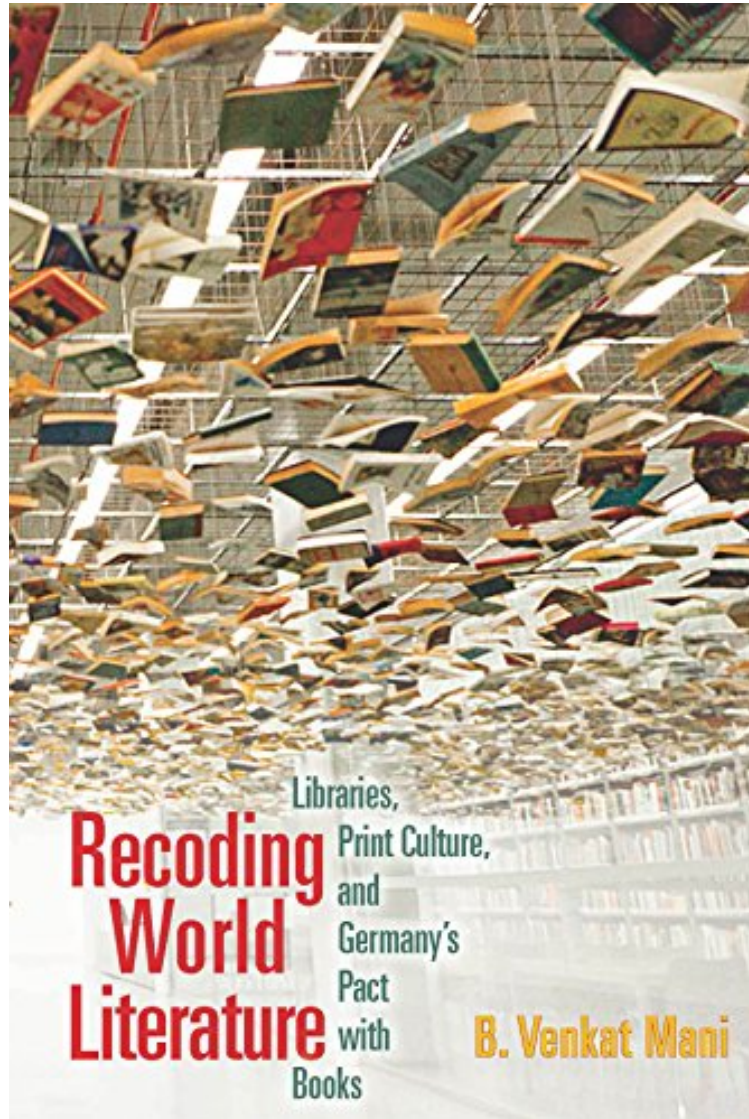


Recoding World Literature: Libraries, Print Culture, and Germany's Pact with Books

B. Venkat Mani

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From the current vantage point of the transformation of books and libraries, B. Venkat Mani presents a historical account of world literature. By locating translation, publication, and circulation along routes of bibliomigrancythe physical and virtual movement of booksMani narrates how world literature is coded and recoded as literary works find new homes on faraway bookshelves. Mani argues that the proliferation of world literature in a society is the function of a nations relationship with print culturea Faustian pact with books. Moving from early Orientalist collections, to the Nazi magazine Weltliteratur, to the European Digital Library, Mani reveals the political foundations for a history of world literature that is at once a philosophical ideal, a process of exchange, a mode of reading, and a system of classification. Shifting current scholarships focus from the academic to the general reader, from the university to the public sphere, *Recoding World Literature* argues that world literature is culturally determined, historically conditioned, and politically charged.

This is a splendid, erudite, sophisticated, and eminently readable book that makes vital, original interventions in several interlocking fields in the humanities. (Leslie Adelson, Cornell University) Venkat Manis engrossing study of bibliomigrancy makes an important contribution to studies of world literature and the politics of culture, probing the valuesand the exclusionsencoded in libraries, translation series, and now the digital archive. Every bibliophile will want to add this sparkling and thought- provoking book to their personal library. (David Damrosch, Harvard University) *Recoding World Literature* is a work of stunning scope. Drawing on archives across languages and countries, from Goethe to Pamuk, and taking seriously the well-known fact that world literature was in origin a German idea, Mani provides a fresh and alternative history of this now hegemonic concept. The discussion about world literature is about to undergo a definite reorientation. (Aamir Mufti, University of California, Los Angeles) [O]ne of the key achievements of *Recoding World Literature* [is] to have demonstrated how national debates, politics, and institutions shape world literature, both as an idea and as a practice. [...] Manis methodological reorientation toward publics that are organized around books and libraries enables him to chart new empirical territory for world literature studies. (The Germanic) About the Author B. Venkat Mani is Professor of German at the University of WisconsinMadison, where he is also affiliated with the Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture and the Institute for Regional and International Studies.