

THE PRINTING PRESS  
AS AN AGENT OF  
CHANGE

*Communications and cultural  
transformations in early-modern Europe*

*Volumes I and II*

ELIZABETH L. EISENSTEIN



**CAMBRIDGE**  
**UNIVERSITY PRESS**

# CONTENTS

*Preface*

*page ix*

## PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO AN ELUSIVE TRANSFORMATION

- 1 The unacknowledged revolution 3
- 2 Defining the initial shift; some features of print culture 43
1. Dissemination 71; 2. Standardization 80; 3. Reorganization 88;  
4. Data collection 107; 5. Preservation 113; 6. Amplification and  
reinforcement 126, *From hearing to reading* 129, *Republic of letters* 136

## PART TWO: CLASSICAL AND CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS REORIENTED; RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION REAPPRAISED

- 3 A classical revival reoriented: the two phases of the  
Renaissance 163
1. Introduction 163; 2. Transitory revivals and a permanent  
Renaissance 181; 3. Toward modern forms of consciousness 225;  
4. Arcana disclosed 272
- 4 The scriptural tradition recast: resetting the stage for the  
Reformation 303
1. Introduction 303; 2. The end of the medieval church 313; 3. Gospel  
truths recast 329; 4. Resetting the stage for the Reformation 367;  
5. Relating the Protestant ethic to capitalist enterprise 378; 6. From  
Catholic south to Protestant north 403; 7. Aspects of the new book  
religion 422

## CONTENTS

### PART THREE: THE BOOK OF NATURE TRANSFORMED

5	Introduction; problems of periodization	453
	1. 'The great book of Nature' and the 'little books of men' 453;	
	2. Problems of periodization: (a) <i>Burckhardtians versus Medievalists</i>	
	488, (b) <i>The shortcomings of medieval science</i> 498, (c) <i>Corrupted</i>	
	<i>materials duplicated</i> 508	
6	Technical literature goes to press: some new trends in scientific writing and research	520
	1. Bridging the gap between town and gown 520; 2. Publicizing science 543; 3. Galenic science revived and surpassed 566	
7	Resetting the stage for the Copernican Revolution	575
8	Sponsorship and censorship of scientific publication	636
	1. Introduction 636; 2. Divergent Protestant and Catholic policies 648; 3. Blocking thought experiments 660; 4. Resetting the stage for Galileo's trial 670	
	Conclusion: Scripture and nature transformed	683
	<i>Bibliographical index</i>	709
	<i>General index</i>	769