

JAN LOOP is Lecturer in Early Modern
History, University of Kent at Canterbury.

It was in the late sixteenth and in the seventeenth century that a serious tradition of Western Arabic scholarship began to flourish. Johann Heinrich Hottinger (1620–1667) was a pioneering figure in this development. This book presents for the first time a thorough documentation of Hottinger's Arabic and Islamic studies. It puts Hottinger's work and his teaching into the context of seventeenth-century oriental scholarship and also includes confessional rivalries. It contains a biographical account of Hottinger and studies of his activities as a bibliographer of Arabic texts, as a teacher of the Arabic language, as a student of the history of Islam, and as a Protestant who used his work in that field as a way of engaging in anti-Catholic polemics.