

## Vernacular books at the Frankfurt Book Fair, 1570-1625

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In this paper I shall first discuss the relationship between Latin and various European vernaculars in the late Renaissance, and how it was affected by the trade in printed books. This was also the period of the rise of national and international bibliography, and the development of subject bibliographies; having briefly surveyed these, I shall describe in some detail the operation of the book market through the example of the Frankfurt Book Fair. One of the most indefatigable bibliographers of the age, Georg Draut (1573-1635) compiled an exhaustive list of the books advertised or made available in various ways at that fair: the second edition of his *Bibliotheca classica* (1625), listed by discipline and subject all the Latin and German-language books advertised between 1564 and 1624, and was accompanied by the second edition of his *Bibliotheca exotica*, which undertook the same task for the various vernaculars. The Latin sections contain an estimated 33,000 entries, of which (in round figures) 11,000 are theological works of various confessional hues, 6,500 law books, and 2,500 books on medicine; 6,000 works are devoted to geography and history, 4,000 to philosophy and 3,000 to poetry and music. In the *Bibliotheca librorum germanicorum classica*, there are about 5,000 theological titles, 450 law books, 550 medical books, 600 philosophical books, 1,500 works on geography and history, and 270 works of poetry and music. In the *Bibliotheca exotica*, Draut records about 4,000 works in French, 1,100 in Italian, 160 in Spanish, 150 in Dutch or Flemish, 300 in English, and a few in Hungarian. I shall first give a brief account of Draut's life to guide my speculations on the motives which impelled him to undertake his monumental work; then survey in turn the entries for the various languages, in order to assess their specific character, their status relative to each other, the motives for the advertisement of foreign books at the fair, their potential purchasers, their role in the transmission of knowledge, and the cultural impact they may have had.