

GLN 15–16: Les éditions imprimées à Genève, Lausanne et Neuchâtel aux XVe et XVIe siècles. Jean-François Gilmont, ed.

With Alexandre Vanautgaerden. *Travaux d'Humanisme et Renaissance* 552. Geneva: Droz, 2015. x + 544 pp. \$123.

GLN 15–16 is a useful bibliography describing all the books printed in Geneva, Lausanne, and Neuchâtel in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Originally, this bibliography was conceived as an online database, still available on this website: <http://www.ville-ge.ch/musinfo/bd/bge/gln/>. At the invitation of Alexandre Vanautgaerden, the director of the Municipal Library of Geneva (BGE), Jean-François Gilmont decided to publish a print edition of this database, hosted by the well-known Librairie Droz series *Travaux d'Humanisme et Renaissance*. But we may ask the question of the pertinence of publishing such a bibliography in the digital age, especially since the work was first conceived as an online database. Jean-François Gilmont answers that he wants to give an image of his database at a specific date and to provide it on a platform that won't suffer any variation. I do agree with him, and I may add that sometimes the consultation of a bibliography is easier on a hard copy than on an online database.

The paper version of the *GLN 15–16* has 3,684 entries. Books are ordered chronologically and, for each year, alphabetically by author names. Each bibliographical record mentions author, short title, place of publication, publisher, date, format, number of pages, and signatures of quires. This information is completed by the record number in *GLN 15–16* online and the number of copies still preserved mentioned in the database. Shelf marks of preserved copies in Geneva, mainly in the BGE, are also provided. The book ends with two indexes (author names and printer names). We should stress that Jean-François Gilmont, as he claims, saw and examined himself at least one copy of 99.6 percent of all books described in his bibliography. It is an important fact to highlight because there are very few bibliographies with such a rate of books analyzed.

GLN 15–16 is a key tool for anyone who wants to work not only on the history of printing in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, but also on the production of Protestant books in the sixteenth century. The introduction of printing in Geneva goes back to 1478, in Lausanne to 1493, and in Neuchâtel, less than fifty years later, to 1533. A quick check of author names in the index allows us to measure the extent of the production of Protestant writers like Calvin, Theodore Beza, Antoine de Chandieu, Lambert Daneau, Du Plessis-Mornay, Henri Estienne, François Hotman, Johannes Sleidanus, or Pierre Viret. This index also shows us that Geneva was a major center for printing Bibles in the vernacular. On the other hand, beside the most famous printers of Jean Crespin and the Estienne family, all established in Geneva, we find the names of Jacques Chouet, Jacob Stoer, Eustache Vignon, and the Le Preux family.

Jean-François Gilmont took more than fifty years to complete the *GLN 15–16*. Taking the opportunity of this experience, he uses the last part of the book to tell us his memories as a bibliographer. His story is divided into six main topics, all full of

anecdotes: "Birth of Rare Book Departments," "Entering a Reading Room," "Getting a Book," "Librarians," "Writing Books or Even Novels," and "Bibliographer's Holidays." But we leave to the reader the pleasure of discovering this delightful part, depicting the strange world of libraries and librarians. In my opinion, this text should be read by all apprentices or confirmed bibliographers, and book or library historians. We hope that in the near future, an English-speaking editor will discover it and take the decision to translate it and to publish it for English readers.

Renaud Adam, *University of Liège (B)*