Peter G. Bietenholz. *Basle and France in the Sixteenth Century; The Basle Humanists and Printers in their Contacts with Franco-phone Culture*. Toronto: Librairie Droz, University of Toronto Press, 1971. Pp. 367. \$12.50.

This book is the first part of a two-part study of the interaction between Basle and the French-language reading public from the last quarter of the fifteenth century through the sixteenth. At once local history and the isolation and analysis of cultural phenomena, this study treats Basle's "only contribution of truly European significance", its printing industry and that industry's humanist programme, as it arose and was shaped by contacts and cultural exchange with the Francophone community.

The framework of the investigation is contained within the "Short Title Bibliography", a catalogue of 4022 titles filling nearly one third of the first part of this study. The bibliography traces the contribution of Francophones to the output of Basle's presses, including titles which are *sine loco* or with fictional imprints but which can be demonstrated to be Bâlois. Covering a somewhat broader period than the study, the bibliography is to "facilitate the researches of others in the same way that it formed the basis for the analytical sections of this study."

The bibliography is basic to the analysis of Franco-Bâlois relations, isolating as it does the names of scholars and printers who together make up "the strand", in the author's words, "of a specific influence" within the chosen area of cultural contact. In documenting this contact, and the mutual influence of the French intellectual community and the Basle book world, the study concentrates on names. Users of Benzing's *Buchdrucker des 16. und 17. Jahrhunderts im deutschen Sprachgebiet* will find the skeletal details of printers and publishers which such sources provide are here fleshed out as the author investigates the contacts of French humanists and the publishers who disseminated their thought. The author acknowledges the difficulty about much of his labour: publishers and master-printers are often inadequately documented; journeymen and correctors, whose names almost never appear in the volumes in which they had a hand, are for the most part lost to the researcher; yet it is not unreasonable to suppose at certain periods a significant number of Frenchmen among them.

The Short Title Bibliography exists primarily to document the men and their intellectual activities: Francophone authors, editors, translators and contributors are here arranged according to the most important contribution. It is a biographical aid foremost, and not a bibliographical one; therefore, it is perhaps out of order to ask for longer transcribed titles on all occasions. In some entries, though, summary data is often tantalizing. For example, Gilbert Cousin's edition of Georgius of Trebizond's *In locum illum Evangelii* is described with the phrase "and other small works" used twice. Although expanded titles and analysis of portions of these texts (*i.e.*, transcriptions of the running titles or caption titles for chapters or appendices ascribed to Francophones and essentially part of their individual bibliographies) would greatly expand the bibliographical section, the reference value of that section would increase. The whole book is a reference book, and a valuable one; the index ties it together. Only through the index does the whole range of an individual's contribution come together, as is pointed out to users of the bibliography in a prefatory note. Within the bibliography, cross references to the other items in which contributions by a writer appear would have been a useful addition.

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