

2, Coltart Road,  
Liverpool.  
May 29, 1931.

Prof. G. Peano,  
Cavoretto-Torino,  
Italy.

Honorato Consocio,

Returning to the subject of your esteemed post card of 25/5/'31, to which I replied briefly on May 27th, I wish first of all to beg you to excuse my writing in English, but as I have reason to believe that you are well acquainted with it, I think we shall understand each other better if we use it for our present purpose. Still, if you would prefer to reply in Spanish, French, Italian or LsF, I will do my best to follow you.

Your post card says: . . . "me preca vos de fac propaganda, et socios ad API, que approba desinentias de breve grammatica de vos."

I should be pleased to know the exact meaning you attach to the words which I have underlined. What I understand them to mean is, that you approve of the grammatical terminations of Latinesco.

If this means that you are willing to adopt such terminations I shall be very glad; but, I am afraid it only means that you regard them as tolerable. This would not carry us very far towards the adoption of a single language for international use, which I think ought to be our great aim.

If the official language of API consisted of your Vocabulary and the Grammar of Latinesco, I am sure it would quickly meet with wide and influential support, especially if you published the Grammar in various languages, beginning with English. Men and women of education and influence would quickly take up the study of it, and their example would soon be followed by large numbers of every class of people capable of learning a language.

I do not think it is a good thing to deprive a language of good and useful qualities in order to bring it down to the level of the lowest intelligence. The effect of such deprivation is, that most people of education will have nothing to do with it. It is because it lacks the approval of educated people in general that Esperanto has failed, and must fail, despite its great propaganda work.

Up till now LsF has been useful for the easy reading of technical and scientific works on account of its Latin vocabulary and its simple nature, but I do not think it would ever be satisfactory for the purpose of speaking; and even for reading, it is, in my humble opinion, neither so clear nor so easy as Latinesco.

The Accidence of Latinesco, as set forth in the pamphlet, is somewhat abbreviated, but the parts that are not given are as simple as those that are. The Syntax contains nothing that is difficult, but simply gives rules and examples for the guidance of learners in the practical use of the various Parts of Speech.

There is a matter belonging to the Syntax which I might have mentioned in the pamphlet, namely, that in Latinesco the verb essere can be used with the Gerund of the principal verb, just like stare

in Italian, estar in Spanish, and to be in English; e.g.:-

Ego esseo scribendo	}	I am writing.
Io sto scrivendo		
Yo estoy escribiendo		

Essemus loquendo . . . . . We are speaking.  
And so on with other tenses, etc.

If you are at all disposed to consider the adoption of the grammar of Latinesco, I should be very pleased to confer with you concerning any points that you might think it would be well to modify.

Yours sincerely

*Angus J. Macmillan*