United Kingdom

Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
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FIRST CLASS MAIL


strictly for the purpose, and which still stands as a historic landmark at the corner of West 4th and Lafayette Streets in Manhattan. The tour was led by De Vinne biographer, Irene Tichenor. De Vinne was the printer for Charles Scribner (also one of his inventors) and for the Century Press (later folded into Appleton Century, whose legacy rests now in the corner shadows of some major conglomerate), publisher of the great 7000 page 17th-Century Dictionary, granddaddy of the various abridged versions still extant. De Vinne also designed the Century typeface still popular today in various versions. Standing on the roof of the seven-storied building (which we did), it is still possible to scan the neighborhood where so many early publishers located themselves.

We also visited the Center for the Book Arts, whose executive director Rory Golden is an enthusiastic advocate of its mission for ‘preservation of the traditional crafts of bookmaking as well as encouraging contemporary approaches to the interpretation of books as an art form’, located on a lot on 28 W 27th Street in Manhattan (www.centerforbookarts.org). This thirty-year-old non-profit school and gallery is well worth the visit. It has its own bindery and print shop, offers courses in book crafts and rents workspace.

Finally the most stunning presentation at the conference — and an early example of self-publishing at its most creative — was on the 400th anniversary of the Act of Supremacy, a recent history of English law and politics by the grandfather of the various abridged editions of the 1534 Act (in both English and Latin). The series of presentations, all compelling. They included a brief mention of some of the other presentations, all compelling. They included a brief mention of some of the other presentations, all compelling. They included a brief mention of some of the other presentations, all compelling. They included a brief mention of some of the other presentations, all compelling. They included a brief mention of some of the other presentations, all compelling. They included a brief mention of some of the other presentations, all compelling. They included a brief mention of some of the other presentations, all compelling. 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The fourth part is dedicated to the daring approach of combining palaeography with other disciplines such as literature, history, and art. Revisiting the "Bible in the Making," previously published in Acta Biblica et Sacra Theologiae, vol. 75, 1995, by Maarten十, published by Brill Publishers in Leiden, this study allows for a comprehensive understanding of the various methods and techniques employed in the production of biblical texts.

The second part delves deeper into the history of manuscript traditions and their evolution, examining the diverse influences that shaped the development of biblical literature. This section also includes a discussion on the significance of manuscripts in the context of the broader cultural and historical narratives.

The third part focuses on the role of manuscripts in broadening our understanding of biblical texts. It emphasizes the importance of manuscripts in the transmission of religious knowledge and the ways in which they have been used to interpret and express different religious traditions.

The final section of the volume is dedicated to the study of the sacred texts themselves. It examines the relationship between the sacred texts and their historical and cultural contexts, as well as the various ways in which these texts have been received and interpreted throughout history.

The book closes with a comprehensive bibliography, providing a valuable resource for further research and study.
Second Annual Conference on the Future of the Book

Location: Beijing, China
Dates: 29–31 August 2004

Following on from the Cairns, Australia event in 2002, SHARP’s Confer-
ence subitled Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Era and supported by RMIT’s In-
ternational Centre for Graphic Technology will provide a forum for practitioners, academ-
edians, educators, librarians and researchers to discuss the future of the book. Topics in-
clude: the effects of print on demand and e-
books; written text in the context of the new 
communications environment; the future of 
the book from a library perspective; con-
erators in education and learning; reading, 
books and the Internet; teaching and learning 
literacy in school and at home; trends in the publish-
ing-industry; the past and future of the book in 
China. Papers submitted, by both in-person 
and virtual participation, for the confer-
ence proceedings will be fully peer-refereed and 
published in print and electronic formats in 
the new International Journal of the Book. The 
 Deadline for the next round 2004. 

Full details of the conference, including 
an online call for papers form, are to be found at 
the conference website: 

http://www.BookConference.com

Religion and the Culture of Print in America: Authors, publishers, 
readers and more since 1876

Location: Madison, Wisconsin
Dates: 10–11 September 2004

This conference organised by The 
Center for the History of Print Culture in 
Modern America, a joint project of The 
Wisconsin Historical Society and the Uni-
versity of Wisconsin–Madison, will address the world of 
print in which religious and religious practices were 
performed, constructed and promulgated over the last 125 years. Papers should focus on 
and illuminate the interaction between the 
reader and print both in the medium of the Bible 
(periodicals, newspapers, church bulletins, 
handbills, tracts) aimed at or produced and read by 
religious individuals and groups. Studies 
dealing with religion and class, regionalism, 
feminism, immigrant groups, racial and sexual 
minorities, radicals are especially welcome, as are studies that compare the 
ephemera of print 
in the lives of religious groups and 
individuals located at the periphery of power. The Centre also hopes to attract schol-
ars interested in Protestantism, the cre-
volutionary and missionary outreach; Roman 
Catholicism (official church and grassroots 
phenomena such as Masons and lodges); East-
ern Orthodox churches; Mormonism; Judaism 
(all varieties); Islam (both immigrant and 
newly arrived); indigenous religions, as 
well as new or less-well-known religious 
movements. Proposals for individual papers 
or entire sessions (up to three presentations) 
should include a 250-word abstract and a one-
page cv. Submissions should be made prefer-

Digital Preservation and 
Electronic Scholarly Editions

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 
Dates: 27–30 December 2004

The Association for Computers and the 
Humanities invites papers for the 2004 
Modern Language Association Conference. In 
particular we seek proposals from individuals 
and project teams and electronic publish-
ers currently grappling with the complex is-
Sues of long-term preservation. How are you 
proposing to align the synchronous delivery of 
deliv-
ey deadlines and software restrictions with the 
dedicated printouts of maintaining access 
over many decades? If multiple archives in-
crease in size, how are you dealing with data 
density? Are you also archiving the 
interim working documents, correspondence and 
electronic material generated as part of your 
project, and if so, how are they integrated 
with the finished edition? What preservation 
strategies need to come into play when the book is to pub-
lish in multiple formats (print and digital)? 

Paradise New Worlds of 
Books & Readers

Location: Wellington, New Zealand 
Dates: 27–30 January 2005

Hosted by the Alexander Turnbull Library, 
National Library of New Zealand, and 
organised by the Stout Research Centre and 
Wai-te-a-Tera Press, this SHARP Regional 
Conference is open to papers dealing with any 
aspect of the study of print culture. Particular 
emphasis will be placed on colonial and 
postcolonial histories of the book, and 
particularly in the Asia/Pacific region, 
South America and Africa. Significant in-
clude: How does print create colonies/cre-
eries? How can you write about print 
before your continent? How do 
colonies/skies of writing? What role does geography play? 
What happens when the text is not a book? Who 
shall be the master – the writer or the reader?
Is translation the ultimate act of comprehen-
Sion? Special guests include: Alberto Manguel, 
Michael Twyman, Rimi Chatterjee, while 
events of note are the D.F. McKenzie Lecture, 
the Conference Dinner, and the post-confer-
ence mystery excursion. 

Send 250–320 words with a short cv to: 
Dr Lyda Wever & Dr Sydney J Shep-
on PO Box 602, Wellington NZ 
fax: 64-6-463-5439 
e-mail:Lyda.wever@vuw.ac.nz 
or: Sydney.Shep@vuw.ac.nz

The American Antiquarian Society's Sum-
merset Conference on The Book in 
American Culture will take place at AAS from 

The conference is organized by 
Newman Distinguished 
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History, the University of North Carolina at 
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The program deadline for applications is 15 
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| Second Annual Conference on the Future of the Book

| Religion and the Culture of Print in America: Authors, publishers, readers and more since 1876

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Masted’s essay on the Exeter printer Andrew Brice and Robin Myers’s essay on John Nicholls both provide new information about significant figures in the trade. Masted collbrates together Bryce’s contributions to his own publications to reveal the character of the man, while Robin Myers’s fascinating volume of documents relating to the Committee of Master Printers, a close look at Nicholls’s business in Exeter. The results of this exhaustive effort to bring together electronically widely scattered but extensive archival material and demonstrates how the anecdotal nature of much of it adds character to the individuals that is often lacking in other major book trade history sources. Anna Zafra, assigned’s essay on Exeter, reveals an unquenchable absence of biographical or autobiographical accounts of the members of the book trade prior to the late 18th century. She links this to the social and educational background of printers, their economic condition and lack of any unified professional grouping, and shows how changes in the 18th century led to the emergence of such accounts.

The collection concludes with a pair of essays focusing on the history of the New Dictionary of Biography (DNB). Robert Faber and Brian Harrison trace the fascinating history and triumphant competitive effort behind the publication of one of the great national achievements, from Leslie Stephen’s early efforts to bring together supplements and abridgements, up to the genesis of the New DNB. Ian Gadd’s contribution uses the old and new DNB entries on the same topic to demonstrate how far we have come in our understanding of the language and language printing before 1800.


By the close of the 1860s there were, ac- cording to the publisher William Tinsley, “more magazines in the wretched field than there were blades of grass to support them.” The boom in mid-Victorian magazine publishing was the result of a broadening of the market for printed matter to include a mass market in cheap print. The press was already well established by the 1830s, and the 1840s and 1850s saw the publication of numerous magazines that were usually started by a Columbia doctorate; she was also a scholar whose honorary degrees were preceded by a quiet aside on the penultimate page. She was an embarrassment to her Essays and Addresses. Mary Hyde Eccles. Mary Hyde Eccles: A Miscellany of Her Essays and Addresses. Selected and edited by William Z. New York: Grolier Club, 2002. i-xiv, 250p. ISBN 0912672423 (cloth). US$55.


Workers within the broader directives of thought, and questioning of received ideas, then this volume ought to be widely adopted. Students will be the better for this book. In this they have received ideas, then this volume ought to be widely adopted. Students will be the better for this book. In this they have received ideas, then this volume ought to be widely adopted. Students will be the better for this book. In this they have received ideas, then this volume ought to be widely adopted. Students will be the better for this book. In this they have received ideas, then this volume ought to be widely adopted. Students will be the better for this book. In this they have received ideas, then this volume ought to be widely adopted. Student
Nicholas Basbanes, known to many through his American radio show, *The Book Hunter*, regards the book-hunter — either to consider some of the more egregious book enthusiasts, or to reflect upon the more moderate book-hunting lifestyle that most readers are likely to inhabit. His first book, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles and Their Books*, is packed with one of these themes, while *Patience and Faux Patience* and *Fortune's Fugitive* explore the nineteenth-century publishing world and its cultural history. Joshi explores the nineteenth-century British and Indian publishing worlds, with a focus on the latter; indeed, the subtitles are thus more than usually descriptive. The title of this book, *Joshi's Guide to the Contemporary Book-Hunter*, encapsulates this aim, suggesting a continuation of this kind to is still worth a lot. Basbanes also re-excavates the past, revealing what is almost certainly good news for bibliophiles, and Basbanes aims here to bring the investigative perspective in the first part, and the "close reading" of the second — addressing two different sets of expectations and needs. Nevertheless, many of Joshi's findings are new and startling enough to stimulate further studies and enquiries in the field of Indian book history.

Rumi B. Chatterjee Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Edmund M. B. King, *Victorian Decorated Trade Bindings 1830–1880: A Descriptive Bibliography*.

This book is the product of almost ten years of enthusiastic research on the part of its author, who clearly loves his subject and is eager to make his findings known. Joshi is an exuberant delights of the bindings he describes, it has, most appropriately, been bound in a pleasing pastiche of mid-nineteenth-century binding, blocked on dark-blue cloth in gold and blind. It offers brief biographies of the designers included, descriptions of several hundred bindings, and a catalogue of works written through or imported for sale. The book promises well, but the further into it you get, the more pursuasive its purpose becomes. The title suggests an inclusiveness which the author is careful to deny in his introduction, in which, for instance, he excludes all paper bindings (e.g. the odd ones he chooses to include). As becomes evident, the book also excludes trade bindings, which remain out of view, whilst at the same time it does not include several signed bindings already published by Ruari Maclean. It raises interesting questions, such as whether the use of an illustration from the book as an element in the decoration of an otherwise very standard cover really justifies ascribing the design of the cover to the book's illustrator. The use of facsimile books with interchangeable titles in their centres has resulted in multiple entries describing the same block (often in different terms), without always explaining in fact what the actual text of the facsimile was used on. There is also rather erratic mention of the ways in which different components of decoration could be used in different combinations, and as the decorative elements are all too often not described in identical terms on each appearance, significant instances of this important practice will be lost on most readers: for instance, the central ornament designed by John Leighton that is found on numbers 174 and 246, within engravings, helped to identify the book as a former of a "nearly formed mandala" and in the latter as in the shape of a flower bud" and they are not identified as being the same. The descriptions themselves are also all too often problematic. They are sometimes too general or too specific, with their occasional inaccuracy, of the same uncertain grant of decorative arts terminology, and not always in the strict order the book is arranged in. The majority of the examples are taken from the British Library, and the book therefore includes signatures of copies of books that are not nearly original, as well as those that have been rebound with the original boards: thus, the book does not include new boards (and also lacking their spines), but even on that occasion refers to copies apparently entirely rebound without the original covers preserved at all.

The major criterion for inclusion is seldom clear — it is because the books survive in the book-hunter's eyes that remain unique, but at the same time it still contains plenty of interesting and useful information.

Nicholas Pickwood London Institute

The annual conferences organised by Richard Michael Harris (and, more recently, Giles Mandelbrote) have long been an important feature of the book trade history scene, with each resulting in a subsequent publication edited by the organisers. This collection, representing papers presented at the twentieth-three conference, maintains the high standard of scholarship and range of interesting material of previous volumes. In the collection’s only medieval essay, John Edwards and Paulina Kewes’s essay on Shakespearean — the investigative perspective in the first part, and the "close reading" of the second — addressing two different sets of expectations and needs. Nevertheless, many of Joshi’s findings are new and startling enough to stimulate further studies and enquiries in the field of Indian book history.

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