

Alf Lombard and the academic study of Romance languages in Sweden until 1939

Lars-Göran Sundell, Uppsala University

Alf Lombard (1902 – 1996) is closely associated with Lund University due, among other factors, to his long and successful professorship there (1939 – 1969). His lasting legacy comprises not only numerous publications dealing with different aspects of the Romance languages, but also his effortless work in introducing and promoting the Rumanian language and literature in the Swedish academic agenda. His formative academic years, however, were spent in Uppsala and he grew out of the very strong tradition of Romance studies that had developed there during the second half of the 19th century and that culminated around 1900. Alf Lombard's memories of these years were always positive and his references to Professor Erik Staaff and other members of the Uppsala seminar of Romance languages showed his respect and appreciation of their work. Several of Alf Lombard's most celebrated publications date from this period, among others *Les Constructions nominales dans le français moderne. Étude syntaxique et stylistique*, 1930 (doctoral dissertation) ; “*Li fel d’anemis*”, “*Ce fripon de valet*”. *Étude sur les expressions de ce type en français et sur certaines expressions semblables dans les langues romanes et germaniques*, 1931 ; *L’infinif de narration dans les langues romanes. Étude de syntaxe historique*, 1936.

In this contribution I propose to place Professor Lombard in the context of the rising linguistic science with regards to Romance languages in Sweden. I will also focus on his pioneering role in this field and attempt to determine to what extent he both leaned on and added to an already existing tradition. Some of the more general issues I will raise are the following: which of the Romance languages should be highlighted; what kind of linguistic problems are worth considering; what methodology is to be preferred.

In exploring the views Professor Lombard held on these and other linguistic issues my aim will be to define his linguistic creed, which, I believe, had to a large extent been established before he was appointed professor of Romance languages at Lund University in 1939.

Professor Lars-Göran Sundell

Department of Modern Languages

Romance Languages

Uppsala University

Box 636, 751 26 Uppsala

Lars-Goran.Sundell@moderna.uu.se

Key words: Alf Lombard's linguistic creed and legacy; his role in the study of Romance languages until 1939; his formative years.

