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Clorinda Donato and Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, eds., *Translation and Transfer of Knowledge in Encyclopedic Compilations, 1680-1830*. Toronto: University of Toronto University Press, 2021. vi + 364 pp. \$84.00 U.S. (hb). ISBN 9781487508906; \$84.00 U.S. (epub). ISBN 9781487539276; \$84.00 U.S. (pdf). ISBN 9781487539269.

Review by Urs B. Leu, Zentralbibliothek Zürich.

This volume, edited by Clorinda Donato and Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, brings together thirteen contributions that discuss various encyclopedias from the period 1680 to 1830. The editors are no strangers to the study of early modern encyclopedias and have published important relevant works on the subject.^[1] In their brief but important introduction, they point out that the emergence and proliferation of encyclopedias is closely related to the Enlightenment and the learned culture of the eighteenth century. “Encyclopedias evolved at the same time as newspapers and gazettes, together with other literary forms such as salon discussions and philosophical novels, as outstanding media for constituting knowledge and its dissemination during the Enlightenment. But no other genre embodies more fully the goals of the Enlightenment” (p. 8).

The following contributions illuminate various encyclopedias from different countries, their cultural context, the activities of translators, and the transnational transfer of encyclopedic knowledge as well as its national forms of adaptation. Lüsebrinck himself opens the volume with a contribution on the *Dictionnaire universel de commerce* by the Savary de Bruslon brothers whose publication began in 1723 and represents the first universal dictionary of commerce in European cultural history. Although the work is little known today, it enjoyed great popularity in the eighteenth century, went through several editions, and was translated into various languages. In the process, national adaptations were made. Thus, unlike the French original, the editions published in Switzerland, Holland, and Denmark adopted a clearly physiocratic point of view or weighted certain articles differently. To cite but one example, in the Copenhagen edition (1758-1765), the article on Canada is a third longer, indicating Canada’s increased importance as a trading partner. In his contribution, Alain Cernuschi traces various articles on theater and the performing arts in Chambers’ *Cyclopaedia* (1728), the *Encyclopédie* (1751-1768) by Diderot and d’Alembert, and the so-called *Encyclopédie d’Yverdon* (1770-1780), beautifully highlighting, among other things, the influence of Johann Georg Sulzer (1720-1779) on the relevant articles in the *Encyclopédie d’Yverdon* concerning German literature and theater.

Ina Ulrike Paul discusses the early Dutch encyclopedias, the first of which was *Het Algemeen Historisch, Geographisch en Genealogisch Woordenboek* in 1724. She devotes herself not least to the paratextual elements and the messages communicated on the richly detailed title pages. By contrast, Arianne Baggermann is devoted to the Dutch encyclopedia on crafts and arts published

by Pieter Blussé (1748-1823), which was partly based on the *Encyclopédie* by Diderot and d'Alembert but was intended to be more affordable. The work initially struggled with sales difficulties, but twenty-four volumes finally appeared over thirty-two years. The author rightly points out that although this gigantic work contains a great deal about crafts and arts of the eighteenth century, the authors omitted to record information about the craftsmen and their working conditions, which would of course be of great interest today. While Kathleen Hardesty Doig's essay traces the sources of Charles-Joseph Panckoucke's *Encyclopédie méthodique* (1736-1798), the co-editor of the volume, Clorinda Donato, examines the connection between economic growth, national self-confidence, and the character of a Venetian and a Spanish as well as a Swiss encyclopedia.

The study by Luigi Delia explores how the proposals of Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794) for a more liberal criminal law were received by various encyclopedias. The incredible success of the so-called German *Brockhaus* becomes clear in the article by Iwan-Michelangelo d'Aprile, which also influenced the *French Dictionnaire de la conversation et de la lecture* as well as the *Encyclopédie des gens du monde* in the first half of the nineteenth century, as Jeff Loveland impressively shows in his contribution. The fact that encyclopedias were not only based on other works, but that specialized publications could also be based on encyclopedia articles, is presented by Susanne Greilich with the help of Guillaume-Thomas Raynal's *Histoire philosophique et politique... dans les deux Indes* from 1770. Of course, there can be no anthology on encyclopedias without a contribution by Ulrich Johannes Schneider on the *Zedler*, to which he devoted more than a decade of his life. In this study of the sixty-four-volume *Universal Lexicon*, published between 1731 and 1754, Schneider presents the giant work as a cooperative effort between authors and readers, for which the latter also wrote entries themselves, in keeping with today's *citizen science* conception of modern academic libraries. Finally, Karen Struve examines the exciting ways in which knowledge from the colonies and about exotic countries found its way into the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d'Alembert and was processed more or less critically. The volume concludes with a contribution by Arianne Biggermann and Clorinda Donato on the *Nederduitsche encyclopedie* announced in 1786 by Willem Holtrop (1751-1835) and his collaboration with Fortunato Bartolomeo De Felice (1723-1789), the editor of the *Encyclopédie d'Yverdon*.

The reviewed volume contains a rich bouquet of interesting contributions to contemporary encyclopedia research. The various contributions show how encyclopedias can be approached from different disciplines and perspectives and how rich the results can be, not least in terms of knowledge transfer, translations, and national characteristics, even translation errors that have been spread. For example, the *Allgemeines Historisches Lexikon* (Leipzig 1709) states that camels are found in the Swiss Alps, whereas everyone knows that they do not live in the mountains but in Swiss banks, as the recent history of *Crédit Suisse* has proven!

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NOTE

[1] See, for example, Clorinda Donato and Ricardo Lopez, eds., *Enlightenment Spain and the Encyclopédie méthodique*, Oxford Studies in the Enlightenment, (London: Oxford 2015); Clorinda Donato and Jens Haseler, eds., *L’Encyclopédie d’Yverdon et sa résonance européenne. Contextes - contenus - continuités*, (Geneva: Slatkine, 2005); Clorinda Donato and Robert Maniquis, eds., *The Encyclopédie and the Age of Revolution*, (Boston, G. K. Hall, 1992); Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink and Hanco Jurgens, “Ökonomisches Wissen in enzyklopädischen Sammelwerken des 18. Jahrhunderts – Strukturen und Übersetzungen” in *Das Achtzehnte Jahrhundert*, Jg. 41, Heft 2, (2017), 197-276; Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink and Suzanne Greilich, *Écrire l’encyclopédisme, du XVIIIe siècle à nos jours* (Paris: Classique Garnier, 2020).

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