

## Thesis Abstracts

Stevens, Kevin M. "Printers, Publishers and Bookseller in Counter-Reformation Milan: A Documentary Study". Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1992. 417 pp.

Seeking to fill in a gap in the literature of the publishing industry in sixteenth-century Italy, this dissertation examines the book industry and the lives of its members—printers, publishers and booksellers—in Counter-Reformation Milan. The study breaks with the tendency to spend more time with printed sources and comparatively little with archival documents. By drawing on the rich font of notarial records in the Archivio di Stato in Milan, this study offers an integrated sketch of the larger Milanese book industry, e.g. the technical side of printing, the business relations between bookmen, the importance of patronage and kinship networks, the institutional ties with the Catholic Church, and the dynamics of the commercial book trade.

Because the book industry in late-Cinquecento Milan was noticeably smaller than its counterpart at Venice (the largest in Italy) and could not compete with Venetian bookmen for larger regional and international markets, Milanese booksellers and printers catered primarily to a local market. The steady rise in the population and local economy, the unique geographical position of Milan as a central hub in the commercial trade between France and Italy, and the active role taken by the Counter-Reformation Church to promote printing technology for pastoral ends were important factors contributing to the rise of the Milanese book trade.

Given the nature of the sources used, this study throws light primarily on the business affairs and social milieu of the local bookmen. The work covers primarily the last half of the

sixteenth century and adopts an overall thematic approach. One chapter discusses how the Counter-Reformation church, spear-headed by the efforts of Carlo Borromeo (the archbishop of Milan), patronized printers and booksellers for pastoral ends. The local market for popular print literature is also discussed. Finally, the monograph ends by examining in detail the careers of two powerful Milanese book families, the Da Ponte (printers) and the di Antoni (book merchants).

For students of confraternities and late Renaissance Italy this study will be especially useful. Because Milanese bookmen functioned outside of a traditional guild structure (until 1589), local confraternities addressed in a meaningful way the social welfare and spiritual concerns of local printers and booksellers. What's more, *scuole* put Milanese bookmen in close touch with a wider community of artisans and tradesmen and thus offered an important arena for mixing devotional and vocational interests. Additionally, investigation of one printer's workshop inventory shows that confraternities provided crucial markets for popular religious publications (for example, catechisms and devotionals), and suggest that printers were frequently engaged in "job printing" for local confraternities. Confraternities, in sum, functioned not only as important arenas for defining social and professional relationships, but also offered bookmen an important business outlet in a notoriously risky trade.

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Terpstra, Nicholas. "Belief and Worship: Lay Confraternities in Renaissance Bologna". Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto, 1988. vi, 388 pp.

This study examines how Renaissance Italian confraternities functioned as lay-administered and rule-directed worship communities, offering members an alternative to both the parish church and the monastery, and how sixteenth-century religious and social politics undercut this identity. It is based on lay brotherhoods operating in Bologna from the thirteenth century, with