
Renaissance and Reformation
Renaissance et Réforme



Bénévent, Christine, Annie Charon, Isabelle Diu, and Magli Vène (eds.). Passeurs de textes. Imprimeurs et librairies à l'âge de l'Humanisme

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expressing the effects of reform rhetoric and programs in a balanced and nuanced fashion.

Nevertheless, as this volume amply and convincingly shows, Ladner's work continues to inspire historians to explore the extent of European reform efforts in a variety of venues and media, in order to test the boundaries of human achievement in pursuit of church unity and salvation.

JENNIFER MARA DESILVA, *Ball State University*

Bénévent, Christine, Annie Charon, Isabelle Diu, and Magli Vène (eds.).

Passeurs de textes. Imprimeurs et librairies à l'âge de l'Humanisme.

Études et rencontres de l'École des Chartes, no. 37. Paris: Librairie Droz, 2012. Pp. 306. ISBN 978-2-35723-029-3 (paperback) € 34.

All of the essays in this volume deal, in some way, with the connections between the producers and distributors of printed books—printers and booksellers—and the spread of humanism in France during the sixteenth century. The editors contend that the relationship between printing and humanism, long taken for granted by scholars, deserves much more attention than it has received. The fourteen essays presented here, the fruits of a conference hosted by the École Nationale des Chartes and the Bibliothèque Ste. Genviève in 2009, present abundant evidence that the editors' contention was well-founded, and that there is much still to be learned about the mark and influence that producers and sellers of books had on the diffusion and reception of humanist ideals.

The volume reflects the shift of *l'histoire du livre*, pioneered by French book historians like Henri-Jean Martin and Roger Chartier, from an emerging to an established discipline. Take the title, *passeurs de textes*: on the one hand it evokes the image of a ferryman, a benign conduit between author and reader; on the other, it has the more nuanced (and perhaps more sinister) connotation of a dealer in questionable or illicit goods. The ambiguity is intentional; not all *passeurs de textes* were cast from the same mould, and the editors have opted, wisely, to allow that diversity to shine through rather than forcing a coherence where none exists. Likewise, the essays reflect the interdisciplinary approach

of book history, borrowing from bibliography and codicology, social history, literary theory, and cultural studies.

Over half of the essays deal with figures in Paris, most of whose names, at least, are familiar to scholars of the sixteenth century, even if they remain shadowy figures. For example, Alexandre Vanautgaerden sheds important light on the career of Robert de Keysere, and Louise Katz offers a sober assessment of the ideological leanings of Josse Bade. Two contributions are devoted to the Paris printer Michel de Voscosan. Michel Magnien analyzes Voscosan's contribution to French humanism in the vernacular, while Isabelle Pantin explores his contribution to the layout of books on mathematics and science. Bénédicte Boudou provides a stirring portrait of Charles Estienne (who took over the family business when his more famous brother, Robert, was exiled to Geneva) as the quintessential Renaissance man interested in "passing on" knowledge about everything. A similar picture emerges of the author and printer Gilles Corrozet in the paper by Magali Vène. Rémi Jimenez traces the inner workings of the printshop of Charlotte Guillard, arguably the most fascinating woman printer of the sixteenth century (her career spanned nearly 60 years from 1502 until her death in 1557), through an analysis of her edition of the works of Saint Bernard.

Two contributions take the reader out of France to Venice, an undoubtedly necessary move when considering humanist printing in the sixteenth century. Raphaël Mouren examines the fate of the famed Aldine printshop under the sometimes contested tutelage of the founder's son Paul Manutius. Chiara Lastraioli questions the commonplace assessment of the *al signo de la Regina* as a popular press by examining the lofty and varied interests of its proprietors, Domenico and Pietro de' Franceschi. Two other contributions shift to Lyons, the most important centre for the book industry in France after Paris. Élise Rajchenbach-Teller opens a fascinating window on the Lyons bookseller Guillaume Rouillé and the sometimes contradictory roles he played as businessman and ardent humanist. Michel Jourde takes a similar path in his study of the printer Jean de Tournes, but comes to the opposite conclusion: that Rouillé was a humanist more by association than by temperament, and that modern scholars have labelled him a humanist printer anachronistically.

The volume concludes with two rather more impressionistic accounts of books and humanists. Malcolm Walsby's contribution traces the network of booksellers in Anjou and Brittany who were responsible for disseminating

humanist books—in a region where books tended to be printed in other centres. Jean-François Gilmont brings the insights of a long and distinguished career to bear on a very useful resumé of humanist printers in Geneva.

Taken together, these essays make a strong case for a much more nuanced understanding of how “behind the scene” producers, in this case printers and booksellers, shaped and reflected the currents of humanist cultural ideals and practices. Clearly, they played at least as vital and necessary a role in the spread of humanism as the works they were “passing on” in the pages of printed books.

MARK CRANE, *Nipissing University*

Couchman, Jane et Colette H. Winn, avec la collaboration de François Rouget.

Autour d'Éléonore de Roye, princesse de Condé. Étude du milieu protestant dans les années 1550–1565 à partir de documents authentiques nouvellement édités.

Textes littéraires de la Renaissance, 10. Paris : Honoré Champion, 2012. 289 p. ISBN 978-2-7453-2355-2 (relié) 60 €.

L'étude que voici porte sur une grande dame de l'histoire du protestantisme en France, Éléonore de Roye. Combinant l'édition des sources et le commentaire historique, les éditrices de ce volume cherchent à combler une lacune qui demeure dans les études du seizième siècle français. Ainsi elles annoncent d'emblée que la princesse de Condé a été négligée par les spécialistes (7), mais il faut aussi voir dans leur travail considérable non seulement un apport conséquent à la biographie d'un personnage historique mais aussi une contribution à un champ de recherche plus large qui est toujours en voie de construction. Depuis des décennies maintenant, des historiens travaillent à établir la nature de l'engagement politique des femmes à l'ère des guerres de religion. Des articles et des monographies d'auteurs tels Nancy Roelker, Natalie Zemon Davis, Sharon Kettering et plus récemment Susan Broomhall ont éclairci le rôles des femmes écrivains et des femmes nobles des deux côtés, catholique et protestant, des troubles religieux du seizième siècle.