si sen consigliati contra quelli che son hiscosti appo te.	7	Sobre tu pueblo han temlo de- nigatos maliciacos, y han echado tumas contra lus suntos.	Super populara tuum mali- graverum consilium; et cogia- verum adversus sanctos tuos-		ל הפוך יצריפוי טוד הייבני על בשתיף.
3	Dieu, qu'ils scient devast toi comme un tourballon; comme la paille que le vent emporte.	For they have cost their heads fogether with one consent: they are confederate against thee. O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind.	neninige und einen Bind reiber bich gemacht. Gert, nuche fir teie einen Mirbel, mie Bioppeln vor bem teinbe.	Perciscobè si son di pari con- sentimento consignati insteme ed hamo isita lega contra te. Dio nio, fagli essere come una polla, come della stoppa al vento.	8	Porque echaron fraras una- nicement; indos a una dispu- nicem pecto contra à i Diss mis, pintos como rueda, y como po- jilla delante del viento.	miler; simul adversum te tes- tomentum dispongerunt. Deur	And to done name was described	י מיכנו לב יחדו לין ביות יבותו לין ביתבו ככלכל דש ביתבו ככלכל דש לפני וות.
3	Course le feu brûle une forêt et course la famme enbrase la meniagne ; poursuis les-de nême par la lempête et les épouvante par la colère.	As the fire that burneth a wood; and as the flame setteth the nountains on fire, Persecute them so with thy tempest; and make them afraid with thy storm.		Cirue il facco brucia un bos- co, come la fiamma divança i monti : così persegnitati colla lua tempesta, e canturbati col tato turbo.	9	las mortes: asi los retsenuirio	Sigst ignis qui comburet sil- yuat : et secut fizimin contri- teis monies. In persoquerii illos in tempestate tua : et in ira tua turbabse cos.	doit plet narmenton ben, ettig	צם תבער יכר ג'תבות תלחם דרים ן הידשם בפעד נסשמק הבדולם.
10	Courre leur face d'agnemiaie, afin qu'ils cherchent ton nom, à literael : qu'ils soient Loateux et dans l'effres à lemais ; qu'ils rougssent et qu'ils périsseut.	them he put to shame, and	Mache the Angeleber voll Schande, bade bie nach beinem Alamen fragen midfen. Delburen midfen fei felt, und erichtenkon immer nelte und mehr, und zu dependen werden, und un der unsennen n.	Engile lor faccie di vituperio, e fa che cerchino il tue nome, o Signare : sicuo svergognati, e conturbati in perpetuo : e siemo confusi, e periscano.	10	Liena sus restres de ignosal- sis, y luscaria de nombre, é Señor. Quaden senvoyalos, y turbados por segio de sado : y quedes corridos, y perezcan.	Erubescont et confurbestor in	simplies and Concession to Sugar	א פניהם קלון בכסי ספוף יהיות בו רבהנו עדיעד קפרו ויאבור.

This work aims to create a universal language that through a concordance of phrases in eight languages (French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew) will allow members of different native language groups to communicate by referring to the numerical reference in the chart of phrases (see the illustration).

Thus, the author proposes to create a "methodical and reasoned" idiomatic concordant dictionary with "All the most useful, practical, and progressive ideas in the physical world, the intellectual world and the moral world, and in particular on the following points: Commerce, Navigation, Railways and Electric Telegraphy, preceded by a Numerical and Alphabetical Grammar and a Vocabulary of Words." As of the time of the publication of this brochure, the dictionary had yet to be created and the author has used biblical phrases for his sample chart of phrases.

Aldrick Caumont (1825-1884), was and attorney, professor, and writer. Corresponding member of the Institut historique de France (in 1867). - Professor of commercial and maritime law and economic law at the Hôtel-de-Ville of Le Havre (in 1867).