One measure of the growth of our field has been the recent blossoming of academic centers devoted to the history of the book. Last 15 November, James L. W. West III formally opened the Center for the History of the Book at Pennsylvania State University. In 1992 Wayne Wiegand launched a Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, a joint venture of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Prof. Wiegand hopes to set up a network of several regional centers, which could collaborate on scholarly projects and fundraising. Currently a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina, he plans to meet there with local academics on 14 April to discuss the possibility of a book history center in the Research Triangle area; those interested in attending should contact Prof. Wiegand at the School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3360, telephone 919-962-8065. Wiegand has also been working on a similar project at the University of Texas at Austin.

Meanwhile, several SHARP members have been exploring the prospects for a Center for the History of the Book at the New York Public Library. This center, like those at Wisconsin and Penn State, could sponsor lectures, exhibitions, symposia, and courses—but more ambitious ideas have been put forth as well. One specific proposal suggests that the NYPL center coordinate a Book History Teaching Consortium covering the whole greater New York metropolitan area. Under this plan, local universities would affiliate with the NYPL center and offer graduate-level courses in the history of the book: students at all participating colleges would be able to cross-register for these courses and transfer credits.

Such a consortium would help to fill an enormous gap: the lack of formal graduate education in book history in the United States. Most of us, after all, have had to train ourselves in the field. The new Ph.D. minor at the University of South Carolina is a promising start, but we cannot stop there. At present most library schools and publishing studies programs offer no more than a couple of courses in book history; many have none at all.

New York is clearly a logical venue for the study of print culture, and not only because it is the center of the American publishing industry. There are the vast book and archival resources at the New York Public Library, the Morgan Library, the Columbia and Princeton University libraries, the Grolier Club, and many other specialist collections. And if all the book historians in the metropolitan area could be brought together, they would constitute a superb faculty. At present, these scholars rarely have an opportunity to teach their favorite subject. They are also scattered across an archipelago of universities and libraries, no one of which has the resources to offer a graduate program in the history of the book. Out of these isolated individuals, the consortium could create a critical mass of historical scholarship.

Ultimately, some participating universities may want to create degree-granting programs in book history; but that will probably not be the immediate aim of the consortium. Instead, we would offer courses to students preparing for traditional graduate degrees in history, literature, library science, art, or any other related field. The idea is that book history should
become, not another academic ghetto, but a broad interdisciplinary venture teaching across the humanities. There is also the mundane consideration of job placement: university search committees tend to look askance at applicants with doctorates in unconventional disciplines.

This proposal has already generated interest among faculty at Columbia University, New York University, Drew University, Pace University, St. John's University, the library schools at Rutgers University and the Pratt Institute, and several campuses of the City University of New York. At the New York Public Library, the idea has been taken up by Paul J. Fasana, Andrew W. Mellon Director of The Research Libraries; Rodney Phillips, Associate Director for Humanities, Social Sciences and Special Collections; and Anne Skillion, editor of Bibliion, the NYPL book history journal.

As a first step toward drafting a formal proposal, SHARP will convene, and the NYPL will host, an open conference to brainstorm ideas. Bring along suggestions: at this stage, everything is still open to discussion. This meeting is not limited to professors or to SHARP members: librarians, publishing professionals, and all other interested parties are cordially invited to attend. (In fact, we may want to discuss the possibility of offering courses taught by librarians and independent scholars.) Among the speakers will be John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, who can tell us something about the logistics of such a project.

The conference will meet from on Thursday, 24 March, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., in Room 206 at the New York Public Library. At 4:00 that afternoon, in the same room, Paul LeClerc—the new president of the New York Public Library and a distinguished scholar of the book—will deliver a lecture on "Volumes of Voltaire" in the Library's Gilbert A. Cam Memorial Lecture Series, which conference participants are invited to attend.

There is no registration fee for the conference, but participants should preregister by contacting Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, telephone 201-408-3545. If you would like to work with the projected center and consortium—whether or not you can attend the 24 March meeting—please send in a resume, including a list of book history courses you currently teach or would like to teach.

University of London Plans Book History M.A. Program

Meanwhile (reports Robin Alston) the Centre for English Studies at the University of London is pressing ahead with its own plans for an M.A. program in the History of the Book. A planning conference at the Warburg Institute last 30 October attracted 70 participants, mainly from the fields of History, English, and Library Studies. The various colleges of the University of London already offer numerous courses in historical bibliography, textual bibliography, manuscript studies, palaeography, the history of newspapers, publishers' archives, and library history; and the program plans to build on these.

The British Library has promised to support the program by providing teaching space and expertise. Details remain to be negotiated, but BL directors have agreed to release specialist staff for approximately 200 hours per annum for teaching and supervision of dissertations. The University of London Library will also provide staff and space for teaching; and University College London has two hand presses that could be made available to students of practical printing.

A Steering Committee has been formed, consisting of Robin Alston (University College), John Sutherland...
College), Anne Goldgar (King's College), Pamela Robinson (Institute of Romance Studies), Lisa Jardine (Queen Mary and Westfield College), Warwick Gould (Royal Holloway College), Lotte Hellinga (British Library), and Mervyn Janetta (British Library). The committee aims, by March 1994, to have a printed prospectus ready and to begin recruiting students for the 1994-95 session. For further information contact Robin Alston, e-mail ralston@ucl.ac.uk.

English Book and Publishing Studies at the University of Leiden

While the New York and London ventures are still in the planning stages, it is remarkable that for some years a program covering the history of the book in English has been operating in a non-Anglophone country. In 1990 the English Department of the University of Leiden began a new Master’s program in Book and Publishing Studies. That program reflects the broad intellectual outlook of the department, which hosts as well a chair in the history of ideas and the Sir Thomas Browne Institute for research in Anglo-Dutch relations.

The program has strong historical roots, with courses in general bibliography, the history of printing and the book trade, text edition and recension, and research methods. An obvious major interest is the Anglo-Dutch book trade and the dissemination of English language and culture in the Netherlands through book imports, translations, textbooks, and dictionaries. In the current academic year elective courses are being offered on "Leiden Students and Their Books in the Seventeenth Century," "The English Literary Book in the Netherlands, 1900-1940," "The English Book in the Netherlands in the Nineteenth Century," and "English Eighteenth-Century Plays in Dutch Translation."

More practical courses include such subjects as "Bibliography and Indexing" and "From Copy to Book." In the latter, students are required to produce actual books for the program's own publishing house, Academic Press Leiden, which has a fully equipped press room. Book and Publishing students also produce their own newsletter, The Galley.

The program offers ample opportunities for research in primary sources. The University of Leiden Library has abundant manuscript holdings, for example from the large numbers of Scots students who came to study in Leiden in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Bibliotheek van de Vereeniging ter Bevordering van de Belangen des Boekhandels (Library of the Society for the Advancement of the Interests of the Book Trade), now held by the Amsterdam University Library, is one of the world's richest collections in the field of book history, with an emphasis on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

For further information, contact Dr. Adriaan van der Weel or Prof. Paul Hoftijzer, Book and Publishing Studies, Department of English, Universiteit Leiden, Postbus 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, Netherlands.

Gutenberg Exhibition Mounted at Morgan Library

An exhibition on "Gutenberg and the Genesis of Printing" will be on display at New York's Pierpont Morgan Library from 19 January to 17 April. The show features approximately 150 works, including three Gutenberg Bibles; the first books printed in England, France, Italy, Spain, and Constantinople; the first complete printed Hebrew Bible; and a special section devoted to the works of William Caxton.

Also on display is a full-scale working reconstruction of Gutenberg's press, on loan from the Gutenberg-Museum in Mainz, Germany. There will be free printing demonstrations each Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a lecture series. SHARP director David McKitterick will begin with "William Caxton and His Readers" (10 February), followed by Elizabeth L. Eisenstein on "Printing as a Divine Art: Celebrating Western Technology in the Age of the Hand Press" (24 February) and David G. Vaisey on "Early Books of the Bodleian Library" (31 March). All lectures begin at 6:00 p.m.
Free guided tours of the exhibition will be given each Wednesday and Friday at 2:30 p.m. and by appointment. The Morgan Library is open Tuesday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Courses

The American Antiquarian Society is offering two Summer Seminars in the History of the Book in American Culture. Michael Winship will once again teach "Critical Methods in Bibliography and the History of the Book in the United States" the week of 5-10 June. William J. Gilmore-Lehne will then offer a new course, "Regional Cultures of the Book," from 12-17 June. For information contact the American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609-1634, telephone 508-755-5221.

Calls for Papers

The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals will hold its 27th annual conference at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, 16-18 September 1994. Proposals (two pages maximum) for papers or panels on any aspect of Victorian periodicals research should be sent to William Scheuerle, 18412 Timberlan Drive, Lutz, FL 33549. The deadline is 1 March 1994.

On 14-16 October 1994, the Center for Art Research in Boston will sponsor a National Symposium on Proposed Arts and Humanities Policies for the National Information Infrastructure. Participants will explore the impact of the Clinton Administration's Agenda for Action and proposed NII legislation on the future of the arts and humanities in 21st-century America. The symposium will bring together government officials, academics, artists, writers, representatives of arts and cultural institutions, and other concerned individuals from many disciplines and areas of interest. To participate, submit a 250-word abstract of your proposal for a paper or panel, accompanied by a one-page vita, by 15 March 1994. Contact Jay Jaroslav, Director, Center for Art Research, 241 A Street, Boston, MA 02210-1302, telephone 617-451-8030, fax 617-451-1196, e-mail jaroslav@artdata.win.net.

Library History Seminar IX will meet 30 March-1 April 1995 at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. The conference theme is "Philanthropy and Libraries," but papers on any aspect of library history are welcome. Potential topics include (but are not limited to) patronage in the ancient world and Renaissance; philanthropy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; voluntary library service; biographical studies; institutional histories; cultural and socioeconomic environments; literacy, reading, and book distribution; book collecting and collection development; canon formation; information technologies; copyright; censorship; history of the profession; research methods; and teaching methods. Papers presented at the seminar will be published in Libraries and Culture, and a selection of papers directly related to the conference theme will be considered for publication in the Indiana University Press Philanthropic Studies Series. Abstracts of no more than 500 words and a one-page vita should be sent by 15 May 1994 to Gordon B. Neavill, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, Box 870252, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0252, telephone 205-348-1520, fax 205-348-3746, e-mail gneavill@ua1vm (Bitnet) or gneavill@ua1vm.ua.edu (Internet).

The Fifth International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics will meet 7-10 June 1995 at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois (near Chicago). Papers are solicited on the quantitative measurement of the creation, flow, dissemination, and use of information. The deadlines are 15 July 1994 for abstracts, 25 January 1995 for completed papers. For information contact Michael Koenig, Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Rosary College, IL 60305, telephone 708-524-6849, fax 708-524-6657, Internet roskoenig@crf.cuis.edu.
Conferences

A conference on "Literature and the Contemporary" will meet 23-24 March 1994 at the University of Hull. It will address changing definitions of "the contemporary" and the literary canon, and the theoretical implications of those definitions. For information contact Peter Marks, English Department, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, England, e-mail p.r.marks@uk.ac.hull.english (local) or p.r.marks@english.hull.ac.uk (international).

From 24-26 March 1994, a conference on "Russian-Dutch Relations through Books" will meet at the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. For information contact Natalia Kopaneva, Russian Academy of Sciences, Lomonosov Foundation, Universitetskaia nab. 5, St. Petersburg 199034, Russia, telephone 7-812-2185072, fax 2133031.

"Designing the Reading Space: Libraries, Publics and Politics" will be the theme of a conference at Pembroke College, Cambridge University, 25-26 March 1994. Library historians, social and political librarians, and architects will meet to explore the design and use of institutional libraries since the sixteenth century. For a booking form write to Elsa Meyland Smith, The Malting House, Newnham Road, Cambridge CB3 9EY, England.

The Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University, together with the Australian Scholarly Editions Centre, will sponsor a conference on "The 4Rs: wRiting, Repairing, Re-Creating, Representing the Text," from 8-10 April 1994. The program features papers on editing and book history, several of them presented by SHARP members. To register contact the Centre Administrator, Humanities Research Center, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia, telephone 249-4786, fax 616-248-0054.

"Literary Texts in an Electronic Age: Scholarly Implications and Library Services" is the topic of the 31st Annual Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, which will meet 10-12 April 1994 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Conference speakers will discuss such topics as the production and acquisition of electronic texts, strategies for storage and dissemination, software for retrieval and analysis of electronic texts, problems of bibliographic control and intellectual property, and publishing trends. For program and registration information contact D. W. Krummel, University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 501 E. Daniel Street, Champaign, IL 61820-6212, telephone 217-333-2973 or 800-982-0914, fax 217-244-3302, e-mail dpc@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu.

Public Lectures

An upcoming series of Pforzheimer Lectures on Printing and the Book Arts at the New York Public Library will focus on thieves, fakers, and other assorted bibliophilic and bibliographic scoundrels. The series includes Stephen Weissman on "Insider Trading: The Ethics and Morals of the Rare Book Trade" (15 March), Ricky Jay on "Prose & Cons: The Early Literature of Cheating" (29 March), Jennifer S. Larson on "I Tricked You Again: The Unknown Forgeries of Mark Hoffmann" (30 March), Kenneth W. Rendell on "Mussolini, Hitler, the Mormons, and Now Jack the Ripper: How Human Nature Propels Bad Forgeries into Major Literary Hoaxes" (19 April), W. Thomas Taylor on "All Hat and No Cattle: Rustling the Texas Bibliophiles, 1960-90" (4 May), and Nicholas A. Basbanes on "The Blumberg Collection: A Book Thief for the Twentieth Century" (10 May). All lectures will be held in the Celeste Bartos Forum at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are $6.00 each and may be ordered by mail from The Public Education Program, Room M-6, New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018-2788.
Recent Publications

General


Britain


France


Germany


Italy


Netherlands


A. D. Renting and J. T. C. Renting-Knijpers, eds., *The
How We Are Doing

The SHARP Program Committee—consisting of John Y. Cole (chairman), Carol Armbruster, James Kelly, Jonathan Rose, and Larry Sullivan—met on 8 January in Washington to sift through 160 abstracts for our July conference. We received about 75 percent more proposals than last year, and if anything the overall quality was better.

The down side to this good news is that a number of promising papers had to be rejected for simple lack of space on the program. The Washington conference will feature three full days of triple concurrent sessions, but that framework still forced us to turn down fully half of the papers proposed. At the July meeting, we may discuss whether we want to expand the program at future conferences, either by adding a fourth day or by running additional simultaneous sessions.

We had planned to hold our 1996 conference at the Center for the Book at the New British Library, but construction delays at the New BL have compelled us

Begin or renew your membership in SHARP, and you will receive SHARP News as well as the SHARP Membership Directory, which is published each summer. Send a check in American or British currency, made out to SHARP, to Linda Connors, Drew University Library, Madison, NJ 07940.

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Check if you prefer not to be included in the SHARP Directory and SHARP mailing lists: ☐
to look elsewhere for a site. We are currently considering a number of alternative bids.

While teaching positions specifically for book historians are still a rare species, we are pleased to note that the English department at the University of Toronto recently advertised for a specialist in "post-1700 textual studies, editing, bibliography, and the history of the book." Remember, SHARP News will publish, free of charge, announcements for jobs related to book history.

In the next SHARP Membership Directory, scheduled for publication in August, we plan to feature a listing of scholarly journals that publish and/or review work in book history. This would not be limited to book history periodicals per se: we want to include any journal in any field of the humanities that is receptive to the kind of scholarship we do. When SHARP people publish monographs, they could use this listing to advise their publishers on the distribution of review copies. And of course, we greatly encourage our members to review works of book history in the general scholarly press, which does much to increase the visibility of our field. If you know of a journal that should be in the directory, please drop a note to James L. W. West III, English Department, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802-6200.

Apropos of that, one of our sister publications, History of Reading News, is on the lookout for book reviewers. If you are interested, send a note describing your areas of expertise to E. Jennifer Monaghan, Department of Educational Services, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY 11210.