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Autore	O Mathuna Sean P. <1930->
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Sommario/riassunto	William Bathe, S.J. (1564-1614) was a pioneer in linguistics. The present book deals with Bathe's family background, his life and service as a courtier, diplomat and, finally, Jesuit educator, and, in particular, his contribution to the study of language and his most important publication, Ianua Linguarum (1611).