Within the 20th century philosophy and human sciences, the *Course in General Linguistics* functions primarily as a site of the official doctrine closely associated with structuralism, that is, as a statement of the familiar oppositional pairings between the signifier and the signified, *la langue* and *la parole*, synchrony and diachrony. In my talk, I propose to critically examine the official doctrine by way of reconstruction of the material and institutional history that went into the making and receiving of the *Course* as a privileged textual locus of a dichotomous logic. The editors of the *Course*: Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye performed a double duty in this process: they projected their own methodological and conceptual commitments onto the source materials in order to establish general linguistics as a recognizable scientific discipline, and subsequently received and replicated the basic principles of this science in a series of dedicated book-reviews of their ghostwritten text.