The International Leipziger Arbeitskreis zur Geschichte des Buchwesens

Organized book history research has a long tradition in Germany. As early as 1875 the mighty organization of German publishers and booksellers, the Börsenverein der Deutschen Buchhändler zu Leipzig, established a Historische Kommission that published (among other works) the Archiv für Geschichte des Deutschen Buchhandels (21 volumes) and the excellent Geschichte des Deutschen Buchhandels, by Friedrich Kapp and Johann Goldfriedrich (4 volumes). Other organizations followed, among which the Gutenberg-Gesellschaft in Mainz became the international center for 15th- and 16th-century book history research. In the mid-1970s the Wolfenbütteler Arbeitskreis für Buch- und Bibliotheksgeschichte was established at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel. It has organized annual conferences and meetings dedicated to topics in the history of book production, reading, and libraries.

After World War II the Historische Kommission of the Börsenverein was rebuilt in Leipzig and in Frankfurt on Main. Unlike its West German counterpart, the Leipzig commission could not develop into a real center of book history research, although it published some volumes of the Beiträge zur Geschichte des Buchwesens. When everything else began to change in East Germany in 1989-1990, some younger scholars from the University of Leipzig (mainly from the departments of German Philology and of History) decided to establish a working group for book history research. With the help of the German national library, the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig, and its Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum, the international Leipziger Arbeitskreis zur Geschichte des Buchwesens was founded in March 1990. Located at the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig, the Arbeitskreis is an informal society of individuals and institutions interested in the history of the book in its broadest sense, including the history of paper, printing, authorship, publishing, bookselling, binding, reading, and book collecting.

By June 1992 it had about 150 members in ten European and North American countries. Every two years it organizes conferences on topics in book history. After the inaugural conferences there was a session on "Leipzig as a Center of the Book—Needs and Opportunities" in 1990. A second will be held in September 1992 on "The Book and the Book Trade in the Early 19th Century".

The members of the Arbeitskreis are helping to develop a Center for Book History Research at the Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum der Deutschen Bücherei Leipzig. It already has the most important collection of books on book history in Central Europe, which has been enormously enlarged within the last two years with the help of the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. One of its first projects is an electronic database of published and unpublished sources (including the data of the Wolfenbütteler Bibliographie zur Buchgeschichte) which will be of great importance for international book history research.


New members and contributors to the yearbook are always very welcome. For further information please contact: Dr. Mark Lehmstedt, Schliemannstraße 12, 0-1058 Berlin, Germany.
Other Ventures in Book History

New Center for the History of the Book

Pennsylvania State University at University Park, Pa., has established a Center for the History of the Book under the direction of James L. W. West III. This Center is affiliated with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and with the Pennsylvania Center for the Book in Harrisburg. Although the Center at Penn State will have its home in the Department of English, it will be interdisciplinary in its activities. It will offer undergraduate courses and graduate seminars, host conferences and summer institutes, and organize lectures and exhibits. In cooperation with the Center, the Pennsylvania State University Press has launched the Penn State Series in the History of the Book, which will include scholarly monographs in such areas as publishing history, author-publisher relationships, and the compositional history of particular literary works. Formal inauguration of the Center will take place in the autumn of 1993. For further information, contact Professor West at the Department of English, Burrowes Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA.

Three Sister Publications

SHARP News would like to call attention to three recently-launched publications in related fields. Paradigm, the newsletter of the Colloquium on Textbooks, Schools and Society, has published seven issues since November 1989. Correspondence and contributions should be sent to the Editor, Dr. John Wilkes, 13 Cranmer Road, Cambridge CB3 9BL, England.

The British Journalism Review, founded in 1990, is a quarterly journal edited by Geoffrey Goodman. It publishes articles on current issues in the media, along with news, research, statistical analyses, and book reviews. For subscriptions—£25.00 for individuals, £40.00 for institutions—contact Mansell/Cassell, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset BH15 3AJ, England.

The premiere issue of Murder is Academic, a newsletter for professors who teach crime fiction, appeared last May. It plans to publish course syllabi, conference notices, authors' queries, discussion of critical and pedagogical issues, and advice about agents, publishers, and reviewers. It is also compiling a directory of teachers of crime fiction and their courses. To receive Murder is Academic, which will appear three times a year, contact Prof. B. J. Rahn, English Department, Hunter College, New York, NY 10021.

Book History Projects in St. Petersburg

Fellow SHARP member, James Raven (Cambridge), has recently visited the Biblioteka Akademii Nauk (BAN), the Library of the Academy of Sciences, in St. Petersburg, Russia. He reports that extraordinary activity is now underway on various history of the book projects at BAN, the University of St. Petersburg, and the Public Library (renamed the National Library but still more familiarly known as the Public). At the University Library, Nikolai Nikolaev, Rare Books Librarian, is working on a major study of the literary representation of the ideal library in Europe, c.1500-1800. Among many projects underway at BAN, Dr. Pavel Khoteev continues the work of the late Professor Luppov in a series of books and catalogues which reconstruct a broad history of the book in Russia in the eighteenth century. This includes new catalogues of the individual English collections and libraries held at BAN; for example, a catalogue of the Bruce Collection has recently been compiled by Dr. Saveleva, who is now working on a catalogue of the Pitcairn and Erskine libraries. Additional projects include work on the history of the German book in Russia and the English book in Russia in the early and mid 18th century. The Public Library continues its well-known cooperative project with the Voltaire Foundation.

Both Nikolai Nikolaev and Pavel Khoteev are concerned that other book historians are unaware of their work and would welcome correspondence by any interested persons. Contact: Nikolai Nikolaev, Dept. of Rare Books and Manuscripts, Nauchnaya Biblioteka SPBGU, Universitetskaya nab 7/9, 199034 St. Petersburg, Russia; and Dr. Pavel Khoteev, BAN Library of the Academy of Sciences of Russia, Birgevaja Linija 1, 199034 St. Petersburg, Russia.
Book History Exhibit

An exhibition entitled "Mother Goose in New York" will display the engraved woodblocks used to print the illustrations that appeared in the picture books issued by the McLoughlin Bros., publishers, and their predecessors, from ca. 1840 to 1880. Related materials, such as engraver's proofs, English illustrations from which the American copies were taken, and original watercolors, will also be exhibited. The focus of "Mother Goose in New York" will be the development of wood-engraving styles and techniques within the evolving genre of American picture books. Attention will be given to the iconography of Mother Goose within the American nursery and the cultural implications of her complex metamorphoses. The exhibition is curated by Michael Joseph, Rare Book & Jerseyana Catalog Librarian, Rutgers University Libraries, New Brunswick, N.J., who has supplied the illustration above for SHARP News. "Mother Goose in New York" will be at the New-York Historical Society beginning November 5, 1992.

New Book and Graphic Arts Organization

Pro Arte Libri, an international, indisciplinary society fostering the cultural values, both artistic and literary, to be found in the making of books, has been organized in San Francisco. The Society has taken over the publication of the journal, Fine Print, securing a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to redesign and broaden the scope of the journal. (Publication has been suspended until 1993.) The new publication will employ the latest technology to create a journal that will itself stand as an exemplar of the graphic capabilities of the new electronic systems. Editorially, the new Fine Print will broaden its approach by reviewing the design of literature and information in a variety of contemporary forms ranging from fine press books and artists' books through comics and electronic media with special emphasis on type design and typography.

In addition to its publications program, the Society has opened a new office in San Francisco at 300 DeHarro Street with an associated gallery of arts and crafts (including books). They will be launching a Fine Print book club which will offer new books on printing history, type design, typography, and the graphic arts. For further information, contact: Sandra D. Kirshenbaum, President, Pro Arte Libri, P. O. Box 193394, San Francisco, CA 94119, USA.

Calls for Papers

The Bibliographical Society of Canada is issuing a call for papers for next year's Conference on the History of the Book in Canada to be held in Hamilton, Ontario on June 16, 1993 (date tentative). Papers should be approximately 45 minutes in length and may be considered for publication in the Papers/Cahiers, the Society's refereed journal. Please submit proposals by January 15, 1993 and direct inquiries to: Eric L. Swanick, Legislative Library, P. O. Box 6000, Fredericton, N.B., Canada, E3B 5H1.

An international conference on publishing (in French) will be held at the University of Sherbrooke (Québec), September 13-15, 1993. Sponsored by the Groupe de recherche sur l'édition littéraire au Québec (GRELQ) and the Association internationale de bibliologie (AIB), the conference, entitled "Edition et Pouvoirs", will have three themes: 1. Strategies of the traditional publishing centers and of the newer areas in an international distribution system; 2. History and system of publishing in the francophone areas in the 20th century; 3. Impact of new technologies on the production and diffusion of the written word. Proposals for papers should be submitted by October 1, 1992 to: Groupe de recherche sur l'édition littéraire/Jacques Michon, Département des lettres et communications, Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada J1K 2R1.
CONFERENCES

The Birkbeck College Annual Conference on Book-Trade History will meet November 28-29, 1992 in London. This year's topic is "Serials and Their Readers". One session will be devoted to discussion of current projects concerned with the systematic study of serials. Inquiries should be addressed to Michael Harris, Centre for Extra-Mural Studies, Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ, England.

The 1992 Meeting of the Victorians Institute will be held at the College of Charleston, South Carolina, October 2-3, 1992. The topic will be "Tennyson 2000: Rethinking and Reappraisal", and the keynote address will be given by Prof. Herbert Tucker, University of Virginia, author of Tennyson and the Doom of Romanticism and Browning's Beginnings. The Victorians Institute is an interdisciplinary organization that sponsors an annual conference and the Victorians Institute Journal. Individuals interested in joining the Institute should contact Kathleen McCormack, Department of English, Florida International University, Miami, FL 33199. E-mail queries about the Institute may be addressed to David Latane, Vice-President, at dlatane@hibbs.vcu.edu.

The Third International Conference of Word & Image will be held August 15-19, 1993 at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. The conference, to quote from the prospectus, "will focus on the coexistence of words and images in one (not necessarily aesthetic) object: the interface and fusion of word and image." Inquiries should be directed to A. W. Halsall/David A. Goodreau, Centre for Rhetorical Studies, 1611 Dunton Tower, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6.

Notes and Queries

Robert Singerman, University of Florida Libraries, is preparing for publication a bibliography of printed catalogues of American libraries, 1801-1875. Organized geographically, this work will identify and locate ephemeral catalogues for a wide variety of libraries: public, governmental, subscription and rental, Sunday School, fraternal, etc. Extensive use has already been made of the OCLC and RLIN databases, supplementing the printed listings in the National Union Catalog, Shaw/Shoemaker, Sabin, etc., to enlarge this project. Librarians and curators are encouraged to contact Singerman for help in verifying materials in their collections and to bring elusive items to his attention. Contact: Robert Singerman, University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA. E-mail: judaica@nervm.bitnet.

With the idea that information shared might advance the endeavor, SHARP News would like to do a report on courses offered in book history at the undergraduate and master's level. Would instructors of such courses please send copies of syllabi to: Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA.

Recent Publications

General

R. C. Alston and H. Fellner, eds., Publishing, the Booktrade and the Diffusion of Knowledge [a micro-
fiche collection of more than 700 texts, 2519 fiche, originally part of a subscription series in the enormous Nineteenth Century microfiche program but now available as a single, self-contained collection [Alexandria, VA: Chadwyck-Healy, 1992].


Lotte Hellinga, ed. Incunabula: The Printing Revolution in Europe, 1455-1500 [a microform series of about 10,000 titles to be published over the next ten years by Research International Publications, Reading, England].


Britain


**Canada**


**China**


**France**


**Japan**


**Russia**


**United States**


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**How We Are Doing**

The SHARP Program Committee—Simon Eliot, Anne Humphreys, Patrick Leary, David Linton, Ian Willison, and I—met July 27 at the British Library. We considered a total of 93 proposals for the June 1993 New York conference, and ultimately accepted more than 50 of them. They add up to a very strong and very full program, with triple sessions spread over three days. We are planning, in addition, some plenary sessions, including a panel of book and journal editors who will discuss publishing opportunities for book historians. Complete information about the program, registration, hotel accommodations, and travel arrangements will be mailed out to all SHARP members early in 1993.

Breaking down the proposals by nationality, there were 70 from the United States, 11 from Canada, six from Britain, two each from Belgium and Czechoslovakia, and one each from Germany and Australia. If the British turnout was disappointing, that was largely my fault: I scheduled the conference at a time of year when most British academics are still grading examinations. Future SHARP meetings will be later in the summer, and we hope to bring a conference to the United Kingdom in the near future.

Quite a number of British scholars are interested in SHARP, as I discovered at the Cambridge Colloquium on the History of Book in Britain and at the Manchester meeting of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. Our worldwide membership now stands at 232.

The second issue of *SHARP News* was sent to all members of the History of Reading Group (our thanks to Peter Fisher for sending us the mailing labels). The upcoming SHARP conference will feature several papers on the history of reading, and all scholars in this new and exciting field are cordially invited to join us.

The process of incorporating SHARP as a non-profit corporation has been set in motion. Eva A. Rasmussen of the firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore is generously donating her legal services. She is one of the host of people who have stepped forward to volunteer their time, labor, and ideas for this new venture in scholarly cooperation. Thanks to them, SHARP has taken off spectacularly.

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Jonathan Rose

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Colophon. Some of you may be curious about the technical details of production of this newsletter. Here they are: Text is produced using WordPerfect 5.1 on a Gateway 2000 486/33 computer at Lehigh University. The typesetting utility is Publishers Powerpak 2.12, using Monotype Bodoni, mostly in 11 point (up from 10 pt. last issue), and including a variety of decorative pieces and other typefaces for headings. Output is to a Hewlett Packard LaserJet IIIIP printer. PAM
If you join SHARP now, you will receive the next four issues of SHARP News as well as the SHARP Membership Directory to be published in the summer of 1993. Send a check for $10. (US) or $15 (elsewhere), payable to SHARP, to Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA. British residents can join SHARP by sending a check for £7 to Dr. Simon Eliot, The Open University, 4 Portwall Lane, Bristol BS1 6ND, U.K.

Name:

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E-mail:

Professional Affiliation:

Research Interests:

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