

## A Colonial Book Market

This volume provides a wholly original social history of books in late colonial Peru. From the second half of the eighteenth century onward, workshops in Lima and transoceanic imports supplied the market with unprecedented quantities of print publications. By tracing the variety of printed commodities that were circulating in the urban sphere, as well as analysing the spatiality of the trade and the materiality of the books themselves, Agnes Gehbald assesses the meaning of print culture in the everyday lives of the viceroyalty. She reveals how books permeated late colonial society on a broad scale and how they figured as objects in the inventories of diverse individuals, both women and men, who, in previous centuries, had been far less likely to possess them. Deeply researched and profound, *A Colonial Book Market* uncovers how people in Peruvian cities gained access to reading material and participated in the global Enlightenment project.

Agnes Gehbald is a lecturer in Modern History at the University of Bern.

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## *Peruvian Print Culture in the Age of Enlightenment*

AGNES GEHBALD

*University of Bern*



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## Acknowledgements

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, books tended to be classified in lists according to their material and format, rather than the name of their author. In our day, the notion of the ‘author’ has changed substantially into an autonomous figure, and this monograph will therefore be catalogued under my name alone – and yet, to a considerable degree, it is in fact the product of a collective undertaking and a journey amongst good companions. It is based on years of research conducted for my doctoral thesis, submitted in Iberian and Latin American History, Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Cologne in the spring of 2020. I have only been able to write and revise the manuscript with the help of a far-flung academic network and the generous support of various institutions.

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# A Note on Language, Book Titles, and Units

This monograph is written in English to open the topic of the Peruvian print market and Spanish American book trade to a readership interested in the global history of the book. As most studies related to the subject are in Spanish, the South American sphere has often been neglected. Many source terms cannot be adequately translated into English and appear thus in italics in Spanish. Paying attention to the fact that every translation is an act of interpretation, the original words of direct quotations are cited in the footnotes, with only slight changes to modernise the spelling. Unless otherwise stated, all translations into English are mine. Concerning book titles, most archive lists give only abbreviations of the long titles and, in some cases, the author’s name; I have tried to identify the cited titles with probable editions and give short titles in the footnotes along with complete publication details, whenever possible, inserting place and edition dates as attributed in square brackets in the final bibliography.

## CURRENCY

1 *peso* = 8 *reales (de plata)* = 20 *reales de vellón*  
 1 *real de plata* = 34 *maravedís*

## UNITS

dozen	12 items
gross ( <i>gruesa</i> )	12 dozen = 144 items
bales ( <i>balones</i> )	between 20 to 24 reams

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ream ( <i>resma</i> )	20 quires ( <i>manos</i> ) of 25 sheets = 500 sheets of paper
jar ( <i>botija</i> )	ca. 18 lbs.
<i>arroba</i>	ca. 25 lbs.
load ( <i>carga</i> )	ca. 115 lbs.
<i>quintal</i>	5 <i>arrobas</i> , ca. 125 lbs.
yard ( <i>vara</i> )	3 feet = 0.8359 m.

PRINT FORMATS

folio	ca. 230 mm × 320 mm
quarto	ca. 160 mm × 230 mm
octavo	ca. 110 mm × 160 mm
duodecimo	ca. 80 mm × 110 mm
sextodecimo	ca. 50 mm × 80 mm