Matthias Weynsen's *Verweckinghe der godlijcker liefden*, 1535: new edition or re-issue?

A catalogue card from the Bibliotheca Neerlandica Manuscripta in Leiden is the distant reason for the question posed in the title of this article. Many years ago it taught me that the ‘Thien punten om meest voort te gaen ende god te behagen’ [Ten ways to become most advanced and to please God] which occur in the *Grote evangelische peerle*, book II, chapter 41, constitute the first chapter of *Stimulus divini amoris*. At the time known all over Europe, the work was generally attributed to Bonaventure, but was actually written around 1280 by the Franciscan friar Jacobus of Milan (Mediolanensis). Jacobus’s text was soon incorporated as the second part of a volume in three parts likewise entitled *Stimulus amoris*, and also attributed to Bonaventure.

In the Low Countries too, this *Stimulus amoris* in three parts was translated and subsequently distributed both as a manuscript and as a printed book. On the three ‘editions’ that were published in the first half of the sixteenth century Father Benjamin de Troeyer OFM has written extensively. The first two were edited by the Minorite Lucas van der Hey under the title *Dit boeck is geheten inden latijne Stimulus divini amoris* [This book is called S.d.a. in Latin], translated as *Prickel der minnen* [Stimulus to love]. The first edition was published in 1511 by Jan Seversz in Leiden (= A), the second in 1519 by Hendrik Eckert van Homberch in Antwerp (= B). The third was revised and edited by Matthias Weynsen under the title *De verweckinghe der godlijcker liefden. Gemaect hyden heyligen [...] Bonaventura [...]*. Anderwerf ghecorrigeert ende geapprobeert van brueder Matthys Weynsen van Dordrecht [...]. [The arousal of divine love. Written by Saint Bonaventure. Once again revised and approved by Brother M.W.v.D.] Antwerp, Gregorius de Bonte, 1535 (= C).

1 *Die grote evangelische peerle* [by an anonymous authoress] (Antwerp, H. Peetersen van Middelburg, 1537/8). Sec NK 1589.
None of the three editions is foliated. B. and C have the following collation formula: $\pi^4A-X^8 \ 2A^2 \ 2K^8 \ 2L^4 \ 2M^8 \ 2N^4(2N^6 \text{ in C}).$ The first alphabet is gothic, the second consists of Lombardic uncial. For the sake of convenience the signatures of this second alphabet will be referred to as $^3A$, $^3B$, $^3C$ and so on.

We come across the above-mentioned Peerle text, II, 41, in Stimulus, II, 1, on fos. O3r. to O7v. in the B and C editions. Initially I intended to compare this Peerle text with its versions in editions A, B and C, in the hope of being able to establish which ‘edition’ the anonymous authoress of the Peerle might have used for her version by looking for any variants that might occur. This aspect of my investigations will not be touched upon here, however, but can be discussed elsewhere. Here I confine myself to differences in the printing itself, which were revealed when comparing B and C.

As the descriptions by Nijhoff-Kronenberg and de Troeyer prove, A and B are clearly different editions. The title of the second part and the title of the following first chapter are on the same recto in A, but not in B, which clearly indicates the important shifts between A and B.

When collating B and C I noticed that the chapter in question in B and C always begins at fo. O3r. and ends at fo. O7v., and that the title of the second part of the volume itself, in which the above-mentioned text of Thien punten appears as chapter one, begins, however, at fo. O2v. When we compare the texts in B and C, it soon becomes obvious that in all but two aspects they are identical. This identity can be deduced from the poor register, the rising of spaces and imperfections in the initials in exactly the same places, and also from the total uniformity of spelling and type-setting. The two exceptions can be found on fo. O2 where an alteration in the title of the book occurs (illus. 1 & 2), and its conjugate leaf O7:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{B} & : \text{Hier begint dat anderde deel des boecs | van die prickel der minnë gods dat sente bonauëtura die waer-} \\
\text{C} & : \text{Hier beghínt dat anderde deel des | boecks van die ver-weckinge tot | der godlijcker liefden.}
\end{align*}
\]

stresses Weynsens’s great involvement in the field of literature, but makes a sharp distinction between his personal authorship and his editing of other people’s work. Concerning one of the two editions with which he dealt (Fasciculus myrr and Verweckinghe), this study can help determine how he actually set about his work with them. When studying edition B, I used the copy in the Royal Library Albert I in Brussels, stacked under shelf-mark A 2.167 LP [ = NK 469]; my edition C was the copy which de Troeyer mentions as property of the Berchmanianum in Nijmegen, but which is at present to be found at the University of Limburg, Maastricht. The Brussels Royal Library copy of the edition C, shelf-mark II 13.224 A LP [ = NK 470], is even more difficult to use than the above-mentioned, since the nineteenth-century bookbinder made several errors when arranging and folding the leaves.