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## **„Au service de l'échange littéraire et bibliopolique“**

### **Die transnationale Verlagsbuchhandlung Treuttel & Würtz (1750-1850)**

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*Abstract*

The international bookselling company Treuttel & Würtz played a crucial role in intercultural exchange. It has not only published numerous authors of the French *Académie française*, and other important writers such as J. W. Goethe or G. de Staël, but also supplied foreign books to prestigious libraries (for example the Royal Libraries in France, Prussia and Great Britain or the Bodleian Library in Oxford). Establishing close ties with the political and cultural elites of the time, the company benefited from unique privileges such as a trade license with the United Kingdom during Napoléon's continental system. Originally from Strasbourg and perfectly bilingual, the founders continuously expanded the company: in addition to the already existing branch in Strasbourg, they opened a second one in Paris in 1796, and a third in London in 1817. The partners considered the international exchange as their personal vocation and used the medium of the book to materialize their commitment. In this sense, they also devoted their publishing house to the service of the exchange of social and political ideas, literature, and philosophy. Treuttel and Würtz's commitment to the transnational literary discourse ultimately also influenced the formation of new academic fields around 1800 such as the modern philologies. This thesis builds on an interdisciplinary perspective by combining the French tradition of Book History, with transnational approaches, Cultural Transfer and Romance Studies.