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## Vernacular Print, Johann Prüss, and the *Fasciculus Temporum*

Abstract: This research paper discusses the biographical information of Strasbourg printer Johann Prüss and his vernacular German work and offers a statistical and categorical comparison to other contemporary Strasbourg printers and their vernacular German works. Using the ISTC and other sources, I created a table in the appendix that lists all the known vernacular works of each printer and their date of publication. Lastly, this paper discusses the similarities and differences between the 1490 Latin edition of the *Fasciculus Temporum* and the following German edition, printed by Prüss in 1492.

Johann Prüss the Elder (1447-1510), originally from Württemberg (Chrisman 16), was educated in Ingolstadt, Bavaria, matriculating in 1474 (Chrisman 14). In 1480, Prüss arrived and settled in Strasbourg and, after a difficult yet active first five years, established a two-press print shop by 1498. After his death, his son, Johann Prüss the Younger, inherited the shop and continued printing for two years until his sister Margarethe's marriage to Reinhardt Beck. Beck took over the shop in 1512 and forced Prüss the Younger to relocate, which eventually diminished his printing production to a one-person shop. After the passing of her husband, Margarethe continued to remarry printers and, during intervals of marriage, directed the family shop herself (Chrisman 16, 22).

Johann Prüss the Elder and his son, Johann Prüss the Younger, became significant printers in Strasbourg, with both printing over a hundred books during their respective careers; however, Johann Prüss the Elder was much more prolific, printing 177 books in his lifetime (Chrisman 4). By comparison, other contemporary printers in Strasbourg were Johann Grüninger, who printed 389 books in his lifetime; Martin Flach the Elder, who printed 108 books in his lifetime; Matthias Hupfuff, who printed 175 books in his lifetime; and Martin Schott, who

printed only 35 books in his lifetime (Chrisman 4). Grüninger and Flach ran large-scale print shops, ranging between 289 and 313 average annual masterforms produced, while Prüss, Hupfuff, and Schott ran medium-scale shops with 181, 111, and 85 average annual masterforms produced, respectively (Chrisman 6). Cooperation among the printers of Strasbourg is evident through the sharing of print types. Several works were printed by one printer but with the print-type or part of the print-type of another printer. This print-type sharing was widespread with Hupfuff, Prüss, and Grüninger (Duntze and ISTC).

The period from 1480 to 1520 is considered one of clerical dominance over printed works, logically because Strasbourg, prior to the Reformation, was an important center of ecclesiastical publication (Chrisman 215). Of all works printed, using categories described by Chrisman, the largest percentage, 35%, consisted of Catholic works, with the next largest percentages, 17% and 12%, consisting of humanist and vernacular works (Chrisman 86). Due to Strasbourg's provinciality, printers supplied works chiefly for local and popular markets. Prior to 1538, there were no academic centers nor any similar group of scholars active in Strasbourg; this explains the popularity of vernacular print aimed at an audience made up of educated laity (Gilmont 184). Prüss printed predominantly Catholic works, a substantial number of humanist works, and slightly fewer texts and vernacular prints, which were equal in number. Prüss was particularly known for his printed missals and breviaries, which he, along with Grüninger, held a monopoly over for fourteen dioceses of the Holy Roman Empire (Chrisman 16, 31, 83); he also supplied monastic orders, such as the Knights of the Order of Saint John, which commissioned works from him. Flach printed overwhelmingly Catholic works and little else. In contrast, Grüninger also focused on primarily Catholic works yet additionally printed a significant amount of scientific and vernacular printings. Hupfuff primarily printed vernacular and scientific

printings with few Catholic or other prints; Schott focused on primarily vernacular works as well, with Catholic works also dominating his catalog (Chrisman 32-33). As a result, Prüss printed 68% of his works in Latin and 30% in German; Flach printed almost exclusively in Latin; Grüninger printed 61% of his works in German and 39% in Latin; Hupfuff printed 85% of his works in German and 12% in Latin; and Schott printed 73% of his works in German and 27% in Latin (Chrisman 34). Although the largest market for vernacular books came after the Reformation polemic, which had previously monopolized the presses during the 1520s, cooled, incunabula vernacular printing was clearly common (Chrisman 3). This commonality of vernacular print is also demonstrated by the amount of known Strasbourg-printed vernacular incunables (see Appendix).

Printers encouraged translations, new editions of the classics, or original works, as well as employed scholars as correctors and proofreaders; for Prüss, Matthias Ringman served as a corrector and scholarly advisor, preparing texts and supervising the columns through the press, while Johann Adelphus Müling served as proofreader and translator of a variety of medical and literary works (Chrisman 24). The most common vernacular works that overlap between the printers were “historical works”; religious works, namely *Epistolae et evangelia* (*Letters and Gospels*); German/Latin vocabulary works; almanacs; works related to the emperor at the time, Maximilian I; and literary works. These literary works included *Lucidarius*, a Middle High German work of prose representing contemporary theological and scientific beliefs at the time. Another local work of literature was *Die Geschichte vom Ritter Peter Diemringer von Staufenberg*, the story of the nobleman Peterman Diemringer von Staufenberg, who promised the fairy mistress with whom he dallied in the woods that he would never marry, broke his vow, and

had to pay the consequences. The hero of the poem and the poet are both associated with the Strasbourg family of the Staufenbergers (Palmer 4).

Johann Prüss seems to have begun his printing career by focusing on German works, printing a few works per year with a Latin work roughly once a year; however, around 1487 he began to print predominantly in Latin, presumably due to his commissions from the Catholic church in Worms and other dioceses. Nevertheless, his dabbling with printing in vernacular increased, especially in 1500. Typically, Prüss printed only a few vernacular works per year except in years when Emperor Maximilian I was especially active, such as in 1495, when he printed more in vernacular. Despite significant overlaps of printed texts among the Strasbourg printers, there were several that were a Prüss specialty, namely the previously mentioned works pertaining to Emperor Maximilian I, *Mandeville's Travels*, *Deeds of the Romans*, and the *Fasciculus Temporum*.

One of Prüss's most often-printed works was the *Fasciculus Temporum* by Werner Rolevinck, which he printed a total of five times between 1488 and 1492, with four of those five editions in Latin and the final edition in German. It is possible that Johann Adelphus Müling served as the translator of the *Fasciculus* from Latin into German, but as of yet that remains unconfirmed. Despite the *Fasciculus Temporum*'s popularity, Prüss was the only Strasbourg printer to print it. Rolevinck's *Fasciculus Temporum* was a widely popular chronicle that detailed the passage of time and important events and figures from Creation until 1474, the year of its first publication, with following editions building onto the previous edition (Stillwell 409). The printed chronicle combines woodcut images and diagrams with written text, something not entirely original to Rolevinck but expanded significantly from his reference materials. Other manuscripts had already visually cataloged the genealogy of Christ with color-coded circles;

earlier Bibles had already incorporated miniatures and scrolls that depicted history vertically (Ward 218). The differences are that Rolevinck failed to carefully observe the color-coded visuals of his predecessors, he expanded on the information included within his source materials, and he cataloged time horizontally (Ward 220). The purpose of these innovations was to create a timeline that connected biblical, pagan, and medieval history to the life of Christ and succession of popes and emperors to demonstrate the progression of time towards judgment day and prompt the reader to reflect on God's plan for humanity (Ward 222, 225, 226).

When comparing the 1490 Latin and 1492 German editions of the *Fasciculus*, very few differences can be found. The integral parts of the *Fasciculus*, a title page preceding a woodcut, and an index are printed in both. The only differences are different woodcuts and a more extended index in the German edition—twenty-two pages compared to ten pages in the Latin. Both editions also contain pagination, although the German edition lacks it for the first few pages before pagination begins; the enlarged and bold content headings are still seen in both. The diagram circles and the timeline running through the middle of the folios are consistent in both editions; however, the German edition seems to rely less on the circular diagrams in favor of more text, and the timeline is not nearly as clear as in the Latin edition since there is less empty space and only the recto pages contain the timeline, rather than both sides of the folios. As mentioned, the German edition relies on written information more than the Latin edition, and the text on each folio is much denser than on the Latin folios; whether this is due to an expansion of description or the German propensity to longer words must remain unknown until a person with linguistic ability in both Latin and German carries out a close comparison of the texts. For example, in the German edition, the circles denoting the days of creation and the genealogy

following Adam are pages apart, and the genealogical rondels are spaced apart and thus are not connected with lines, whereas in the Latin edition, they are on the same page and connected to one another with lines. However, the information found within each circle is identical. Another example of the density of text in the German edition is a comparison to the woodcut of Jesus found on fol. 37r in the Latin edition. In the Latin edition, there are four small walls of text surrounding the woodcut, with circles representing the disciples at the corners, but the German edition simply presents four text walls surrounding the woodcut and the circles, with more text are above the top text wall. Although the German edition contains more, smaller woodcuts than the Latin, together with new and differing woodcuts, many are reused, such the images of Noah's ark, the tower of Babel, and the dog-headed man. Also, unlike the Latin edition, woodcuts in the German edition are repeated less within the text itself.

In conclusion, the printer of our *Fasciculus*, Johann Prüss, was a very prolific printer during the incunabula period, including several other vernacular printings of historical works. Other contemporary printers also printed vernacular historical works, though not necessarily works like the *Fasciculus*. As hypothesized, the German 1492 and Latin 1490 editions of the *Fasciculus* had little variance and maintained features from one edition to the next.

Appendix:

Catalog of Johann Prüss's Vernacular Works

<b>Title of Work</b>	<b>Year Printed</b>	<b>Language</b>
Historia Septem Sapientium Romae/ Historie von den Sieben weisen Meistern	1478-79	German
Der Stricker: Pfaffe Amis	1478	German
Heldenbuch	1479 1500 - Second Edition	German
Ein Büch der heiligen dryer Kunig	1479	German
Von einer Frowen genant Melusina	1481	German
Dis Buch heysset Lucidarius, das spricht zu teutsch also vil als ein Erleuchter	1482	German
Die Geschichte vom Ritter Peter Diemringer von Staufenberg	1483	German
Kalendar	1483	German
Mandeville: Reysen und Wanderschafften dur das gelobte Land	1483 1484 - Second Edition 1488 - Third Edition	German
Die vierundzwanzig Alten, oder der goldne Thron	1483	German
Passio Pragensium/Geschichten, die zu Prag von den Ketzern wider die Christen geschehen sind	1483 - After October 1st	German
Almanac	1484	German
Legenda aurea sanctorum,	1484-1485	German



sive Lombardica historia/ Leben der Heiligen: Winterteil und Sommerteil		
Bulla aurea/ Die guldin Bull	1485	German
Almanac	1487	German
Electio Maximiliani/ Erwählung Maximilians zu einem römischen König	1486 - After February 20th	German
Electio Maximiliani/ Wahl und Krönung Erzherzog Maximilians	1486 - After April 27th	German
Coronatio/ Krönung und gemeiner Landfriede	1486 - After April 30th	German
Eine gute Lehre, wie der Mensch seine Seele soll bewahren vor der bösen Welt	1486	German
Verkündigung der Ablassbulle Innozenz VIII	1486	German

Vocabularius ex quo.	1487 1488-1489 - Second Edition 1488-1493 - Third Edition	German (and Latin)
Sententiarum variationes, seu Synonyma	1487	German (and Latin)
Von etlichen Frowen	1488	German
Vocabularius praedicatorum, sive Variloquus	1488	German (and Latin)
Articuli abbreviati indulgentiarum Iubilaei et Cruciatae	1489-1490	German
Vocabularius rerum	1489 - January 5th	German (and Latin)
Figur und Unterweisung über väterliche Lehen	1490	German

Ave Maria with Indulgence	1490	German
Arzneibuch der Rosse	1490	German
Modus latinitatis	1490 1491 - Second Edition 1493 - Third Edition	German (and Latin)
Erbschaftverlassen	1490	German
Von den Donnerstein vor Ensisheim	1492 - After November 7th	German (and Latin)
Fasciculus Temporum / Ein Burdlin der Zeyt*	1492 - After November 7th	German
Vocabularis: Gemma vocabulorum	1493	German (and Latin)
Rhetorik und Briefformular	1493 - After March 10th	German
Klagen, Antworten, und Urteile, gezogen aus geistlichen und weltlichen Rechten	1493	German
Von den Unholden oder Hexen	1493	German
Almanac	1494	German
Almanac General edition and one specifically for Strassburg	1495	German
Von der wunderbaren Geburt des Kindes bei Worms	1495 - After September 10th	German

Maximilian I, Emperor: Instruktion an Kaspar von Mörsberg, Landvogt im Elsass, und Mattias Wurm betreffend die Erhebung des Gemeinen Pfennigs	1495 - After November 23	German
Maximilian I, Emperor: Instruktion für Kaspar von	1495 - After December 23rd	German

Mörsberg und Matthias Wurm betreffend die Verhandlungen mit der Landvogtei Elsass		
Rosenkranz und Psalter Mariae	1495	German
Schreiben von Bürgermeister und Rat der Stadt Nürnberg betreffend die Zeichen der falschen Gulden	1495-1500	German
Maximilian I: Einreitung Römisch Königlicher Majestät in Worms	1495 - After March 26th	German
Maximilian I, Emperor: Der gemeine Pfennig	1495 - After August 7th	German
Ausschreiben betreffend die übernahme des Reichvikariats	1496 - After August 27th	German
Einladung zum Schiessen	1496 - Between June 30th and August 15th	German
Practica ad annum	1497	German (and Latin)

Maximilian I, Emperor: Aufforderung zur Heeresfolge nach Italien und gegen Frankreich	1497 - After May 23rd	German
Maximilian I, Emperor: Achtserklärung gegen Wernher von Zimmern	1497 - After February 7th	German
Der von Boppard widerärtige Händel dem Erzbischof und Stift von Trier erzeugt	1497 - After June 7th	German
Antwort auf das Ausschreiben des Johann Sohn zu eltz. Ehrenbreitstein	1497-1498 - Before 26th February	German
Almanach für Breslau	1497	German

Sechs Rufe Mariens	1498-1501	German
Disticha de moribus	1499 - March 2nd	German (and Latin)
Cato	1499	German
Wie Rom gabaut ward	1500	German
Bedeutung, Kraft, Tugend, und Wirksamkeit des Agnus Dei	1500	German
Gebet zu Maria zum Elend in Wiwersheim bei Strassburg	1500	German
Der goldene Esel	1500	German
Geringwertige Gulden	1500	German
Buch der heiligen drei Könige	1500	German
Heiligenleben	1500	German
Sechs Rufe Mariä	1500	German
Sixtus IV: Gebet vor unserer Frauen Bild	1500	German
Die Widerwärtigkeit des Königes	1500	German
Molitoris: De lamiis	1500	German
Die 24 Alten	1500	German
Briefsteller	1500	German

Possible Yet Unconfirmed Vernacular Printings by Prüss

<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Language</b>
Antichristus: Entekrist leven/Die Fünfzehn Zeichen vor dem Jüngsten Gericht	1480 Second Edition 1482	German [low German]
Epistolae et Evangelia (Plenarium)	1482-90 if Prüss 1500+ if Hupfuff	German [Latin]

Hieronymus: Vitae Sanctorum patrum, sive Vitas patrum/ Leben der heiligen Altväter	1482	German [low German]
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Vernacular Works of other Strasbourg Printers

<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Printer</b>
Von den ausgebrannten Wassern	1481 - October 27th 1483 - Second Edition	German	Martin Schott
Epistolae et Evangelia	1481- October 4th 1483 - August 18th Second Edition 1491- August 27th - Third Edition	German	Martin Schott
Lucidarius	1481 1483 - Second Edition 1485 - Third Edition	German	Martin Schott
Wie Man sich halten soll bei einem sterbenden Menschen	1481	German	Martin Schott
Die vierundzwanzig Alten, oder der goldne Thron	1483 - November 6th	German	Martin Schott
Lucidarius	1483 1485 - Second Edition	German	Martin Schott
De amore et de amoris remedio	1484 - March 23rd	German	Martin Schott
Von Bewahrung und Bereitung der Weine	1484	German	Martin Schott

Schwabenspiegel: Summarie von kunglichen und keyserlichen darzu landt und lehen rechten	1484	German	Martin Schott
Vocabularius praedicantium	1484	German [Latin]	Martin Schott
Almanac	1484	German	Johann Grüninger
Ausschreiben betreffend den von Papst Sixtus IV. den Magdalenerinnen zu Strassburg zum Kirchenbau bewilligten Ablass.	1484 - After January 9th	German [Latin]	Johann Grüninger
Vocabularius rerum	1484 - not after	German [Latin]	Johann Grüninger
Biblia	1485	German	Johann Grüninger
Almanac	1485-1486	German	Johann Grüninger
Gart der Gesundheit	1485-1486 1489 - Second Edition	German	Johann Grüninger
Vocabularius ex quo	1485	German [Latin]	Johann Grüninger
Vocabularius ex quo	1485	German [Latin]	Martin Schott
Electio Maximiliani: Erwählung Maximilians zu einem römischen könig	1486- After February 20th	German	Johann Grüninger
Erneuerung der Privilegien der Eulogius Brüderschaft	1487	German	Johann Grüninger
Vocabularius rerum	1487 1489 -Second Edition	German [Latin]	Martin Schott

Historia Alexandri Magni	1488 - December 10th 1493 - June 12th - Second Edition	German	Martin Schott
Opera. Ed: Johannes Geiler von Kaiserberg	1488	German	Johann Grüninger
Historia destructionis Troiae	1489 - March 13th	German	Martin Schott
De Geschichte vom Ritter Peter Diemringer von Staufenberg	1489-1490	German	Martin Schott
Almanach und Practica auf das Jahr 1490	1489-1490	German	Johann Grüninger
Die Tugend des Eichen Mistels	1490	German	Johann Grüninger
Practica	1490	German	Johann Grüninger
Vocabularius ex quo	1490 - September 30th	German [Latin]	Martin Flach
Vertrag mit Albrecht IV, Herzog von Bayern wegen der Stadt Regensburg	1492- After May 25th	German	Johann Grüninger
Die Vierundzwanzig goldenen Harfen	1493 - August 3rd	German	Martin Schott
Almanac	1493	German	Johann Grüninger
Ablässverkündigung für das Gebet vor einem Christusbild	1493	German	Johann Grüninger
Das [neue] Narrenschiff	1494 - After February 11th 1496- Second Edition 1497 - August 24th - Third Edition	German	Johann Grüninger

Auslegung der Hymnen	1494- January 21st	German	Johann Grüninger
Opera	1494	German?	Martin Flach
Almanac	1495-1496	German	Johann Grüninger
büchlein, wie man Fische und Vögel fangen soll	1495	German	Johann Grüninger
Wallfahrt und Strass nach St. Jakob	1495 - After July 26th	German	Johann Grüninger
De consolation et consilio	1495	German	Johann Grüninger
Privilgien-Brief für Eberhard, Herzog zu württemberg	1495 - After July 23rd	German	Johann Grüninger
Almanac	1496-1497	German	Johann Grüninger
Die innige geistliche Bruderschaft genannt Sankt Ursulen Schiffflein	1496	German	Johann Grüninger
Vocabularius incipiens reutonicum ante latinum	1496-1500	German [Latin]	Johann Grüninger
Das ist das Buch der Cirurgia	1497 - After July 4th	German	Johann Grüninger
Historie von den sieben weisen Meistern	1497	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Die wunderbare Meerfahrt des hl. Brandan	1497 1499 - Second Edition	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Epistolae et Evangelia	1498 - March 28th 1500 - June 22nd - Second Edition	German	Johann Grüninger



Erneuerung der Privilegien für die Eulogiusbruderschaft der Hufschmeide zu Strassburg	1498	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Von Kaiser Karls Recht	1498	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Büchlein, wie man Fische und Vögel fangen soll mit den haenden	1498 1498-1500 Possible Second Edition	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Almanac -Strassburg	1499-1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Prognosticon	1499-1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Amor, die Liebe	1499	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Salomon und Salome	1499	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Wunderbare Meerfahrt des HL. Brandan	1499	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Frieden zu Basel	1499 - After September 22nd	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Lucidarius	1499 [reprinted several times after 1500]	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Regimen sanitatis Salernitanum	1499	German (and Latin)	Matthias Hupfuff
Büchlein der Titel aller Stände: Wie man einem Fürsten schreiben soll	1499	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Disticha de moribus	1499	German (and Latin)	Matthias Hupfuff
Dialogus: Salman und Morolf	1499	German	Matthias Hupfuff

Comedien	1499 - March 5th	German	Johann Grüninger
Practica auf das Jahr 1500	1499-1500	German	Johann Grüninger
Almanac	1499-1500	German	Johann Grüninger
Die Geschichte vom Ritter Peter Diemringer von Staufenberg	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Mirakel von einem Geist	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Rosengarten König Laurins	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Tondalus	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Practica auf das Jahr 1500	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Von Bewahrung und Bereitung der Weine	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Auslegung der Träume	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Eine Romfahrt im Geiste	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
De eius visione, sive De raptu animae	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Wie Arent Bosman ein Geist erschein	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
König Laurins Rosengarten	1500 - September 5th	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Die Grossen Wunderwerke der heiligen Stadt Rom	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff
Die sint die syben Busz psalmen zu	1500	German	Matthias Hupfuff

tütsch			
Almanac	1500-1501	German	Johann Grüninger
Der Junkfrowen Marie und Mutter gottes ein früntlichen gruss zu lob und er im salve gedütsch	1500	German	Johann Grüninger
Das Buch der Vergift der Pestilentz	1500 - August 19th	German	Johann Grüninger
die Königstochter von Frankreich	1500 - September 8th	German	Johann Grüninger
Ein lieplichs Lesen	1500 - September 4th	German	Johann Grüninger
Legende der heiligen Katharina	1500 - July 2nd	German	Johann Grüninger
Kleines Destillierbuch	1500 - May 8th	German	Johann Grüninger

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