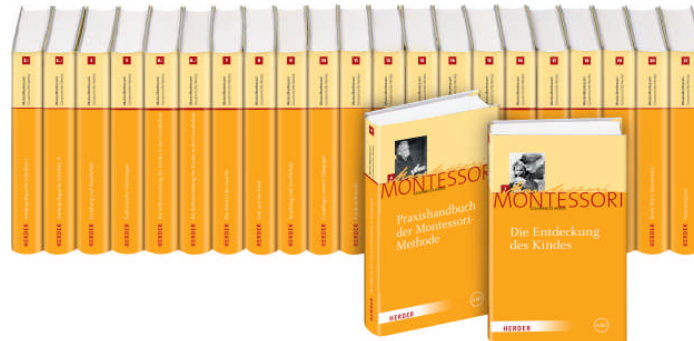


Maria Montessori's Collected Works

- the first complete academic edition of the writings by the Italian educationalist world-wide -



For more than ten years, the teaching and research centre for Montessori Pedagogy of the University of Muenster has been working on an academic edition of Maria Montessori's (1870-1952) collected works in German under guidance of Prof. Dr. Harald Ludwig in cooperation with the publishing house Herder and the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) in Amsterdam. In twenty-one volumes, this edition is supposed to provide the German reader access to virtually the whole of the world famous Italian educational theorist Maria Montessori's published work, as well as portions of her extensive previously unpublished writings.

The new Montessori edition is partially based upon the existing scientific Montessori texts, which were edited by Prof. Paul Oswald and Günter Schulz-Benesch from Muenster and published by Herder. The texts at hand draw upon an even broader basis of scientific sources, critically processed and furnished with a commentary. The first volume of the new edition, "The Discovery of the Child," was published in the spring of 2010. The volume consists of a German historical-critical edition of the fifth Italian edition of Montessori's first publication of her educational main work, "The Method of Scientific Pedagogy applied to Child Education in the Children's Houses" from 1909. The numerous modifications Montessori made on this basic work over the course of four decades will be documented. These provide the reader an accurate picture of the development of this great educational theorist's pedagogical ideas from the beginning of her career until her later days. Furthermore, they reflect the concurrent changes in scientific thought and society.

Alongside this classic work of educational literature, which has been translated into more than twenty languages until now, Montessori's *Practical Handbook of the Montessori Method* was published in the spring of 2010. This edition is based on the third Spanish edition from 1939 for the first time, which has remained widely unknown so far. In the autumn of 2010 the volume "Education and Society" will follow, which contains the socially critical writings by Montessori from 1896 to 1915 on the support of disabled children, on female emancipation, on education of children in social difficulties, on basic principles of her educational theory. Until now, these writings have been difficult to gain access to and were almost only available in Italian.

In the context of this edition, numerous writings by Montessori which have not been available or fully available to the German readership until now will be published in German for the first time. These include Montessori's early writings on anthropology (1903-1910), her collection of lectures "The Child in the Family" (1926), her mathematic didactic writings (1934) and her contributions to the concept of a "Cosmic Education" (1935-1950). Alongside Prof. Dr. Harald Ludwig (University of Muenster) the following scholars belong to the editorial team of the edition: Prof. Dr. Christian Fischer (University of Muenster), associate professor Dr. Michael Klein-Landek (University of Hamburg) and Prof. Dr. Volker Ladenthin (University of Bonn). The publication of individual volumes was taken on by further educational theorists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The realisation of the project, which is set off in this form world-wide for the first time, is possible due to the cooperation of the Montessori Centre of the University of Muenster with other international scientific research centres, the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI, Amsterdam) and the Opera Nazionale Montessori (ONM, Rome). With the publication of three to four volumes per year all volumes of the edition are supposed to be available by 2016.

Harald Ludwig