

Abstract

Of Monkeys and Bears – Technical and Social History Aspects of Typesetters and Printers in early Modern Times

The Power-Point-Presentation consists of two parts:

At first, the source material – written and graphic sources – used for the preparation of the lecture is presented, including a valuation of the quality of the sources:

- lecture books,
- autobiographies
- contemporary novels
- flyers
- letters, instructions and work rules
- professional books and scientific publications
- pictorials

Second and parallel to the commentated presentation of the source material, both the common knowledge concerning technical and social history as well as some lesser known facts are explained.

Regional differences that existed in the European printing business in former times will be pointed out in the form of a confrontation, for example:

Education of the apprentices, educational level of the workmen, punctuality and alcohol at workplace, hygienic conditions, work times, performance fluctuation, mobbing, customs of the typesetters, recruiting of the companions, duties of the managers, room situation in the offices.

At last a look at the work performance and the work strains at early iron hand printing presses shows the benefits of a practical orientated research in printing history.

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