

Albrecht Classen, A successful Jesuit book publication in the global contest with protestants and catholic opponents: Joseph Stoeckleins „Welt-Bott“. Letters from all over the world as a starting-point for encyclopedic ambitions in the Early Modern period

Abstract: With the rise of the Jesuit Order (founded in 1540), many European territories were re-Catholized. But the Jesuits aimed much higher than getting engaged in a petty war of words with the Protestants in Germany or Austria and pursued a global perspective, sending missionaries to virtually every corner of the then known world to teach, to preach, to convert, and to baptize. The Jesuits' global reach found its probably best expression in the publication of the „Lettres édifiantes et curieuses écrites des missions étrangères“ (1702–1776) and then also the „Welt-Bott“, a collection of letters by missionaries sent to Europe, collected and translated by the Bavarian Jesuit priest Joseph Stoecklein. This article examines the responses by the Jesuits to the multitude of Protestant anti-Jesuit publications and focuses especially on the success story of the „Welt-Bott“ as a true best-seller on the Catholic book market in the German-speaking lands.

Keywords: Joseph Stoecklein; Jesuits; publishing success; early modern missionaries; early modern science; „Welt-Bott“; world exploration

Schlagworte: Joseph Stoecklein; Jesuiten; Publikationserfolg; frühneuzeitliche Missionare, frühneuzeitliche Wissenschaften; „Welt-Bott“; Welterforschung