Endangered Languages

Diogenes has previously devoted two special issues to the problems of language. The first (issue no. 51, 1965), which was quickly out of print, was taken up by the *Collection Diogène* in the form of a book (*Problèmes du langage*, Gallimard, 1966, 3rd edn 1970); the second special issue was no. 137 (Problems of Language II, 1987).

The first four articles in this issue, no. 153, move the emphasis appreciably towards the defence of that linguistic diversity which constitutes our universal heritage. These articles are taken from a volume looking at the extinction of languages across the globe, to be published shortly as part of the English *Diogenes Collection* (R.H. Robins and E.M. Uhlenbeck, eds, *Endangered Languages*, Oxford, Berg Publishers, 1991). The volume will be used at the XVth International Congress of Linguists, organised by the Permanent International Committee of Linguists, to be held in Quebec from 9–14 August 1992.

A review such as *Diogenes* could in no way remain indifferent to the urgency of the language problems raised in these articles. Roger Caillois would certainly not have repudiated these words of Brantôme from *Charles Quint:* As many languages as man can speak, as many times is he a man.

The Editor

https://doi.org/10.1177/039219219103915301 Published online by Cambridge University Press