There is a long tradition of teaching historical bibliography in Britain. I conduct such a course in the Department of Information and Library Studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth; and the ancestor of that course was being taught in 1964 when the College of Librarianship (as it then was) was founded. Within living memory historical bibliography was the central axis of the British Library Association examinations around which all other subjects revolved.

Those days are over: historical bibliography lost its privileged place many years ago. The subject first became optional and then, at some institutions, it was squeezed out altogether. The reasons were that (a) its privileged position had always been artificial and (b) it became obvious, even to historians, that more time had to be found to teach computer techniques and information management. All the same, I know I am not the sole survivor: besides similar courses in other departments of librarianship, there are a few in English literature departments, with titles such as Bibliography and Textual Criticism.

The Aberystwyth course lasts for one academic year and is offered as an option to undergraduates and postgraduates taking their first qualification in librarianship or information studies. All these students are taught together. Most, but not all, will have some grounding in history, which can range from a school-leaving certificate to a research degree. The course therefore aims to give a broad outline of the whole field, bearing in mind that the students are working towards a vocational qualification and all intend to become librarians or information specialists.

I am convinced that an understanding of the methods of book production is fundamental. Students therefore begin with analytical bibliography—examining early printed books, describing them, and trying to decide how the text arrived in its present state. This does not mean that the wider issues and interests of histoire du livre are neglected. Our department has a long-standing interest in histoire du livre: the English translation of Febvre and Martin's L'Apparition du Livre was undertaken here by my ex-colleague David Gerard. Analytical bibliography is therefore followed by a broad sweep (or even a mad dash) through the history of the book in Britain. For each period the social and economic background to book production is studied, together with developments in the book trade. Finally, some of the concerns of textual bibliography are examined.

Syllabus

1. The physical analysis of early books: format, imposition, presswork, paper and type, decoration and illustration, binding.

2. Bibliographical description: methods permitting a precise description of books and a more accurate identification of their variants. The classification of variants in terms of edition, impression, issue, and state.


10. Theories of textual bibliography.

Reading List

GENERAL
S.H. Steinberg, *Five Hundred Years of Printing.*
G.T. Tanselle, *The History of Books as a Field of Study.*

ANALYTICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
R. Cave, *Bibliographical Description and the Cataloguing of Rare Books.*
P. Gaskell, *A New Introduction to Bibliography.*

BEGINNINGS OF PRINTING IN EUROPE

(SEe also Eisenstein’s *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe and The Printing Press as an Agent of Change*)

SEVENTEENTH- AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BOOK TRADE
D. Foxon, *Pope and the Early 18th-Century Book Trade* (ignore the detail but good for general ideas).

NINETEENTH CENTURY
R.A. Gettman, *A Victorian Publisher.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEXTUAL CRITICISM
Editor’s Note: As Dr. Turner observes, courses in historical bibliography have dwindled over the past few decades. Recast as book history, however, such courses could stage a comeback. We aim to encourage that by publishing, from time to time, descriptions of book history courses, freely offering borrowable ideas to teachers who want to develop their own syllabi. Please contact us if you would like to follow up this article with a course outline of your own.

New Doctoral Program in History of the Book and Authorship

The Department of English at the University of South Carolina has launched a new Ph.D. minor program revolving around the historicity of the book. It allows doctoral students to design programs of study dealing with issues ranging from the history of authorship, publishing, or print technology to investigations of regionalism, minority authorship, or the constitution of the canon.

Core courses include a survey of the field up to 1900 in America; a course on the history of twentieth-century American authorship; a course on literary professionalism in Shakespearean England; a variety of courses on English and American textual and bibliographical subjects; courses on women writers and/or minority writers in Britain and America; and courses on the literature of the South. Students are encouraged to work with primary materials, to take appropriate courses in other departments (such as history and library science), and to design transnational programs of study.

The participating faculty in American literature are Matthew J. Bruccoli, Keen Butterworth, Dianne Johnson Feelings, Benjamin Franklin V, Ezra Greenspan, Judith Haig James, Joseph Katz, Joel Myerson, and Mary Ann Wimsatt. The British literature faculty are Paula Feldman, Trevor Howard-Hill, G. Ross Roy, Patrick Scott, and William Thesing.

To be considered for fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships, prospective students must submit all application materials by 15 February. For information write the Director of Graduate Studies, English Department, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208; or call 803-777-5063.

1993 CUNY Conference Update

There have been some late changes in the program for our upcoming inaugural conference. The New York Public Library—directly across the street from the CUNY Graduate Center—has graciously invited SHARP conference participants to a sherry reception in the Berg Collection of English and American Literature, Room 320, Wednesday 9 June, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The exhibition “Dandies and Doughties: Writers in Britain, 1890-1900” will be on view at the reception. There will also be a small exhibit, specially mounted for the occasion by the Manuscripts and Archives Division, of manuscripts related to the history of publishing.

The Berg Collection is unfortunately a finite space, so we will have to place a ceiling on attendance. There will be a sign-up sheet at the conference registration desk in the CUNY Graduate Center basement. To reciprocate their hospitality, SHARP offers free conference registration to all employees of the New York Public Library.

Two papers scheduled for the conference (both on Panel 1B, 9 June, 1:00 p.m.) have been cancelled: “A Revolution in the Reading of Reading?: Roger Chartier and the Histoire de la Lecture” by Jeremy D. Popkin, and “Reading in Russian and Praying in Slavonic: The Paradoxes of Diglossia in Eighteenth-Century Russia” by Gary Marker. We will fill the gap with two other presentations: one to be announced, the other a talk by Simon Eliot, SHARP’s vice president. Dr. Eliot will outline plans for a Reading Experience Database, a computerized information bank for historians of reading, to be undertaken jointly by Britain’s Open University and the Centre for the Book at the British Library. Feedback and suggestions from the audience will be more than welcome. A complete prospectus for the
Reading Experience Database will appear in the next issue of SHARP News.

**APHA Reception, Lecture and Auction**

If you are planning to arrive at the conference a day early, or just happen to be in the neighborhood, you may want to attend a champagne reception, lecture, and auction to benefit the American Printing History Association. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. on 8 June 1993 at Sotheby’s New York, North Gallery, Second Floor, 1334 York Avenue at 72nd Street. David N. Redden, senior vice president of Sotheby’s, will offer a talk, “Tales from the Podium,” and then auction twelve interesting books. There will also be door prizes.

Places may be reserved for $50 (Donor), $100 (Patron), or $250 (Benefactor). All proceeds will go to support the programs of the APHA. Checks should be payable to the American Printing History Association, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

**Rare Book School 1993**

The Rare Book School, founded at Columbia University in 1983, has relocated this year to the University of Virginia. The school will offer five-day non-credit courses over four weekly sessions, from 5 to 30 July 1993.

The courses include Type, Lettering, and Calligraphy, 1450-1830; Collecting Travel Literature; American Historical Bibliography; Introduction to Rare Book Librarianship; Managing the Past; Aims and Methods of Codicological Research; History of the Printed Book; Book Illustration to the Year 1880; The Development of Lithography; Descriptive Bibliography, 1820-1914; Publishers’ Bookbindings, 1830-1910; Latin Paleography, 1100-1500; Rare Materials in Anglo-American Law; European Bookbinding, 1500-1800; Rare Book Cataloguing; Searching and Using Rare Book Bibliographies; Electronic Formats in a Rare Book Environment; Introduction to Medieval and Early Renaissance Bookbinding Structures; European Decorative Bookbinding; The Use of Physical Evidence in Early Printed Books; Introduction to Descriptive Bibliography; and an Advanced Seminar in Special Collections Administration.

The educational and professional prerequisites for these courses vary. Some are primarily directed toward research librarians and archivists; others are intended for academics; persons working in the antiquarian book trade; bookbinders and conservators; students of the history of books, writing, and printing; and those generally interested in the subjects being treated.

The tuition for each course is $510, and air-conditioned dormitory rooms are available for about $25 per night. For information and application forms contact the Rare Book School, 114 Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903-2498, telephone 804-924-8851, fax 804-924-8824, e-mail books@virginia.edu.

**Calls for Contributors**

Garland Publishing Inc. is making plans for a two-volume reference work, *History of the Written and Printed Word: An Encyclopedia*. It will trace the history of the written word from the earliest stages of graphic communication to the impact of the computer revolution on writing. Entries will discuss important figures in the history of manuscript and printed books, technical aspects of writing, printing, binding and paper, issues and terms of technical criticism, and such modern applications to writing as desktop publishing. Entries will be organized under five main sections: Definitions, Early Systems of Writing, The European Alphabet and the Manuscript Book, The Printed Word and the Printed Book, and Writing and the Information Revolution. An advisory board and a list of contributors are being prepared. Contact the editor, Dr. Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham, SS Box 9208, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-9208, telephone 601-266-4238/4230, fax 601-266-4410.

The Centre d’Étude de l’Écriture at the University of Paris 7 has begun work on “Scriptror,” a computerized interdisciplinary bibliography of writing. This database will cover works on the history of writing, paleography, codicology, the history of the book, the history of education, the sociology and anthropology of writing, the linguistics of writing, textual genetics, the neurophysiology of writing, and the graphic arts (calligraphy, typography, illustration). Scholars from all countries are invited to contribute and participate. Literature describing Scriptror is available in French, English, German,
and Italian. Contact Béatrice Fraenkel, Centre d'Etude de l'Écriture, STD 34/442e étage, Universite Paris 7, 2 place Jussieu, 75005 Paris, France, telephone 33-1-43253451.

The British Book Trade Index is intended eventually to form a national index of all those working in the book trade in the British Isles (including Ireland) up to 1851. Pending publication, the Index is in machine-readable form on a microcomputer based at the Robinson Library of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The BBTI includes the names and addresses of the individuals concerned, their biographical and trading dates, their workplaces, the trades pursued, a short note, and sources of information. Work on the Index has been going on for the past seven years, but many parts of the country have still not been covered completely, and volunteers to work on these areas would be most welcome. Contact Prof. Peter Isaac, 10 Woodcroft Road, Wylam, Northumberland NE41 8DJ, England.

Conferences

The second conference of the European Society for the Study of English will meet 4-8 September 1993 in Bordeaux, and will focus on the production and transmission of texts. Contact Marie-Françoise Cachin, UFR d'Etudes Anglophones, Université Paris 7, 10 rue Charles V, 75004 Paris, France, telephone 33-1-42742754, fax 42781247.

"Flanders in a European Perspective: Manuscript Illumination around 1400 in Flanders and Abroad" will be the topic of a conference in Louvain, 8-10 September 1993, organized by the Centrum voor de Studie van het Vertuchte Handschrift in de Nederlanden. Contact Timshel Conference Service, J.B. Van Moonstraat 4, 3000 Louvain, Belgium, telephone 32-16-290010, fax 290510.


The Group for Research into the Institutionalization and Professionalization of Knowledge-Production will sponsor a conference on "Knowledges: Production, Distribution, Revision" at the University of Minnesota, 14-17 April 1994. Proposals for papers and panels should be sent by 1 October 1993 to David R. Shumway, English Department, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-7176.

Recent Publications

General

Britain


France


Germany


Philip M. Soergel, Wondrous in His Saints: Counter-Reformation Propaganda in Bavaria (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1993).


Ireland


United States


How We Are Doing

SHARP is unusual among scholarly societies, inasmuch as our bailiwick is the world. Our aim is to establish communication links among book historians all over the globe, and to a considerable extent SHARP News and SHARP-L have done just that. But as our first conference approaches, we have come to recognize that such annual meetings may not do enough to bring us together: after all, not everyone can fly halfway around the world to attend. Other academic organizations address this problem by forming regional subgroups, and we may want to explore that route ourselves.

A local SHARP group could be quite small and informal—a few members meeting occasionally in someone’s living room to hear a paper read. It could alternatively cover an entire country and sponsor its own conferences—why not a SHARP Canada or SHARP Australia?

Contact us if you are interested. The organization of such local branches would depend on the initiative of enthusiastic individuals, but the central office would be happy to assist with mailings lists, publicity, and maybe even a bit of cash.

Speaking of which, SHARP is operating in the black, and a healthy financial report will appear in our next issue. This new and more attractive format for SHARP News is, however, somewhat more expensive to produce. We would also like to have a cash reserve for emergencies. Therefore, pending approval at the annual business meeting, we plan to raise SHARP annual membership dues to $15 US/Canada, £10 Britain, $20 elsewhere. Sign up for two years and you get a discount: $25 US/Canada, £17 Britain, $35 elsewhere. We have equalized rates throughout North America because, as some of our Canadian members quite rightly pointed out, the cost of mailing to Canada is not much greater than within the United States. These new rates, moreover, won’t go into effect until 1 August 1993, so you can renew now at the old rates.

Begin or renew your membership in SHARP, and you will receive SHARP News as well as the SHARP Membership Directory, to be published this summer. Send a check for $10 (US) or $15 (elsewhere) to Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA. British residents can join by sending a check for £7 to Dr. Simon Eliot, The Open University, 4 Portwall Lane, Bristol BS1 6ND, UK.

Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Professional Affiliation:
Research Interests:

Check if you prefer not to be listed in the SHARP Directory: ___