

FOREWORD

In 1683 Jordaan Luchtmans founded a bookselling and publishing business in Leiden. His son and his grandsons made the name of Luchtmans famous far beyond the borders of the Netherlands, and the family name was a familiar one for more than a century, associated with its solid, primarily academic publishing house, which enjoyed close links with the University of Leiden.

In 1848 the business was officially liquidated, but in fact it continued trading under the direction of its former employee Evert Jan Brill, who was already an independent printer.

On the occasion of the tricentennial anniversary of the publishing house in 1983, an exhibition relating to the history of the firm was organized. A Dutch-language catalogue was published in connection with the exhibition. Since that anniversary a further ten years have passed, and the catalogue is no longer in print. The conferment upon E.J. Brill of the Export Award 1993 by the Ministry of Economic Affairs seemed to provide a good occasion to issue a revised, English-language version of the catalogue which appeared in 1983. *E.J. Brill, Three Centuries of Scholarly Publishing* has been compiled by J.M. Van Ophuijsen, who was also one of the editors of the 1983 catalogue. All the illustrations are taken from Brill's own collection.

Leiden, May 1994