this may be the case in his readings of frontispieces, this reader found that the visual sometimes drowns out the textual in as much as the narrative elements of Olearius' works remain largely unexamined. In particular, for a book that begins with references to the work of Edward Said and Mary Louise Pratt, there is very little here that situates Olearius in the history of early Orientalism. Ultimately, one might argue that the Adam Olearius that Brancaforte presents is of greater interest in terms of his visions of the book than his visions of Persia.

Richard Maber. *Publishing in the Republic of Letters: The Ménage-Grævius-Wetstein Correspondence 1679-1692*. Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 2005. viii + 274 pp. $56.00. Review by LAURA CRUZ, WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY.

Publishing in the Republic of Letters is a slender volume, consisting primarily of the transcribed and annotated letters that were part of an international exchange between two scholars, Johann-Georg Graevius (at the University of Utrecht) and Gilles Ménage (in Paris), and a Dutch printer, Henrik Wetstein (in Amsterdam). The exchange focuses on the long-delayed publication of Ménage's annotated edition of *Diogenes Laertius*, which finally occurs in 1692. The letters, reprinted in their original French, constitute a valuable case study which sheds considerable light on the inter-workings of the Dutch publishing trade as well as the social and professional milieu of prominent European scholars on the eve of the Enlightenment.

Since the seventeenth century, Dutch printers and publishers played an integral role in the European trade of books, yet the Dutch contribution has not been subjected to the intense and innovative treatment as has the history of the book in countries such as France and England. In a 1952 article entitled "The Geographic Extent of the Dutch Book Trade in the Seventeenth Century," David W. Davies described the range of the Dutch international book trade based on the meager number of available commercial records, especially the documents from Amsterdam booksellers collected (and published) by M. M. Kleerkooper and W. P. Van Stockum. His was one of the first contributions towards the creation of a history of the Dutch trade in books, a worthy goal that has still not seen completion, due in no small part to the logistical difficulties involved. Material on the Dutch book trade tends to be

widely scattered and polyglot, not only because of the decentralized nature of the Dutch republic but also because of their far-flung distribution networks for books.

The history of books in the Netherlands has received a great deal of domestic attention since 1952, including the creation of the Short-Title Catalogue, Netherlands (1460-1800), consisting of over 110,000 titles, and the publication of numerous primary source materials, notably I. H. van Eeghen's impressive multi-volume history of the Amsterdam book trade (1960) and Bert van Selm and J. C. Gruys' microfiche collection of Book Sales Catalogues (1990). There have also been noteworthy contributions on the history of individual Dutch printers, such as P. G. Hoftijzer's work on Pieter van der Aa, and on printing industries in particular cities, such as Marika Keblusek's work on The Hague. Unfortunately, few of these contributions have been made available in English. Yet it is undeniable that there has been a recent upsurge in scholarship of the Dutch book inside and outside of the Netherlands, which has gone from being the preoccupation of bibliographers to including scholars of history, language, and economics.

If Davies' work sketched the outlines of the trade, these contributions began to fill in that outline, but much work remains to be done. The letters collected in *Publishing in the Republic of Letters* constitute one more piece added to the puzzle. They come from a surprising source, Richard Maber, a specialist in French literature at the University of Durham. This collection of letters represents a rich fragment of his larger project, the compilation of Ménage's wide ranging and voluminous correspondence–some 1,600 letters in total. He was alerted to the existence of Ménage's correspondence with Graevius, consisting of forty letters, by an archivist colleague at (of all places) the University of Copenhagen, where they are currently held. Maber's larger objective is the elucidation of the personal networks that existed among scholars in the late seventeenth century and of Ménage's prominent place within those circles, which is attested to by Ménage's extensive references to common scholarly acquaintances and updates on his other works in progress in his letters. Coupled with the second set of letters, however, these remarkably intact series also provide a great deal of insight into the informal arrangements in the world of scholarly publishing, a dimension often lacking in other sources.

The link to that world is contained in the second series of letters between Wetstein and Ménage. Thirty letters are reprinted in the text, though the series

is less complete than first. The great age of scholar-printers, such as Christopher Plantin, was the sixteenth century, but Wetstein was a member of a prominent Swiss academic family and was able to exchange information with Ménage about fellow scholars in Germany, France, and Switzerland. His style in writing to Ménage shifts, as Maber notes, between the collegial exchange of relative equals to the cruder more workmanlike reports of his endeavors as a printer. Over the course of their nine-year correspondence, Wetstein fusses over many of the details involved in printing such a complicated and authoritative work. He and Ménage wrangle over costs, quality and availability of paper, the appearance of illustrations, the commercial viability of different formats, the difficulties in sending books over the French border, and other details. At the same time, Wetstein peppers his correspondence with a growing list of excuses for the long-delayed publication of the text. From war between France and the Netherlands, to cold weather which freezes ink, the trials and tribulations of the printing industry are laid bare in a moderately petulant tone that should seem faintly familiar to modern readers who have dealt with home repair contractors. Most amusing are Wetstein's comments on proofreader/translator Marc Meibomius, whose personal eccentricities and short attention span continually hold up production. Personalities aside, this series of letters contains valuable nuggets of information about book production and distribution in the late seventeenth century.

Though its contributions should certainly be acknowledged, *Publishing in the Republic of Letters* is a case study focused on the publication of one book and one strand of a much larger scholarly network, which does, by its very nature, place limits on its wider applicability. Maber's illuminating footnotes read like a who's who of late seventeenth-century scholarship, but he is, understandably, less expansive on the technical aspects of printing and the nature and organization of the book trade. The letters beg further explication and expansion of the historical context from which they arose, which is presumably Maber's intention in publishing them as a primary source, leaving the job to specialists. Hopefully, the exhortation will be answered. Simply finding and making these letters known marks a significant first step towards a greater understanding of the early modern book trade, but it is a step upon which Dutch scholars have idled for too long.