

The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero

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Abstract

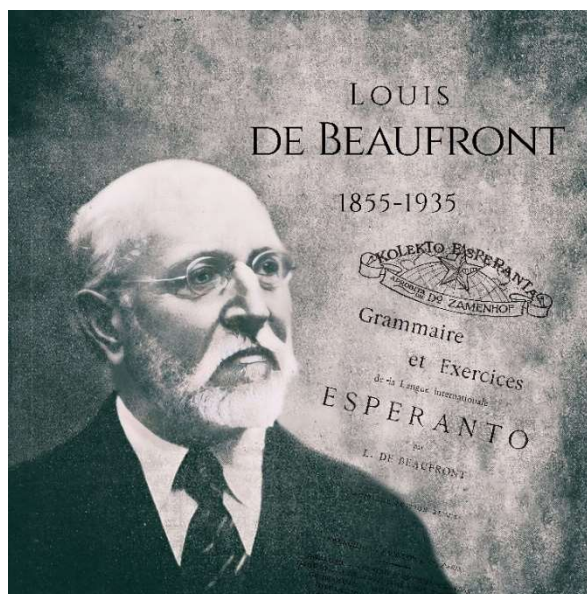
Alfred Michaux's is a name known to members of the Esperanto Movement who are knowledgeable about its glorious early days. Among the most prominent of the pioneers, he was a friend of the language's creator, and the person who set up the first international congress, an annual tradition which only the two World Wars and the coronavirus pandemic have interrupted. What is generally not known about Michaux is that he ceased his activity for Esperanto within a few years, creating his own planned language, Romanal. Nor is his name associated with a damaging schism within the Esperanto Movement, the Ido Crisis, as it should be.

1. Introduction

It isn't news to members of the Esperanto Community that a prominent, pioneering French Esperantist abandoned the Esperanto Movement after creating his own competitor. The most influential Esperantist behind Ludoviko Lazaro Zamenhof (1859–1917), the language's initiator, infamously did precisely that, betraying Zamenhof and the Movement in 1907: from this resulted the "Ido Schism" or "Ido Crisis", named after a reformed version of Esperanto. The supposed ringleader¹ revealed himself later: Louis Chevreux

¹ The real author was Louis Couturat (1868–1914), a logician and philosopher, who, with Leopold Leau (1868–1943), set up the Delegation for the Adoption of an International Auxiliary Language (1901–

(1855–1935), known to Esperantists of the time and thereafter as “Marquess” (the title of nobility was an invention²) Louis de Beaufront, the founder of the first national Esperanto society in 1898, and the principal engine behind the dissemination of Esperanto within France and overseas, the man who drove Esperanto from its first historical period, named “Russian”, to its second, the “French”.



This article is not, however, re-presenting the much-maligned Beaufront but brings to the fore another outstanding French Esperantist of the early days of the Esperanto Movement, whose name, unlike the soiled one of his colleague, is still held in glorious regard, at least by those Esperantists acquainted with a reasonable grounding in their language’s history. The subject is the person who arranged the first international congress in the Movement’s history, held in August 1905 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, and attended by 688 Esperantists: Maître Alfred Michaux³. An energetic proponent of Esperanto and a personal friend of L.L. Zamenhof, he started work on his own project in 1909, when memories of the brutal Ido Crisis were still fresh, not long after his own glorious and

1907). Beaufront – a noted fantasist – published in *L’Espérantiste* 121 (May 1908) a two-page *Deklaracio de Ido* and a further spread explaining that he authored the project. The confession was arranged by Couturat, who had prior to this accidentally sent a letter to Otto Jespersen (1860–1943), which the recipient believed established Beaufront as the author, and thus having betrayed Zamenhof, whom he represented in the Delegation.

² “I don’t doubt that the title *marquess*, which suddenly appeared 2-3 years ago, is also fictional” [author’s translation], Zamenhof wrote to General Hippolyte Sebert (1839–1930) in personal correspondence dated 1908/03/20. The first – and perhaps only – mention of the title within the Esperanto Movement occurred in early 1906, following an article containing allusions to Beaufront by Carlo Bourlet (1866–1913) in issue 15 of the magazine *Esperanto*. Offended, Beaufront wrote to its chief editor, Charles Lambert (1866–?), signing his letter *Markizo L. de Beaufront*. This wasn’t, however, the first time that Beaufront had deployed the title: a baptismal record from 1887 bears the signature M^{quis} L. Chevreux de Beaufront.

³ Alfred César Joseph Eugène Michaux (1859/07/05–1937/03/26).

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero

immortalising great contribution. Three years later, under the pseudonym A.M. Boningue⁴, he unveiled it: *Romanal*.

2. Alfred Michaux: an exemplary Esperantist

If back in 1905 the modern title Esperantist of the Year⁵ existed, the laureate in this unprecedentedly impactful – setting aside 1887, the year of Esperanto’s arrival – year for Esperanto would undoubtedly have been Alfred Michaux, a lawyer specialising in defending undocumented immigrants, and president of the Committee for Sentenced Children in Boulogne-sur-Mer, on France’s northern coast. He was born in 1859, the same year as Zamenhof, and outlived his friend by 20 years, dying in Esperanto’s jubilee year, 1937. Poetic coincidences for a man who so profoundly contributed to Esperanto, and who, at least in the summary of one of his contemporaries, until his dying day remained an enthusiastic and active campaigner for Esperanto.⁶ What isn’t a coincidence, however, is that Michaux’s hometown happens to be the place where the first international Esperanto congress was held: he was its creator. He became an Esperantist in 1901⁷, and in the following year, alongside another newcomer who was going to make a lasting contribution, Baron Félicien Menu de Ménil⁸, founded an Esperanto group in Boulogne-sur-Mer, where he also taught the language. Only two years later, in September 1904, he participated in the first international Esperanto meeting, when the three-week-old Esperanto Club in Dover, England, sent out invitations to local groups in northern France, coinciding with a motorboat race across the English Channel, which took place on the 8th of August. On the previous day, Harold Bolingbrooke Mudie (1880–1916)⁹, alongside two colleagues, was in Calais, a port city near to Boulogne, and reported afterwards in *The Esperantist*¹⁰:

⁴ The initials obviously come from Michaux’s own name. As for the surname: in 1883 he married Marie Victoire Delphine Thérèse Louise Boningue.

⁵ An honorary title awarded every December since 1998 by the magazine *La Ondo de Esperanto*, following a secret ballot of an international jury of active Esperantists.

⁶ From an obituary written by a “G B” in issue 443 of the World Esperanto Association’s magazine, *Esperanto*, in May 1937, page 40. Note, however, the contrast with *Historio de la esperanta literaturo*, page 92, in a paragraph regarding the effects of the Ido Crisis: “Alfred Michaux abandoned the rounds of the Esperantists ...” Similarly, the encyclopedia of 200 eminent Esperantists *Nia Diligenta Kolegaro* (page 200) reports in Michaux’s entry that he “ceased activity regarding Esperanto (without officially leaving it)” and worked on Romanal in 1909. The same editorial team in an internet article (sezonoj.ru/2019/07/julio-5) give a precise date at which Michaux stopped working for Esperanto: 1911.

⁷ He was registered as number 6305 in Series XII of *La Adresaro de la Esperantistoj*, a collection of names and addresses of people who had sent to Zamenhof a form saying that they would learn Esperanto. (The form, part of the various translations of Zamenhof’s introductory booklet about Esperanto, was a pledge to learn the language if ten million people also returned the form. 21 915 had at the point Zamenhof stopped publishing the *Adresaro* in 1909.) Michaux was brought to Esperanto by Louis de Beaufront.

⁸ Félicien Menu de Ménil (1860–1930) was the editor-in-chief of *La Revuo* (1906–1914), and became a member of Esperanto’s exclusive *Lingva Komitato* (Language Committee) in 1919. His most lasting contribution came when he – not the first person to do so – set the poem *La Espero* (The Hope) to music: together the two became the anthem of the Esperanto Movement.

⁹ Mudie was the first president of the World Esperanto Association, serving from its formation in 1908 until his death in an accident in 1916.

¹⁰ *The Esperantist* 12, October 1904, page 191. Summarised in *La Brita Esperantisto* 987, page 20.

Doctor Zamenhof away from Warsaw! The idea is as startling as that of a Pope from Rome. Nevertheless, this consummation is about to be realised, and all good Esperantists will rejoice accordingly.

During the recent meeting in Calais, Maître Michaux made use of the opportunity to kindly propose an International Congress next August at Boulogne. It is to this attractive function that our esteemed master has promised to do his very best to be present.

Let all Samideanoj¹¹ who can manage to go make a note of the date and greet him there.

The Esperantists heeded the call, with Dr and Mrs Zamenhof guests of Mr and Mrs Michaux. The two men became great friends, thanks to which the Esperantists soon had a second letter like the famous “Letter to Borovko¹²”, when *La Revue de l’Espéranto*, a weekly magazine edited by Michaux between 1903 and 1906, published the «Letter to Michaux». ¹³ On a photograph of the two of them taken during the event the initiator of the language wrote to that of the international congress:

*Kion disigis ne unu miljaro
Tion kunigis Bulonjo ĉe l’ Maro¹⁴*

¹¹ A form of address commonly used at the time between Esperantists, and which persists to a small degree today. It means “adherent to the same idea”, more neatly “fellow Esperantist”.

¹² This was a letter in Russian written to Nikolai Afrikanovich Borovko, likely in 1896, in which Zamenhof for the first time spoke about his life and the creation of Esperanto. For this reason, it is known not only as the “Letter to Borovko” but also as the *Letter about the Origin of Esperanto*.

¹³ *La Revue de l’Espéranto* 85, 1905/05/18. In this letter Zamenhof – not for the first time – made it known, via the article’s only footnote, that he found it particularly unpleasant when people would refer to him, both in writing and in spoken language, as *majstro* (master/maestro). He admonished that the simple form *sinjoro* (mister/sir) should be used. The Esperantists didn’t heed the request, and even today it isn’t uncommon to hear the label used.

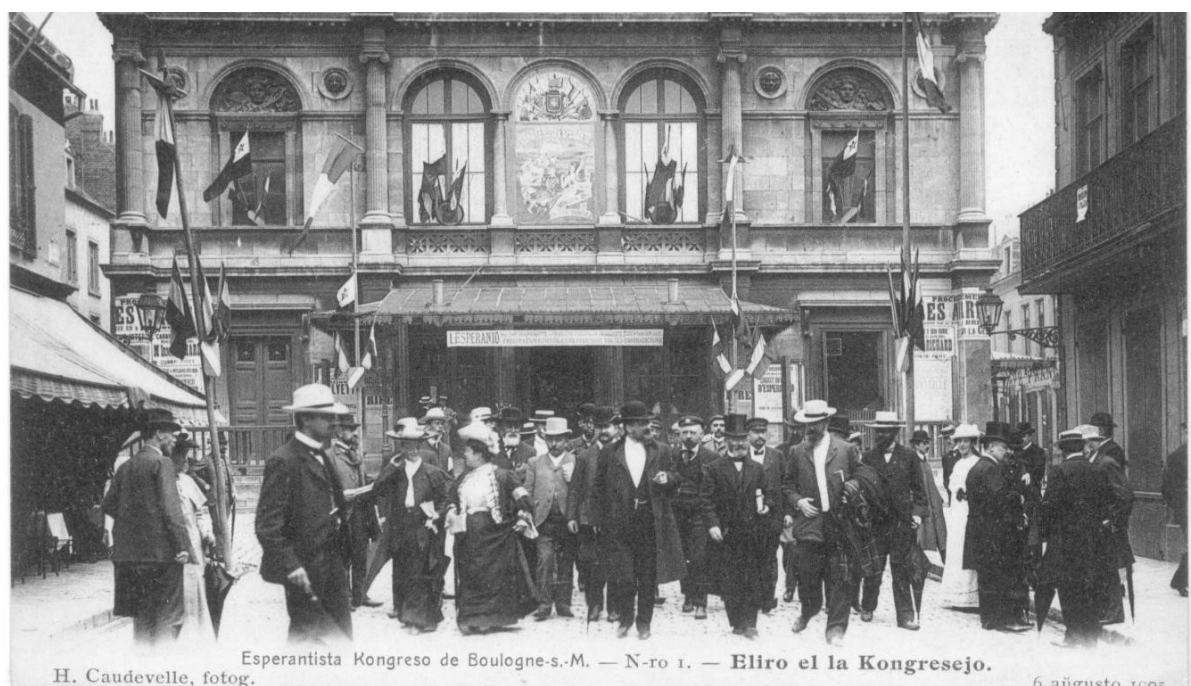
¹⁴ “What less than a millennium managed to shatter, Boulogne-sur-Mer brought back together.” In personal correspondence with Zamenhof, Michaux later stated that the expression “ne unu miljaro (not [even] a millennium)” seemed incorrect to him. Zamenhof countered but, true to his appeasing nature, gave permission to print alternative wording: *miljar’ post miljaro* (millennium after millennium) (LLZ to AM, 1906/11/18.).

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero



This supposedly “modest¹⁵” gathering, in which 688 Esperantists participated, was more influential than any which followed it: an independent Language Committee was founded there, with the role of conserving and protecting the fundamental principles of the language and monitoring its development; the Congress accepted a *Declaration about Esperanto*, hereafter known as the *Bulonja Deklaro*, which, among other actions, declared the *Fundamento de Esperanto* an untouchable basis of the language; and the Esperanto Flag was inaugurated, based on that of the local Esperanto group, which was flying alongside France’s *Tricolore*, and which was designed by Michaux, alongside two of his fellow club members, Lucien Sergeant kaj Maurice Duchochois.

¹⁵ A description used by Zamenhof in his speech there: “Today is sacred for us. Our gathering is a modest one; the outside world knows little of it, and the words being spoken in our gathering won’t fly by telegraph to all the cities and towns of the world ...” («Sankta estas por ni la hodiaŭa tago. Modesta estas nia kunveno; la mondo ekstera ne multe scias pri ĝi, kaj la vortoj, kiuj estas parolataj en nia kunveno, ne flugos telegrafe al ĉiuj urboj kaj urbetoj de la mondo ... »: kongres-parolado de Zamenhof en Bulonjo.)



H. Caudeville, fotog.

Esperantista Kongreso de Boulogne-s.-M. — N-ro 1. — Eliro el la Kongresejo.

6 aŭgusto 1905

▲ Michaux speaking with Zamenhof outside the Congress venue in 1905.

Without Michaux's intervention the newly confirmed Esperanto Flag could have been flashed with red because Paul Fruictier (1879–1947) – himself an eminent Esperantist, since 1902 the editor of *Lingvo Internacia*¹⁶, and one of the founders (and financial director) of the *Presa Esperantista Societo*¹⁷ – brought to the Congress flyers against the particularly combustible Carlo Bourlet (1866–1913) and the publishing firm Hachette, “and Bourlet wanted to challenge him to a *duel*. Michaux prevented the distribution of the flyers and successfully broached an armistice between the pair”¹⁸, and so stopped a memorable news article from appearing in the local press and the Esperanto history books. He had, however, managed to get a notable piece of news into the press during this pivotal year: he defended a monolingual Russian, teaching him Esperanto by means of a Russian–Esperanto dictionary, and thereafter corresponded with him in writing, until the prison governor withdrew permission for further correspondence in a language which he didn't

¹⁶ The second international Esperanto magazine, following on from *La Esperantisto* (1889–1895).

¹⁷ Founded in 1904 for printing and publishing Esperanto material, and the first solely Esperanto-related firm.

¹⁸ Gaston Waringhien, *Leteroj de L.L. Zamenhof*, Paris: SAT, 1948, §144, vol. I, page 176. Bourlet had a tie with the famous publishers *Hachette et Cie*, which had previously published several of his mathematics textbooks, and he persuaded the firm in 1901 to take an interest in Esperanto. Since he was at the time a new Esperantist, he didn't make the arrangements, but put the company into contact with the most prestigious Esperantist of the time, Louis de Beaufront. The contract with Hachette – who wanted a monopoly – later caused Zamenhof much distress. Bourlet, known to be aggressive, and the first person to name Beaufront Judas even *before* the infamous Ido Crisis, died eating fish, when a gill or bone caught in his throat.

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero

understand. With thanks to Esperanto, the prisoner eventually proved his innocence.¹⁹

1905 was clearly the Year of Alfred Michaux, reverberations of which are still being felt today. But a mere four years later, he published his own language.



▲ Michaux sitting alongside Dr and Mrs Zamenhof.

3. Plotting with Louis Couturat

1907 and 1908 were traumatic years for the Esperanto Movement. A not inconsiderable number of the leaders during this period manically full of reform proposals left Esperanto, crossing to a newly launched “parasite”, Ido. The Esperantists of the time and of today attribute the blame principally to Beaufront – usually solely to him, a traitor, although many erstwhile Esperantists were involved. No information resource blames Michaux: neither the *Enciklopedio de Esperanto*, nor its modern, online equivalent, *Wikipedia*²⁰, or the recent collection of biographies of 200 eminent Esperantists, *Nia Diligenta Kolegaro*. Indeed, his obituary in *Esperanto*, the World Esperanto Association’s monthly magazine, written 30 years after the schism beatifies him, as though he never disappeared. Nonetheless, he was responsible to some degree for the events of the time, according to his wording in a letter he wrote to Couturat in January 1907, which irrevocably draw one to the conclusion that the soon-to-be-damned Beaufront was in fact a victim of manipulative men from a social class to which he aspired:

For the last two months I’ve been discretely sounding our Monsieur de Beaufront regarding the undertaking of the Delegation and reforms; although not a single word did I say to him about my own research. Even less

¹⁹ A translation into Esperanto was published in *La Revue de l’Esperanto* 82, 1905/04/27, based on an original one in Paris’s *L’Éclair*. It seems to have been reported also in *Le Petit Journal*, *la Petite République*, *la Dépêche* and others, according to *L’Espérantiste* 88, May 1905, page 88.

²⁰ The Esperanto Wikipedia (eo.wikipedia.org) has existed since 2001, and currently offers nearly 350 000 articles.

about yours (I should better say: about ours). Well, I drew him (without difficulty, I have to admit) into proposing a programme of reforms just about identical to ours ... [...] He is in no way ambitious or scheming; he is sincerely averse to self-enrichment and dedicated to Esperanto [...] However things are, this agreement between him and us (about which he is ignorant) must grant us great credibility [...] Beaufront will be of use to us to make Zamenhof and the stubborn conservatives withdraw [faire marcher]²¹ out of fear. Everything here is entirely secret, as you understand, and I advise you to carefully hide this letter or, even better, destroy it.²²

In a second letter sent soon after to Michaux on the 22 January 1907²³ Couturat detailed what he meant by “fear”, proposing that Michaux “immediately reach out to Dr Zamenhof” to “calm him about the useful reforms to be made, but scare him about a possible schism, if no reforms are made [emphasis in original].”

Beaufront, the leader of the conservatives, was soon thrown to the wolves, even more so once Couturat had convinced him to be a strawman, claiming to be the creator of Ido, attracting the ire of the wounded Esperanto masses to him and away from the real culprit, Couturat himself. Michaux – the one-time host of the Zamenhofs – was explicitly involved in the plot, but remains, unlike Beaufront, with a pristine reputation.

Having signed up to this vipers’ nest, it was inevitable that Michaux too would decide that all other proposals were inadequate, leading him to propose his own language. He started work on this in 1909; in 1912, using a pseudonym, he published a brochure in French about *Romanal*. At the end of 1917²⁴, after millions had already pointlessly lost their lives around the trenches dug into the battle-scarred fields not far from him, he published a second title, this time 78 pages long, about it: “*Le Romanal*”, *Langue auxiliaire extrêmement facile proposée aux Alliés et aux Amis de la civilisation Anglo-Latine*²⁵. A second, much abridged, edition followed in 1922.

²¹ French translation present in original.

²² An undated letter published in: Waringhien, Gaston (1980): *1887 kaj la sekvo*; Stafeto, pages 147-148.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ This year is shown on the cover. The opening two-page article titled *Aux allies* (To the Allies) ends with the name of Michaux, the city, and the date: 1917/12/20.

²⁵ Translation from French: “Romanal”, a very easy Auxiliary Language proposed to the Allies and Friends of the Anglo-Latin Civilization.

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero



4. Romanal: a Proposal for the Allies

The book opens with a message by Michaux sketching out the background, in which he explains that since the world began industrialising, governments have been creating international organisations which “provide mankind with the greatest services”; he lists the Red Cross and the Universal Postal Union as examples. He brings up that this isn’t limited to governing countries: Catholic, Protestant and Pacifist organisations all do the same. In other words, the world is evolving such that no longer must only diplomats be able to converse with people from other countries: ordinary people will have to, too. He adds that soldiers from a variety of language backgrounds are in trenches, requiring a common language to be used also once the war is over. There’s no lack of self-confidence: Michaux indicates his belief that if governments wish to make this happen, Allied soldiers who make diligent use of a small textbook, will be able to learn “the easiest [language] of all” in a mere three months. He is speaking, of course, about his own.

He isn’t the only person with such confidence about the success of this project: the approving foreword was written by Giuseppe Peano, President of the Academia pro Interlingua, an organisation already twenty years old, having been founded by speakers of Volapük to correct the “mistakes” in it. Peano notes that Esperanto appeared in the same year, and was followed by other languages, each apparently an improvement on its predecessors. According to Peano, “the most notable progress has been made by Romanal”, created by a fellow member of the Academia which Peano had presided since 1909. In his ringing endorsement, Peano asserts that Romanal is immediately understandable to anybody having a grounding in Latin or one of its daughter languages: he includes the decidedly non-Romance English in this group on the basis that the linguist Max Muller had informed that 6 000 Latin-derived words were found in English.

Thereafter comes a “warning” from Michaux that Esperanto and Ido aren’t appropriate for the role because reforming languages requires the co-operation of their inventor.²⁶ Michaux doesn’t actually have anything against the concept of planned languages: the problem, in his eyes, is that their authors made a big mistake: “Believing it to please all nations they built their vocabulary from more-or-less everywhere but, in order to cast them in the same mould, they had to make many of them unrecognisable, sometimes even hideously so.” He therefore proposed his own language, in which he would avoid those mistakes. Knowing that “naturalists” wanted an *a posteriori* language, whilst “logicians” demanded an *a priori* one, he “judges that a fair middle ground can be found between these two extremes”: Romanal, therefore, takes its vocabulary from existing language but simplifies the grammar: small wonder that the fawning Peano, whose own Latino sine flexione had taken this approach, was such a proponent.

Michaux’s viewpoint was that an international language could only be like this: to justify this statement he asserts that Russians, East Asians and Arabs often speak a Romance language, and the Dutch, Scandinavians, Japanese and other sea-faring countries know English; the various peoples in Asian and African colonies are beholden to the language of the conqueror, and Latin Americans speak Spanish or Portuguese.

There is no place in his language, however, the words derived from German. Even acknowledging that Imperial Germany was part of the opposing side in the war taking place at that time, it’s hard not to see chauvinism in Michaux’s words: “The Germans have always been at war against the national languages in conquered lands [...] Through their desire to conquer the universe they assert that their language is essential for the happiness of mankind [...] the German language is a translation of a specific way of thinking [...]” Their follows a mention of “*boche* words”, an insulting term used at the time by the Allies against Germans.

Even that was not enough for Michaux: “[T]here is no ground on which we could get on well with the Germans”. Having complained that the Germans inflict their language on conquered peoples and lands, Michaux finishes this unpleasant section of the book hypocritically: “... they’ve lost all their colonies [...] It is left to us to profit from this by spreading our languages into the free colonies [...]”

5. Comparisons: Romanal with other languages

Here is the American Declaration of Independence in Romanal, alongside the French version. Thereafter comes the original English version, and lastly the text in Esperanto.

²⁶ Zamenhof died several months earlier, on 14 April 1917. Beaufront – presented as the inventor of Ido, a title he retains to this day – was still alive and part of the Ido Movement, which he went on to leave in 1919. Once you know that Couturat, Ido’s true inventor, died in a car accident in 1914, this comment from Michaux further underlines his role in instigating the Ido Crisis.

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero

Déclaration d'Indépendantie de Americanos

Nos consideran sicut evidenti isti vérités que omni homos estan creati pro vivar equali: ad illos lo Creator donavan certi jures inalienabili et specialim le liberite et le querite del félicité.

Pro assurar isti jures les Gubernantes estan institu- tati inter homos et derivan lori justu potentite ex le con- sentade del gubernatos.

In omni loce ubi un forme gubernantal destructan isti principes, le popule deban commutar et destructar ille et institutar un novi gubernante.

Représentantes del Uniiati States Américain, congregati in general congresse, attestant! lo supremi Judico del Monde super le purite de nostri projectes, in nomine et per autorité de nostri boni colonial popules, nos declaran que ist unitati colonias estan et deban estar liberi et independanti States.

Déclaration d'indépendance des Américains

Nous considérons comme évidentes ces vérités que tous les hommes sont créés pour vivre égaux : le Créateur leur a donné certains droits inaliénables et spécialement la liberté et la recherche du bonheur.

Pour assurer ces droits les gouvernements sont institués entre les hommes et ils dérivent leur juste puissance du consentement des gouvernés.

Partout où une forme gouvernementale détruit ces principes, le peuple doit la changer et instituer un nouveau gouvernement.

Représentants des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, assemblés en congrès général, prenant à témoin le Juge suprême du monde de la droiture de nos projets, au nom et par autorité de nos bons peuples coloniaux, nous déclarons que ces colonies unies sont et doivent être des états libres et indépendants.

United States Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,

—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Usona Deklaro de Sendependeco

Ni konsideras la jenajn verojn memevidentaj, ke ĉiuj homoj kreiĝis egalaj, ke dotis ilin ilia Kreinto per certaj nefordoneblaj rajtoj, ke inter tiuj estas vivo, libero kaj la sekvado de feliĉo.

—Ke por sekurigi tiujn rajtojn, registaroj iniciatiĝas inter homoj, derivante siajn justajn potencojn el la konsento de la regatoj,

—Ke kiam ajn iu formo de regado fariĝas detruema al tiuj celoj, la popolo rajtas ŝanĝi aŭ aboli ĝin, kaj iniciati novan regadon, bazante ĝian fundamenton sur tiajn principojn, kaj organizante ĝiajn potencojn en tia formo, kia ŝajnas plej kongrua el efektiviĝo de iliaj sekureco kaj feliĉo.

6. Conclusion

Despite the endorsement of a man as influential as Peano, Romanal disappeared without trace. You won't find information about it online or in

encyclopaedias. Its creator, on the other hand, is still revered to this day by knowledgeable Esperantists.

It's regrettable that the mysterious "G. B.", author of Michaux's obituary in *Esperanto*, was unable to comment accurately about the departed. He didn't "continue until his last days to be seen as one of the most zealous and active of Esperanto propagandists"²⁷: he ceased working for Esperanto in 1911, and silently left the Lingva Komitato when his mandate finished in 1914. Likewise, the claim that he invented Romanal to "draw stubborn adepts of Latin bit by bit to Esperanto"; his secret exchanges with Couturat ("*Everything here is entirely secret, as you understand, and I advise you to carefully hide this letter or, even better, destroy it.*") demonstrate perfectly that he plotted against Zamenhof and Esperanto, and he outright said in his booklet that both it and Ido required reforms, which would not be possible because of the deaths of their authors.

That Beaufront to this day is known as a synonym for Judas, whilst Couturat is known to only specialists and Michaux's name is still glorified is an unforgivable creation of the latter two. Our modern sensibilities would lead us to consider Beaufront a vulnerable person, in need of some degree of protection from those who would exploit him. The only child of his mother and with an unknown father, he became a person whom one could not take at face value, giving himself a name indicating nobility, and, under pressure, throwing the title *Marquess* in front of his name in an angry series of correspondence. Couturat and Michaux, members of a social class to which Beaufront aspired, preyed on him, and through their machinations condemned him to eternal dishonour, when he agreed to stand up and falsely declare himself the author of Ido and, in so doing, the betrayer of Zamenhof.

Appendix: The Grammar of Romanal

The pronunciation matches that of Classical Latin. Every letter has only one pronunciation. The names of the letters are identical to their pronunciation.

Some words finish with vowels. Here are their meanings:

- | | | | |
|------------|--|--------|------------|
| -a: | indicates | female | sex. |
| -e: | used | for | objects. |
| -i: | marks | an | adjective. |
| -o: | indicates a living being, without information about the sex. | | |
| -u: | indicates male sex. | | |

Some consonants add grammatical information when used in word-final position:

²⁷ Original: "daŭrigis, ĝis siaj lastaj tagoj, montri sin kiel unu el la plej fervoraj kaj viglaj propagandistoj de Esperanto"

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero

- m**: indicates an adverb and prepositional phrases derived from them.
- n**: indicates the derivations (mood and tense) of a verb.
- r**: infinitive.
- s**: plural.
- t**: participle.

Stress:

The stress is found on the penultimate syllable. However, because the vowels *e* and *i* are short, there is no stress in words such as: *gladie, filio, formice, domina, die, vulnere, genere, bene, breve*. The pronunciation of *u* can be short or long depending on personal preference. Accordingly, *spectacule* and *senectute* can feature stress or be stressless.

Personal pronouns:

The first-person pronouns do not decline:

me	(I),	nos	(we)
te (you ^{sg}), vos (you ^{pl})			

The third-person pronouns change according to sex and animacy:

illu,	illus	(male	animate)
illa,	illas	(female	animate)
ille, illes	(objects)		

It is possible to reduce the third-person pronouns to **il, ils** when distinguishing sex is not important. There are also other pronouns: a general/indefinite: **on** (one); a reflexive: **se** (-self); and a neutral: **id** (that).

Adjectives:

Adjectives do not usually decline, and end with *i*: **Illa est boni** *She is good*; **Illas est numerosi** *They are numerous*. They can however take plural marking in the event that there lacks other information about sex and/or number: **Inter isti pomes, electen li bonis** *Out of these apples, choose the good ones*.

Substantives:

They have the same endings as the associated third-person pronouns.

Objects: **arte, arme, monte, tabule, plume**.
Animate nouns in general: **anglos** *English people*, **pueros** *children*,
ornithos *birds*.

Male beings: **dominus** *gentlemen*, **bovus** *bulls*, **cavallus** *stallions*.

Female beings: **senoras** *ladies*, **gallina** *hen*, **lupas** *she-wolves*.

International words can retain their endings because other sentence parts will indicate the sex, animacy and number.

Articles:

Articles are indeclinable. There is an indefinite article, **i: i libre** *libro*, **i homo** *homo*;

and a definite one, **li: li libre** *the book*, **li feminas** *the women*. The definite article can take the plural marker when information about number isn't present: **Lis x et lis y** *The x's and the y's*. Similarly, it may be necessary to indicate sex via the article: **lu boa, la boa** *the good man, the good woman*, **lus Owen** *the Owen family/brothers*.

Possessives:

There is one indeclinable form for each person: **mei** *my*, **tui** *your^{sg}*, **sui** *his/her/its/ones*, **nostril** *our*, **vostri** *your^{pl}*, **lori** *their*:

mei libre *my book*, **sui libres** *his/her/its/their books*.

Demonstratives:

isti: **isti libre** *this book*, **isti gallinas** *these hens*.

isli: **isli libre** *that book*, **isli liquores** *those liquors*.

It is possible to use demonstratives in the third person to avoid repetition of the personal pronoun: **illu dican ad istu** *he says to him* instead **illu dican ad illu**. It isn't necessary to do this for substantives, since the article can be adjusted: **Ecce li cavalo**. **Me visan lo** *Here's the horse. I see it*, where the article has taken the ending of the substantive: **lo = l(i caval)o**.

Adjectives, adverbs, interrogatives, conjunctions:

All end with **-i**: **altri** *other*, **aliqui** *some*, **multi** *many*, **uili** *someone*.

queli homo *which person*, **queli senora** *which woman*, **mei boni pueros** *my good children*

By adding the requisite ending, it is possible to create substantives from these:

i bono *a good person*, **li malos** *the bad people*, **Quelo est?** *What is this?* **Quela est?** *Who is she?*

queli can be shortened to **qui**: **qui puero?** *which child?* **li cigare qui me fuman** *the cigars which I smoke*.

Derived adjectives and adverbs:

Adjectives can be derived from substantives by replacing the original ending with **-al**: **natione** *national*, **centre** *central*.

Although adverbs are generally unchangeable, adverbs of manner, all of which end with **-im**, can become prepositional by changing the ending to **-um**: **exceptim** *exceptionally*, **exceptum** *with the exception of*.

Comparatives and superlatives:

tam ... quam *as ... as ...*, **plus quam** *more ... than ...*, **minus ... quam** *less ... than ...*

li plus ex ... *the most ...*, **li minus ex ...** *the least ...*

It is also possible to show the superlative using the ending **-issimi**: **grandissimi** *the biggest*

Cardinal and ordinal numbers:

uni, **dui**, **tri**, **quadri**, **quinti**, **sexti**, **septi**, **octi**, **noni**, **deci**, **duent** *20*, **trent** *30*, **quadrent** *40*, **quintent** *50*, **sextent** *60*, **septent** *70*, **octent** *80*, **nonent** *90*, **cent** *100*, **mil** *1000*, **million**.

uniem, **duiem**, **triem**, **quadriem**, **quintiem**, **sextiem**, **septiem** ...

Fractions:

unim *whole*, **duim** *half*, **trim**, **quadrim**, **quintim** ...

Multiples:

dupli *double*, **tripli**, **quadrupli**, **quintupli** ...

Collectives:

duatim *pair*, **triatim** *trio*, **quadratim** ...

Distributives:

Duestrim *two by two*, **triestrim**, **quadrestrim** ...

Verbs:

In Romanal tense and mode are shown via six suffixes and two infixes.

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero

-an: indicative; **-un**: conditional; **-en**: imperative/subjunctive (volative);
-ar: infinitive; **-ant**: active participle; **-at**: passive participle

The present tense is shown by addition of the indicative ending: **amar** *to love*;
me aman *I love*

The preterit and the future differ from the present by the addition of an infix:
me amavan *I loved*; **amavar** *to be loved*; **amant amanta** *being loved*.

me ameran *I will love*

It is theoretically possible to add the future infix with the volative to insist on a future order:

(vos) venien *come*; **vos venieren** *you will come*

An infix **e** can be added to provide more precision regarding tense, such as an imperfect or pluperfect:

nos aman *we love*; **nos amean** *we were loving*;
vos amavan *you loved*; **vi amavean** *you had loved*

Conjugations:

	Indicative	Infinitive	Active part.	Passive part.
present	me aman <i>I love</i>	amar <i>to love</i>	amant <i>loving</i>	amat <i>loved</i>
preterit	me amavan <i>I loved</i>	amavar *	amavant <i>having loved</i>	amavat <i>having been loved</i>
future	me ameran <i>mi amos</i>	amerar *	amerant <i>will be loving</i>	amerat <i>having been loved</i>
future ^{ant}	me amaveran <i>I will be loving</i>			
conditional	me amun <i>I would love</i>			
cond ^{iant}	me amavun <i>I would be loving</i>			
volative	me amen <i>I should love</i>			

The **-an** of the present can be removed when there is no risk of confusion, providing that the pronunciation remains distinct from the following word.

Affixes:

As with Esperanto, word-building is possible by use of prefixes (8) and affixes (34). Examples:

dis- creates a logical opposite: **dishonorar** *to dishonour*
bel- relation by marriage: **belfilio** *son-in-law*
-ass- augmentative: **montasse** *a huge mountain*
-ast- poor in quality: **poetasto** *a terrible poet*

Example sentences:

Me estan professor. *I am a teacher.*
Me parlan. Vos comprenderan. *I am speaking. You will understand.*

Investigationes Linguisticae, vol. XLVII

Quid est id?
Sic, id est i clave.

What is that?
Yes, this is a key.

Tim Owen: The invention of Romanal: Re-evaluating the Reputation of an Esperanto Hero

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