

Abstracts

Prof. Dr. Anja Wolkenhauer (University of Tübingen, Institute of Classical Philology)

Old & new research on printers' devices

Research on printers' and publishers' devices became visible for the first time around 1730, when Friedrich Roth-Scholtz published his *Thesaurus symbolorum ac emblematum, id est insignia bibliopolarum ac typographorum*. Earlier collections and earlier notes about printers' marks are known, but the thesaurus seems to be the first European monograph about this subject. Starting with his catalogue and the historical framework delivered by his colleague Johann Konrad Spörl, the paper gives a short survey of the history of research in this area, distinguishing several different kinds of approach.

Subsequently, the focus is widened to similar widespread cultural objects (e.g. coins, emblematics) and their relevance in understanding early modern cultural history. Finally there will be some suggestions for future issues in research on printers' devices.

Dr. Melinda Simon (University of Szeged, Department of Library and Human Information Science)

Cataloguing printers' marks in Hungary – achievements and objectives

The paper focuses on the achievements and on the objectives of the research in Hungary, specifying the problems encountered on the way, too. First we get a review of the Hungarian specialised literature and an inventory of the already published catalogues of printers' and publishers' marks. The speaker analyses the disadvantages and the benefits of Hungary being a European nation with a relatively small publishing industry, mentioning briefly the issue of bilingual editions. As the publication of Hungarian marks is complete until 1900, she focuses mainly on the difficulties of the ongoing research on modern devices.

The second part treats first the bibliography of the subject. The speaker outlines the limits in time of the planned additional volumes of Hungarian marks, the question of delimitation and the possible answers to it. She also deals with the problem of the rapidly growing number of printers' and publishers' marks in the 20th century and the changes thus needed in the methodology of their publication.

In the end the paper offers a few suggestions regarding the possibility of a collective European database of printers' and publishers' marks.

Dr. Justyna Kiliańczyk-Zięba (Jagiellonian University Krakow, Faculty of Polish Studies)

When is a device not a device? Problematic woodcuts from Krakow printing shops

The purpose of my research was to discover ideological inspirations and iconographic models of the printers' devices used in early modern Poland-Lithuania, because I hoped to find out what the printers attempted to communicate when using the devices, and how contemporary readers could have understood the devices when coming across them in their books. Using extant catalogues I started nevertheless to check existing classifications. Looking at the books published in the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania (mainly the 16th-century editions) I was trying to discover what might have been the function of the pictures in the publications examined.

When doing so I came across a number of woodcuts that proved difficult to classify, pictures that changed their function overtime, compositions I decided to call non-devices against scholarly tradition. In my paper I will explore a few of those “problematic cases”, concentrating on the examples found in books printed in Krakow in the 16th century and at the beginning of the 17th century.

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Klecker (University of Vienna, Institute for Classical Philology, Medieval and Neo-Latin Studies)

Emblems, rebuses, (mirror) monograms. Strategies of intermediality in Viennese printers’ marks (1500-1800)

After some introductory remarks on collections and digitisation projects (e.g. the MAK collection of European printers’ marks accessible on the web via “ornamental prints”) the first part of my paper will outline previous scholarship on Viennese marks which can be traced back to the pioneering studies by Michael Denis and Anton Mayer. On the whole, however, the present state of research must seem quite unsatisfactory: Though catalogues have been compiled for early Viennese woodcuts including printers’ marks and publishers’ devices, baroque marks are generally neglected; except Trattner’s they are hardly ever reproduced in historical surveys of presses or dictionaries of printers. The foremost aim should be to create as complete a record as possible (at least) up to 1800.

As a neo-latinist with special interest in the fields of emblematics and visual poetry, my focus will be on various combinations of text/script and image and, needless to say, my approach as a philologist cannot leave aside recent literary theory, especially discussions on authorship and authorisation since Roland Barthes and Michel Foucault: the printer acts as an intermediary between writer and reader, authoring the outward appearance of the text (typography may be termed “first paratext”), thus influencing, even controlling its perception. From this point of view printers’ marks should be considered in a wider context of authorising and advertising, and the paper will provide various examples illustrating the strategic value of marks and devices, e.g. by allusion to famous models (Johann Leopold van Ghelen’s acrostic device *industria labore veritateque genuina* seems to hint at Plantin’s “gulden passer” and served to sign products of his press as well as of his pen).

As an approach focusing on functional aspects immediately opens up questions of definition, a final section will be dedicated to fringe phenomena: Mirror monograms used by high quality printers such as Johann Jakob Kürner and Leopold Johann Kaliwoda regularly appear within decorative borders and vignettes (where they are easily overlooked at first sight) instead of the title page, and though they fulfil a similar role to printers’ marks strictly speaking (in identifying the press and testifying to its aesthetic quality) a traditionalist view might hesitate to apply the term.

Dr. Marina Venier (National Central Library of Rome, Cataloguing Department of the Older Book)

Italian printers’ devices databases: from EDIT16 to SBN and not least MAR.T.E.

Italy has efficient tools in order to record Italian printers’ devices in databases. EDIT16 contains the description of 2.520 16th century printers’/publishers’ devices, with description of the main figurative elements, the names of the publishers who used that device, the dates when they were used, any mottoes that may be present and linked images. The information concerning the devices contains the description (both general dates and dates relative to individual publishers).

SBN (*Servizio Bibliotecario Nazionale*) printers’ device archive is inside the shared online catalogue referred to monographs printed from the start of the print era up to 1830 and has a similar structure

to EDIT16, with linked images, too. Especially in SBN OPAC, which is a shared catalogue, the greatest need is to allow a normalization of the contents, useful both in the collection of data during the cataloguing and in the retrieval of that same data, when looking into the database.

But we should also have the possibility to search in remote databases, placed in their own national contexts, going beyond the language barrier. The cooperation is the only instrument we have to fight the endemic decrease of human and financial resources in the field of the cultural heritage.

Therefore, the National Central Library of Rome has adopted in MAR.T.E. (*Marche Tipografiche Editoriali*) the Iconclass code and the concept of database in progress, whose growth, updating but also improvement is delegated not only to the National Central Library of Rome but also and mostly to the scientific community of librarians and non-librarians.

Neus Verger Arce (University of Barcelona, CRAI Rare Book and Manuscript Library)

The *Printers' Devices* database of the University of Barcelona

The database *Printers' Devices* was created and is maintained by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of the University of Barcelona. It contains information about the printers and their typographical marks, collected in close connection with the process of cataloguing the early printed books. The database can be searched by different approaches. Each printer has a record describing his activity, the sources used, and a link to the printer records contained in the bibliographical catalogue of the UB. Following this general information about the printer, the devices used by the printer are shown with the description, the identifying terms, and the image as well as the link to the bibliographical record representing the source of the image.

The database is available in Catalan, Spanish and English, except for the fields with free text, such as the description "Device/Motto", or the field "Place of activity", only available in Catalan. The field "Mark term" is shown in the initially selected language and you can navigate through the linked terms to find all the devices under a particular term. The full terms list is maintained in an internal Excel document in all three languages of the database and in alphabetical order. The Excel file is updated each time a new term is introduced. It is also possible to browse the list of terms in the database.

Hans Brandhorst (Erasmus University Rotterdam, University Library / Arkyves)

Dutch printers' devices – from standalone catalogue to networked web resource

Already in 1999, when the catalogue *Dutch printers' devices 15th-17th century* was published, the form of publication was an issue. We realised that important aspects of its content – e.g. the activities and names of publishers and printers, and the iconography of the devices – were the subject of ongoing research and of attempts at standardisation.

Publishing the catalogue as a book and a CD-ROM, we used both a very traditional medium and a medium that was both state-of-the-art and soon to become obsolete. Although the CD-version offered complex search functionality, the catalogue still was a *static* snapshot of a dynamically expanding corpus, as the STCN-project (*Short Title Catalogue Netherlands*) continued to collect new data. No use could be made of the further development of the thesaurus of printers' names, and the Iconclass system.

As we recovered the copyright of the catalogue's content, we were able to incorporate the static database into the dynamic environment of a web resource, Arkyves. Now we can link the 'old' dataset to thesauri, like that of STCN, and the webservice of the Iconclass system.

I propose to discuss this transformation in a very pragmatic way, illustrating this with the help of the actual data files we use.

Michaela Scheibe and Christina Schmitz (Berlin State Library, Department of Early Printed Books)

Towards a standardised description of printers' devices: authority files and more

The Integrated Authority File (GND) hosted by the German National Library contains data records representing persons, corporate bodies, congresses, geographic entities, topics and works. These authority records constitute a common, conclusive reference system with persistent identifiers and interoperable metadata. The GND is actively used not only by libraries, but also by archives, museums and other scientific and cultural institutions in the German-speaking countries. GND authority records form part of the Virtual International Authority File (VIAF) and are combined with data from other national authority files.

The paper focuses on the Berlin State Library's approach to use this already established infrastructure for a standardised recording of printers' devices. Printers' devices have recently been accepted as a special entity in the GND and can now be described in adequate authority records. These records allow relations to other authority records (e.g. the records for printers and publishers, artists, places) and data about measurements, motifs, mottoes, period of use et al.

The crucial element to specify a particular device is the appropriate image. The newly established wiki used by the Berlin State Library to store images of particular devices and edit additional information will be presented as well. One difficult aspect that will be illustrated is the correct identification and description of motifs. Based on some pre-tests, the paper will finally offer a preliminary statement as to how image search methods may be used to identify printers' devices.