

# Emblem Books

## New cumulative catalogue available

Over the past years the IDC Emblem Books project, now comprising over 1,000 editions, has become a most significant collection of source material for historians of literature and the visual arts.

IDC Publishers has now released a completely revised, cumulative catalogue of all its emblem books available on microfiche. If you would like to receive our catalogue, free of charge and without any obligation, just complete the reply form at the reverse side and return it to us.

All the important authors are here: Abraham à Sancta Clara, Alciato, de Brune, Camerarius, Cats, Drechsel, Giovio, van Haeften, Heinsius, Hugo, Junius, Krul, La Feuille, Luyken, Menestrier, Paradin, Ripa, Saavedra Faxardo, Sambucus, Simeoni, Vaenius, Vondel and many, many more. For this project IDC obtained the cooperation of a large number of libraries, including the National Library of Austria in Vienna, the libraries of the universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht, the Royal Library in the Hague, the State Museum in Amsterdam, the Print Room of the University of Leiden, and the Central Library of Zürich. Emblem books

from some private collections were also put at IDC's disposal for this project.



gewichte: beleacchelijcke dingen, ende nochtans niet zonder wijsheydt: [...]

([...]) But if someone asks me what Emblemata really are? I will reply to him, that they are mute images, and nevertheless speaking: insignificant matters, and none the less of importance: ridiculous things, and nonetheless not without wisdom: [...]

In spite of the poetical value of this definition, we have chosen the broadest sense of the term in order to serve as many scholars as possible.



The emblem genre is hard to define, and it is often difficult to decide whether a book should be classified as an emblem book. The famous Dutch author and poet Jacob Cats says in his *Voor-reden over de Proteus, of Minne-beelden, verandert in sinne-beelden*, published in *Al de werken van I. Cats*, Amsterdam, J.J. Schipper, 1665:

[...] Maer soo my yemant vraeght wat Emblemata in der daet zijn? Dien sal ick antwoorden, dattet zijn stomme beelden, ende nochtans sprekende: geringe saecken, ende niettemin van



Homme en quelque fois tu as pluye la Terre  
De tout le long d'un amour & rente la Sagesse  
Il est trop tard que tu veux te retirer à l'ay.  
L'amour est un tyran rigoureux sans pitié.  
Qui ne le ve jamais le jony de son service  
De ceux qui ont senty la rigueur de la loy.

Editor: Wim van Dongen