

Review for *Edinburgh Bibliographical Society Journal*

Andrew Pettegree, ed. *Broadsheets: Single-Sheet Publishing in the First Age of Print*. Library of the Written Word 60 / The Handpress World 45. Leiden: Brill, 2017. EUR 168 / USD 194.

Broadsheets - single sheets of printed material - have always been the poor step-siblings of books in the handpress world. A combination of low survival rates, wide dispersal, and poor cataloguing has ensured that until recently the extent of broadsheet publication in early modern Europe, especially after the incunable period, was poorly understood and largely ignored. This volume is a collective effort to redress that gap in the bibliographical literature. Founded on the research of the Universal Short Title Catalogue, based at the University of St Andrews, it contains contributions by twenty-two scholars on a wide variety of subjects loosely grouped as "Surveys", "Official Print", "Politics", "Broadsheets in the Academic World", and "Broadsheets in the Marketplace".

The opening chapters, by Andrew Pettegree and Flavia Bruni, set the agenda for the volume. Pettegree reminds its readers of the important social role of broadsheets, their wide uses, their frequent absence from national bibliographies, and the recent attempts at correcting that absence in the work of the USTC. This "state of play" introduction is nicely balanced by Flavia Bruni's exploration of the sad fate of broadsheets in the world of library and archival cataloguing, explaining the problems with current practices and pointing towards improved cataloguing methods for the future.

The second part of the volume, entitled "Surveys" contains three chapters, all of which add substantially to our understanding of the extent and nature of broadsheet production. Alexander S. Wilkinson, Alejandra Ulla Lorenzo, and Alba de la Cruz offer a survey of the broadsheet in Spain while Drew Thomas approaches the question from a micro-historical angle, looking at broadsheet production in Reformation Wittenberg. Notably, this section includes a translation and revision of Falk Eisermann's important 2000 essay on print runs during the incunable period. As Eisermann observes, "all too often scholars are using figures [for print runs] based on extrapolations, estimations, or plain fantasies" (78), but such speculation is not always necessary: extensive evidence for print runs survives and this often proves contrary to received assumptions. Scholars of incunabula and of the immediately pre-Reformation church will be particularly interested in the evidence Eisermann has assembled for the "extraordinarily high" (113) print runs of indulgences.

Official print made up a very considerable portion of the overall number of broadsheets produced in the early modern world and the substantial third part of this volume explores that corpus as it manifested itself across the Low Countries, France, and Italy. Flavia Bruni looks at broadsheets printed by the Stamperia Camerale in Rome, Shanti Graheli breaks new ground exploring the collection of Italian broadsheets in France, and Nina Lamal and Arthur der Weduwen examine broadsheet ordinances from the low countries. Another example of fine printing micro-history

can be seen in Jamie Cumby's archivally-rich discussion of broadsheet printing in fifteenth-century Lyon, which also pays close attention to the typefaces used by Lyon's printers.

The political broadsheet, a mainstay of current research on the topic, features in part four. Johan Verbeekmoes and Violet Soen offer a robust argument for the pivotal role of broadsheets during the Dutch revolt, while Jan Hillgaertner explores the German broadsheet reaction to the royal deaths of Gustavus Adolphus (1632) and Charles I (1649). The vast majority of broadsheets, political or otherwise, are the output of that capacious and polymathic author, "Anonymous", so it is particularly pleasing to read John Roger Paas's reconstruction of the career of a rare named broadsheet author: the Frankfurt writer Johann Georg Schleder (1597-1685). Schleder's role as a professional or quasi-professional "journalist-chronicler" (to borrow Paas's phrase) offers an important insight into the human world of broadsheet publication.

Scholars of the early modern university will be well aware of the increasingly important role played by broadsheets in academic life during this period. This is represented by part five, which contains three chapters on academic broadsheets in the Low Countries and the German Lands. Richard Kirwan explores the rise of cheap print in the early modern German university and Malcolm Walsby examines the printing of dissertations at the University of Louvain. Saskia Limbach's work on academic disputations in Basel is a fine example of this field of study and reproduces, amongst other notable examples of sixteenth-century disputations, a spectacularly annotated copy of a dissertation by the physician Heinrich Pantaleon (395) which cries out for further study.

The sixth and final part of this volume is a catch-all category for "broadsheets in the marketplace", encompassing Amelie Roper on German music broadsheets, Alexandra Hill on lost English ballads, Abaigéal Warfield on witchcraft in German news broadsheets, and Graeme Kemp on the broadsheet sale catalogue of Marie du Flo, a seventeenth-century Parisian bookseller. These are all strong pieces and Hill's, in particular, shows how much original research can still be conducted within the pages of such seemingly mined-out archives as the register of the Stationers' Company.

This is a wide-ranging volume, with twenty chapters covering an impressive range of subjects. Nonetheless, there are both concentrations and absences in its coverage. The German Lands, France, Italy, and the Low Countries are the geographical centre of this work, reflecting the interests of the scholars involved, but Spain and England receive only a single chapter each, Scandinavia is mentioned only through the lens of German responses to Gustavus Adolphus's death, while the vast expanse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the German-speaking Baltic lands, Russia, and southeastern Europe are completely absent. Perhaps most surprisingly, given the origin of much of this work at the University of St Andrews, is the lack of any treatment of Scottish texts. Nor can that simply be attributed to a lack of source material; the sophisticated broadsheet output of Robert Lekprevik, for example, is an important part of sixteenth-century Scottish printing history but remains largely unstudied.

Overall, this volume represents an important and valuable addition to the study of the early modern broadsheet. While its prohibitive price puts it out of the reach of individual scholars, it will be a necessary accession for many research libraries and will be a key point of reference for individuals working in the field.

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