

## ABSTRACT

The first publishing series, of vernacular devotional texts aimed at a wide readership, appeared in Venice between 1493 and 1494. The nine quarto volumes each contain two identical woodcuts at the beginning and the end which evoke the contents of the books and also enable us to identify them as belonging to the same series. In this way the two woodcuts anticipate certain features of the dustjacket. The printer Bernardino Benali, who was active in Venice between 1483 and 1543, devised the series, which drew its inspiration from a work by the preacher Marco da Montegallo on the Franciscan rosary.