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Preliminary title :

Publishers, booksellers and librarians. Invisible strings of mathematics education circulations between France and the United States (1815-1875).

Abstract :

In the nineteenth century, the printed vehicles of the mathematics circulations for education between France and the United States were textbooks, journals' articles and questions, institutions' curricula or libraries' catalogues. Exchanged (and often translated) across the Atlantic Ocean mainly from the East to the West, they were produced by some of the most famous teachers and mathematicians of both countries. Behind their authors, book trade professionals also enabled the scientific mediation. Though they took over the material aspect of the circulations process and influenced its intellectual structuring in a way the communication will debate, those so-called invisible actors remained almost entirely ignored by the historiography. The paper will first discuss the role covered by booksellers in the establishment of competitive and modern American colleges and other higher education institutions' libraries in the first decades of the century (like at West Point Military Academy) with the help of French and American travelers and traders. From 1830, an independent American textbook market grew, leaving behind the domestic reprints of British textbooks. Publishing houses took then a significant role not only in the importation of French mathematical works for education, but also for the writing and the adaptation of their American translations and their diffusion in higher and secondary education. Thus the paper will highlight the interaction between scholars and book professionals in the implementation of transatlantic mixings for the rise of an autonomous and standardized American textbook publishing.