Book History Projects Advance on All Fronts

In our last issue, we reported on three proposed programs for teaching and research in the history of the book. Since then, two of these plans have made encouraging progress, and one has become a reality.

On 21 March the University of London approved its new M.A. program in the history of the book, to operate under the aegis of the recently constituted School of Advanced Studies. The first intake of students will be in October 1995. The two-year program will be built around seminars on research methodology and a core course tracing the life cycle of the book: Publication, Manufacture, Distribution, Reception, Survival. There will also be optional courses on Authors, Publishers and Textual Theory; The Serial and the Book; The Medieval Book; The Electronic Text; and Image and Text. For information contact Robin Alston, Director of the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies, University College London, e-mail r.alston@ucl.ac.uk.

Across the Atlantic, on 24 March, the New York Public Library hosted an open meeting to discuss the prospects for setting up a Center for the History of the Book at the NYPL. About 50 people participated; and another two dozen, who were unable to attend, wrote to express their interest in the project. Taken together, these academics, librarians, and publishing professionals represented all the New York area library schools (Queens College, Rutgers University, Long Island University, St. John’s University, Pratt Institute) and most local universities, including Columbia, Princeton, Drew, NYU, Pace, and several CUNY and SUNY campuses. Also attending were representatives of the Morgan Library, the Grolier Club, the American Printing History Association, and the Museum of Modern Art Library, as well as a large and enthusiastic contingent from the NYPL itself.

John Y. Cole was present to discuss the work of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and its 29 affiliated statewide centers. It was generally agreed that an NYPL center could be loosely linked with the Center at the Library of Congress, but that its mission should be different. Where the Centers for the Book are devoted primarily to the promotion of reading, a Center for the History of the Book would have a more historical and scholarly thrust.

The sense of the meeting was that an NYPL center should address itself to a lay audience as well as academics. It might, for example, offer non-credit courses on the history of the book. (This spring, as an experiment in this direction, the NYPL offered a mini-course on Dante’s *Inferno* taught by Princeton professor Robert Hollander, and it attracted sellout crowds.) A few years ago the NYPL mounted a very popular exhibition (assembled by Robert Darnton and Daniel Roche) on the role of print in the French Revolution, prompting the suggestion that permanent exhibition space at the library be dedicated to book history. The NYPL already sponsors the Pforzheimer Lectures on Printing and the Book Arts: these might be expanded to encompass the history of the book.

On the academic side, a Center for the History of the Book could offer seminars and symposia; collect and inventory publishers’ archives; and support *Biblion*, the NYPL book history journal. It could also organize a consortium of New York area universities to offer graduate-level courses in book history, open to students at any participating institution.

A total of 23 faculty at 14 colleges offered to teach in
this consortium. Between them they already teach 15 currently-listed graduate courses in book history, and they have proposed to create another 18 such courses. These classes would cover the history of printing, publishing, literacy, libraries, periodicals, editing, censorship, communications technology, scholarly communication, medieval manuscripts, and art books, as well as archival research, preservation, and bibliography. (Most of these courses would focus on the United States or Britain, however: we should work to broaden that geographical base.) The consortium might also develop links with a proposed new certificate program in Textual Studies and Information Science, currently under discussion at the CUNY Graduate Center.

NYPL librarians Rodney Phillips and Anne Skillion briefed the meeting on some of the possibilities and potential problems involved in setting up a Center for the History of the Book. It would of course require some staff, funding, and office space—all of which are at a premium at the New York Public Library. Nevertheless, a formal proposal to the NYPL is being drafted as we go to press. If the NYPL ultimately decides that it cannot accommodate such a center, we will offer the proposal to other institutions in the New York area. Meanwhile, suggestions and inquiries should be directed to Anne Skillion at the New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018.

This proposal is part of a coordinated effort to set up a network of book history centers throughout the United States. On 14 April (reports David Rawson) 22 scholars met at the University of North Carolina's School of Information and Library Science to discuss the creation of a "Program in Print Culture History in the American South" based in the Research Triangle area. The prime mover behind this project is Wayne A. Wiegand, Co-Director of the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Much like the NYPL conference, this meeting attracted an interdisciplinary mix of specialists in library science, history, literature, journalism, anthropology, and information technology. The discussion focused on building bridges between these diverse disciplines. John B. Hench and John Cole, respectively representing the American Antiquarian Society and the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, explained how their institutions served as catalysts for collaborative work among scholars of the book, and the meeting envisioned a similar role for the Research Triangle center.

Several volunteers at the meeting formed a working group under the auspices of the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina. This group will meet regularly during the fall to draft a plan for a program in print culture utilizing the resources of a variety of institutions in the upper South. They will focus mainly on the imprints and records of the southern press, but will not overlook national and international scholarly resources in the area. It was proposed that the group explore the possibility of operating the program in "virtual space": emerging information/communication technology might be used to link scholars at various institutions, thus creating a "virtual" center not located in any one place. Anyone with suggestions for the working group should contact Dr. Barbara Moran, Dean, School of Information and Library Science, 100 Manning Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3360.

1994 SHARP Conference Update

You will soon receive (if you have not received it already) complete program and registration information for the upcoming SHARP conference at the Library of Congress, 14-16 July 1994. The
conference registration fee is $30, or $15 for graduate students, which includes a reception on 14 July and a box lunch on 16 July. There will be a $35 charge for the conference banquet on Friday evening, 15 July.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hotel Lombardy, 2019 I Street NW, Washington, DC. The special conference rate is $85 a night plus sales and occupancy tax, which adds up to just under $100. To make reservations call 202-828-2600 or (toll-free) 1-800-424-5486, and please refer to group #6038.

Cheaper housing is available at the University of Maryland Conference Center at College Park, for $69 (single) or $84 (double): for reservations call 1-800-727-UMCC or 301-985-7310. On the same campus, a limited number of dormitory rooms may be had for $29.50 (single) or $24.50 (shared): call Sue Warren at 301-314-7884 for reservations. There is a complimentary shuttle bus service from the College Park campus to the nearest metrorail station.

Discount rail fares to and from the conference are available from Amtrak: for tickets call 1-800-USA-RAIL and ask for fare order number X-23E-923. For discounted air fares, call US Air at 1-800-727-UMCC or 301-985-7310. On the same campus, a limited number of dormitory rooms may be had for $29.50 (single) or $24.50 (shared): call Sue Warren at 301-314-7884 for reservations. There is a complimentary shuttle bus service from the College Park campus to the nearest metrorail station.

Discount rail fares to and from the conference are available from Amtrak: for tickets call 1-800-USA-RAIL and ask for fare order number X-23E-923. For discounted air fares, call US Air at 1-800-727-UMCC or 301-985-7310. On the same campus, a limited number of dormitory rooms may be had for $29.50 (single) or $24.50 (shared): call Sue Warren at 301-314-7884 for reservations. There is a complimentary shuttle bus service from the College Park campus to the nearest metrorail station.

Teaching the History of Literacy at the University of Texas

The following syllabus is for a graduate seminar on "Literacy in History," which I have sometimes taught at the University of Texas at Dallas and, in condensed form, in a summer semester at Simon Fraser University. Though it has been a few years since I have done the course (and updated the assignments), it may be worth sharing with SHARP members given its chronological and geographical breadth.

Throughout the course I use as basic texts Harvey J. Graff, ed., *Literacy and Social Development in the West* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1981) and a special issue of the *Journal of Communications* (Winter 1980) devoted to "Literacy and the Future of Print." Other required readings are as follows:

1. LITERACY AND HISTORY: CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS, ISSUES, QUESTIONS

   
   
   

2. THE ORIGINS OF WESTERN LITERACY


3. MEDIEVAL FOUNDATIONS AND PATTERNS

   

4. EARLY MODERN TRANSITIONS I

   

5. EARLY MODERN TRANSITIONS II

   

6. POST-REFORMATION PATTERNS

   Henri-Jean Martin, "The Bibliothèque Bleue," *Publishing...*
7. THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE EVE OF MODERNITY


8. TOWARD THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

———, "Work or School?" *Historical Reflections*, 7 (1980), 115-134.

9. THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY ORIGINS OF OUR TIMES


10. NINETEENTH-CENTURY DEVELOPMENTS AND CONSEQUENCES

Graff, *The Literacy Myth*, chaps. 6, 7.

11. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY


12. THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND THE LEGACIES OF LITERACY


Students also present oral reports and write a final critical essay reviewing the course readings. For source material, they can draw on Harvey J. Graff, *Literacy in History: An Interdisciplinary Research Bibliography* (Garland, 1981).

—Harvey J. Graff
Spring 1994

Library of Congress to Launch a New Magazine

Beginning this November, the Library of Congress will publish Civilization, a new bimonthly magazine. Modelled on *Smithsonian* and *Natural History*, Civilization will be offered as part of a membership package by the Library, included in the annual dues of $20. It will focus mainly (though not entirely) on print culture, drawing upon the 14 million books, periodicals, newspapers, documents, manuscripts, films, pictures, and music compositions housed in the Library of Congress. The initial circulation should be about 150,000, with a target of over 500,000 in five years.

*Civilization* will be an independent, for-profit magazine published in partnership with the newly established L.O.C. Management Corporation. The partnership will be chaired by Mark M. Edmiston, formerly president of Newsweek. The publisher of *Civilization* will be Raymond J. Sachs, a former general manager of *Bon Appetit*.

Stephen Smith, Washington news editor for Knight-Ridder newspapers and a former executive editor of *Newsweek*, has been named editor of *Civilization*. He will have general control over the contents, but Library of Congress officials will be shown copy in advance of publication. "They have the right to make objections if we do publish anything inimical or harmful to the Library's interests," said Mr. Smith.

Courses

This summer, the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia will offer a range of courses over five one-week sessions, from 11 July to 12 August. The courses will cover such topics as the development of lithography, the history of bookbinding, printing design and publication, building library friends' groups, the antiquarian book trade, the history of printing and publishing, book illustration, managing rare book libraries, Internet, the bibliography of music, electronic texts and formats, codicological research, rare book cataloging, Latin paleography, the history of type and calligraphy, descriptive bibliography, and research library development. For information and application forms contact 114 Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903, telephone 804-924-8841, fax 804-924-8824, e-mail biblio@virginia.edu.

Indiana University will offer a week-long course on "Exploring the Alphabet: Letterforms in History and Practice," taught by Nancy Lair and James Reidharr. Scheduled for 17-22 July 1994, the course will offer participants the opportunity to study the history of fine letterforms while working on a limited edition with the staff of the Graphic Design Press. The registration deadline is 29 June 1994. For information contact Jane Clay, Division of Continuing Studies, 204 Owen Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, telephone 812-855-6329, fax 812-855-8997.

In the fall of 1994, Drew University will offer a course on "The History of the Book in Britain," to be taught by Jonathan Rose. This will be a for-credit graduate course in Drew's M.Litt. program, open to non-matriculating students with a B.A. degree. For information contact Ruth Westerfield, Director, Graduate Admissions, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, phone 201-408-3257, e-mail rwesterf@drew.

Calls for Papers

The Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America announces a conference on "Print Culture in a Diverse America," to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, 5-6 May 1995. Papers on books, newspapers, and periodicals produced by racial and ethnic minorities, women, political radicals, sexual minorities, and others since 1876 will be the focus. Case studies of single groups, comparative studies of different groups, and interdisciplinary work in print culture history are all equally welcome. Several papers will be selected for the Center's first book publication in 1997. Proposals for individual papers or entire sessions (up to three papers) are requested by 1 December 1994. Contact Wayne A. Wiegand and James P. Danky, Co-
Calls for Contributors

A future special issue of *Popular Culture in Libraries* will be devoted to postcards, including collections in libraries and their use in scholarly research. Those interested in contributing articles should contact Norman D. Stevens, Director of University Libraries, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, telephone 203-486-2219, fax 203-486-0584, e-mail hbladm3@uconnvm.bitnet.

Conferences

The new L. M. Montgomery Institute at the University of Prince Edward Island has scheduled its first major event, a symposium on L. M. Montgomery and her works, for 23-26 June 1994. For information contact Anna MacDonald, Symposium Coordinator, c/o Department of English, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 4P3, Canada, phone/fax 902-629-1756, e-mail amacdonald@upei.ca.

Exhibitions & Lectures

The Newberry Library is mounting an exhibition on "Renaissance Dante in Print (1472-1629)" through 15 June. It will be accompanied by a lecture series on Vernacular Printing in Renaissance Italy. For information contact the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610, telephone 312-943-9090, ext. 201.

Fellowships & Awards

The History of Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association announces its annual competition for an outstanding dissertation on the history of reading or reading instruction. Applicants should submit four copies of an abstract of 15 to 25 pages, along with a complete bibliography, by 15 January 1995. The dissertation must have been completed between January 1993 and December 1994, and the application must be accompanied by a.
statement on official university letterhead from the faculty sponsor attesting to the degree and date of its award. Finalists should be prepared to submit the entire dissertation if requested to do so: photocopying and mailing costs for this will be reimbursed by the History of Reading Group.

Recent Publications

General

Nicholson Baker, "Discards" [on the computerization of library catalogues], New Yorker, 4 April 1994, pp. 64-86.


Mark Rose, Authors and Owners: The Invention of Copyright (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1993).

Britain


Ann C. Colley, Edward Lear and the Critics (Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1994).


Germany


Berhard Fabian, The English Book in 18th-Century Germany

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.

Name: 
Address: 
E-mail: 
Institution: 
Research Interests:

Circle one: US/Canada: £15.00 $25.00

Britain: £10.00 $17.00

Elsewhere: £20.00 $35.00

Check if you prefer not to be included in the SHARP Directory and SHARP mailing lists: ☐
How We Are Doing

Patrick Leary reports that the new SHARP constitution was ratified by a vote of 76 to 2. Under the new regime, Linda Connors, Philip Metzger, and James L. W. West III formally assume office as (respectively) Membership Secretary, Public Affairs Director, and Publications Coordinator. Elections for the entire Executive Council will be held in spring 1995. Guidelines for nominations will appear in our next issue.

James West and some other members of the Publications Committee have been investigating the prospects for a new SHARP book history journal. The Washington conference would be an ideal place to sit down together and survey the possibilities. On 16 July at 5:30 p.m., the Publications Committee and the Board of Directors will meet jointly to discuss the proposed journal. Any interested SHARP member may attend.

Meanwhile, Simon Eliot has arranged with Publishing History to offer discounted subscriptions to SHARP members. Personal subscriptions will be reduced from $50.00 to $31.00 in the United States, and from £32.00 to £20.00 in Britain. To take advantage of this rate, send a check and a letter identifying yourself as a SHARP member to (in North America) Chadwyck-Healey Inc., 1101 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA; or (in Britain and Europe) Chadwyck-Healey Ltd., Cambridge Place, Cambridge CB2 1NR, Britain.

Linda Connors
Drew University Library
Madison, NJ 07940, USA

James R. Kelly
Gelman Library
George Washington University
2130 H St. NW
Washington, DC 20052