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Publishing Across Frontiers
Early Printed Books and the Blurring of Geographic Boundaries

Stephen Brooks – Senior Publisher, ProQuest



For body copy:

- Main copy points, use 24 point Arial
- Bullet points, use 18 point Arial
- For bullet points with longer copy, can go to 16 point Arial. Also consider breaking into two slides for easier reading.

Overview

1. International publishing & consumption in early-modern Europe
2. Early European Books – Collection Model
3. Early European Books – Some Features

ProQuest's Early European Books Project

- Scope: all material printed in Europe or in European languages from the birth of printing (c.1455) to 1700
- Successor & complement to Early English Books Online (EEBO)
- Scan in colour from original volumes (not microfilm)
 - Scanning on site in libraries in Florence, The Hague, London, Copenhagen
 - Every page in high-resolution colour; each book reproduced in full
- Aim: to create a comprehensive digital library of the history of Western culture
 - EEBO's 125,000 books will become a subset of *Early European Books*

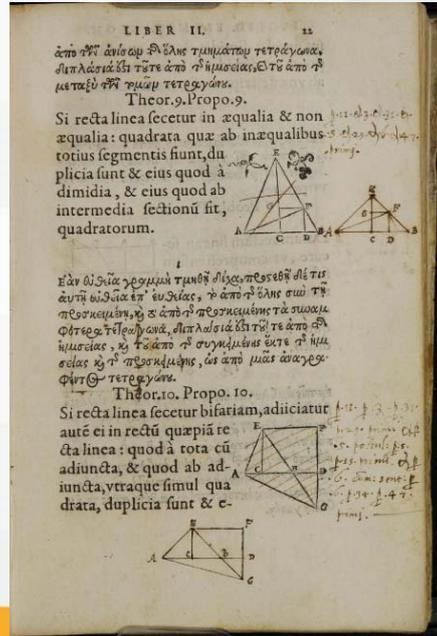


Why European Books?

- EEBO only covers a fraction of books from the period:
 - By 1600, Europe had produced 345,000 books; only 4% are in EEBO
- Example: Sir Hans Sloane's (1660-1753) personal collection of books.
 - c.25,000 works in reconstructed catalogue
 - 75% were published outside of Britain
- Modern national boundaries are not always appropriate to this period.
 - States such as France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands etc .did not exist in their modern form.
- Intellectual life was profoundly international.

European Culture: Science

- Nicolaus Copernicus
 - From Turon, Royal Prussia (now in Poland).
 - *De Revolutionibus* (Latin, Nuremberg, 1543; EEB has Basel 1556 edition from BNCF)
- Tycho Brahe
 - From Scania (was Denmark, now Sweden)
 - *De Nova Stella*, Latin, Copenhagen, 1573 (EEB copy from KBDK)
- Johannes Kepler
 - From Free Imperial City of Weil der Stadt, in the Holy Roman Empire
 - *Epitome astronomiae Copernicanæ*, Latin, Linz (Austria), 1618 (EEB copy from KBDK)
- Galileo Galilei
 - From Duchy of Florence
 - *Discorsi e dimostrationi matematiche*, (Italian, Leiden, 1638; copy in Wellcome)



Pan-European community of scholars and publishers. Lines of influence have no relation to national boundaries.

Galileo's *Discorsi* was published by House of Elzevir in Leiden (Protestant Dutch Republic) after failed attempts to publish in other France and elsewhere; his works were banned by the Roman Inquisition.

European Culture: Religious Debate

- Martin Luther
 - From the Electorate of Saxony in the Holy Roman Empire
 - Publication of 95 Theses in 1517 led to print explosion throughout Europe
 - Wrote in Latin & German, works reprinted & translated throughout Europe
- Desiderius Erasmus
 - From Burgundian Netherlands, wrote in Latin, worked with printers in Louvain, Paris, Basel
 - Catholic Humanist, argued against Luther, the first writer to make a substantial living from his works
 - *Adagia*: encyclopedic anthology of proverbs from Classical sources (Venice, 1578, copy from BNCF)



European Culture: Philosophy

- Aristotle
 - Modern scholarly edition created by Cretan scholars in Republic of Venice (Aldine, 1495-98; EEB copy from BNCF)
- Rene Descartes
 - French, lived in Dutch Republic and fought in Prince Maurits of Nassau's army. Died in Sweden.
 - *Principia Philosophiae* (Amsterdam: Elzevir, 1644; EEB copy from KBNL): 'cogito ergo sum'
- Baruch Spinoza
 - Portuguese Jewish family, lived in Dutch Republic; *Ethics* published Amsterdam, 1677 (EEB copy from KBNL)

(51)
might remain in my belief, not at all
subject to doubt. Thus because our
senses sometimes deceive us, I would
suppose that there was nothing which
was such as they represented it to us.
And because there are men who mis-
take themselves in reasoning, even in
the most simple matters of Geome-
try, and make therein Paralogismes,
judging that I was as subject to
fall as any other Man, I rejected as
false all those reasons, which I had
before taken for Demonstrations.
And considering, that the same
thoughts which we have waking, may
also happen to us sleeping, when as not
any one of them is true. I resolv'd to
saie, that all those things which ever
entred into my Minde, were no more
true, then the illusions of my dreams.
But presently after I observ'd, that
whilst I would think that all was false,
it must necessarily follow, that I who
thought it, must be something. And
perceiving that this Truth, *I think,*
therefore, *I am,* was so firm and cer-
tain,
E 2

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Crete was part of the Republic of Venice in C15; Aldus Manutius recruited Cretan editors and compositors to create the first modern editions of Classical Greek authors.

By end of C17, Amsterdam was 2nd largest centre of French book production after Paris (Febvre).

Cogito: might be surprised to know it was first written in French. Surprising how quickly it was translated into English: only 12 years.

Descartes

'Je pense, donc je suis'

Discours de la methode (French) Published in Leiden, 1637

[Early European Books digitising from Wellcome Library]

'Cogito ergo sum'

Principia Philosophiae (Latin) Published in Amsterdam by Elzevir, 1644

[Early European Books digitising from Koninklijke Bibliotheek]

'I think, therefore I am'

A discourse of a method... (English) Published in London, 1649

[Copy in Early English Books Online]



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Cogito: might be surprised to know it was first written in French. Surprising how quickly it was translated into English: only 12 years.

The Geography of Printing



'... Any national history of the book is really a history of book exchange in and out, complicated by nightmarish identification problems'

- Prof. James Raven

The Geography of Printing

- From its origins in Germany, printing spread across Europe – but so too did printing *dominance* ...



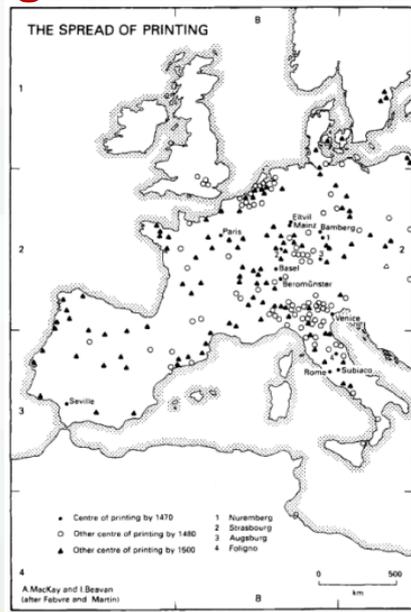
- In the first 50 years of printing – presses sprang up in over 230 towns.
- Close of the C15th: Of 1821 editions identified between 1495-97, the top three places of publication were:
 - 447 from Venice
 - 181 from Paris
 - 95 from Lyon
- Spain & England in the C15th were largely dependent upon imports.

The Geography of Printing

Geographical expansion of printing in C15th

- Printing's reach by 1470
- Printing's reach by 1480
- ▲ Printing's reach by 1500

Map: Mackay & Beavan (after Febvre & Martin)

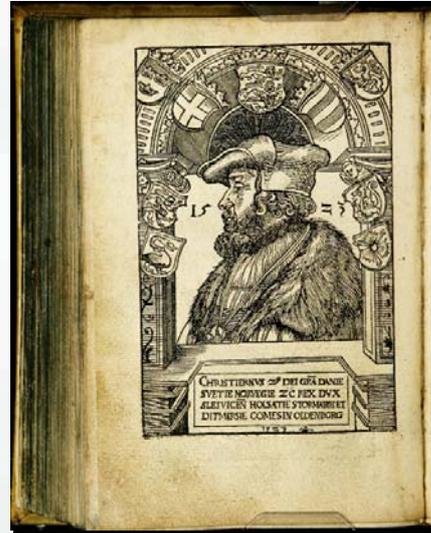


The Geography of Printing

- Role of Latin as scholarly *lingua franca* facilitated mobility of books.
 - Demand from Parisian humanists in the C15th for classics met most easily by importing from Italy.
- Popular editions of texts often plagiarised across national borders.
 - In the C17th The Elsevirs copied French & English texts through false imprints from a base in Amsterdam.
- Legal limits on the number of Publishers in the C17th meant that over half of French books were in fact published elsewhere.
 - Helped to hand printing dominance to the Dutch.

The Politics of Printing

- Galileo's *Discorsi* was published by House of Elzevir in Leiden after failed attempts to publish in France and elsewhere.
- Danish New Testament commissioned by Christian II whilst in exile (& during a conversion to Protestantism) was printed in Leipzig.



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Leiden in Protestant Dutch Republic. His works were banned by the Roman Inquisition

The Politics of Printing

- Reformation and Counter-reformation in particular had significant impact on publishing patterns.
- Catholics fleeing persecution in England set up English Colleges at Douai, St. Omer and Rheims.
 - Responsible for vast majority of 'English' books in published Southern Netherlands first half of C17th.
- Works also published abroad to circumvent other legal restrictions.
- Even Protestants were not free to publish in England.

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Leiden in Protestant Dutch Republic. His works were banned by the Roman Inquisition

William Tyndale

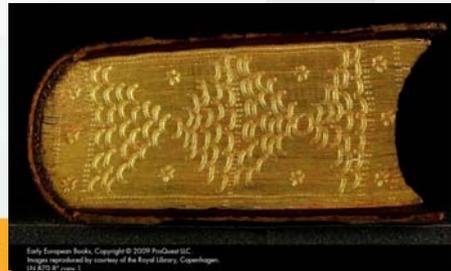
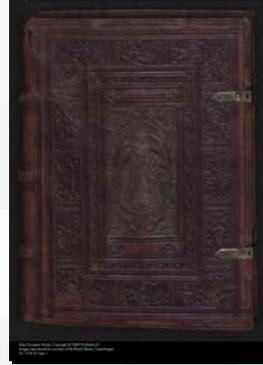
- Tyndale's translation of the New Testament into English (an illegal act in England) was printed in Germany.
- Copies smuggled into England were seized and burned by the authorities there.
- Although Tyndale himself was burned as heretic, his version of the New Testament was consulted and drawn upon by the compilers of the Authorised Version; published exactly four hundred years ago in 1611.
- Many of the most memorable phrases in the New Testament of the 'King James Bible' are Tyndale's.

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Leiden in Protestant Dutch Republic. His works were banned by the Roman Inquisition

The Mechanics of Book Supply

- As early as the C15th, booksellers were utilising international distribution networks – a development that expanded throughout the following centuries.
- Koberger family of Nuremberg held stock with distributors as far afield as Amsterdam, Lyon, Venice and Gdansk.
- Despite their status as high value items, early books were easy to transport – often shipped as unbound sheets in barrels and bound-to-order where purchased, to the specifications of their new owner.



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The Mechanics of Book Supply

- Booksellers' catalogues were widely distributed across Europe from the start.
- These were joined in the mid-C17th by independent bibliographies (e.g. *Bibliographia Gallica*) – although largely intended for the trade.
- Scholars had to rely on their existing networks of correspondence to learn of new and significant books until critical and reviewing periodicals appeared.
- Longer life of printed books in this era meant the existence of a flourishing second hand and auction market – often buying up books in other countries with which to return home and re-sell.

Movement of Collections

- Conflict & war
- Religious and political re-alignments
- Death of individuals
- Changes in national boundaries

- In England, collections of books were sold off (when not destroyed) during the dissolution of the monasteries. Others were spirited overseas.



Movement of Collections

- 1654: Queen Christina of Sweden abdicates and removes herself to Rome, taking her library of thousands of books and manuscripts out of Sweden with her.
- Upon her death the collection is purchased on behalf of the Vatican Library



Christina debates with Descartes

Movement of Collections



- C18th: Library of the Zaluski brothers in Warsaw transferred to St. Petersburg on the orders of Catherine the Great to form the basis of the Imperial Library.
- Library of Zygmunt II August broken up upon his death and the termination of the Jagiellon line.

Summary

- Early modern publishing in Europe is not confined to national 'silos'.
- Authors, publishers, consumers and *events* all combine; if not to create a single European market for books, then at least to make the boundaries between markets porous and flexible.
- Publishing/printing dominance moves as different providers prove most able to respond to demand.
- A view of publishing and book consumption in any one country is to see only part of a larger picture.
- Need for a inclusive – preferably comprehensive – approach to digitisation. Create a European collection, from the many national ones.

Digitising & Delivering Early European Books

ProQuest Early European Books
printed sources to 1700

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Choose your language: English Dansk Italiano

Welcome to Early European Books

Early European Books traces the history of printing in Europe from its origins through to the close of the seventeenth century, offering full-colour, high-resolution facsimile images of rare and hard-to-access printed sources.

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Featured content

The poems of Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch), published in Basel in 1552, with commentary by Lodovico Castelvetro, and with manuscript notes throughout in the hand of Galileo Galilei.



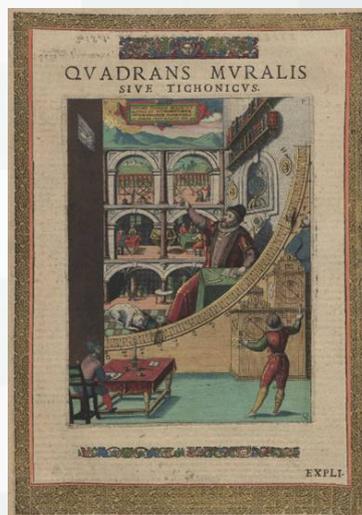
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END SESSION

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Early European Books: Collection 1

- Partnership with Royal Library, Copenhagen
- Released 2009, completed 2010.
- 2,600 books, 500,000 pages
- Contains Danish national collection up to 1600
- Also includes later works by the Danish astronomer and alchemist Tycho Brahe (1546-1601) and his German follower Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)
- Key Subjects covered:
 - Religion (especially the Protestant reformation)
 - History of science (especially astronomy)
 - Classics
 - Scandinavian languages and history



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Danish National Collection = books from Denmark OR in Danish OR by Danish authors OR about Denmark.

Early European Books: Collection 2

- Partnership with Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (BNCF), Italy
- 3 releases: Nov 2010, April 2011, July 2011.
- 3,000 volumes, 600,000 pages
- Contents:
 - Incunabula: 1,200 books published between 1459 and 1500, including rare first editions of Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio and the sermons of Savonarola
 - Aldine Press: 1,000 books from the printing press that invented *italic type* and the 'octavo' paper size (founded in Venice, 1495)
 - Sacred Representations: 800 Florentine mystery plays, the foundation of Italian theatre
 - Postillati: 90 texts with marginal annotations by Galileo, Michelangelo Buonarroti the Younger, Lodovico Castelveto and others



Early European Books: Collection 3

- Launching in 2011
- 3 million pages (5 times the size of Collection 2)
- Will contain books from 4 libraries:
 - Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague (National Library of the Netherlands)
 - 30% of the Collection (approximately) will be drawn from the KB's holdings of pre-1700 Netherlands imprints
 - Period when the Dutch Republic was the 'bookshop of the world', publishing works by authors banned elsewhere
 - Authors of the Dutch Golden Age
 - Key European thinkers of the age, such as Descartes and Galileo
 - Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze
 - 33% of the Collection (approximately) will be drawn from the BNCF's holdings, including more than 2,000 further volumes of incunabula (90% of them printed in Italy).



Image: **Itinerario, voyage ofte schipvaert, naer Oost ofte Portugaels Indien inhoudende een corte beschryvinghe der selver landen ende zee-custen**
Jan Huygen van Linschoten. - Amstelredam, Cornelis Claesz, 1596. 2^o. 1702

Early European Books: Ongoing

- Collection 3 is first of a new model of 'full-size' collections
- Plan for continuous digitisation:
 - Release 1 collection per year containing works digitised that year.
 - Mixed-library collections.
 - Simultaneous digitisation in 4 or more libraries at once.



Epithalamivm. ofte bruylofts-ghedicht ter eeren het ... houwelijck tusschen ... Eerich Brahe ... ende ... Licia van Eysinga. Leeuwarden 1616. Shelfnumber 853 A 255. Title page.

Scanning the Works

- Scanning on-site in libraries.
- All scans in full colour, at 400dpi
- Both cradle and flat-bed scanners in use
- Also new VLAD (Very Low Angle scanning Device) scanner for books which cannot be safely opened beyond 45 degrees.
- Scanners checked and re-calibrated daily.
- All pages hand-turned. No automation.
- Book-handling workshops run with library rare book/conservation teams to train scan operators. Scan process signed off by library conservators before implementation.
- Images cropped outside page edge to retain all information.
- Covers, spines, page edges, endpapers, loose inserts, bound inserts, fold-outs – all included.
- All blank pages scanned.

Search

Include records from EEBO in your search [Note]
 Find historical and linguistic variants [Note]

Keyword(s): [Search](#)

Author: [Select from a list](#)
e.g. *Martin Luther or Melancthon, Philipp; Erasmus*

Title keyword(s): [Select from a list](#)

Imprint: [Select from a list](#)

Place of publication: [Select from a list](#)

Printer/publisher name: [Select from a list](#)

Date of publication: From to [Note]

Bibliographic number: [Abbreviations reference](#)
e.g. *Lauritz Nielsen 59; LN 430 or USTC 302833*

Subject: [Select from a list](#)
e.g. *ethics*

Language: [Select from a list](#)
e.g. *Danish and Latin*

Country: [Select from a list](#)

Page features: [Note]

<input type="checkbox"/> Chart	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript marginalia and other annotations
<input type="checkbox"/> Clasps, ties or other closures	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Coat of arms	<input type="checkbox"/> Musical notation
<input type="checkbox"/> Colour	<input type="checkbox"/> Plate
<input type="checkbox"/> Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Genealogical table	<input type="checkbox"/> Portrait
<input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten page/insert	<input type="checkbox"/> Printed marginalia
<input type="checkbox"/> Illuminated lettering	<input type="checkbox"/> Printers' marks – colophon
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrated page borders	<input type="checkbox"/> Printers' marks – title page
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustration	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubricated text

Source library: [Select from a list](#)
e.g. *Det Kongelige Bibliotek; The Royal Library*

Shelfmark: [Select from a list](#)
e.g. *Heimst. 975 0* (LN 409 0* copy 2)*

Search interface is tailored to the specific needs of this content set

Exploits rich meta-data, such as detailed capture of page features

Filter by page features: View all thumbnails

 Image 1 of 606 Front Board	 Image 2 of 606 Spine	 Image 3 of 606 Back Board	 Image 4 of 606 Head edge	 Image 5 of 606 Tail edge	 Image 6 of 606 Foreedge
 Image 7 of 606 Interior Front Binding	 Image 8 of 606 Title Page	 Image 9 of 606 Illuminated lettering	 Image 10 of 606 Page ij	 Image 11 of 606 Illuminated lettering	 Image 12 of 606 Page iij
Handwritten page/insert	Coat of arms Manuscript (i.e. handwritten) marginalia and other annotation Rubricated text	Illuminated lettering	Page ij Illuminated lettering Manuscript (i.e. handwritten) marginalia and other annotation Rubricated text	Illuminated lettering Manuscript (i.e. handwritten) marginalia and other annotation Rubricated text	Illuminated lettering Manuscript (i.e. handwritten) marginalia and other annotation Rubricated text
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Viewing interface allows users to smoothly zoom, pan and free-rotate images to see all detail.

Same system used with ProQuest's early-modern manuscript collections.



Early European Books: The Project

- Apart from Germany, only scattered regional digitization efforts exist.
- All participating libraries receive a complete set of scans of their works.
- ProQuest is keen to work with existing digitisation projects and other projects interested in early modern print culture.
- Collaboration with Universal Short Title Catalogue project at St Andrews University (USTC) to enhance our bibliographic data.
- Partnership with **CERL Thesaurus** for standardised searching and description.





Searching: CERL Thesaurus

Created by the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)

- Database of variants of place names, author names & printer names
- Includes Latin forms and abbreviations (Venetii, Ventis), historical variants (Venegia, Veneza), modern European forms (Venice, Venise, Venedig)
- Contains 70,000 records

Enhance searchability

- ProQuest's partnership with CERL allows us to integrate this data into our search
- We display one standardised form in the record, but users can search on any variants and get hits

Contribute to the Thesaurus

- When we find new variants in the EEB data, we feed this back to CERL for inclusion in the Thesaurus



Acknowledgements



Febvre, Lucien and Martin, Henri-Jean, *The Coming of the Book: The Impact of Printing , 1450-1800*. London: Verso. 2010

Raven, James, *Selling Books Across Europe, c. 1450-1900: An Overview*, *Publishing History*, 34 (1993) p.5

The Renaissance Book in Britain: Summaries of Conference Proceedings at Warwick University, December 1990, *Publishing History*, 29 (1991) p.77

-via *Periodicals Archive Online*, ProQuest (<http://pao.chadwyck.co.uk>)

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Dr Matt Kibble, Dr Peter White & Dr Dan Burnstone, ProQuest