

The “Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft” and the *Accademia della Crusca* in the 17th Century: Two Language Societies between Luther/Machiavelli and Leibniz/Galilei

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The “Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft” (FG) was founded in 1617 in order to cultivate the German language and took the “*Accademia della Crusca*” (*Accademia*), established in 1582 in Florence, as its model. The *Accademia* regarded the written Toscanian of the 14th century (as used by Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio, and therefore an artificial and elitist Italian) as its ideal. The FG’s ideal German was likewise artificial and abstract, in so far as the Germans in the 17th century lacked a national cultural center like Paris/Versailles in France. In this linguistic situation, Luther used a spoken language of “ordinary” people in Germany and Machiavelli equally a spoken Toscanian, and they both opened the door to modern society in religious and political thought in the 16th century. In the 17th century, Leibniz and Galilei encouraged the use of vernacular languages in science and both had a concept of “mathematical language”. We can thus see a certain historical parallel in the linguistic area in these two “belated nations”.