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► To cite this version:

Pavel Šturm, Annie Rialland, Cécile Fougeron. Pernot, Scripture and Millet: Different ideas for running a journal of experimental phonetics in the early 20th century.. Sixth International Workshop on the History of Speech Communication Research (HSCR 2024, Sep 2024, Budapest, Hungary. pp.35 - 45, 10.21437/hscr.2024-5 . hal-04856483

HAL Id: hal-04856483

<https://hal.science/hal-04856483v1>

Submitted on 27 Dec 2024

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PERNOT, SCRIPTURE AND MILLET: DIFFERENT IDEAS FOR RUNNING A JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL PHONETICS IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

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Abstract: This paper focuses on three projects that aimed to speak to the international community of experimental phoneticians in the interwar period in Europe. The *Revue de phonétique* encountered a crossroads following the demise of one of its founders, Abbé Rousselot, in 1924. Hubert Pernot grappled to sustain the *Revue* until 1929 amidst uncertainties. Concurrently, Edward Wheeler Scripture initiated another journal in 1930, offering an alternative but short-lived platform for experimental phonetic inquiry. The two phoneticians and their projects were observed and criticized by Rousselot's former pupil, Abbé Millet, who harboured aspirations for a phonetics journal of his own. Based on archival materials, the paper analyses the available correspondence exchanged between these key actors and Josef Chlumský, a leading Czech phonetician of the era. The epistemological evidence reveals important and often overlooked details surrounding the trajectory of experimental phonetics journals and related initiatives, but also reflects on the challenges, ambitions, and scholarly exchanges that shaped the vibrant landscape of experimental phonetics in interwar Europe.

1 Phonetic journals in Europe (1886–1945)

The current paper serves as a complementary piece to [7] within this volume that discussed the material and institutional legacy of Rousselot in light of the correspondence between JOSEF CHLUMSKÝ, the founder of Czechoslovak phonetics [15], and two French phoneticians, ADRIEN MILLET and HUBERT PERNOT. The paper also provided context to the scientific and institutional trends leading up to the period examined. Our focus shifts here to Rousselot's immaterial legacy, particularly the journal *Revue de phonétique*, examining its position within the network of interwar phonetic journals in Europe. While Millet and Pernot remain central figures, our discussion also encompasses EDWARD W. SCRIPTURE and his correspondence with Chlumský.

After much deliberation and encouragement from colleagues and friends, Rousselot, along with Pernot, made the decision to establish a new phonetics journal in 1911. However, *Revue de phonétique* was not the only phonetic journal between the wars. Table 1 provides the necessary context. While some journals had a longstanding presence, others were published for only brief periods. Some journals had predecessors, as indicated by their position in the table.

While Rousselot had previously collaborated with Marcel Natier on *La Parole*, their efforts were short-lived and primarily focused on medical aspects and speech disorders. Still, within its pages, one can find experimental phonetic research contributed by many of Rousselot's students, including Chlumský, Panconcelli-Calzia or Popovici. Gutzmann's *Medizinisch-pädagogische Monatsschrift* also centred heavily on phoniatics and clinical phonetics of the larynx. In a different vein, journals such as *Le maître phonétique* and *Phonetische Studien*, edited by P. Passy and W. Viëtor, focused on practical phonetics as advocated by the IPA adherents. It is noteworthy that, due to the rift between experimental and auditory phoneticians ([4], [2]), there was barely any overlap in their publishing platforms. The experimental phoneticians formed a specific community, an autonomous field within phonetics, with clearly spelled methods and aims.

Table 1. Phonetic journals in Europe 1886–1945 (* after titles provided in phonetic transcription)

Period	Title	Place	Founder/editor
1886–1888	<i>The Phonetic Teacher: The Organ of the Phonetic Teatcher's Association*</i>	Paris	Passy
1889–1896	<i>Le maître phonétique: Organe de l'Association phonétique des professeurs de langues vivantes*</i>	Paris	Passy
1897–1970	<i>Le maître phonétique: Organe de l'Association Phonétique Internationale*</i>	Paris	Passy, Jones, Gimson, Wells
1888–1893	<i>Phonetische Studien: Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche und praktische Phonetik mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die Reform des Sprachunterrichts</i>	Marburg	Viëtor
1894–1898	<i>Die neueren Sprachen: Zeitschrift für den neusprachlichen Unterricht. Mit dem Beiblatt Phonetische Studien</i>	Marburg	Viëtor
1899–1943	<i>Die neueren Sprachen: Zeitschrift für Forschung und Unterricht auf dem Fachgebiet der modernen Fremdsprachen</i>	various	Viëtor & others
1891–1912	<i>Medizinisch-pädagogische Monatsschrift für die gesamte Sprachheilkunde mit Einschluß der Hygiene der Stimme in Sprache und Gesang: Internationales Centralblatt für experimentale Phonetik</i>	Berlin	A. & H. Gutzmann
1913–1922	<i>Internationales Zentralblatt für experimentelle Phonetik VOX</i>	Berlin	H. Gutzmann, Panconcelli-Calzia
1925–1936	<i>Vox: Mitteilungen aus dem Phonetischen Laboratorium der Universität Hamburg</i>	Hamburg	Panconcelli-Calzia
1937–1943	<i>Archiv für die gesamte Phonetik</i>	Berlin	Zwirner
1891–1898	<i>Revue internationale de rhinologie, otologie et laryngologie</i>	Paris	Natier
1899–1904	<i>La Parole: Revue internationale de rhinologie, otologie, laryngologie et phonétique expérimentale</i>	Paris	Natier, Rousselot
1911–1914	<i>Revue de phonétique</i>	Paris	Rousselot, Pernot
1928–1929	<i>Revue de phonétique</i>	Paris	Pernot
1913–1914	<i>Archiv für experimentelle und klinische Phonetik</i>	Berlin	Katzenstein
1920	<i>Živé slovo [The Live Word]</i>	Prague	Frinta
1927–1947	<i>Archives néerlandaises de phonétique expérimentale</i>	The Hague	Société hollandaise des sciences
1930–1932	<i>Zeitschrift für Experimentalphonetik: Organ der internationalen Gesellschaft für experimentelle Phonetik</i>	Leipzig	Scripture

After introducing our material sources in Section 2, the subsequent parts examine the context surrounding the *Revue de phonétique* following Pernot's assumption of sole editorial responsibility. The *Revue* found itself in competition with Scripture's Society of Experimental Phonetics, culminating in the establishment of the *Zeitschrift für Experimentalphonetik*. Finally, the paper reviews the aspirations and challenges faced by Millet, whose intention to launch a journal of his own remained unrealized.

2 Material sources and biographical sketches of the people involved

2.1 Chlumský's correspondence

As shown in more detail in [7], Chlumský corresponded extensively with notable phoneticians and linguists, including Pernot, Meillet, Vendryès, among others. Preserved at Charles University, these received letters provide valuable insights into Chlumský's academic interactions and collaborations, occasionally featuring his drafted replies on the reverse side of the letters. The current paper focuses on Chlumský's correspondence primarily with Millet, Pernot, and Scripture (see Fig. 1). Millet maintained a steady correspondence rate, typically sending 3–5 letters each year until 1932. Pernot's correspondence varied, averaging 3–4 letters annually, except for a peak of six letters in 1929 (spurred by the Czech field recordings done in collaboration with Pernot), followed by a decline to one letter per year from 1931 onwards. In contrast, Chlumský's correspondence with Scripture was comparatively brief, often limited to a few lines or one to two pages, and the frequency of contact was also the lowest and shortest of the three.

Some letters predated Rousselot's death, particularly those exchanged with Pernot (not shown in Fig. 1). While certain letters lacked explicit dates, their content allowed for chronological placement. Finally, it is likely that the collection is incomplete, missing a few letters.

As in [7], we will use the abbreviations PtC, MtC and StC to denote correspondence from Pernot/Millet/Scripture to Chlumský, followed by the date in the European format (dd/mm/yyyy). Due to a lack of space, only our translations are provided, but some letters are shown in the figures. The original French text can be consulted online.¹

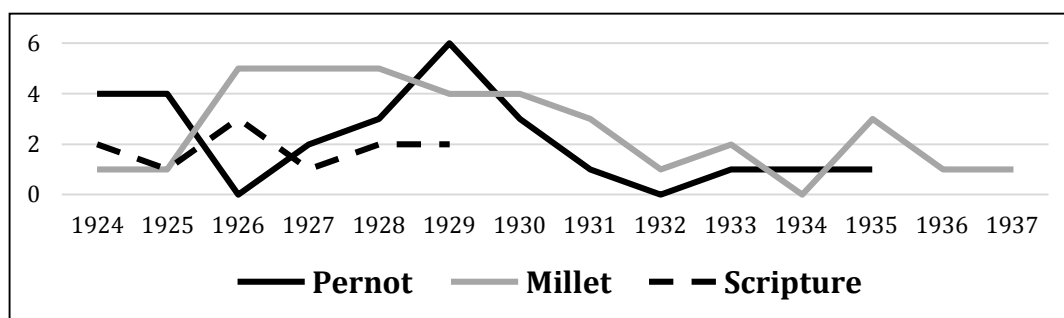


Figure 1. Number of letters from Pernot, Millet and Scripture to Chlumský per year (1924–1937).

2.2 Chlumský, Pernot and Millet

Detailed biographical sketches of the three phoneticians are provided in [7] so we will summarize the main information here. JOSEF CHLUMSKÝ (1871–1939) pioneered experimental phonetics in Czechoslovakia, studying modern languages in Prague and abroad, notably in Paris. He collaborated with Rousselot, establishing a phonetics laboratory at Charles University in Prague in 1919. Chlumský's contributions include seminal works on Czech word stress and melody and French vowel radiography, along with methodological treatises. He also played a crucial role in creating Czech sound archives. HUBERT PERNOT (1870–1946), initially focused on Modern Greek studies, collaborated with Rousselot and contributed to experimental phonetics. He directed the Institut de Phonétique et les Archives de la Parole and conducted expeditions to record folk songs and dialects. In 1911, Rousselot and Pernot founded *Revue de phonétique*, the first journal in France devoted explicitly to experimental phonetics. ADRIEN MILLET (1881–1937), a student of Rousselot, taught experimental phonetics in Paris and authored numerous books on phonetics, French dialects, and French pronunciation.

¹ See the Prague institute's website <https://fonetika.ff.cuni.cz/en/research/from-our-research/history/> or the file repository <https://osf.io/acm3z/>.

2.3 Edward Wheeler Scripture (1864–1945)

Scripture emerges as a diligent yet possibly overlooked figure in American psychology (note his absence in the otherwise comprehensive volume [3]), known for his writing on experimental phonetics. Following his studies under Wilhelm Wundt in Europe, he was associated especially with Yale University, where he founded its psychological laboratory. Despite encountering significant opposition due to his advocacy for experimental psychology, a ‘new’ approach at the time (see [9]), Scripture played a key role in shaping the field as a founding member of the American Psychological Association in 1892. In the early 1910s, Scripture moved to Europe but not much is known about that period (see [1]). Scripture presumably established a speech clinic at a London hospital in 1919 and lectured on phonetics at King’s College, but he later relocated to Vienna in 1925 or 1926, where he eventually secured a position in experimental phonetics at the university in 1929. The majority of his articles from this period were written in German. Scripture returned to London in the mid-1930s, without significant recognition.

Beyond psychology, Scripture demonstrated keen interests in language disorders [12] and in the physiological and acoustical dimensions of speech [10, 11, 13]. Particularly fascinated by the study of speech curves, Scripture promoted experimental phonetics in his work, which was more accessible than Rousselot’s French texts. Scripture’s extensive book *Elements of Experimental Phonetics* [10] was an overview of experimental methods in phonetics, discussing topics such as the physiology of speech production, the classification of speech sounds, and the measurement of movements in the vocal tract. He also published many articles in the 1910s and 1920s in journals such as the *Medical Record* and *Volta Review* (especially in the areas of speech pathology, physiology, and acoustics), and in the 1930s in journals such as *Nature*, *JASA* or *Archives Néerlandaises de Phonétique Expérimentale*.

3 *Revue de phonétique*

3.1 A journal of (experimental) phonetics

The *Revue de phonétique* was very clear about its strong focus on experimental phonetics. In the foreword of the inaugural issue, Rousselot wrote:

“All methods will be accepted, whether they are based on the impression received by the ear (auditory phonetics), on various spellings (historical phonetics), on the comparison of dialectal forms (geographical phonetics), or simply on the varieties of successive generations within the same family (genealogical phonetics), etc. But (need I say it?) a large place will be given to experimental phonetics, the latest of the methods used to study sounds. The others have raised many problems which only experimental phonetics can solve; [...]. However, I hasten to add that it would be perilous to isolate it. [...]. The most ingenious experimenter cannot imagine all the possibilities that the natural development of languages shows or makes him suspect. Experimental phonetics and linguistics must therefore work closely together.” [8: 8–9]

At a different place, Rousselot emphasized the journal’s vital role in keeping the community informed and “stimulated or corrected by each other’s discoveries and criticisms” [8: 6]. According to him, “without a journal to serve as its organ, a science can hardly progress” [8: 6]. This compendium would also bring reviews of phonetic books as well as of various instruments, which need to be tested and subjected to scrutiny. Chlumský was among the most prolific contributors, providing both research articles and numerous shorter pieces (a total of 18 contributions between 1911–1914, which was in fact similar to Rousselot’s productivity).

3.2 Rousselot’s passing and the fate of the *Revue*

The last issue of the fourth volume was unlucky. Despite being prepared before the outbreak of war, which affected many academic journals, its printing was delayed until 1922, and it took additional three years to bring it to publication. Rousselot and Pernot encountered material obstacles in 1924 but remained hopeful that sufficient subscriptions would “keep the *Revue* alive”

(PtC 24/05/1924). However, Rousselot's passing in December of that year cast further doubts over the journal's future. Without its principal founder, the *Revue* faced an uncertain trajectory.

While grappling with the completion of the lingering issue, Pernot found himself in a quandary regarding Rousselot's will and its implications:

“As long as I don't know whether I have complete freedom to continue the *Revue*, I can't do anything. My idea would be to have this issue sorted and distributed immediately, announcing that the *Revue* will continue. If there are any difficulties, I'll do another review myself, under the auspices of the Institut de phonétique. Whether it's the old *Revue* or a new one, it will be international (that was the plan we agreed with the Abbé). [...]. I hope to have the necessary funds before the end of 1929 to ensure the vitality of this *Revue*. I am in correspondence with Panconcelli-Calzia, to whom I have offered to join us, and I believe that this is a truly international periodical. My idea is also to put an end to the antagonism between the Rousselot and Passy schools.” (PtC 31/12/1924)

In the ensuing year, Pernot embarked on negotiations with Marguerite de Saint-Genès, Rousselot's heir, aiming to secure full ownership of the *Revue* (PtC 26/03/1925). Pernot succeeded, and the contract was signed (PtC 11/06/1925). The much-awaited final issue of Volume 4 saw the light of day in 1925, with an appended note elucidating the 11-year delay.

3.3 The *Revue* under Pernot

Despite obtaining the rights to the journal and finalizing the volume started in 1914, the future of the *Revue* was far from resolved. No subsequent issues appeared in 1926 or 1927, leading to frustration among contributors like Millet, who complained to Chlumský that he was kept in the dark about the *Revue*. In 1926, publisher Didier informed Millet that the project “was no longer being considered” (MtC 06/12/1926), only to later suggest that it “will appear soon” (MtC 02/05/1928). Meanwhile, Pernot outlined his plans to Chlumský for the *Revue*, intending to expand its focus to encompass practical phonetics and “gramophonie” (PtC 06/09/1927).

The catalyst that propelled the re-introduction of the *Revue* was the International Congress of Linguists in the Hague (see Section 4.2). Pernot attended it and informed Chlumský of the congress's decisions:

“It was decided at the Hague that the *Revue de phonétique* would become an international organ, and an editorial board was appointed, including you and Scripture. The proposal, made at a meeting attended by Scripture, was ratified by the General Assembly of the congress. The direction and responsibility of the *Revue* were entrusted to me, as I made it clear that I would publish this periodical with my own material means, and that a *Revue* could only work well if it had a single leader.” (PtC 21/04/1928)

Millet discussed the situation about the *Revue* with Pernot. As expected given their strained relationship, Millet was full of scorn and dismissal:

“Why persist in continuing the *Revue de Phonétique*, characterized by the Master's style? (...) that was [Pernot's] inferiority at the [Hague] Congress... why not change the title and show more modesty? I asked him what he intended to do with the *Revue*. He told me it would be of interest mainly to foreigners; consequently, he would no doubt do pronunciation: therefore, I cautiously withdrew.” (MtC 16/05/1928; see Fig. 2)

In response to the Hague congress, the *Revue* was finally relaunched, albeit briefly, between 1928 and 1929. Pernot appended a short notice to his introduction to Volume 5, indicating that he would need a certain amount of time to align the journal with the spirit of the congress's resolution, which was also quoted there:

“The Congress resolves that a *Revue Internationale de Phonétique* shall be founded. This journal will have its headquarters in Paris and will be directed by M. Pernot. An Editorial Committee has been appointed. On the proposal of M. de Groot, it was also decided that the *Revue de Phonétique* would include ancillary publications, including a *Bulletin de Linguistique expérimentale*.” [6: 9]

cela qui t'a fait renoncer à l'Alliance. Pourquoi
 en outre t'entêtes à continuer la Revue de Phonétique,
 caractérisée par la manière du maître ? Et ne
 peut pas la continuer réellement, on les étrangers
 le savent bien : c'était là son infirmité au
 Congrès, pourquoi ne pas changer le titre et
 montrer plus de modestie ? Je lui ai demandé
 ce qu'il entendait surtout faire de la Revue - il
 m'a dit qu'elle intéresserait surtout les étrangers,
 par conséquent il y ferait de la prononciation
 sans doute : alors je me retire prudemment.

Figure 2. Excerpt from Millet's letter to Chlumský from 16/05/1928.

The *Revue* underwent several changes. First, it adopted a more international stance with a new subtitle, “Organe international,” and the appointment of an international editorial board, including Chlumský and several other scholars from various countries (e.g., Louise Kaiser from Amsterdam, Daniel Jones from London, Tomás Navarro Tomás from Madrid). Although the concept of a board of editors was not new, as Rousselot and Pernot had envisioned such a body back in 1924 while preparing the last issue (PtC 24/05/1924), it marked a pivotal shift toward international collaboration. At the same time, the *Revue* became affiliated with the Institut de Phonétique – Musée de la Parole et du Geste, which paradoxically contradicted the proclaimed internationalism. For instance, one of the aims of the new journal was to inform its readers of the activities of these French institutions. The main contributors to the journal were Chlumský and Pernot.

The objective of the *Revue* was to unite various researchers in experimental phonetics (and particularly directors of phonetic laboratories). Pernot envisioned the *Revue* as a central hub for phonetics, offering a platform for reporting experimental research, reviewing books, providing information on phonographic discs and more. Pernot's vision diverged from Rousselot's direction, as the focus increasingly shifted toward the practical applications of phonetics. This shift was evident as early as 1924, as indicated by Pernot's correspondence, where he discussed plans for the *Revue*'s expansion and the potential adoption of different alphabets:

“I'll talk to Abbé Rousselot about what to do for the *Revue*. I have a very definite plan, and I hope he'll accept it. The biggest difficulty will be the alphabet. If we want English and other articles, we'll need to be able to use any [alphabet].” (PtC 19/08/1924)

Indeed, one of the most significant departures from Rousselot's influence was the abandonment of the transcription adopted so far, which was based on Rousselot and included many diacritic signs, and which ignored the alphabet developed and used by the IPA in the rival journal *Maître de phonétique*. The following update of Millet on his research suggests that both Millet and Chlumský were fond of Rousselot's transcription:

“You will regret, as I do, that I did not use the Gilléron-Rousselot phonetic alphabet in my questionnaires. This is because we had to work with the editor of our Committee, a useful auxiliary in other respects; he was short of the necessary characters, and I couldn't afford the font. So we found more or less fortunate substitutes.” (MtC 15/07/1930)

The system was quite complicated and difficult to print. In 1927, Pernot informed Chlumský of the decision to move away from Rousselot's transcription, citing its impracticality for the

distribution of teaching materials (PtC 15/10/1927). Instead, Pernot favoured a system aligning with the International Phonetic Association's standards, which he believed corresponded better to reality. While authors were generally given the freedom to choose their alphabet, the *Revue* predominantly adopted the IPA's system.

The sixth and final volume of the *Revue* was published in 1929. Surprisingly, Pernot's subsequent correspondence makes no mention of the *Revue*'s fate, leaving speculation about its discontinuation. In the light of the letter from 31/12/1924, Pernot might have succeeded in obtaining finances only until 1929, suggesting financial challenges. This view is corroborated by the minutes from Pernot's institute [16]: the *Revue* "has resumed its normal course, but a deficit – quite considerable – has to be predicted for a certain number of years. The conseil decide that this deficit will be covered by the Institut de Phonétique insofar as credit permits." Moreover, in 1930, another journal of experimental phonetics emerged (see Section 4.3), which could be seen as – and was intended to be – a direct competitor to the *Revue*.

4 Scripture and the *Zeitschrift für Experimentalphonetik*

4.1 Scripture and Chlumský

Scripture was a great admirer of Chlumský, as evidenced by the letters. He repeatedly asked for Chlumský's publications, and he presumably sent his own publications to Chlumský. As a result, the phonetic library in Prague houses among others a collection of 15 off-prints of Scripture's papers from the 1910s and 1920s. Some off-prints – those from 1925 and 1928, when the two scholars already corresponded – contained a hand-written dedication to Chlumský. Most of the papers in the collection were richly documented with inscriptions of speech in the form of kymograms and F0 tracks, which was typical of Scripture's approach. The papers deal mainly with disordered speech, but four of them with poetry (verse) and two with English and German "Betonung" (word accentuation in utterances).

The 11 letters that Scripture sent to Chlumský over the period 1924–1929 repeatedly stress that Scripture would like to meet Chlumský in person. Despite this interest, they never managed to meet, with promised visits to Prague not realized, and Chlumský declining Scripture's offer to give a lecture in Vienna due to bad health. "I often wonder if we shall ever meet. The pupils and friends of Rousselot should come together some time" (StC 09/07/1929).

4.2 Establishment of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics

Pernot was never enthusiastic about Scripture. Already in 1924, when he was dealing with the *Revue de phonétique* after Rousselot's death (see Section 3.2), Pernot wrote to Chlumský that it would be a mistake for Scripture to create a new organ. "What's more, it would be an unkind gesture" (PtC 31/12/1924).

The first International Congress of Linguists convened in the Hague (10th-15th of April 1928) got things moving. Scripture lamented Chlumský's absence at the congress and informed him that an International Society of Experimental Phonetics was founded (StC 16/04/1928). He invited Chlumský to join as a founding member and represent Czechoslovakia as a delegate. The society's purpose was to promote research in experimental phonetics. "The sentiment was distinctly that it should be linguistic; pedagogical, medical and other sides may be developed later. It is also insisted on that the society shall be really international; each nation shall have its full representation." Scripture also articulated ambitions to launch a Bulletin.

Before Chlumský replied to Scripture's letter, he engaged in correspondence with Pernot, presumably asking for reliable information. Pernot answered immediately (PtC 21/04/1928), informing Chlumský of the congress decisions (see the quote in Section 3.3). Pernot then elaborated on Scripture and his role at the congress:

“No one voted against [Revue de phonétique]. But Scripture and Mayer changed their minds. At a meeting that same evening, which I didn’t attend because it was instigated by Abbas, whom I don’t like, the society you’re talking about was founded. Scripture is quoted as saying that an international journal of phonetics could appear in Berlin, London, Vienna or elsewhere, but not in Paris, because then it wouldn’t be truly international. Perhaps sensible people will conclude that it’s Scripture that’s nationalistic, not me. In any case, it seems very anti-French. The idea for the journal must have come at the same time, and he’s trying to put it into practice. I hope he succeeds. In any case, the majority of the society’s members would be opposed to it. Meillet had told me that I had been appointed a member of the Société. It seems they’ve changed their minds. I have no problem with that. I can run my Revue on my own - the first issue is in print. Those who don’t want to work with me will work on their own. That’s their business. However, I believe that the majority of phoneticians will follow the advice of the congress. So don’t get too involved with Scripture. Beware. I smell a rat. I don’t think many Germans will follow him. De Groot is doing a journal that will appear as a supplement to the Revue de phonétique (decided by the congress).” (PtC 21/04/1928, see Fig. 3)

Chlumský’s reply to Pernot is again missing, but a draft survived of Chlumský’s response from 27/04/1928 to the original letter from Scripture. The word *impartial* was underlined (see Fig. 4). Chlumský must have believed that, among the many competitors, Pernot was guarding the true spirit of Rousselot’s work. Chlumský wrote:

“I recognize the usefulness of a Société intern. d. Ph. exp. The only thing that bothers me is that I don’t see Mr. Pernot, Abbé Rousselot’s former faithful collaborator and continuator of his work at the Sorbonne. (And I would add: an impartial continuator of Abbé Rousselot’s work.) It would be unkind of you to walk without him.” (back of StC 16/04/1928; see Fig. 4)

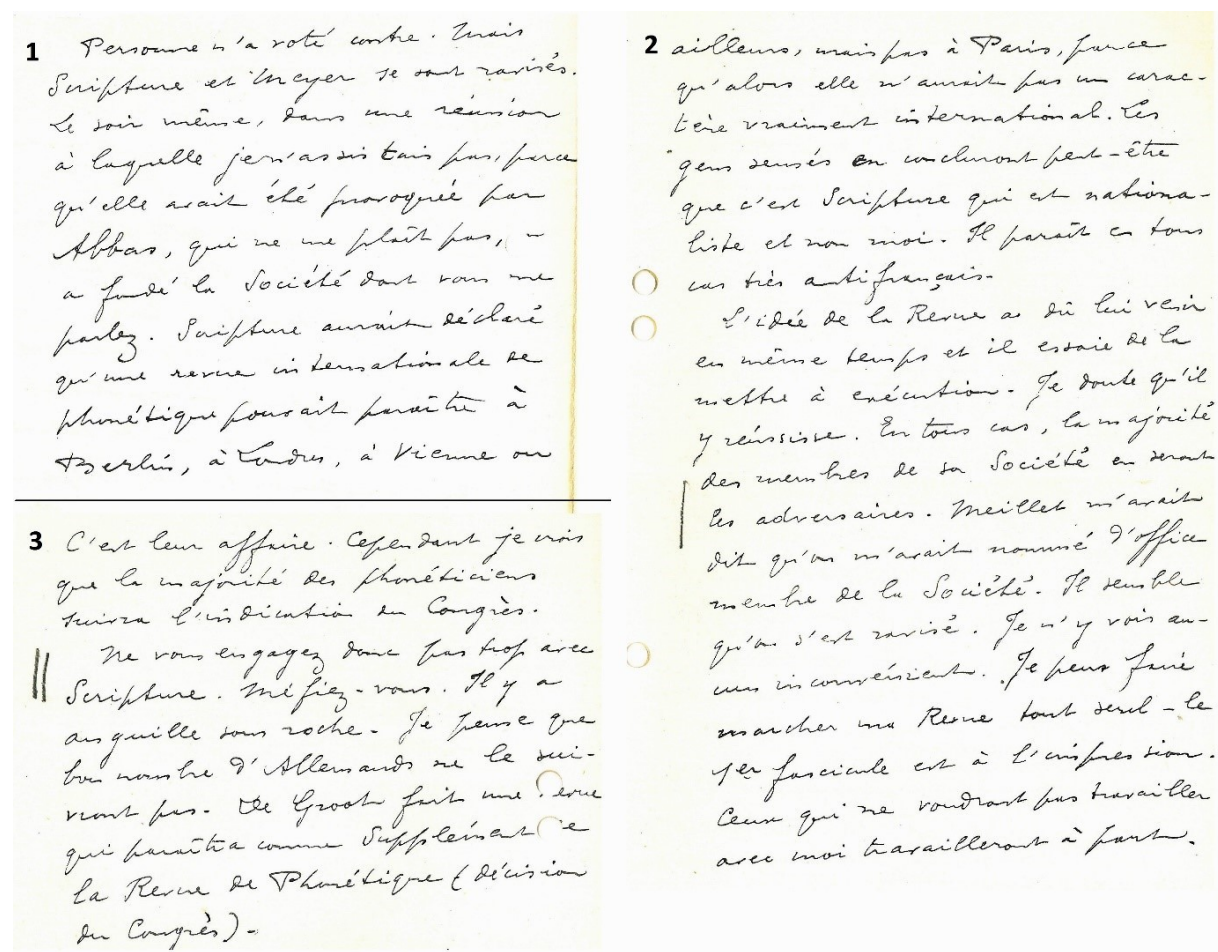


Figure 3. Excerpts from Pernot’s letter to Chlumský from 21/04/1928.

cher Monsieur, Merci de votre aimable lettre et mille excuses de
 vous écrire si tard! Je reconnais pleinement l'utilité d'une Société 'internat. d. Ph. exp.
 la seule chose qui me gêne, c'est que j'n'y ai pas figurés M. Pernot, un ancien
 fidèle collaborateur de l'abbé Bonnetot et continuateur de son œuvre à
 la Sorbonne.²⁴ Il ne serait pas fâché de notre part de marcher sous lui.
 Veuillez recevoir, cher Monsieur, avec mes remerciements, l'assurance
 de ma haute estime et de mon dévouement. J. Chlumský
 *) Et j'ajoute: continuateur impartial de l'œuvre de l'abbé Bonnetot

Figure 4. Excerpt from Chlumský’s drafted reply to Pernot from 27/04/1928 (back of StC 16/04/1928).

The correspondence between Millet and Chlumský sheds additional light on Scripture’s activities. Millet wrote:

“Scripture has written to me that an International Society for Experimental Phonetics has been founded in The Hague and that it would be desirable for me to join. I’d be grateful for any information you can give me on this point: what the program is, what the method will be. For I remain wary, yet delighted to see the Master’s work consecrated in this way. He also asked me for a summary of my work for a Bulletin he was founding: I was happy to send it to him.” (MtC 02/05/1928)

Although we don’t possess Chlumský’s answer, Millet’s letter (MtC 16/05/1928) contains some hints: “I was very interested in the information you sent me on the Hague Congress. I thank you for it. All in all, it was particular interests that were asserted there.” In their correspondence, Millet was generally hostile to Pernot. Therefore, it is unsurprising that he attributed various grievances to Pernot in the same letter, notably for assuming control of the *Revue de phonétique* and for accepting Scripture’s society. The following words suggest that Chlumský, in contrast, appeared uninterested in being involved with Scripture’s activities altogether:

“For my part, I’m going to write to Scripture, who’s asking me for a summary of my work, and suggest the conditions we haven’t set; I won’t hide the fact that I’ll express my astonishment that your name hasn’t been proposed in the very first place. But you were also right to work without bothering your mind with his business: the division is complete here; at least there is union in the thoughts of many.” (MtC 16/05/1928)

4.3 Launching of the *Zeitschrift für Experimentalphonetik* and a break between Scripture and Chlumský

The society issued two annual publications, the *Bulletin of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics* and the *Comptes rendus de la Société Internationale de Phonétique Experimentale*. Millet commented on the *Bulletin*:

“As a subscriber to the Scripture magazine, I receive it from time to time and find nothing of interest. Many are discovering what our Master has been teaching for a long time: one day, we’ll have to publish the series of his ‘discoveries’ with references.” (MtC 09/06/1929)

Millet expressed his reservations about the quality of the society’s reporting (“their account of past work in the ‘Archives Néerlandaises’ seemed very poor”; MtC 15/07/30), and he believed that the membership fee of the society was “too high for what we get” (MtC 13/05/1930).

However, the society’s flagship publication was *Zeitschrift für Experimentalphonetik: Organ der internationalen Gesellschaft für experimentelle Phonetik*, issued quarterly from 1930 to 1932. In a letter to Chlumský, Scripture articulated his intent to launch the journal, underscoring its international character and offering the journal as a mouthpiece of Chlumský’s laboratory, if Chlumský would honour him by accepting this position (StC 24/07/1929). Scripture explained there would be no obligations: “whenever you wish to make announcements or to report investigations the space will be at your disposal”. Unfortunately, the text of Chlumský’s

response is unavailable. Moreover, no further correspondence between Scripture and Chlumský has been preserved, suggesting the cessation of their communication.

The society's activities encompassed the organization of meetings among its members. Its inaugural and final conference occurred in Bonn in 1930, under the stewardship of Paul Menzerath. What is particularly striking is the conspicuous absence of Chlumský. Despite being informed about the conference, as indicated in Millet's correspondence ("The Bonn program could be interesting, if the results confirm it"; MtC 13/05/1930), neither Chlumský nor Millet attended. While Chlumský's nonattendance might be attributed to health concerns, given his enduring frailty, his absence from the list of society members appended to the conference proceedings [5] is striking. Particularly noteworthy is the inclusion of other prominent experimental phoneticians, such as Millet (but not Pernot). As highlighted in Section 4.2, the exclusion of Pernot was a source of discontent for Chlumský. The exact cause of the rift between Scripture and Chlumský, who previously maintained regular correspondence, remains elusive.

In the same year, Scripture outlined the society's purpose in a journal announcement, expressing its objective to "unite all persons interested in the science of speech into a society under control of the laboratory men" [14: 111]. He also listed 22 phonetics laboratories world-wide. It is probably no coincidence but a purposeful omission that the phonetic laboratory in Prague, a prominent centre at the time, was not on the list.

5 Millet's intended journal project

In this setting, Millet aimed to create his own phonetic journal. Shortly before Rousselot's death, he wrote that "what's missing is a magazine, or even a simple newsletter for alumni of the Collège de France" (MtC 23/07/1924). The newsletter would report on the works from the laboratory, pointing out approved works of high quality (in contrast to amateur work). Millet returned to the topic four years later in response to Scripture's activities. He imagined that the approach would be "to remain united and communicate our impressions to each other" (MtC 16/05/1928). Another few years later, Millet developed his idea in more details, saying that his newsletter should link phonetics, philology and psychology (MtC 27/12/1931).

Finally, in 1935, Millet was visited by Abbé Gemelli from the phonetics laboratory in Milan. In addition to presenting his current work and workplace, Millet also approached him for help in setting up the journal:

"I took the opportunity to submit to him the project of a 'Revue de la Parole'; I know he has resources, and in phonetics courses, he must, like us, resort to foreign publications. I'm entrusting this to you in confidence, until a solution is found to the question. In the form of Annals likely to appear only from time to time, the Review would allow me to exist first, and then to assert ourselves in a way other than through scattered and very costly publications." (MtC 06/07/1935)

However, Millet's hopes were not realized, as he admitted in the next letter (MtC 01/12/1935). Although the journal was still on the agenda, Millet was quite pessimistic about being able to pull it off, and expressed content to continue waiting.

6 Conclusion

The analysis of correspondence among several key figures in interwar experimental phonetics offers insights into the field's dynamics. Firstly, journals like *Revue de phonétique*, founded by Rousselot and sustained by Pernot after Rousselot's passing, were crucial for exchanging ideas and research findings among European phoneticians. Despite their significance, these endeavours faced challenges such as financial constraints and personal disputes, as seen in the strained relationship between Pernot and Millet, and later Chlumský and Scripture. Alternative initiatives, like Scripture's *Zeitschrift für Experimentalphonetik*, highlight the diversity of perspectives in the field.

Secondly, Abbé Rousselot emerges as a seminal figure whose legacy permeates the discipline. His clear emphasis on experimental phonetics in the *Revue* laid the groundwork for rigorous scientific inquiry and collaboration across Europe. Rousselot's enduring intellectual impact, as evidenced by Pernot's efforts to sustain the *Revue* and the ongoing references to Rousselot's work and vision in scholarly correspondence, underscores his visionary leadership and foundational contributions to experimental phonetics.

Thirdly, the correspondence reveals underlying tensions and rivalries among scholars, often stemming from theoretical differences or personal ambitions. The rift between Pernot and Scripture, along with Millet's scepticism towards both, exemplifies the complexities of interpersonal dynamics within academic circles. Millet's failure to establish his envisioned phonetic journal highlights the challenges individual scholars faced in navigating institutional constraints and garnering support for their projects.

Finally, Chlumský emerges as a significant figure in shaping the field. His extensive contributions to the *Revue*, diplomatic skills in managing interpersonal tensions, and esteemed international reputation underscore his pivotal role. Chlumský's influence is evident in various ways, such as in Scripture's admiration and eagerness for collaboration, in Pernot's long-lasting friendship and collaboration, as well as in Millet's clear reverence towards him.

Overall, the analysis provides valuable insights into the social and institutional dynamics that shaped interwar experimental phonetics. It emphasizes the importance of understanding personal motivations, conflicts, and collaborative efforts in comprehending the trajectory of scientific discourse during that period. However, future work should extend the analysis to a broader network of correspondence capturing the social and interpersonal aspects of scientific research, while the contents of the phonetics journals, including the nationality of the authors, would also offer further perspectives on the collaboration of phoneticians after WWI.

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