Publishing Karl Marx's *Le Capital* (1871–1875)

## Library of the Written Word

VOLUME 131

# The Industrial World

Series Editor

Lisa Kuitert (University of Amsterdam)

Editorial Board

Bill Bell (Cardiff University) Lisa Gitelman (New York University) Henning Hansen (UiT The Arctic University of Norway)

VOLUME 9

The titles published in this series are listed at *brill.com/lww* 

# Publishing Karl Marx's *Le Capital* (1871–1875)

By

Kenneth Hemmerechts Nohemi Jocabeth Echeverría Vicente



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Cover illustration: A title page of Le Capital (Karl Marx, Le Capital par Karl Marx (traduction de M. J. Roy, entièrement revisée par l'auteur) (Paris, 1875). IST 9904 (Sapienza Università di Roma, Scienze Giuridiche – Filosofia del Diritto)). Available in free access.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Hemmerechts, Kenneth, author. | Echeverría Vicente, Nohemi Jocabeth, author. Title: Publishing Karl Marx's Le capital (1871-1875) / by Kenneth Hemmerechts, Nohemi Jocabeth Echeverría Vicente. Description: Leiden ; Boston : Brill, 2024. | Series: Library of the written word, 0169-9563 ; volume 131 | Includes bibliographical references and index. Identifiers: LCCN 2024024379 (print) | LCCN 2024024380 (ebook) | ISBN 9789004704459 (hardback) | ISBN 9789004704466 (ebook) Subjects: LCSH: Marx, Karl, 1818-1883. Kapital. French-History. Communist literature–Publishing–Histor–19th century. | Publishers and publishing-History-19th century. Classification: LCC HB501.M37 H464 2024 (print) | LCC HB501.M37 (ebook) | DDC 335.4/22-dc23/eng/20240606 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024024379 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024024380

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: "Brill". See and download: brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISSN 0169-9563 ISBN 978-90-04-70445-9 (hardback) ISBN 978-90-04-70446-6 (e-book) DOI 10.1163/9789004704466

Copyright 2024 by Kenneth Hemmerechts and Nohemi Jocabeth Echeverría Vicente. Published by Koninklijke Brill Bv, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Koninklijke Brill вv incorporates the imprints Brill, Brill Nijhoff, Brill Schöningh, Brill Fink, Brill mentis, Brill Wageningen Academic, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Böhlau and V&R unipress.

Koninklijke Brill BV reserves the right to protect this publication against unauthorized use. Requests for re-use and/or translations must be addressed to Koninklijke Brill BV via brill.com or copyright.com.

This book is printed on acid-free paper and produced in a sustainable manner.

### Contents

Acknowledgments VII List of Figures and Tables VIII Abbreviations IX

- 1 Introduction 1
- 2 The Paris Commune and Le Capital (November 1871–February 1872) 8
  - 1 Introduction 8
  - 2 The Revolutionary Context of the Paris Commune 10
  - 3 The Preparation and Signing of a Publishing Contract for Le Capital 23
  - 4 Conclusion 30

#### 3 The Publishing Process of the First Series (February–October 1872) 35

- 1 Introduction 35
- 2 Preparations for the Publication of Le Capital 36
- 3 First Proofs and Publication of the First Series of Le Capital 44
- 4 Conclusion 56

#### 4 The Publishing Process of the Other Series (October 1872–November 1875) 59

- 1 Introduction 59
- 2 The Preparation of the New Series of Le Capital (October–December 1872) 61
- Further Reflections on the Delay and the Publication of Series 2 and 3 (January–February 1873) 69
- 4 The Publication of Series 4–6 (March–December 1873) 74
- 5 A Year of Personal Problems and Reworking of Le Capital (1874) 84
- 6 The Last Instalments of Le Capital and a New Obstacle to Publication (1875) 89
- 7 Conclusion 96

#### 5 The Second German and French Editions of Capital (November 1871–June 1873) 98

- 1 Introduction 98
- 2 Start of the Work on the Second German Edition (November 1871–February 1872) 100
- 3 First Proofs of the Second German Edition (March-July 1872) 107

- 4 Publication of the Second German Edition (August 1872–June 1873) 112
- 5 Overlap between the Publishing Processes of the Second German and French Editions 117
- 6 Conclusion 125

#### 6 Karl Marx's and Friedrich Engels' Views on Le Capital 126

- 1 Introduction 126
- 2 Marx's Views on the French Edition 126
- 3 Engels' Views on the French Edition 134
- 4 Conclusion: Editing and Translating the First Volume of *Capital* after Marx's Death 138
- 7 Conclusion 146

Appendix: Revisiting the Hector Denis Copy of Le Capital (KF<sup>5</sup>) 151 Bibliography 162 Index 171

## Acknowledgments

We thank the editors, Rachel Cowler and the reviewers. We have permission to use previously published articles: Kenneth Hemmerechts and Nohemi Jocabeth Echeverría Vicente, "The Paris Commune and Karl Marx's Le Capital," *Modern Intellectual History* 20/4 (2023), 1044–64; Kenneth Hemmerechts and Nohemi Jocabeth Echeverría Vicente, "Le Capital. A Transnational, Family and Personal Endeavour," in Marcello Musto, ed., *Marx and Le Capital. Evaluation, History, Reception* (London and New York, 2022), 95–116, Kenneth Hemmerechts and Nohemi Jocabeth Echeverría Vicente, "Revisiting the Hector Denis Copy of Le Capital ( $\kappa F^5$ )," *Beiträge zur Marx-Engels-Forschung. Neue Folge* (2020–21), 183–97 and Kenneth Hemmerechts and Nohemi Jocabeth Echeverría Vicente, "The Publishing Process of the First Series of Karl Marx's Le Capital (February–October 1872)," *Quærendo* 53/1 (2023), 40–70.

## **Figures and Tables**

#### Figures

- 1 A title page of Le Capital (IST 9904) 5
- 2 Karl Marx's portrait in Le Capital (IST 9904) 9
- 3 Karl Marx's facsimile letter in Le Capital (IST 9904) 43
- 4 First page of chapter 1 of Le Capital (IST 9904) 68
- 5 "Nachwort" or afterword to the second German edition (Fe 4874-1, 813–14) 106
- 6 "Avis au lecteur" or reader's notice of Le Capital (IST 9904, 348) 133
- 7 "Errata" in Le Capital (IST 9904, 351) 147
- 8~ Handwritten notes on the changes made by Karl Marx in  $\kappa F^{5}~$  153  $\,$
- 9 Changes made with black pen in  $\kappa F^5$  with corresponding changes in  $\kappa F^7, \kappa F^2$  and  $\kappa F^8$  (the first 33 pages) 160

#### Tables

- Overlap between the second German and French editions (January 1872–June 1873): manuscripts, proofs, and publications 117
- 2 Interpretative nuances 139
- 3 Interpretative nuances (continuation) 142

## Abbreviations

- MEW. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels Werke
- *Corr.* Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx Correspondance
- *cw.* Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels Collected Works