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SHARP NEWS

Volume 11, Number 4

Autumn 2002

SHARP ELECTIONS

Call for Nominations

Deadline: 1 December 2002

The next round of elections for SHARP officers will be held in early 2003, by postal ballot. The SHARP Nominating Committee – Jonathan Rose (chairman), Simon Eliot, and Paul Eggert – solicits and welcomes nominations from all SHARP members.

All seven members of the Executive Council (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Publications Coordinator, and Public Affairs Director) will be up for election. Three of these posts (President, Vice President, and Treasurer) will be “open seats,” with no incumbent running. Elections will also be held for five vacancies on the Board of Directors and one vacancy on the Nominating Committee.

The Executive Council governs SHARP on a daily basis and makes all important policy decisions. It meets face-to-face at the annual conference but also conducts business throughout the year by email. The responsibilities of the Board of Directors are mainly limited to advice and general oversight. It meets once a year, at the annual conference. The sole responsibility of the Nominating Committee is to nominate candidates for all SHARP offices.

All members of the Executive Council serve two-year terms. The President is limited to two terms, but there are no term limits for other members of the Executive Council. Members of the Board of Directors serve a single eight-year term, and members of the Nominating Committee serve a single six-year term.

Candidates for President must have served at least one term on the Executive Council. With that exception, any SHARP member may run for any office.

Each nomination must be accompanied by a *curriculum vitae* and a note from the candidate confirming his or her willingness to run. Please

contact Jonathan Rose if you have any questions concerning election procedures or the responsibilities of individual officers.

Nominations should be submitted, by 1 December 2002, to:

Jonathan Rose
Department of History
Drew University
Madison, NJ 07940 USA
Email: jerose@drew.edu

EDITORIAL NEWS

New Editor

Submitted by James L.W. West III
President, SHARP

Fiona Black steps down as editor of *SHARP News* with this issue. The President and members of the Executive Council (and indeed all SHARPists) wish to express our gratitude to Fiona for her excellent work and for the high quality of the issues during her editorship. A new editor, by the terms of our constitution, has been appointed by the Executive Council. Beginning with the winter issue, the editor will be Sydney J. Shep of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. We welcome Sydney to her new post and look forward to her tenure as editor.

Sydney can be contacted at the following address:

Sydney J. Shep
Wai-te-ata Press
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington, New Zealand
Fax: +64-4-463-5446
Email: editor@sharpweb.org

SHARP AWARDS

SHARP Book Award

The SHARP Book Award Committee for 2001 consisted of Bill Bell, Megan L. Benton, and Trevor Howard-Hill, chairman.

From a strong field of over forty nominations, the Committee awards the prize to Jonathan Rose for *The Intellectual Life of the British Working Classes*, published by Yale University Press. Also, the Committee highly commends Ian Green's *Print and Protestantism in Early Modern England*, published by Oxford University Press.

In reviewing the nominations for the SHARP Book Award for 2001, the Committee judged most highly those works in which the scope and subject were of reasonably broad significance, making them of value and interest to a large number of book historians; where central questions and methodology were explicitly pertinent to book history; and in which the quality of research, organization, interpretation, and exposition were high. Jonathan Rose's *The Intellectual Life of the British Working Classes* continues a line of book

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SHARP NEWS

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COPY DEADLINES

1 March
1 June
1 September
1 December

SHARP WEB:

<http://sharpweb.org>

history distinguished by Altick's *The English Common Reader, 1800-1900*. Rose's work seems likely to join Altick's as an essential text for scholars in many fields (as well as being accessible reading for those with more general interests). Rose masterfully draws upon a wealth of "common reader" autobiographical accounts of reading experiences and values, and his lucid prose style similarly matches the high standard set by Altick. This book combines impressively thorough research in both archival and secondary sources with a bold interpretive stance that is likely to stimulate discussion within SHARP and beyond. It is an impressive example of historical research and writing, learned and humane.

[Please see page 8 for a review of *The Intellectual Life of the British Working Classes* – Ed.]

Graduate Student Essay Prize

The winner of the SHARP Graduate Student Essay Prize is Matt Cohen for "Morton's Maypole and the Indians: Publishing in Early New England," which will appear in the 2002 issue of *Book History*.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Book History Online

Submitted by Paul van Capelleveen

Writing or preparing lectures on authors, publishers, readers, censorship, and other book history subjects, requires an up-to-date bibliography. The number of publications is overwhelming and widespread. Hundreds of essays appear every year, some in leading periodicals, others in local magazines and ephemeral publications. These are published in countries as far apart as Brazil and Belgium, and have often proven difficult to trace. Luckily, for thirty years book historians have been supported by international bibliographies. The two leading ones are the *Bibliographie der Buch- und Bibliotheksgeschichte* (BBB), edited by Horst Meyer and self-published since 1982 and *ABHB, the Annual Bibliography of the History of the Printed Book and Libraries*, begun in 1973.

Online

Recently, members of SHARP argued the need for a global online bibliography on book

history and, behold, their wishes were fulfilled. The editorial board of *ABHB* decided to use the cumulative *ABHB* database for an online bibliography. A pilot version of this free resource (*Book History Online* or *BHO*) was demonstrated during the SHARP 2000 conference in Mainz. *BHO* is edited by the same team as *ABHB* (Ad Leerintveld, Marieke van Delft, Ellen van Oers, and myself) and is maintained by the department of Special Collections in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) in The Hague.

In February 2001 a new version was tested and in April the database was added to the homepage of the KB. *BHO* was launched officially on 27 April 2001. A demonstration of *BHO* was given at the SHARP 2002 conference in London by Marieke van Delft and myself. The site has now been visited over 20,000 times.

As *BHO* is the online version of the printed bibliography, *ABHB*, it records all publications of scholarly value, written from an historical point of view. This may include monographs, articles, and reviews treating the history of the printed book, its arts, crafts, techniques, and equipment, its economic, social and cultural environment, and book production, distribution, preservation, and description. More specifically, *BHO* contains information on the history of printing and publishing, papermaking, bookbinding, book illustration, typesetting and typefounding, bibliophilia and book collecting, libraries and scholars.

A few examples

A few examples will illustrate the possibilities of *BHO*. If, for instance, you are interested in collectors of artists' books, *BHO* offers a list of over a dozen entries. Art work, prints, and the like are not included in *BHO*, however, books and bibliophilia are, and so the most recent entry would be on the Reva and David Logan collection of illustrated books, *Artists' Books in the Modern Era, 1870-2000* (London 2001). There are multiple search possibilities to lead you to this entry, including the name of the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco where the collection is housed, the names of the collectors, and keywords such as "book illustration" and "twentieth-century printing."

The study of local printing, collecting, and reading has culminated in a vast number of essays on diverse subjects. A search for Italian books in Scottish collections, for example, shows an article in Italian by Roberto L. Bruni and D. Wyn Evans on seventeenth-century Italian books in the National Library of Scotland, published in *La Bibliofila*, in 1998. Es-

says in local and national periodicals are included, as well as essays in collective volumes.

As reviews constitute an important part of scientific research and progress, they are included. For example, *BHO* shows that reviews of *Le livre et l'historien: études offertes en l'honneur du professeur Henri-Jean Martin* (Genève 1997) were published in Canadian, French, and American periodicals.

Print edition versus online database

The printed volumes contain a main section in which the titles are arranged by subject, an author index, and an index of geographical and personal names. Each printed volume of *ABHB* contains about 3,500 records. In 1987, a cumulative index of geographical and personal names for volumes 1 to 17 (1970-1986) appeared. As yet, volumes 1 to 19 have not been included in *BHO*. However, volumes 20 (1989) to 29 (1998) of *ABHB* are now online at <http://www.kb.nl/bho>. *BHO* contains around 26,500 records, including more recent entries that have not yet been published in *ABHB*. The files can be searched by "any word," for example: names of authors, editors, title words of books and periodicals, classification, geographical keywords, names of persons (printers, publishers, newspapers, etc.), firms and institutions, subjects, and annotations.

In order to be able to gather the information for *ABHB* (and *BHO*) from all over the world, National Committees have been set up in the countries that collaborate on *ABHB* and *BHO*. The National Committees contribute relevant citations, published in their countries each year. The list of around 1,200 periodicals, all of which are systematically searched by these Committees, will be updated and published on the *BHO* site. The National Committees constitute the editorial board of *ABHB* and *BHO*, and each National Committee receives a free copy of *ABHB* on publication. *ABHB* volumes are published by Kluwer Academic Publishers at Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

At the moment about thirty countries cooperate on *ABHB* and *BHO*. To broaden the scope of *BHO*, the General Editor would very much welcome offers from bibliographers or book historians from other countries to participate in this endeavour and become members of the editorial board. Areas such as North America and Europe are covered extensively; other areas are covered only incidentally, such as major parts of Africa and Asia.

Future Developments

Future plans will concentrate mainly on two developments. First, *BHO* needs to be more up-to-date. The inclusion of recent publica-

tions poses a problem well known to all bibliographers, a fact that was pointed out once again at the *BHO* demonstration in London by Lucile Trunel, who is responsible for the French contribution to *ABHB* and *BHO*. Therefore, *BHO* encourages individual scholars to submit entries to *BHO*. These may at all times be forwarded to the address below. *BHO* is considering the inclusion of these entries prior to having them checked by the National Committees, thus perhaps temporarily risking accuracy, however, gaining much in topicality. The second development is in fact a long cherished wish by contributors and users alike, namely the use of more detailed keywords. We might use the list of keywords developed for the Dutch national history of the book, Bibliopolis, or a thesaurus such as the one developed by Bertrum MacDonald and Anne MacKinnon for the History of the Book in Canada project.

Other plans focus on the inclusion of the older entries published in *ABHB* from 1973 to 1989 and the development of authority files. The general editor welcomes your views of *BHO*. For questions, contributions, comments, and further information please contact:

Paul van Capelleveen
Secretary *ABHB* and *BHO*
Department of Special Collections
Koninklijke Bibliotheek
National Library of the Netherlands
PO Box 90407
NL-2509 LK Den Haag, The Netherlands
Email: bho@kb.nl

NOTES & QUERIES

Children of the Code

Research is currently underway for an upcoming United States Public Broadcasting System television production on the history of the English writing system. "Children of the Code" is a three-episode mini series that will begin with the story of the history of writing and end in an examination of the role the English writing system plays in the process of learning to read.

One of the most significant stories in the history of English writing is how the Latin/Roman alphabet came to be used to represent the English spoken language. Producers are currently looking for resources that will aid in presenting this aspect of the mini series, as well as an expert on this subject who might consent to be interviewed.

"Children of the Code" is intended to help foster a new understanding of and appreciation for the history of our written language. Please contact David Boulton at the address listed below if you are able to contribute to this important project.

Implicity
1191 Kuhio Highway, Suite 293
Kapaa, HI 96746 USA
Email: dboulton@implicity.org
Telephone: (808) 822-7805

CALLS FOR PAPERS

SHARP 2003

Location: Claremont Colleges,
Claremont, CA
Dates: 9-12 July 2003
Deadline: 30 November 2002

The eleventh annual SHARP conference will be held at the Claremont Colleges, a consortium of five liberal-arts colleges in Claremont, California, from Wednesday 9 July through Saturday 12 July 2003. Most participants will stay at the newly renovated Campus Commons with sessions taking place in nearby meeting rooms and auditoria.

Proposals for individual papers and entire sessions are welcome. Each panel lasts ninety minutes and consists of three papers; each paper should last a maximum of twenty minutes to allow for discussion. Proposals for individual papers, 400 words in length, should give the paper title, a short abstract, and biographical identification of the scholar. Session proposals should include a cover sheet explaining the theme and goals of the session, with separate abstracts for each paper.

A limited number of travel grants will be available to PhD candidates now engaged in writing their theses, and to independent scholars (those unaffiliated with institutions which normally support travel to conferences). If you wish to be considered for such a grant, please so indicate at the end of your proposal.

Submissions should be sent to:

James L.W. West III
Department of English
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16803 USA
Email: jlw14@psu.edu

New Technologies, Old Texts

Location: De Montfort University,
Leicester, UK
Date: 7-9 July 2003
Deadline: 31 December 2002

Proposals are invited for the submission of complete panels or individual papers devoted to the interdisciplinary implications of the applications of new technologies to the editing and study of texts. We are looking for papers that explain and evaluate how the use of computers has changed the way we approach texts and textual editing. Topics include, but are not limited to: electronic editions, new technologies for the study of texts, the impact of technology on editorial theory, the use of computers in textual studies, computer software and the study of manuscripts, the role of the reader, the role of the editor, the process of publication, and print versus electronic editions. We welcome papers that deal with text from any period and place.

Papers should be no more than thirty minutes in length. Panels should consist of three papers. Individual proposals should include a brief abstract (one or two pages) of the proposed paper as well as the name, email address, and institutional affiliation and address of the participant. Panel proposals should include a session title, the name of a designated contact person for the session, the names, email addresses, institutional addresses and affiliations of each person involved in the session, and a one or two-page abstract of each paper to be presented during the session.

All abstracts should indicate what (if any) technological support will be required. Such support may be limited, so please request only what is truly needed.

Inquiries and proposals should be sent to:

Barbara Bordalejo
Canterbury Tales Project
Clephan Building, Room 1.01
De Montfort University
Leicester, LE1 9BH UK
Email: bbordalejo@dmu.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (116) 257-7265

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Best Journalism and Mass Communication History Book

Deadline: 1 February 2003

The History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) is soliciting entries for its award for the best journalism and mass communication history book of 2002.

The award is given annually, and the winning author will receive a plaque and a \$500 cash prize at the August 2003 AEJMC conference in Kansas City.

The competition is open to any author of a relevant history book, regardless of whether he or she belongs to AEJMC or the History Division. Authorship is defined as the person or persons who wrote the book, not just edited it. Only those books with a 2002 publication date will be accepted. Compilations, anthologies, articles, and monographs will be excluded because they qualify for the Covert Award, another AEJMC History Division competition.

Three copies of each book should be submitted, along with the author's mailing address, telephone number, and email address, to:

Patrick S. Washburn
AEJMC History Book Award Chair
E.W. Scripps School of Journalism
Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701 USA

CONFERENCES

Colloquium sponsored by the European Society for Textual Scholarship

Location: University of Antwerp
Dates: 6-7 December 2002

This colloquium aims to bring together scholars from related fields such as the history of the book, the history of reading, and the history of writing (including textual genetics and scholarly editing) in order to enhance our understanding of reading notes in their various

forms – from autograph marginalia to explanatory glosses in notebooks or diaries – as an (inter)textual, literary historical, and cultural practice.

For more information, please visit the conference website at <http://pcger50.uia.ac.be/readingnotes/readingnotes.htm> or contact the colloquium organizers:

Dirk Van Hulle
Email: vanhulle@uia.ac.be

Wim Van Mierlo
Email: wim.van-mierlo@sas.ac.uk

American Historical Association (AHA) SHARP Panel

Location: Hilton Hotel, Chicago
Date: 3 January 2003

At the upcoming AHA convention in Chicago, SHARP will sponsor the panel session "Readers in American History: Questions of Evidence." The panel is scheduled for Friday, 3 January 2003, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel, Conference Room 4F. This event is open to all: you need not register for the AHA convention in order to participate.

Chair and Commentator: Caroline Sloat, American Antiquarian Society

"Forgotten Readers Reading Forgotten Books: Evidence from Antebellum Sensation Fiction" Paul J. Erickson, University of Texas, Austin

"'Right Here I see My Own Books': The Library in the Woman's Building of the World's Columbia Exposition, Chicago, 1893" Wayne A. Wiegand, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Reading 'About Matters of Real Importance': Sociological Studies of Reading in the 1930s" Catherine Turner, College Misericordia

"The Uses of Evidence in the Search for Common Readers" Emily B. Todd, Westfield State College

Papers will be made available prior to the conference. Please contact Cathy Turner after 1 December 2002 at cturner@misericordia.edu to request copies.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Keats-Shelley Association Grants

Deadline: 1 November 2002

The Keats-Shelley Association of America, Inc. awards two annual Carl H. Pforzheimer, Jr., Research Grants of \$2,500 each to advanced graduate students, independent scholars, or untenured faculty pursuing research on British Romanticism and literary culture between 1789 and 1832. Preference will be given to projects involving authors and subjects featured in the *Keats-Shelley Journal* bibliography.

Further information and application forms may be obtained at:

The Grants Committee
Keats-Shelley Association of America, Inc.
The New York Public Library
Room 226, 476 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2788 USA
Website: <http://www.rc.umd.edu/kjaa/pfzgrant.html>

American Printing History Association (APHA) Fellowship in Printing History

Deadline: 1 December 2002

The APHA is delighted to announce a new fellowship award for the study of printing history. For 2003, an award of up to \$2,000 is available for research in any area of the history of printing in all its forms, including all the arts and technologies relevant to printing, the book arts, and letter forms. Applications are especially welcome from those working in the area of American printing history, but the subject of research has no geographical or chronological limitations and may be national or regional in scope, biographical, analytical, technical, or bibliographical in nature. Printing history-related study with a recognized printer or book artist may also be supported. The fellowship can be used to pay for travel, living, and other expenses.

APHA fellowships are open to individuals of any nationality. Applicants need not be academics and an advanced degree is not required. Applicants are asked to submit an application form, a *curriculum vitae*, and a one-page pro-

posal. Two confidential letters of recommendation specific to this fellowship should be sent separately by the recommenders. Submission of materials by electronic mail or fax is not acceptable.

An announcement of the award will be made at the APHA annual meeting, to take place in New York on 25 January 2003.

To obtain an application form please visit the APHA website at <http://www.printinghistory.org> or write to:

APHA Fellowship Committee
PO Box 4922, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163 USA

The Bibliographical Society Grants and Fellowships for Research

Deadline: 1 December 2002

The Bibliographical Society invites applications from scholars engaged in bibliographical research (on, for example, book history, textual transmission, publishing, printing, book-ownership, and book-collecting) for awards to be made in the calendar year 2003. The Society hopes to make awards both for immediate research needs, such as for microfilms or travelling expenses, and for longer-term support, for example to assist with prolonged visits to libraries and archives. Several major awards, up to a maximum of £2,000, will be offered. One or more of these awards will be particularly associated with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, which has contributed generously to the Fund.

The Society offers a Fredson Bowers award of \$1,500, funded by the Bibliographical Society of America, and also, in conjunction with the Oxford Bibliographical Society, a Falconer Madan award of up to £500 for research undertaken in Oxford libraries or, under certain circumstances, conducted elsewhere upon topics connected with Oxford. From 2002 the Society will offer an annual Royal Oak Foundation Bursary of £500, generously funded by the National Trust for bibliographical research projects using National Trust collections.

Two referees, familiar with the applicant's work, should be asked to write directly to the address below. Successful applicants will be notified following the meeting of the Council of the Bibliographical Society in February 2003.

In addition, the Society offers a limited number of minor grants, of £50 to £200, for specific purposes, such as the costs of travel or of microfilming. Applications for these grants may be submitted at any time and should be supported by a letter from one referee and a statement that the funds applied for are available from no other source.

Applicants for all awards may be of any nationality and need not be members of the Society.

Further information about the Society and its interests may be found in its centennial publication, *The Book Encompassed*, ed. Peter Davison (Cambridge University Press, 1992), or from recent issues of its journal, *The Library*. See also our website at <http://www.bibsoc.org.uk/>.

Further particulars and application forms for both major and minor grants are available from:

Bill Bell
Centre for the History of the Book
The University of Edinburgh
22A Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh, EH8 9LN UK
E-mail: b.bell@ed.ac.uk

Centre for the History of the Book University of Edinburgh Fellowships

Deadline: 1 December 2002

The Centre continues to welcome overseas scholars to undertake research in any aspect of Bibliography or the History of the Book. Visiting Fellowships are available to enable scholars to undertake advanced research at the University of Edinburgh.

The David Laing Fellowship has been established in order to encourage the scholarly use of libraries in Edinburgh, in particular the Special Collections of Edinburgh University Library. The fellowship, which provides the annual recipient with a stipend of £1000, is held in association with The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Edinburgh University Library.

Non-stipendiary Fellowships are also available. Fellows receive the use of facilities immediately adjacent to the University Library

and within five minutes walk of the National Library of Scotland. They are also encouraged to participate fully in the life of the University and the local scholarly community.

Those wishing to apply for either of these fellowships should send a 200-300 word description of their proposed research, accompanied by a brief *curriculum vitae* and the names and addresses of two referees, to:

The Secretary
Centre for the History of the Book
University of Edinburgh
22A Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh, EH8 9LN UK
Email: chb@ed.ac.uk
Website: <http://www.arts.ed.ac.uk/chb>

|

**History of Reading
Special Interest Group
Outstanding Thesis/
Dissertation of the Year Award**

Deadline: 15 January 2003

The History of Reading Special Interest Group (SIG) will award a prize of \$200 to the masters or doctoral student's work that represents the best scholarship on the history of literacy, broadly defined to include the history of authorship, books, instruction, audiences, publishing, spelling, reading, and writing.

Recipients of the award are invited to present a paper based on their thesis/dissertation as part of the next annual meeting of the SIG. Theses/dissertations must have been completed and approved between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2002.

Guidelines for application can be found at <http://www.historyliteracy.org>.

|

**John Carter Brown Library
Research Fellowships 2003-2004**

Deadline: 15 January 2003

The John Carter Brown Library will award approximately twenty-five short- and long-term Research Fellowships for the year 1 June 2003 to 31 July 2004. Short-term fellowships are available for periods of two to four months and carry a stipend of \$1,400 per month. These fellowships are open to foreign nationals as

well as to American citizens who are engaged in pre- and post-doctoral or independent research. Graduate students must have passed their preliminary or general examinations at the time of application and be at the dissertation-writing stage. Long-term fellowships, primarily funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, are typically for five to nine months and carry a stipend of \$3,500 per month. Recipients of long-term fellowships may not be engaged in graduate work and ordinarily must be American citizens or have resided in the United States for the three years immediately preceding the application deadline.

Research proposed by fellowship applicants must be suited to the holdings of the Library. All fellows are expected to relocate to Providence and to be in continuous residence at the Library for the entire term of the fellowship. Several short-term fellowships have thematic and other restrictions which can be reviewed at the website listed below.

For application forms or more information write to:

Director
John Carter Brown Library
PO Box 1894
Providence, RI 02912 USA
Telephone: (401) 863-2725
Fax: (401) 863-3477
Email: JCBL_Fellowships@brown.edu
Website: <http://www.JCBL.org>

|

**2003 Virginia Historical Society
Research Fellowship Program**

Deadline: 1 February 2003

To promote the interpretation of Virginia history and access to its collections, the Virginia Historical Society offers fellowships of up to four weeks per year. Awards include the Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowships, the Betty Sams Christian Fellowships in Business History, the Frances Lewis Fellowships in Women's Studies, and the Reese Fellowships in American Bibliography and the History of the Book in the Americas. We make awards on the basis of the applicants' scholarly qualifications, the merits of their proposals, and the appropriateness of their topics, as demonstrated by citation to specific sources in our collections.

We award a few grants (\$150 per week) for mileage to commuting researchers. However, the majority of awards (\$500 per week) go to those who live farther away. We expect recipients to work on a regular basis in our reading room during the period of their award. We welcome applications from doctoral candidates. Undergraduates, masters students, and graduate students not yet admitted to PhD candidacy are not eligible.

Applicants should send an original and three copies of the following: a cover letter, a *curriculum vitae*, two letters of recommendation (sent separately), and a description of their research project not longer than two double-spaced pages that also states the length of the award requested. Please send applications to:

Nelson D. Lankford,
Chairman
Research Fellowship Committee
Virginia Historical Society
428 North Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220 USA
Telephone: (804) 342-9672
Fax: (804) 355-2399
Email: nlankford@vahistorical.org
Website: <http://www.vahistorical.org>

LECTURES AND COURSES

**The American Printing History
Association (APHA)
On the Road
Events 2002**

**A Conversation with
Jack Stauffacher
The 2002 J. Ben Lieberman
Memorial Lecture**

Location: Getty Center,
Museum Lecture Hall
1200 Getty Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA
Date: 24 October 2002
Time: 7:00 p.m.

In this presentation, Jack Stauffacher will discuss his work and ideas "in conversation" with prominent type designer Matthew Carter.

The presentation is free and open to the public. Please call (310) 440-7300 for reservations.

A New England Wayzgoose

Location: Museum of Printing
800 Massachusetts Avenue
North Andover, MA

Date: 27 October 2002

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

"A New England Wayzgoose" will include talks from the SHARP conference in London and visits to new exhibits in the Museum of Printing. It has been timed to coincide with the Boston Antiquarian Book Fair.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Toronto Centre for the Book 2002-2003 Program

The Centre again offers a series of Lectures to be held at Victoria College, University of Toronto. Each of the events will be followed by a reception.

For more information about the Toronto Centre for the Book, please visit our website at <http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/research/programs/tcb>.

Edinburgh Book History Seminar Programme 2002-2003

Location: Edinburgh University Library

Day: Fridays

Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Tea and coffee served from 12:45.

1 November 2002

Robert Hillenbrand and Amin Mahdavi (University of Edinburgh)
"Digitising a Persian Classic: the Shahnama Project"

15 November 2002

Andrew Wheatcroft (University of Stirling)
"The illustrated pages of my mind?: Deciphering Occidental Images of the Orient"

29 November 2002

I.R. Willison (University of London)
"The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, 1914 to the Present"

13 December 2002

Robin Myers (Stationers' Company)
"The Stationers' Company and the Trade in Almanacks"

17 January 2003

Richard Sher (New Jersey Institute of Technology)
"The Rewards of Authorship: Earning Money from Books in the Scottish Enlightenment"

31 January 2003

Richard Ovenden (University of Edinburgh)
"Antiquaries or Connoisseurs?: Collecting Medieval Manuscripts in the 16th and 17th Centuries"

14 February 2003

Adam Fox (University of Edinburgh)
"Cheap Print and Popular Political Opinion in England, 1675-1714: the Collection of Narcissus Luttrell"

28 February 2003

Clare Hutton (University of London)
"Publishing the Irish Literary Revival"

14 March 2003

David and Deirdre Stam (Syracuse University)
"Silent Friends: Books and Reading on Polar Expeditions"

This series is co-organised by The Centre for the History of the Book (CHB) and the Edinburgh University Library. For further information on the activities of the CHB, please visit our website at <http://www.arts.ed.ac.uk/chb>.

EXHIBITIONS

Tyndale's Testament

Location: Plantin-Moretus Museum,
Antwerp

Dates: Present-1 December 2002

The theme of this exhibition is the Low Countries' context of so much of Tyndale's life and work.

Quack, Quack, Quack: The Sellers of Nostrums in Prints, Posters, Ephemera and Books

Location: The Grolier Club
47 East 60th Street
New York, NY

Dates: Present-23 November 2002

Times: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

"Quack, Quack, Quack" showcases the often-flamboyant sellers of nostrums and patent medicines over the course of four centuries, through visual, often entertaining, material. Admission is free.

Thys Boke is Myne

Location: Folger Shakespeare Library
201 East Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC

Dates: 13 November 2002-1 March 2003

Times: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Free admission.

Explore how bibliophiles, famous and forgotten, have signalled ownership of treasured volumes for five hundred years. Drawn from the finest association copies in the Folger collection, the exhibition takes its title from a line boldly written by Henry VII in his schoolboy copy of Cicero. Admission is free.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

SHARP Pre-Conference National Book History Projects

Submitted by James L.W. West III

A SHARP Pre-Conference on collaborative National Book History Projects was convened in London at the Senate House on 9 July 2002, under the sponsorship of the Centre for Manuscript and Print Studies at the University of London. Organizers of the meeting were Warwick Gould, Simon Eliot, and Ian Willison.

The all-day pre-conference included sessions on the linking of book history to cul-

tural history and featured reports from scholars working on collaborative national projects. Several of these groups have published the initial volumes of their projects, and other groups have first volumes in press.

Participants discussed common problems of conception, scope, funding, publication, and availability of evidence. Bilingual countries face special problems, as do developing nations. Books do not respect national boundaries; the diaspora of English-language publishing, for example, creates challenges for book historians in such countries as Scotland and the United States, as do the publishing histories of immigrant and minority groups in all nations.

Sessions were chaired by Simon Eliot, David McKitterick, Ian Willison, and Tim Rix. Among the participants were Graham Shaw (Asia and Southeast Asia), Frances Wood (China), Amadio Arboleda (Japan), Cheryl-Ann Michael and Francis Galloway (Africa), Bill Bell (Scotland), Clare Hutton (Ireland), Caroline Sloat (United States), Pat Fleming, Carole Gerson, and Bertrum MacDonald (Canada), John Arnold (Australia), Sydney Shep (New Zealand), Gangolf Huebinger (Germany), Eva Hemmungs-Wirten (Scandinavia), Chris Thomas (Russia), and Peter Hoare (national library history projects).

The program ended with a round-table discussion by editors of book-history journals, series, and encyclopedias, and with a welcome to SHARP 2002 from the President of the society.

SHARP's 10th Conference

London in July, with its desirably dense array of bookstores, libraries, galleries, and museums, offered much to tempt attendees at SHARP's tenth annual conference. In the face of such temptations, the host institutions and the programme planning committee, are to be thanked all the more for producing a broad and fascinating programme of sessions, plenary events, trips, workshops, and receptions, which kept attendees firmly within the various host sites. The hosts were the Institute of English Studies at the University of London, the Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine, and the British Library. The conference included plenary lectures by Peter Burke and Trevor Howard-Hill and a plenary round-table event, chaired by Tim Rix, on Issues in Current and Future Publishing.

As has become a norm for SHARP conferences, there was an interesting array of papers by research students and, once again, the Gladys Keible Delmas Foundation generously funded several of these speakers. Temporally, the conference included papers addressing topics from the Medieval period to today. Spatially, papers represented research relating to nearly every continent; and methodologies included textual and literary criticism to analyses and syntheses based on digital technologies. SHARP's Annual General Meeting was a smoothly-run affair, which included announcements about the SHARP Book Prize and the Graduate Student Essay Prize (please see separate announcements in this issue).

Memories of SHARP conferences are rightly idiosyncratic – one of the more amusing memories for this reporter is that of a noted scholar's opening statements before his erudite commentary on book history theory and practice. This scholar asked, rhetorically, why some book history projects seem to take so very long to complete. His response was, to the delight of his audience, "because we don't know what we are doing." One might argue that SHARPists gain enormous intellectual pleasure from meeting once a year and trying to figure out this very dilemma. We owe much to Warwick Gould, Simon Eliot, Andrew Nash, and their colleagues for providing such a rich forum for us. [Ed.]

BOOK REVIEWS

Jonathan Rose. *The Intellectual Life of the British Working Classes*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2001. ix, 534 p. 24 tables. ISBN 0-300-08886-8 (cloth). £29.95/\$50.00

For the past thirty years, Marxist, reader-response critics, and scholars of literary history have speculated about the intellectual life of working class readers from abstract theoretical positions. Such speculation was supposedly necessitated by a paucity of documentary evidence and the methodological difficulties of exploring this important subject. Jonathan Rose's superb new book "reverses the traditional perspective of intellectual history, focussing on readers and students rather than authors and teachers" (3). He answers the question "what did working class people think?" by undertaking the brutally-difficult historical work of recuperating their voices and listening to them. From the ample evidence – hundreds

of working class memoirs, vast oral history archives, library records, surveys of social attitudes – Rose not only discovers a compelling and surprising narrative of British working class intellectual life, but forges a working method for a new category of literary history which he calls "a history of audiences."

Rose constructs a roughly-chronological history of British working class readership from the Reformation to the twentieth century avant-garde. Some chapters are organized thematically, examining the effect of different kinds of reading (the classics, popular literature, the Bible, political tracts) on working class readers' intellectual growth; some explore theoretical implications of cultural literacy, such as "the difference between fact and fiction" to an audience unschooled in conventions of reading; some chart the development of cultural institutions – private libraries, schools, and working-men's clubs. Rose also does a wonderful job of balancing individual voices with social science data from library records, surveys of social attitudes, and oral history transcriptions. Mass audience is never allowed to become a mere "mass": he assembles the kaleidoscope of voices in a cogent, thematic analysis, which both describes and analyzes working class consciousness.

Rose is fairly hard on cultural critics who theorize about working class consciousness without examining the kind of historical evidence he presents. He dismisses the ideological debate over canon as sterile in the context of the history of working class intellectual life, and argues that Marxist ideology was "found to be dogmatic, selfish and antiliterary" by most British working people. He blames literary modernism, I believe unfairly, for the erosion of "autodidact working class culture." But this beautifully-written, sharply conceived book is not a conservative polemic. Rose affirms the vibrant intellectual history of people who were not supposed to think for themselves, and documents a hunger for learning which can only inspire. The book represents a seminal advance in intellectual history broadly, and the history of literacy and culture. (My only complaint is that its dense, capacious endnotes could benefit from a supplementary bibliography, making it easier to follow his footsteps through the thicket of primary material). We will be arguing with Rose's analysis, and we will use the raw material from this book for years to come.

Wendy Moffat
Dickinson College

James Van Horn Melton. *The Rise of the Public in Enlightenment Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. xiv, 298 p. ISBN 0521465737 (cloth). £37.50/\$55.00; ISBN 0521469694 (paper). £13/95/\$20.00

The Rise of the Public in Enlightenment Europe is essentially a synthesis of historical studies of the public sphere since Habermas' seminal *Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*. As Melton's title suggests, he departs from Habermas' concern with the evolution of the bourgeois public sphere to focus on the vertical boost of the public during the Enlightenment.

"The public" has now inspired such a large body of work in eighteenth-century studies that a survey of existing scholarship is timely and a supremely useful introduction to the subject. Melton systematically covers three principal branches of work on the public sphere: politics and public opinion; readers, writers, and spectators; and sociability. Under these three rubrics, Melton offers eight chapters, which are divided into several subsections and contain minimal footnotes. Replacing an extensive use of footnotes, each chapter is followed by a short bibliographical essay, providing a well-rounded list of sources. Print culture receives lengthy treatment early in the book, and though the role of print in the public sphere seems unsettled – treated alternately as instrumental and causal – Melton avoids simply equating publishing with the public.

Appearing in the Cambridge textbook series "New Approaches to European History," the book's format and accessible style are certainly easy on the reader; its scope and comparatist agenda are ambitious and admirable as Melton covers England, France, and the German-speaking territories, political history, publishing history, and social history. He does omit in this broad-ranging study concentrations on popular culture, as well as music and the visual arts. The book also does not delve much into intellectual history. This omission is particularly noticeable in the section on sociability, where Melton concentrates on the spaces and institutions of social life rather than on sociability's varied conceptual expressions.

As a survey of contributions about the Enlightenment public in three different countries, the book makes its mark. The book's introduction and conclusion provide helpful accounts of Habermas' concerns and arguments. Melton's few, significant modifications to Habermas' theory – a critique of his Marxist framework, his portrayal of the public

sphere as idealistically liberal, and his reluctance to address gender or nationalism – do not, however, perform a critique of the theory. This is made clear, for example, in the fact that Melton comfortably speaks of the public alone, where for Habermas it is articulated in constant relationship with a private and an intimate sphere. Habermas' integration of law, economics and class, and aesthetics has also been dropped. Melton gives a straightforward and concise view of the public in the Enlightenment, but the reader does not entirely discern a theoretical itinerary for the scholarship summarized, or whether the recent scholarship adds up to a new, cohesive view of the public. The legacy of *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* may be that it still leaves much more to think about.

Mary Helen McMurrin
University of Chicago

Andrew Taylor. *Textual Situations: Three Medieval Manuscripts and Their Readers*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002. 300 p. ill. ISBN 0-8122-3642-4 (cloth). £38.50/\$55.00

This book ought to be chewed and digested by scholars entering the field of medieval manuscript studies. Taylor's fine book expertly combines the so-called grubbiness of archive research with close readings of three diverse manuscripts, using a broad knowledge of contemporary theoretical approaches to enhance his work. Moreover, he is clearly hesitant to privilege any one approach in interpreting the manuscripts he considers. This wariness along with a clear writing style that avoids an over-reliance on lit-crit jargon, add up to an effective methodological model for examining medieval manuscripts.

Taylor constructs his work chiasmically, giving his theoretical approaches in his first and last chapters, and applying his approach to each of three manuscripts in the second, third, and fourth chapters. He inserts a short unnumbered chapter which he calls "Interstice: The Minstrel and the Book" between chapters two and three. It discusses the role of the minstrel in relation to the manuscript previously discussed in chapter two, and the purported unity of the disparate works within the same manuscript codex. A version of chapter two appeared earlier in *Speculum* (as Taylor reveals in his Acknowledgments after the extensive endnotes and full index), and one wonders if perhaps

Taylor should have simply incorporated the material of the "Interstice" within chapter two.

In chapter one, Taylor seeks to connect the physical form of three manuscripts to the meaning of the abstract text. This bibliographical turn, of course, is an old one, going back to at least Aristarchus of Samothrace in the late 100s BCE. Taylor, like so many of a textualist school that is now hardly new, focuses upon the materiality that surrounds the embedded text: the arrangement of the various works in their respective codexes, the spacing of the words, the *ordinatio* of the abstract text on the manuscript leaf, all indicate the manner in which the manuscripts are drawn for the reader. Taylor combines his scrutiny of the paratextual elements of the manuscripts with a reception theory that contextualizes the works in the manner in which they were received.

The first manuscript is made up of the base-text for *La Chanson de Roland*, along with Calcidius's translation of Plato's *Timaens*. The second is a miscellany that includes the unique manuscript for "Sumer is Icumen In" and the base-text for (most of) Marie de France's lays. The third is a copy of the *Decretals* of Pope Gregory IX, also called the *Liber extra*. Taylor chooses such diverse works for the ways in which problems with one text wind up illuminating problems of another. This review is too short to illustrate his resolution of some of those problems. However, in his fifth and last chapter, intriguingly entitled "The Manuscript as Fetish," he points out (as a way of responding to a critic at a conference who accused him of "fetishizing the manuscript") that desire gives the physical manuscript meaning as the manuscript intersects with diverse ideologies. This last chapter should especially be required reading for students embarking on paleographical studies.

Robert J. Wilson
Independent scholar

Barbara Ryan and Amy M. Thomas, eds. *Reading Acts: U.S. Readers' Interactions with Literature, 1800-1950*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2002. xv, 289 p. ISBN 1-57233-182-8 (cloth). £28.35/\$36.00

Studies on the history of reception in America routinely emphasize the responses of "professional" readerships from the past: authors, reviewers, pundits. This collection of forays into archival resources (including letters, jour-

nals, marginal annotations, school curricula, student essays, and fan mail) joins a short list of titles offering balance, its essays consistently integrating evidence from “ordinary” readers in the sweep of American history.

The essays in this volume offer a vast array of insights on reading in the United States. Elisabeth B. Nichols and Alison M. Scott, separately examining documents from the early national period, discover more autonomy and critical reflection in women’s reading choices, practices, and appropriations than has been associated with “the fledgling republic” (2). Mary Kelley portrays nineteenth-century readers as adapting a contemporary “model of womanhood” to accommodate “female intellect,” identifying precursors to emulate, and diffusing a “new ideal . . . of the learned woman” (55). Leon Jackson adeptly draws from archival materials responses inaccessible through published reviews. He suggests that contemporary audiences regularly made of *Sartor Resartus* “an organic whole,” a repository of aphorisms, or an overlaid conversion narrative whose presumed core could serve as a template for their own moral journeys (84).

In an intriguing rhetorical analysis, Amy M. Thomas arrests a moment from antebellum print culture in the making, unveiling processes of mediation at work in the construction of the report which one colporteur submitted to his tract society upon completing his canvass. The notion of “self-fashioning” recurs in the collection (73), but Thomas further addresses reading as a fashioning of the other, and her essay pairs well with Regina Kunzel’s unflinching examination of responses to a 1949 *True Confessions* story about single pregnancy. Compiling materials from social, publishing, and cultural history, raising difficult questions about “representation and material life,” Kunzel shows how one text could simultaneously empower, constrain, and fail its multi-ethnic audience (204).

Barbara Sicherman surveys the formation in the United States of a Victorian “culture of reading,” a culture shaping “the identity of a new . . . middle class” (139) that included an “important African American” membership (144). Rejecting, as do other essayists here, the equation of cultural consumption with unreflecting acquiescence, she argues that reading “encouraged the demarcation of class boundaries” yet also “provided a means of crossing them” (139).

Both Barbara Ryan and Jennifer Patchesky discuss author-reader correspondence of the twentieth century. Ryan depicts fans as closing

in loyal ranks around one novelist who was nonetheless, albeit surreptitiously, lobbying those very “book critics” whose judgments they disdained (168). In a contrastive account of cultural spaces opening and filling, Patchesky contends that Dorothy Canfield (Fisher), novelist, educationalist, and cultural mediator, acted as a catalyst shifting an “imagined community” (234) into collective action, enabling her middlebrow readers and respondents to realize “there must be lots of us altogether” (232).

Two pieces shine historical light into gaps between pedagogy and student response. Jane Greer recovers experiences of workers attending the Bryn Mawr Summer School of 1921-1938. Encouraged by instructors to approach Ibsen or George Eliot from the perspective of “social justice” (180), these women opted for alternative readings to reach imaginative landscapes and forge “textual friendships” (190). Joan Shelley Rubin investigates the “schoolroom poetry recitation” (259) of the early- to mid-twentieth century, a cultural site formed, as it were, when speech theorists and English teachers met and settled for the “memory gem” (262). Reconciling historical scholarship with (literal) reader-response, she summarizes hundreds of letters replying to her 1995 invitation for recollections from participants in those recitations.

In their abstemious editorial apparatus, preoccupied with defining their work territorially (as part of an emergent, seemingly autochthonous American critical project), Ryan and Thomas not only avoid drawing conclusions but also understate their book’s coherence and even its relevance for any overarching history of reading. But the collection does achieve an important goal. This inspiring volume contributes traces from ordinary yet historic engagements with reading, traces that mark patterns of everyday reception, use, and response.

Les Belikian

Los Angeles City College

Leah Price. *The Anthology and the Rise of the Novel: From Richardson to George Eliot*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. vii, 224 p. ISBN 0-521-78208-2. £35.00/\$55.00

Leah Price’s insightful and wide-ranging study of the close and complex relationships between the anthology and the rise of the novel is essentially a study of quotation in and quotation of the novel. In a series of interconnected

studies of Samuel Richardson, Walter Scott, Ann Radcliffe, Susan Ferrier, and George Eliot (with subsections on Shakespeare, Rousseau, and others), Price demonstrates that, even in its early years, the novel – seemingly unified by its creation of a fictional world – was pulled in the direction of fragmentation by its inclusion of detachable sayings and by its excerption in anthologies. Anthologies, according to Price, responded to two related literary and moral panics: the fear among some people of being so overwhelmed by new publications that one could not stay abreast of them, and the more widespread fear that readers – especially young, female readers – were not even prepared to try to keep up. Selective reading thus was both a necessity and a moral failing. Price identifies two chief ways of reading selectively, and two corresponding formal expedients: skimming (which was pandered to by abridgements), and skipping (a taste fed by selections of “beauties”).

One of the many strengths of this ambitious book is that Price demonstrates how the practice of anthologising depends on several paradoxes of exclusion and inclusion, both social and literary. Appealing to the “common” rather than the rarified reader, the anthology is nonetheless predicated on the assumption that most texts are not fully suitable for all readers. Consequently, both the novel and drama were subjected to processes of excerption and expurgation to disinfect them for a middle-class family audience. The result was not just moral refurbishment, but “generic cleansing.” Thus the industrious editor and sycophantic admirer of Eliot, Alexander Main, could propose to John Blackwood an anthology entitled, *A Selection of British Lyrics from Shakespeare to George Eliot*.

Price charts a significant shift in attitudes regarding the ways of reading and writing embodied in anthologies. Whereas in the eighteenth century anthologies selected moral sentiments, in the nineteenth they picked out aesthetic plums. Both were designed to counterbalance supposedly bad habits attributed to women readers and writers. While eighteenth-century commentators criticised women readers for skipping over moral lessons, nineteenth-century ones treated reading for the sentiment as dawdling over didacticism, and, in the age of the Railway novel, considered brisk reading a thrifty virtue, or, alternatively, did not want to disrupt the organic unity of the work of art. Such insights are made possible by Price’s combination of reception theory, narrative theory, and book history. However, her argu-

ment is, I think, too dependent on the establishment of ingenious parallels. Numerous links in her chain of reasoning depend on constructions such as “just as,” and “at once.” This technique gives rise to several problems. First, these parallels are just that: parallels, coincidences, and similarities, not causal relationships or cases of common identity. Second, her interest in metaphor and wordplay exposes a potential methodological conflict: her more ingenious literary interpretations operate on a different level of evidentiary status from her archival work. Furthermore, because of her interest in parallels, she never fully attends to the differences between the types of quote-containing texts she analyses. It would be helpful to have a clearer description, even a taxonomy of types of quotation, from the inclusion of fragments with novels to the fragmentation of novels in single or multiple-author anthologies. Nevertheless, both the sweep of her argument and the quality of her particular readings make this a very important book about books and their readers.

Judith Hawley

University of London

Geoffrey Forster, Alice Hamilton, Peter Hoare, and Elaine Robinson. *A Very Good Public Library: Early Years of the Leeds Library*. (History of the Book Trade in the North.) Wylam, Northumberland: Allenholme Press, 2001. 171 p. ill. ISBN 1-873383-09-6. £25.00

As England's oldest surviving subscription library, the Leeds Library is one of those institutions that sprang up in England during the late-eighteenth century in the prospering industrial cities. An excellent history of it was written by Frank Beckwith in 1968, reprinted with updating material by Dennis Cox in 1994. The title of the work under review might suggest some revision of the Library's earliest days, but it actually contains two general and two specialist studies.

A foreword by Peter Hoare that puts the Library into its context of time and place is followed by an admirable (and well-referenced) introduction by Geoffrey Forster, the present Librarian, covering the history of subscription libraries in general and the Leeds Library in particular. The remainder of the book is filled by two masters theses from the School of English, University of Leeds; both are unamended so there is inevitably a certain amount of repetition of what was said in the Introduction.

Elaine Robinson presented her detailed study, “The Leeds Library in 1817,” in 1986: 1817 was chosen as the Library had then been in existence for about half a century. The membership, organisation, and book collection are considered from sociological, historical, and political angles, all soundly based on committee minutes, the catalogues, and the books themselves. Comparison is made with similar libraries in Birmingham and Liverpool, while the Committee members of 1768 and 1817 are contrasted. An appendix lists 120 books ordered in 1817, arranged by the twelve subject headings used by the Library, of which thirty titles are no longer on the shelves. Another appendix contains a transcript of the Order Book for 1817, which identifies the books cited. One has to turn back to the previous appendix, however, to discover whether the book has survived.

The Leeds Library only acquired books in English; Alice Hamilton's 1995 thesis on “The Leeds Foreign Circulating Library c.1779-1814” investigates the way in which the need for works in foreign languages among the city's mercantile classes was met. Although the sources for this Library's history are confined to four catalogues and some book-labels, the names of its members were printed in the three later catalogues. Membership grew from forty-four in 1782 to seventy-eight in 1811; all but one were male and some were members of both libraries. The books in the 1811 catalogue are listed here (the majority are in French but German is well represented), while among the early purchases were several seventeenth-century works. Ms. Hamilton shows interestingly how little overlap there was between the Foreign Library and the 1788 stock of John Binns, said to be the best bookseller in Leeds. A peculiar feature of the two libraries discussed in this volume is that they shared not only the same premises but also the same librarian, a Mrs. Mary Robinson, whose death in 1813 may have been the reason why the Leeds Library decided in 1814 to accept the Foreign Circulating Library.

For students of library history this volume will be a valuable source for comparisons when similar places are investigated. Tribute must also be paid to the excellent way it has been produced and illustrated at his Allenholme Press by Professor Peter Isaac whose lamented and unexpected death was announced recently. For the last half-century Peter Isaac has been a prime mover, innovator, and tireless worker in the field of provincial book trade history, especially of the North of England. It is to be hoped

that his good work can be continued on the foundations he laid so soundly.

Paul Morgan

St Cross College, Oxford

Scott E. Casper, Joanne D. Chaison, and Jeffrey D. Groves, eds. *Perspectives on American Book History: Artifacts and Commentary. Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press in association with American Antiquarian Society and Center for the Book, Library of Congress, 2002. xii, 461 p. ill. includes CD-ROM. ISBN 1-55849-316-6 (cloth); 1-55849-317-4 (paper). \$70.00 (cloth); \$24.95 (paper).

Its editors claim that this collection will fill a void by providing undergraduate and graduate students with “not only an effective and engaging introduction to print culture in the United States but also an intellectual framework for further inquiry” (vii). That claim seems largely justified.

At the heart of the volume are fourteen chapters, each consisting of an editorial headnote, grouped transcriptions or photographs of “artefacts” drawn from a wide variety of documentary sources, and an expert's “commentary” interpreting the artifacts. These chapters, beginning with Jill Lepore's “Literacy and Reading in Puritan New England” and ending with Glenn Wallach's “Newspapers since 1945,” are arranged chronologically, so that together they present a surprisingly full history of print culture in the United States – a history well illustrated by such artifacts as reader's diaries, book invoices, title pages, advertisements, letters, poems, and illustrations of printing technology. The essays are preceded by Robert A. Gross's introduction to book history and followed by the three editors' comments on the future of the book and then by Joanne D. Chaison's nicely annotated bibliography for the study of American book history. Unfortunately, the volume lacks an index.

Accompanying the volume is a supplemental CD-ROM “image archive” to be viewed through a web browser. It presents about 200 captioned and digitized images of additional artifacts. It indexes these by the volume's chapters and by twenty topics (such as authors and authorship, bindings, copyright issues, libraries and collecting, and printing technology). Many of these artifacts are themselves at least mentioned in the volume's

essays of commentary. A few of them are represented by transcribed excerpts in the volume and given in full here. In at least one instance, namely, Matthew Carey's *Address to the Printers and Booksellers throughout the United States* (1801), the volume's transcription differs at several points from the disk's digitized image, serving as an inadvertent reminder of W. W. Greg's dictum that "the process of transcription is characterized by variation."

The contributors to this volume by and large assumed that they should select representative artifacts and then provide commentary that would serve students as models of what historians of the book might do with them. In other words, their commentaries "do" book history. The result is certainly useful, and most of the commentaries stand as fine pieces of scholarship, much of it original rather than derivative. Still, I think students would benefit from more talk *about* doing book history – its aims, methods, theories, vocabulary, relation to other fields (such as analytical bibliography and textual criticism), and so forth. The introductory chapter does a little of that, but only a little. The one commentary that does substantially combine reading of the artifacts with explicit discussion of how they may be read is Jeffrey D. Groves's, on the transformation of the book trade in the nineteenth century. It tells students, for example, that "the texts they interpret have rhetorical features that must be addressed alongside the 'facts' extracted from those texts" (129). Undergraduate students, if not graduate, may need more than models. Still, this volume and its supplemental disk offer a rich trove of primary materials and some thoughtful essays certain to be useful for students in courses on print culture and, for that matter, for anyone wanting a look at the materials and products of American book history.

Craig S. Abbott

Northern Illinois University

Jason Scott-Warren. *Sir John Harington and the Book as Gift*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. xii, 288 p. ISBN 0-19-924445-6. £45.00 / \$72.00

In this volume, Scott-Warren sets out to reconstruct how Sir John Harington used the construction and donation of books as gifts as a means of self-fashioning. The frequently observed diversity of Harington's literary *oeuvre* begins to make more sense, argues Scott-War-

ren, when one considers the material form of his overall literary output and the "transactional significance" of Harington's individual texts (21). This book examines what Harington hoped to achieve through his writings by piecing together a series of microhistories centred on occasions where he employs books as gifts, and by examining a wide range of the dedications he inscribed in presentation copies.

The first chapter deals with Harington's intentions for one of his most well-known printed works: the translation of Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso* (1591). The *Orlando Furioso* provides a characteristic example of how Harington used the medium of print to address both a courtly coterie and the general book-buying public. Ariosto also offered Harington the model of a literary career that combined courtly praise and public office with a more detached critical perspective. Scott-Warren details how Harington uses the reconstruction of Ariosto's life set out in the biographical introduction to his translation to proffer his own conception of a laureate career, in particular through foregrounding those parts where Ariosto is forced into court service due to economic difficulties.

Subsequent chapters reflect far more of Scott-Warren's microhistorical approach, detailing Harington's use of book-giving both to advertise his humanist credentials (for example, his suitability to serve as Prince Henry's tutor), and to signal his political and religious affiliations. Scott-Warren pays particular attention to the presentation of gift-copies of Harington's epigrams to his mother-in-law, Jane Rogers, and to Lucy, Countess of Bedford. This clearly demonstrates how a single text may be deployed within domestic and patronage relationships, and also illuminates the complex interpenetration of private and public occasions of book-giving. The perceived distinction between strategies of private and public donation are further challenged in a chapter on Harington's manuscript entitled *Tract on the Succession to the Crown* (1602).

This kind of dismantling of commonplaces concerning Harington (and the sociology of texts itself) is typical of Scott-Warren's methodology. The successive challenges to the often-rehearsed anecdotal details of Harington's life and writings that Scott-Warren offers in detailed discussion of literary and archival documents are a real strength of this book. The reader is led, for example, beyond the commonly-cited character sketches used to assert that Harington unequivocally favoured Elizabeth and opposed James, or

that he courted Prince Henry to the exclusion of the King. Careful analysis of individual occasions of Harington's book-giving reveals the extent of the courtier's arsenal of self-promotional gestures and techniques and broadens our understanding of the relationship of printed and manuscript book production, as well as the affinities between private and public dedications. This book provides an excellent introduction to Renaissance book-giving and offers (if any were needed here) both a further challenge to perceptions of a "stigma" towards printed texts within courtly literary circulation, and a restatement of the value of studying the physicality of books. As Scott-Warren concludes, "modern editions and digital facsimiles can be extremely useful, but books as material objects can be made to disclose their histories in ways that our representations of them cannot" (241).

Matthew Woodcock

University College, Oxford

Christoph Reske. *Die Produktion der Schedelschen Weltchronik in Nürnberg / The Production of Schedel's Nuremberg Chronicle*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2000. [Mainzer Studien zur Buchwissenschaft 10]. xvii, 203 p. and CD. ISBN 3-447-04296-6; ISSN 0946-090X. Euros 49.00

Hartmann Schedel. *Chronicle of the World. The Complete and Annotated Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493* [German version]. Intro. and Appendix by Stephan Füssel. Cologne, London etc.: Taschen, 2001. 680 p., incl. 594 p. facsimile. ISBN 3-8228-1295-1. \$60.00 / Euros 60.00

Hartmann Schedel's *Liber chronicarum* (*Nuremberg Chronicle*) of 1493 is one of the heroic publishing ventures of the fifteenth century, and after the Gutenberg Bible probably the best known. Over twenty times as many copies of the *Chronicle's* two versions, in Latin and German, are preserved today as there are copies of the Gutenberg Bible. The *Nuremberg Chronicle* is especially famous for its creators: the author Hartmann Schedel, his translator Georg Alt, and the two illustrating artists Wohlgemuth and Pleydenwurff – all of whom were stakeholders in the enterprise that was led by the two merchants Sebald Schreyer and Sebastian Kammermeister. Also formally involved were the humanists Conrad Celtis and Hieronymus Münster, who each contributed

to the scholarly text. In contrast, the role of the printer, Anton Koberger, was secondary. He was commissioned to print these works in an arrangement that did not require him to run financial risks and produced the books with expediency and unobtrusive skill.

The *Nuremberg Chronicle* is unusual, too, because its organisation and production processes are documented with a fullness almost unparalleled among other early printed books. Seven contracts between all parties concerned, as well as final accounts with each, still exist. Above all, there are the “layouts” for both the Latin and the German versions, both of which indicate that the books were intended to have a much livelier interweaving of text and illustration than had ever been previously attempted in print. These manuscript layouts, early precursors of camera-ready copy, combined text and illustration for every page in the books. The slightly staggered production in print of the two versions, with an interval of five months between them, exploited to the maximum the 633 illustrations commissioned from the artists.

Christoph Reske’s excellent study is most impressive in bringing out the process of preparation and orchestration of the main players, followed by an exemplary analysis of the sophisticated organisation required for the staggered printing of the two very large books, which were linked by their contents and illustrations. Whereas Adrian Wilson’s examination of the manuscript layouts in *The Making of the Nuremberg Chronicle* (Amsterdam, 1976) was highly intuitive, Reske’s is more methodical. After discussing earlier studies, Reske shows his own contribution to be an application of the methodology of analytical bibliography, enriched with some of the technological tools that have become available in recent years. The outcome of his integrated analysis of the entire documentation – a few preparatory drawings, a trial sheet, the contracts, the layouts, and the printed result – is that the whole production scheme is brilliantly placed in a clear time and organizational frame. Thankfully, too, Reske resists using technological analysis just for its own sake. Yet it has to be appreciated that the author has not felt obliged to use technology uncritically. One might question whether Reske used his time wisely by measuring the thickness of all the individual sheets in both books (resulting only in the one sentence that paper of the same quality was used throughout the two editions [180]), but he did resist producing an extensive record of watermarks by radiography, or spectrum analy-

sis of the ink, as had been recommended by some. This is in my view a correct decision, for it is unlikely that this would have added significantly to the conclusions reached by other means. The fact that the books survive in such large numbers of copies, too, would have further complicated such a task, and with doubtful rewards.

Selected chapters of the study, as well as the bibliography and illustrations, are presented in hard-copy in German with a full English translation. In spite of some minor infelicities (e.g., “spoilage” for waste-sheets, the irritating “print” for a printed book or edition), this brings an important study to the English-speaking homeground of analytical bibliography.

The publication includes a CD (mainly German-language) containing eighty files with the raw material and schedules on which Reske’s analysis is based. Thus it is possible to read his interpretation along with the text of the contracts as established by Peter Zahn, a calendar, and similar research aids. Some weeding might have been wise, but this form of presentation, leaving the reader a clear choice as to what extent to follow the author’s path towards his synthesis, has much to commend it. Reske’s work is a milestone in the study of the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, and an important development in the analytical study of early printed book production.

Another such milestone is the facsimile edition of the German version with an introduction by Stephan Füssel. Out of the over 200 copies extant, Füssel chose the fine one in the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar for reproduction. Füssel sums up the significance of the intellectual and technical effort and the originality of its presentation, thus making its contents, both textual and pictorial, more accessible to the larger public for whom this facsimile is intended. His text is accompanied by attractive additional illustrations, which help place the production of the book in its historical context. Alas, their quality does not stand comparison with the ample illustrations of Adrian Wilson’s book of 1976. A surprise was to encounter the Dutch translation of the *Fasciculus Temporum* specifically cited as a source for Hartmann Schedel (10). The loss of leaf signatures in the facsimile and the overly shiny paper increase the distance from the physical structure of the original. But the facsimile has to be welcomed as a major contribution to the wider appreciation of the impact of an important and delightful book. And for once it is true that “. . . bookes ben had grete chepe and in

grete nombre . . .,” as William Caxton wrote in 1482.

Lotte Hellinga

Formerly of the British Library

Martyn Lyons. *Readers and Society in Nineteenth-Century France. Workers, Women, Peasants*. Houndsmille, Basingstoke, Hampshire and New York: Palgrave, 2001. xi, 208 p. ISBN 0-333-92126-7 (hardcover). £47.50 / \$60.00

French men and women who lived during the nineteenth century, a period defined in this book as roughly spanning from the French Revolution to the beginning of World War I, were affected by print culture more than the generations before or after them, according to Martyn Lyons. He points to the fact that while at the end of the eighteenth century less than fifty per cent of the male and less than thirty per cent of the female population were able to read, only a hundred years later, almost all members of French society had become functionally literate, largely as a result of greater industrialization, advancing technology and compulsory primary schooling. The rotary press, which allowed for the mass production of print; the expanding railway system, which facilitated the dissemination of newspapers and cheap fiction into remote areas of France; and Ferry’s educational reforms in the 1880s also, he argues, exposed large segments of the hitherto illiterate population to printed texts, thus advancing the formation of new groups of readers.

Lyons’ study focuses on three groups of new readers who in bourgeois understanding clearly embodied “otherness”: women, workers, and peasants. Their novelty as readers is not necessarily understood in a chronological sense, but rather as a social phenomenon. Female readers – as Lyons points out correctly – had existed well before the French Revolution. These pre-revolutionary readers were primarily members of the privileged strata, just like their male counterparts. Beginning with the July Monarchy, however, female literacy among all classes increased steadily, making women a prime target group for the rapidly-expanding publishing industry. Lyons carefully shows that advertising and marketing strategies of publishers promoted notions about the female reader that had long-lasting implications. This type of reader was and often still is, he posits, “constructed as a superficial consumer of light romantic or sensational fiction,

which required little intellectual effort from the reader" (81). In addition, he contends, working-class and peasant readers were perceived and represented as ignorant people whose indiscriminate reading was regarded as a leading cause of political upheaval.

Lyons argues convincingly that the history of reading cannot be isolated from the history of class and gender struggle, for bourgeois and ecclesiastic fears about democratization, political unrest, and social change lay at the core of nineteenth-century debates about reading. Lyons therefore pursues a two-fold approach in presenting the reading controversy that emerged around these new readers. First, he draws on sources that document the discourses of the Church and the bourgeois establishment about these new readers. Second, he analyzes women and working class readers' autobiographies, diaries, and correspondence – and to a smaller extent also peasant sources – to give voice to the readers themselves. Despite the unevenness in the availability of sources – nineteenth-century peasant writings are scarce, while autobiographical texts by women are plentiful – Lyons' study tellingly conveys that for many, reading had a clearly emancipatory function. The author's careful interpretation of working-class autobiographies also documents how varied reader responses could be to any given text and how vital print culture was to the politicization of working class readers (79).

Lyons' book is a fine analysis of the political and social issues surrounding the reading debate in nineteenth-century France. His study illustrates the importance of integrating individual accounts of readers into a history of reading practices, because the complexity of the nineteenth-century reading controversy can only be fully understood in the context of the diversity of reading experiences among these new readers.

Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch

Angelo State University

"Women-Texts-Communities." Special issue, *Women's Studies International Forum*, 25.2 (2002).

Guest edited by Danielle Fuller, this issue deals with women's critical, publishing, and writing communities in Canada, India, and the United Kingdom. The issue will be of interest to colleagues in literary/women's studies and publishing history.

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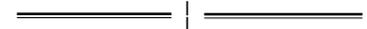
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| INCOME | | | |
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| List rentals | | | 325.00 |
| Advertising revenue | | | 633.00 |
| Interest | | | 715.19 |
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| Conference subvention | | 1,500.00 | |
| SUBTOTAL | \$10,375.24 | \$7,699.00 | \$46,703.12 |
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| Web hostings | | | 162.35 |
| SUBTOTAL | <7,100.00> | <4,587.69> | <38,740.93> |
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As I hand over the editorship to Sydney Shep, I am delighted to thank those who have worked with me over the last few years and who have made this voluntary activity such an intellectual pleasure even amidst the sometimes picky work involved: Paul Gutjahr, Ian Gadd, Linda Connors, Barbara Brannon and, more recently, Chuck Johanningsmeier and Tina Chaudhury. Errin Armstrong has been my highly competent editorial assistant at Dalhousie. It has been an honour to work with them all and Sydney has a superb team to aid her. I wish everyone well as *SHARP News* continues to evolve and I thank the Executive Council for the opportunity to serve SHARP as editor.

Fiona Black, Dalhousie University

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