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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Introduction -- A twofold view 'from below': New perspectives on language histories and language historiographies / ELSPASS, STEPHAN -- I. Language variation in letters, diaries and other text sources from below -- "As this leaves me at present" - Formulaic usage, politeness, and social proximity in nineteenth-century Scottish emigrants' letters / DOSSENA, MARINA -- 'Lower-order' letters, schooling and the English language, 1795 to 1834 / FAIRMAN, TONY -- "Doch mein Mann möchte doch mal wissen ..." A discourse analysis of 19th-century emigrant men and women's private correspondence / MCLELLAND, NICOLA -- Remnants of Western Yiddish in East Frisia / REERSHEMIUS, GERTRUD -- Eighteenth-century linguistic variation from the perspective of a Dutch diary and a collection of private letters / van der Wal, Marijke -- II. From past to present: Change from above - change from below -- 'Time and Tyne': a corpus-based study of variation and change in relativization strategies in Tyneside English / BEAL, JOAN C. / CORRIGAN, KAREN P. -- Syntactic surprises in some English letters: the underlying progress of the language / DENISON, DAVID -- YOU and THOU in Early Modern English: cross-linguistic perspectives / DURY, RICHARD -- On the history of verbal present

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Sommario/riassunto

Focusing on the sociolinguistic history of Germanic languages, the current volume challenges the traditional teleological approach of language historiography. The 30 contributions present alternative histories of ten 'big' as well as 'small' Germanic languages and varieties in the last 300 years. Topics covered in this book include language variation and change and the politics of language contact and choice, seen against the background of standardization processes of written and oral text genres and from the viewpoint of larger sections of the population.
