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In My View: Why Don’t We Have Any “Schools of Library and Reading Studies?”

Happens every year. About four weeks into the Fall semester I come to the “Act of Reading” unit in “Information Agencies and Their Environments,” a theoretically based core course I teach at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s School of Library and Information Studies that all students must take at the beginning of their curriculum. Usually I’m looking over the lectern at a class of 90-100 graduate students, more than half of whom were literature and history majors as undergraduates.

“Many of you,” I tease, “probably remember literature courses in secondary and higher education that asked the question: ‘What did the author mean in the text we are studying?’” Then I introduce reception theory articulated by scholars like Wolfgang Iser, Hans Robert Jauss, and Stanley Fish, who argue that because universally valid interpretations of any text do not exist, meaning in those texts is not an object to be described, but an effect to be experienced. And in part because of the gender composition of the class, I then import some of the research findings on women’s reading that Cathy Davidson, Jane Tompkins, and Jan Radway have published. If Iser et al. are right, I tell my students, the act of reading that Cathy Davidson, Jane Tompkins, and Jan Radway reading links readers to the texts and at the same time induces their curriculum. Usually I’m looking over the lectern at a class of 90-100 graduate students, more than half of whom were literature and history majors as undergraduates.

Then I study student faces. Most in class greet this lecture with blank looks, some even with open mouths (and I know they’re not sleeping). It’s obvious to me the vast majority had never heard of the scholarship on reading, and had never been introduced to the concept that multiple reading practices and formations exist across the globe, within local communities, and even among their peers in that very classroom. Yet all seemed to find this “new” concept fascinating—and highly relevant to the practice of librarianship. Happens every year.

I’ve been teaching this course for five years now, and I admit I’m a bit frustrated that the numbers of blank looks have not significantly diminished in half-a-decade. These are people, I think to myself, who in the near future will assume positions in one of the world’s most ubiquitous reading institutions, and many will practice their profession without knowing very much about the multiple reading practices and formations of the multicultured publics they will be serving.

And the numbers of readers they serve remain huge. Last year two-thirds of Americans visited a public library, and of that number 80% went to check out a book. Even worse, I think to myself, if the courses listed in library school catalogs, papers listed in the conference programs of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), and articles appearing in the pages of the Journal of Education for Library and Information Science (ALISE’s research organ) are any indication of the interest my LIS colleagues have in the scholarship on reading, nearly 5,000 students will graduate next year from more than fifty North American library schools accredited by the American Library Association with very little or no exposure to literatures discussing reading formations and practices. What a loss.

They won’t know that this scholarship is part of a much broader shift in the focus of humanities research away from “culture as text” and towards “culture as agency and practice.” Jan Radway divides this scholarship into four categories: (1) literacy studies; (2) reader-response theory; (3) ethnographies of reading; and (4) print culture history. Literacy studies argues that identifying the context in which literacy was (and is) practiced is vital to understanding the uses to which it is put. Reception theorists argue that in the reading process the reader is an active agent who exercises a great deal of creativity in making sense of a text. Ethnographers of reading attempt to define the context of actual reading practices exercised by particular groups at particular times. (My favorite essay in this category is Elizabeth Long’s “Textual Interpretation as Collection Action,” which argues that the modern construction of “solitary reader” is wrong. Long compares turn-of-the-century American literary and reading clubs with an analysis of groups of Houston readers in the 1980s and finds that reading is a communal activity based in a social infrastructure grounded on shared interpretative frameworks and shared institutions.)

In print culture history (the craft most SHARP members practice), we want to know not only how relations between authors, publishers, literary agents, booksellers and distributors have changed in the last 500 years, but also where to locate readers in this mix of historical forces. For example, in the 1970s German book historians uncovered what they thought was a mid-18th century shift in reading practices from “intensive” (reading a few texts again and again to fathom deep meanings) to “extensive” (reading many texts for broader understanding).

That print culture historians pay close attention to the concept of reading practices and reading formations became obvious to me when Jim Danky and I put together a collection of essays entitled Print Culture in A Diverse America (1996; see especially essays by Norma Fay Green, Elizabeth McHenry, Christine Pawley, and Steven Biel). It was also evident in many of the papers presented at the July 1999 SHARP conference in Madison, Wisconsin. And it looks very much like it is central to the essays Guglielmo Cavallo and Roger Chartier have edited for A History
of Reading in the West, a volume the University of Massachusetts Press published this fall in its "Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book" series. I ordered a copy just last week.

Eventually, I suppose, persistent efforts of scholars working in literacy studies, reception theory, ethnographies of reading, and print culture history to teach reading formations and practices will show up in more of my students. But I'm still worried about colleagues at other LIS programs who seem so caught up in the hyperbole of information technology they don't even ask their students to consider this scholarship. I invite SHARP members to do a little missionary work here for print culture history. Take the dean or director of the LIS program on your campus to lunch some day, and inquire what coverage her curriculum gives to reading formations and practices. If she looks back at you with a blank look, offer to crosslist the course you teach that covers reading formations and practices in most depth. Point out that the move won't cost her a thing, and that it will significantly expand her students' understanding of the information needs of the millions of patrons they will eventually serve. Sounds like a win-win situation to me.

Wayne A. Wiegand, Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Select bibliography of sources cited


Fish, Stanley. Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1980.


Crossing the Line: Print Culture Down Under

Following the success of the recent Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand conference, "Bibliography, Mystery and Detection", I can pronounce that bibliography and print culture studies are thriving in this part of the world. Held in early July 1999 amid the spacious grounds of the University of Queensland, a lovely 15-minute boat trip north of Brisbane, in the recently renovated "Cybrary", the conference was a splendid occasion. From Patrick Spedding's impressive report on his PhD thesis bibliography of the works of Eliza Haywood (identifying new works and clarifying details about many others) through to Brian McMullin's elegant exposure of false dates on many editions of the Bay Psalm Book, the quality and range of work was very pleasing. Joseph Rudman's convincing review of the endless potential pitfalls awaiting the student of computer stylistics deserves a wider audience, and Chris Tiffin deserves much gratitude for his gentle nudging of the various contributors to shape their papers toward the theme of the conference. Like many Australasian conferences, the intimate size of the gathering (just over 40 participants, with Tom Davis joining us from Birmingham via the WWW) and relaxed pace provided ample opportunities for fruitful conversation, while the Society planning meetings and the conference as a whole benefited from the collective wisdom of Keith Maslen, Wallace Kirsop and Brian McMullin. Ian Morrison (Curator, Australiana, Baillieu Library, Melbourne University) accepted the editorship of the Bulletin from the middle of next year.

Back across the Tasman, the Otago Print Culture Project moves into high gear from October with the arrival of Dr. Noel Waite as a postdoctoral fellow. Expanding upon his recent work in the Whitcoull's Archive in Auckland, Noel will be examining the records of the Otago Master Printers Association, along with other regional archives, to establish a model for regional print culture history in NZ. His study of early to mid-twentieth-century Christchurch printing is due out from Canterbury University Press soon, and we look forward to similarly impressive work for Dunedin. Joining him next February for three months will be Ian Morrison, who will consolidate and edit into publishable form a series of indexes to New Zealand printing trade journals (the New Zealand News, the Colonial Printer's Register, and Griffin's Colonial Printer's Register) as well as the Supreme Court and Post Office printer and newspaper registrations. These indexes, covering the period 1869-1904, contain some 6,000 references to several hundred individuals and companies. This data will be available both electronically and in a paper version to be published by Elibank Press. He will also be collaborating with Dr. Sydney Shep at Waitete-ata Press, Victoria University of Wellington to establish a common database structure for print culture records as part of the newly launched Australasian Book Trade Index.

Print culture at Victoria University of Wellington is dynamic...
and vibrant. At Wai-te-ata Press, established in 1962 by the late Professor Emeritus Don F. McKenzie, students from information studies, literature, history and design learn first-hand about technologies of book production using the in-house letterpress, desk-top and electronic laboratory facilities. Courses such as "The Art of the Book" and "History of Print Culture in New Zealand" introduce research methodologies in the history of the book and make use of the excellent libraries and archives found in NZ’s capital city. Research projects at the masters and doctoral level focus on aspects of New Zealand print culture. Topics to date range from bibliographies of specific printers to discussions of colonial women’s reading habits, from oral, manuscript and print traditions in the bicultural library to contemporary Maori publishing, and from colour printing in New Zealand to stamps, postcards, and the role of ephemera in defining NZ identity. Other Wai-te-ata Press initiatives include the Australasian Book Trade Index. This personnel index will bring together existing print and digital databases suitable for the study of Australian and New Zealand book history, re-format where feasible, and publish them as an internet-based, linked information resource. In the process, gaps in existing research data will be assessed and future book history research projects coordinated in order to contribute to the ABTI. Funding has now been received for the initial database scoping and evaluation exercise; the next stage will be the development of a robust and future-engineered template for multiple platform and client inputting. Coordination with overseas booktrade index projects and with the GIS for Book History project is ongoing.

A one-day seminar entitled “Pukapuka! Looking at Maori Print Culture” was held in Wellington on 3 September 1999 at Turnbull House, the former home and library of that eminent bibliophile Alexander Turnbull who gifted his collection to the nation over seventy-five years ago. The seminar was organised by the Alexander Turnbull Library as part of the History of Print Culture in New Zealand research programme, an initiative of the Humanities Society of New Zealand. Over forty invited guests actively involved in a range of fields associated with researching, printing and publishing in Maori were treated to a number of stimulating and informative panels. We heard about the Niupepa / Maori Newspapers research and digitisation project from the Marsden-funded team at The University of Auckland, perspectives on historical research using early printed Maori resources, publishing in Maori in the 21st century, and a discussion about dictionary-making and its future role. The seminar was intended to encourage further thought and investigation into Maori print culture topics, and given the warmth of the audience in discussing issues at this seminar, the future bodes well.

For SHARPists interested in finding out more about the range of print culture activities in New Zealand, please contact: Shef Rogers, U. of Otago, Email: shef.rogers@stonebow.otago.ac.nz; Sydney J Shep, Victoria University of Wellington, Email: sydney.shep@vuw.ac.nz; or Brian Opie, Humanities Society of New Zealand, Email: brian.opie@vuw.ac.nz

Overlapping Boundaries Conference

Over thirty delegates met in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, on 28-30 August 1999 for an international colloquium convened to discuss current developments in national History of the Book projects. “Overlapping Boundaries”, co-sponsored by the University of Ulster and Queen’s University, Belfast, brought together editors and researchers from the various national projects of the British Isles and Ireland for an extremely useful two days of debate and reports. The conference was opened by Professor Gerry McKenna, vice chancellor elect of the University of Ulster, who welcomed delegates at an evening reception on the 28th. Work began in earnest on the following day. After a moment of silence observed in honour of the late Don McKenzie, the colloquium heard progress reports and updates from the editors of the History of the Book projects of Britain, Scotland and the History of the Irish Book, as well as news of the History of the Book in Wales. Professor John Barnard from Leeds University, and a general editor of the History of the Book in Britain, spoke about the general history of the History of the Book in Britain, and noted the progress being made on the preparation for Volume 4 of the series, of which he is a specific editor. Also mentioned were the activities underway in Wales following the recent publication of the one volume study of the Welsh history of the book. Professor Alistair McCleery of Napier University addressed general issues faced by editors and researchers of twentieth-century book history, using the twentieth century volume of the History of the Book in Scotland as a case study example. Dr. Bill Bell of the University of Edinburgh, general editor of the History of the Book in Scotland, brought delegates up to date with the project and discussed areas to be addressed in the nineteenth-century volume, while Dr. Warren McDougall presented delegates with detailed plans of the structure of the eighteenth-century volume, of which he is editor. Dr. Anne McCartney and Dr. Frankie Sewell of the University of Ulster brought delegates up to date with the recent work of the History of the Irish Book project, which over the past two years has benefited from major project funding from the British Academy. They also paused to reflect on the difficulties attendant in dealing with print culture history in politically charged and contested arenas, and in regions with multilingual traditions. They were followed by Professor Seamus MacMathuna, also from the University of Ulster, who explored the Irish experience of medieval and manuscript traditions and how this was being filtered into the History of the Irish Book project.

The afternoon was dedicated to round table discussions of potential collaborative endeavour between national history of the book projects, as well as methods of dealing with overlapping agendas. It was agreed that a greater flow of information between projects was needed, including a possible coordination of Hob websites. As a step forward in this regard, the History of the Irish Book team noted its intentions of making available on the web at some point in the near future a recently compiled listing of Irish book trade related archival resources and repositories, thus complementing similar listings on U.K. and U.S. resources available via the SHARP website. The conference ended with a visit on the following day to the giant’s Causeway, as well as a sampling of welcome hospitality at the Bushmill’s whisky distillery.

David Finkelstein
Reading Conference in Edinburgh

Napier University’s Scottish Centre for the Book marked the end of the UK’s “Year of Reading” with a conference on the theme of “Reading Practices and Reading Formations”, on 24-25 September. The setting was Napier University’s Craiglockart Campus in Edinburgh, possibly best known through its associations with First World War poets in its earlier incarnation as Slateford War Hospital.

The Macmillan Lecture in the Sociology of the Text, hosted annually by the Scottish Centre of the Book, and sponsored by Macmillan Press launched the conference. This year’s lecture was delivered by Professor Janice Radway of Duke University, and took the form of a fascinating and detailed examination of “Books as Equipment for Living: Book Clubs, Libraries and the Promotion of Reading in the Interwar Years”. Some of the themes she explored, on the varying roles of librarians and others as gatekeepers and advisors, the place of books and reading in an aspirational culture and the perennial debate on what readers should be offered compared with their actual preferences, recurred in later papers. There was no shortage of questions, and discussions continued through the Conference Reception and through the breaks on the Saturday.

Saturday began with a plenary lecture from Professor Jonathan Rose on “The Theory and Practice of Reading: The Difference Between Fact and Fiction”. This was wide-ranging and included a timely reminder of a common attitude: that if it is printed it is true, a persistent belief applied to printed texts, newspapers, and now transferred to television and the internet. Distinguishing truth from fiction has to be learned by readers. Later Lindsey Fraser of the Scottish Book Trust reminded us in her lecture on “Reading Children’s Literature” that we do well to remember the books and readers themselves, particularly new readers, and the attractions of reading a “gripping yarn” for pleasure. These considerations can be lost in academic discussion of texts, readerships, literacy rates and parental preferences.

The parallel paper sessions were focussed on the 120 years of the British book trade from 1880 to date, covering a wide range of topics and reaching out beyond the UK, with contributors from the United States and Australia as well as from England, Wales and Scotland. Texts and their readers, on board ship, in commonplace books; borrowed from Boots Library and marked by public library borrowers; advisory, illegal and censored. They covered communities, groups and individuals: I am only sorry that it wasn’t possible to listen to all of them, those I heard were interesting and thought-provoking.

The conference closed with a panel discussion chaired by Professor Simon Eliot on the way forward for this growing field of research. There is much new information to be discovered, and although it is unlikely that the full picture of reading practices will ever be achieved, it could be much clearer. There was general agreement on the necessity for a bibliography of the secondary literature, an archives location register and a general attempt to codify and publicise the range of sources to researchers. There was also concern expressed for the loss of information happening now about current reading habits. The success of the conference was not only marked by the buzz of interest among the participants, but also by the enthusiasm which greeted the suggestion of a fixed occasion for researchers into reading to meet, biennially or annually. The Directors of the Scottish Centre for the Book, David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery deserve congratulations for organising such a successful occasion.

Helen Williams, Napier University

The Mighty Engine: The BBT Seminar

The seventeenth annual seminar on the British book trade took place 27-29 July 1999 in the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and the National Library of Wales. This year’s organizer, Philip Henry Jones, brought together a wide range of speakers who, as is traditional at this gathering, looked into various aspects of the production and distribution of print in the British Isles and at the effect that the printing press - that mighty engine had on contemporary society.

In recent years a growing body of research into the role of petty chapmen, hawkers and pedlars in the distribution of print has been published. Two papers took this theme to new levels. Maureen Bell, in a paper entitled “Sturdy Rogues and Vagabonds: Restoration Control of Pedlars and Hawkers” looked at attempts to control these men and women in the second half of the seventeenth century. Richard Suggett took a not dissimilar theme in The Distribution of Popular Reading in Early Modern Wales to look at the role of this class of tradesmen in the spread of literature and images among the population of rural Wales. The theme of readership in Wales was extended by Eiluned Rees whose paper Book-Borrowing in West Wales examined the various methods by which books were made available: subscription libraries, book and reading societies, and mechanic’s institutes, in the period before the arrival of the rate-supported public library system. Philip Henry Jones, under the intriguing title of “Business is awful bad in these parts”, drew on the surviving archive of traveller’s returns and other documentation to offer an insight into trade conditions in Welsh language publishing in the years leading up to the first World War. Chris Baggs examined “the Potter Family of Haverfordwest”. The Potters were the most successful book trade enterprise in Pembrokeshire for most of that period and Dr Baggs’s paper provided a case-study of a small town family business of printer, bookseller, stationer and circulating library for a century between 1780 to 1875. Audrey Cooper’s “George Nicholson and his Cambrian Traveller’s Guide” neatly bridged the border between England and Wales. She presented an excellent resume of his career as a printer in Bradford, Manchester, Ludlow and Stourport, before concentrating on a details study of the various editions of the work for which he is rightly famed.

Closer analysis of the work of other individual members of the book trade were also the topics of several papers. Margaret Cooper discussed “John Mountford, Bookseller of Worcester” in the latter years of the seventeenth and early years of the eighteenth century. Barry McKay is currently engaged in transcribing the day-books of the Whitehaven printer and bookseller John Ware from 1799 to 1806. A highly selective and discursive account of the year from August 1799 to July 1800 was given which highlighted the important part Ware’s newspaper the Cumberland Pacquet, and its advertising revenue, played in his business.
The interaction between the provincial and metropolitan trades is a frequent topic of study. Jim English, looked at the work of the Mozley family of Gainsborough, and later Derby, and their remarkable output over the years between 1776 and 1815. He also drew attention to Henry Mozley's habit of using spurious imprints on some of his publications; adding the names of fictitious London booksellers (Brambles, Meggitt & Waters the maiden names of his wife, mother and mother-in-law) to a number of his publications. However no reason for this strange behaviour could be offered other than, perhaps, a wish to carry a London name on the imprint of certain works.

If proof were needed that booksellers read this sort of report in Bookdealer, then Brenda Scragg's paper "William Ford and the Edinburgh Literary World 1805-1832" provided it. Mrs. Scragg gave a lengthy account of Fords career at the 1998 seminar, which prompted one of the brethren to approach her with a manuscript in his stock a manuscript subsequently purchased by the John Rylands Library. Another bookseller to receive close attention was William Flackton of Canturbury (1739-1797). Sarah Gray, while making due note of his professional history, chose instead to concentrate on another aspect of the man: his skill as a musician and composer. She concluded her delightful account by playing a tape of his compositions and rather nice they were too during the coffee break.

More generalized, though still quite specific topics were the subjects of other papers. Iain Beavan in "the British Advertising Campaigns of the Nineteenth-Century Scottish Publishers", examined several advertising campaigns using the word advisedly mainly by Oliver & Boyd to promote titles in several of their series. Diana Dixon, who is rapidly making the study of the newspapers of the east Midlands very much her own, presented a wide-ranging review of Huntingdonshire newspapers of the nineteenth-century. David Stoker returned as it were to home ground to trace the history of early printing in Norwich, and David Shaw examined the links of Canterbury booksellers of the eighteenth century with other members of the book trade at both regional and national levels. The English provincial theme was continued by John Hinks who discussed the careers of "Some Radical Printers and Booksellers of Leicester between 1790 and 1850". His paper included details of the careers of Richard Phillips in Leicesters from 1788 to 1795 before his move to London where he became one of the most important publishers of school texts of the early nineteenth century. In an intriguing paper entitled "Beyond the British Book Trade Index", John Turner discussed the difficulties, brought about by differing cataloguing styles, of using existing databases to arrive at a clear indication of the strength of provincial publishing in the second half of the nineteenth century. This year's Research Fellowship had been awarded to Stacey Gee, a Phd student at York, whose fellowship paper "The Coming of Print to York c.1490-1550" showed that the fellowship money had been well spent. Her paper discussed the impact of print on the contemporary book trade in York and its effect on the many craftsmen who continued to work in manuscript tradition.

Once again the papers presented testified to the continuing health of the study of the history of the book trade in the United Kingdom. Such was the demand for places on the schedule of speakers that the majority of papers had to be limited to thirty minutes. It cannot be doubted that the conference has grown yet further in stature since St Paul's Bibliographies undertook the annual publication of the papers under the heading of the Print Network series and they are to be congratulated for their continuing support of this particular branch of scholarship. The papers of the 1998 conference, The Human Face of the Book Trade, were published at the conference; but only just, the printer and binder conspiring to be almost late in delivery of the finished product. Leading one to accept the truth of Jan Tschichold's observation that the designer worries about the printer, the printer worries about the binder, and the author worries about all three. Some last year's authors need have no such worries as all three did a good, if not perfectly timely, job. The next conference in this series will take place in Newcastle upon Tyne on 25-27 July 2000.

Barry McKay [Extract reprinted, by permission, from The Bookdealer.]

The American Print Marketplace: From Pamphlets to Ph.D. Dissertations or, One Way to Teach the History of the Book to Graduate Students

I often feel like I can echo the words of the great Lou Gehrig in saying that I feel like the luckiest man on the face of the earth. I was hired by the English Department at Indiana University to teach the history of literacy and the history of publishing. I was hired to teach what we know as history of the book studies. Although all the courses I teach are inflected with a history of the book angle, I have had a chance to teach a graduate seminar on the history of the book. My own excitement about history of the book studies, however, does not always carry over into the major interests of my department's graduate student population. Our English department is quite a diverse place, with over fifty faculty and over two hundred graduate students. I have found that graduate students usually opt for seminars for one of four reasons: the seminar is in their direct field of interest (medieval, modern, Victorian), someone important is teaching the seminar, the course will acquaint them with some sort of theoretical perspective they are interested in (feminism, post-colonialism, race theory) or they need to fulfill some sort of requirement outside their field. If I get students in my history of the book seminar, it is usually because of the last of these categories, they need to fulfill a requirement.

So, I have opted to sell the wares of my seminar on another level. I plan and position it as a course of immense practical, as well as scholarly worth. I build my seminar around a study of the American print marketplace, organizing it around the investigation of various economies at work in American print culture. These economies include differing forms of capital: financial, ideological, and informational. Perhaps the most defining characteristic of my course is the way in which I both introduce different ways of doing history of the book scholarship, while at the same time I push my students to realize how deeply they are implicated in the various economies that surround publishing as academics.

Because of the limitations of space, I will touch upon just three components of my seminar. These components highlight the practical side of my class for graduate students. I begin my class by having my students first do some research on some journal that
has some connection to history of the book studies. The students complete a short overview of this journal (history of the journal, editorial policies, intended audience, types of articles, etc.) and provide enough copies of their paper for everyone in the class to have a copy. The first class is largely given over to discussing these various journals. I use it as a way of talking about the immense diversity of resources and angles of inquiry used in studying this field. History of the book studies are eclectic, and this exercise gives them a hands-on introduction to this massive diversity. I also use this discussion to talk about how journal differs, how one might choose a journal in which to publish, and how the interests of journals change over time and are often bound to other developments within the academy.

The second major project is a prospectus for their final paper. I have them due halfway through the semester for a number of reasons. Principal among these is that it gives every student a critique of their own work and ways that may improve their projects. I consistently get feedback in my student evaluations about how much I care about student writing. I mention this because I am always surprised by these comments. I don't perceive that I care that much more or less about my student's writing than do my colleagues, but this exercise is clearly a favorite among my students. This might be because I have them write their prospectuses as if they were applying for a grant or a conference panel. They need to give a clear thesis, a good indication of the source material which will be used, a methodology, and a rationale for why their project is important. This may seem like a simple exercise for many of us, but the practical nature of entering the economies of seminar papers, foundations that grant money, or competitive academic conferences is a wonderful way of talking about the economies of the print marketplace. Through these prospectuses, we explore what will allow our work to circulate in the economies of which we wish to become a part.

The third exercise I use in this course has perhaps become the most pronounced, defining characteristic of this course for graduate students in my department. I spend three of the last four weeks of the class examining dissertations that have been turned into books. I do this by having students read both sections of the original dissertation (or earlier articles published by the author) along with sections from the finished books that came from these dissertations. I am also careful to choose three dissertations from different disciplines to look at their similarities and differences. Each discipline has its own print culture issues. This exercise allows us significant time to talk about issues that are near and dear to the hearts of graduate students. Questions here include: How do dissertations and books differ? Should one write a dissertation as if one were writing a book? What should be included in the introduction of a dissertation . . . of a book? How does one determine the issue of audience for one's work? Are books and dissertations gendered, and if so, how? How do you take into account the issue of academic fashions in picking your own topic for a dissertation? How do you attract the interest of publishers in your dissertation before it is completed? How do you approach publishers with your finished dissertation? What is the difference between trade and scholarly presses, both for my work and for my career?

Not surprisingly, many of these issues have already been framed by the work we have discussed in class. I find that students take a much more active interest in this area of study when it is connected to their own work and their own professional lives. This course strives to teach students about the American print marketplace, and how they might find their own place in that marketplace. Syllabus available for this course at php.indiana.edu/~pgutjahrl/1705.html

Paul Gutjahr, Indiana University

Calls for Papers

Proposals are invited for a conference on Issues of Literacy in the Middle Ages, to be held on 25 March 2000 at Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey. Please send one-page abstracts for twenty-minute papers by 15 November 1999 to: Susannah M. Chewing, Kean University of New Jersey, PO Box 199, Brookside, NJ 07926, Email: chew@worldnet.att.net

The Eighteenth Annual Seminar on the History of the British Book Trade will take place at the University of Newcastle on 25-27 July 2000. Paper are invited on any aspect of the production and distribution of print in Great Britain (generally speaking outside London, but provincial-metropolitan inter-trade connections will be quite acceptable) or of trade relations with any part of the former empire. Papers should be of up to 35 minutes duration. A brief summary of the likely contents should be submitted by 30 November 1999 to: Professor P C G Isaac, 10 Woodcroft Road, Wylam, Northumberland NE41 8DJ. Email: bmrb@cerbernet.co.uk The British Book Trade Seminar also offers an annual Fellowship to a post-graduate student whose research falls within the parameters of the seminar's brief. The Fellowship covers the cost of attending the conference but not travel to and from the venue. A detailed submission of the research being undertaken accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a tutor or supervisor should be sent to Professor Isaac by 30 November 1999.

The Annual Conference of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies will be held between 10-14 August 2000 at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Proposals are invited for twenty minute papers in areas such as Fairy Tales, Printing and Publishing, History of Ideas, Public and Private Space, Visual Culture and Music and Song. Abstracts of circa 200 words should be sent, either in hard copy or by email (copied and pasted, not as an attachment), to Dr John Dunkley, Department of French, University of Aberdeen, Taylor Building, Old Aberdeen AB24 3UB, Scotland, UK; Email:j.dunkley@abdn.ac.uk, not later than 31 December 1999.

The Caspersen School of Graduate Studies at Drew University will host the conference History of the Book: The Next Generation on Saturday, 16 September 2000. This conference is open to scholars from all disciplines, but it aims particularly to showcase innovative work by graduate students and newer scholars. Topics may include (but are not limited to) literacy, the common reader, popular reading, the impact of particular books on culture, text-
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books and cultural controversy, libraries, illustrated books, banned books and other related areas. Abstracts for paper submissions (300 words maximum) should be sent by 1 February 2000 to: Jonathan Rose, Department of History, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA or Emailed to: JEROSE@DREW.EDU
Potential presenters will be advised if their papers have been selected by 1 March 2000.

The International James Joyce Foundation and the British Comparative Literature Association will co-host a workshop on Joyce and Comparative Literature as part of the XVII International James Joyce Symposium (London, 24-30 June 2000). They aim to address issues of a theoretical or literary-historical nature reflecting on theories and practices of intertextuality, influence, imitation, source study, etc., and raise such questions as, how do Joyce’s texts help us define and develop such theories? Historically, what has been Joyce’s place in their development, and how has our reading of his works changed in the light of these developments? (Straightforward textual comparisons fall outside the scope of this workshop and will not be accepted.) The workshop will take place on Thursday 29 June 2000. Proposals of papers, to be received no later than 2 February 2000 should be addressed to: Dr Lucia Boldrini, English Department, Goldsmiths College, London SE14 6NW Email: l.boldrini@gold.ac.uk

Calls for Contributions

American Journalism, the quarterly journal of the American Journalism Historians Association, announces a call for manuscripts for a special theme issue focusing on technology and history. Edited by David T. Z. Mindich, the issue, entitled "The Buzz: Technology in Journalism and Mass Communication History" is scheduled for Autumn 2000. The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2000. The theme of technology is an inclusive one. Topics could include but are not limited to: how printing, the telegraph, or other devices changed or challenged journalism; implicit comparisons between older technologies and newer ones including ways in which the public viewed future technology; and the role of technology in formulating or reformulating minority communities. Manuscripts, which should follow the American Journalism guidelines for submissions, should be sent to: David T. Z. Mindich, Dept of Journalism and Mass Communication, Saint Michael’s College, Colchester, VT 05439. For more information via Email, please contact Mindich at dminich@smcvt.edu

Submissions are invited for a special issue of Romanticism on the Net (August 2000) on "New Texts and Textual Scholarship in British Literature 1780-1830." Topics that might be covered in this issue include: What new texts (texts newly edited from manuscript, those recovered from the less-read literature of the period, or texts that have been substantially re-edited) will shape discussion of British literature 1780-1830 in the first decade of the new century? Has the use of electronic media increased awareness of the material nature of the printed book, and if so, how will this affect the reception of the printed text? Papers will be restricted to 8,000 words and should follow MHRA, not MLA style: in particular, references should be given in endnotes, not in a List of Works Cited. See a recent issue of the journal for more information. This special issue will be guest-edited by Anthony John Harding. Deadline for submissions: 1 December 1999. Please send an electronic version of your essay (either on a floppy disc or as an attachment, Wordperfect or Rich Text Format) to: Dr A. J. Harding, Department of English, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK S7N 5A5, CANADA. Email: Harding@duke.usask.ca

The Whispered Watchword, a journal focusing on girls’ series literature, is seeking submissions for upcoming issues. The journal’s research focus is series literature written especially for girls, with an emphasis on female detectives such as Nancy Drew, Judy Bolton, and Trixie Belden, though articles on any girls’ series are accepted. For more information, please send a request for manuscript guidelines to: Michael G. Cornelius, Submissions Editor, at mcor7215@postoffice.uri.edu

Conferences

The Victoria and Albert National Art Library in London is holding a study day on Expressionism and Modernity: function and meaning in German Expressionist Prints on 22 January 2000. The V&A and the National Art Library boasts a significant holding of German Expressionist print material. This study day examines the role the graphic arts played in the dissemination and formation of an aesthetic of German modernism during the first half of this century. Speakers include: Dr Dorothy Rowe (chair), Dr Shulamith Behr, Jill Lloyd, Dr Colin Rhodes, Dr Christopher Short, Dr Marsha Meskimmon. Cost is £40 + concessions. For further information, contact the V&A box office on 0207-942-2209.

A two day conference on Libraries and the Book Trade: The formation of collections in the public sphere from the 16th to the 20th century, organised by Robin Myers and Michael Harris as part of their annual series on Book Trade History, will be held 4-5 December 1999 at the Honourable Artillery Company, Armoury House, City Road, London EC1. During this conference specialists from Europe, America and New Zealand will explore the process of library building and associated activities over the last four centuries. The papers given at last year’s conference, published by St Paul’s Bibliographies under the title Travel and the Book Trade, will be available at a special rate. A selection of antiquarian books will also be available for sale. The conference fee of £75 covers coffee and a buffet lunch on both days, and anyone interested in book history will be welcome. To register or for further information, contact: Carol Watts, Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ

Exhibitions

Chicago Under Wraps: Dust Jackets from 1920-1950, an exhibition of over 60 scarce book jackets of Chicago interest, will be on view at the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries of the Art Institute of Chicago from 29 November 29 to 10 January 2000. Sponsored by the Caxton Club of Chicago, it will include jackets designed...
by Chicago-based graphic artists and published by Chicago firms, revealing contemporary trends in book design and illustrating a rich period of publishing in the Midwest’s leading metropolis. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays from 10.30 am to 7.45 pm; Wednesdays to Fridays from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm; and Saturdays from 10.00 am to 4.45 pm. The recommended donation for admission to the museum is $8 for adults and $5 for seniors and students. There is no extra fee for the exhibition. Tuesdays are free to all.

The Grolier Club announces an exhibition of Jock Elliott’s Christmas Books to coincide with the publication of A Ha! Christmas. The exhibition at the Grolier Club runs from 6 December 1999 to 29 January 2000. Further details are available from: The Veatchs Arts of the Book, ABAA, PO Box 328, Northampton MA 01061, USA Email: Veatchs@veatchs.com

Fellowships

The American Antiquarian Society announces visiting academic research fellowships to support one to twelve months’ residence in the Society’s library. Stipends of varying amounts are available for scholars to make use of the library’s resources for research and writing. Deadline for receipt of completed applications is 15 January 2000. For further information and official application forms, contact: Academic Fellowships, Room 100, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609-1634, Email: cfs@mwa.org

The Friends of the Princeton University Library anticipate awarding up to ten short-term fellowships for 2000-2001 to promote scholarly use of the research collections. The fellowships, which have a value of up to $2,000 each, are meant to help defray expenses in traveling to and residing in Princeton during the tenure of the fellowship. The length of the fellowship will depend on the applicant’s research proposal, but is ordinarily one month. This round’s fellowships are tenable from May 2000 to April 2001. The deadline is 15 January 2000. Applicants are asked to submit a completed application form and budget form, a résumé, and a research proposal not exceeding three pages in length. Application forms are available from their website (http://libweb.princeton.edu:2003/friends/fr.fellowships.html) or by writing to the address given below. Applicants must also arrange for two confidential letters of recommendation to be sent directly to the Fellowship Committee at the Library address. Awards will be made before 1 April 2000. Application materials and letters of recommendation are to be mailed to Fellowship Committee, Princeton University Library, One Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544, no later than 15 January 2000. Facsimile transmissions may be sent to (609) 258-2324. Electronic communications to the committee may be sent to delaney@princeton.edu. Materials submitted by Email or facsimile must be received no later than 15 January 2000.

The Warren N. Cordell Fellowships are awarded annually for scholarly research in lexicography, lexicology, the history of English and other languages, or related historical research in the holdings of the Cordell Collection of Dictionaries, which contains more than 12,000 word and related titles from the beginning of printing through the twentieth century. One or more awards, currently designated in the amount of $100 per day (based on a five-day week) up to a total of $1,100, will be made to one or more fellows after completion of research in the collection. A proposal indicating the proposed length of study up to two weeks (10 days) should accompany a letter of inquiry and a selected vita. These documents should be received by the Curator of the Cordell Collection no later than 15 February 2000. The proposal should include not only a description of the research project proposed to be undertaken but an indication of the materials or range of materials that will be consulted. Up-to-date listings of the contents of the Cordell Collection are available on the Internet at http://cml.indstate.edu/rare/rare2.html#Cordell. Those without Internet access may wish to consult David Vancil’s 1993 Catalog of Dictionaries: Word Books, and Philological Texts, 1440-1900, available in numerous research libraries, to establish whether the holdings will support the proposed research. Send the proposal to: Dr. David E. Vancil, Curator, Cordell Collection of Dictionaries, Cunningham Memorial Library, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.

The Bibliographical Society invites applications from scholars engaged in bibliographical research (on, for example, book history, textual transmission, publishing, printing, book-ownership and book-collecting) for award to be made in the calendar year 2000. The Society hopes to make awards both for immediate research needs, such as for microfilms or travelling expenses, and for longer term support, for example to assist with prolonged visits to libraries and archives. It is envisaged that one major award, up to a maximum of £2,000, and a number of smaller awards will be offered. One or more of these awards will be particularly associated with the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association which has contributed generously to the Fund. The Society offers a Fredson Bowers Award of $1,500, funded by the Bibliographical Society of America, and also, in conjunction with the Oxford Bibliographical Society, a Falconer Madan Award of up to £500 for research undertaken in Oxford libraries or, under certain circumstances, conducted elsewhere upon topics connected with Oxford. Applications must be submitted by 1 December 1999 and two referees, familiar with the applicant’s work, should be asked to write directly to the address below. Successful applicants will be notified following the meeting of the Council of the Bibliographical Society in February 2000. In addition, the Society offers a limited number of minor grants, of £50 to £150, for specific purposes such as the costs of travel or microfilming. Applications for these grants may be submitted at any time and should be supported by a letter from one referee and a statement that the funds applied for are available from no other source. Applicants for all awards may be of any nationality and need not be members of the Society. Further particulars and application forms for both major and minor grants are available from Dr Maureen Bell, Dept. of English, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT Email: m.bell@bham.ac.uk

The University of Iowa Obermann Center for Advanced Studies announces Obermann Fellowships for the Summer 2000 Research
Seminar on The Usable Past, Historical Perspectives on Digital Culture. This interdisciplinary research seminar will address issues of digital culture by examining histories of the social integration of previous new technologies and linking them to present conditions. Precedents for our own digital concerns might be found in technologies as recent as 30 or 100 years ago or as distant as the Industrial Revolution and the Enlightenment, the invention of movable type and the Renaissance, or the invention of paper and Classical Antiquity. A distinctive focus on four inter-related fields of knowledge will provide important touchstones: (1) audio-visual cultures’ challenges or resistance to print, (2) cultures and politics of new information technologies, (3) perception and human experience, (4) the metaphysics of appearances and artifice. By focusing on historical models, each seminar participant will be able to contribute reflections on technology, ideology, and culture -past and present. Scholars from all fields - history, English, American studies, communication studies, political science, art and architecture history, cinema and media studies, sociology, philosophy, business, engineering, the sciences - are invited to apply. Applications should be received at the Obermann Center on or before Wednesday, 26 January 2000. Address applications and inquiries to: Jay Semel, Director, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, N134 Oakdale Hall, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-5000 Email: jay-ssemel@uiowa.edu

Lectures

The fifteenth series of Panizzi Lectures will be given by Prof. Glen Dudbridge of the University of Oxford on "Lost Books of Medieval China". The lectures will take place on Monday 11 November, Monday 18 November and Monday 25 November at 6.15 p.m. in the Conference Centre of the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. All are welcome to attend, but tickets (free) must be obtained in advance from the British Library Events Box Office (tel: 0171-412-7222; Email: boxoffice@bl.uk).

The James Thin Lecture for 1999 will be delivered by Asa Briggs in the Playfair Library, Old College, University of Edinburgh, South Bridge, Edinburgh on 16 November 1999 at 5.15 pm. The title of Lord Briggs’s talk will be “Shelf Life: The Problem of Longevity in British Publishing”. Reception to follow.

The following series of lectures on the history of the British Library’s collections, entitled "Libraries within the Library", will be held at the Library premises on 96 Euston Road, London. All lectures take place at 6.15 pm. Tickets (£3.50, bookable in advance) are available from the Events Box Office or from the Information Desk. Wine will be available after the lectures.

24 November, James Carley, "The Ones That Got Away: The Dissolution of Henry VIII’s Library"
8 December, Frances Harris, "John Evelyn, Library Consultant’ and Giles Mandelbrote, ‘John Evelyn and his Books"
12 January, Margaret Nickson and Alison Walker, "Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753): Book Collector and Librarian"
26 January, Peter Barber, "For the King or For the People? The creation, purpose and fate of King George III’s Topographical and Maritime Collections"

9 February, Geoff West, "Buying at auction: building the collections in the second half of the nineteenth century" and Chris Thomas, "A Russian bibliophile: the collection of Sergei Sobolevsky"

The New York Public Library announces the 1999-2000 series of Pforzheimer Lectures on Printing and the Book Arts, focusing on the theme "Seeing is Believing: 700 Years of Scientific and Medical Illustration". Tickets are $7 (Friends) $10 (others). For information regarding ticket purchase, visit their website at [http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/pep/index.html]. Lectures start at 6 pm.

9 November 1999, William B. Ashworth, Jr., "Visual Arguments in the Scientific Revolution: The Emblematic Titlepage as Battle-field"
16 November, Nancy Siraisi, "Body, Text, and Image: Vesalius and the Discipline of Renaissance Anatomy"
22 November, Michio Kaku, "Visualizing the Invisible: Hyperspace and the Origin of the Universe"
24 January 2000, Roger Gaskell, "Don’t Trust Words: The Importance of Illustration for the Early Royal Society"

Essay and Manuscript Prizes

The editors of Book History announce the inauguration of a prize to be awarded to the outstanding graduate student essay submitted to our journal on any subject that falls within the broadest definition of book history. This annual competition will commence during the 1999-2000 editorial year, with submissions for the first year accepted until 31 August 2000, and will be open to anyone pursuing a course of graduate studies at the time of submission. The winning essay will receive a prize of $200 and will be published in the journal. For information on the journal and its submission policies, please see the website [http://www.indiana.edu/~sharp/bookhist.html] or contact the editors directly: Ezra Greenspan (Email: ezra.greenspan@sc.edu), or Jonathan Rose (Email: jrose@drew.edu)

The University Press of New England/University of New Hampshire announces a $1000 prize for the best manuscript submitted for its new publishing series, Becoming Modern: New Nineteenth-Century Studies. The editors seek lively, interdisciplinary studies that explore the emergence of modernity in nineteenth-century North America and Europe. Although projects need not be international in scope, they should be of interest to scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. Possible topics range from the rise of the modern city to the development of the realistic novel, from the medicalization of sexual orientations to the expansion of consumer culture, from the consolidation of racial categories to the colonization of subject peoples. Institutions studied may be as small as the suburban home or as large as the nation-state. For consideration, send your vita and complete manuscript by 1 April 2000 to Phyllis Deutsch, Acquisitions Editor, University Press of New England, 23 South Main St., Hanover, NH 03755-2055, USA. Email: Phyllis.Deutsch@Dartmouth.edu

Competition for the Elizabeth Lewisohn Eisenstein Prize for 2000
has been announced. Members of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) are invited to submit papers published from 1996 to 1999 for consideration for the Prize, which will be presented at the NCIS conference in Autumn 2000. Selection of the best paper and award of an honorarium of $200 will be made by a committee chaired by NCIS board member Anne Lowenthal. Submissions will be judged by experts in the appropriate field. Papers should be between 15 and 20 pages in length. They will be judged on clarity in the development of the argument, writing style, and accessibility to both specialized and general readers. Send three copies, postmarked no later than 1 March 2000, to Anne Lowenthal, 340 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025.

**Seminars**

The Warburg Institute, London, announces its 1999-2000 seminar series programme focusing on theme of Maps and Society. Meetings are held at the University of London, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H OAB at 5.00 pm.

25 November 1999, Dr Uta Lindgren (History, University of Bayreuth), "Constructing Accurate Sea Charts in the Thirteenth Century: The Scientific Evidence"

9 December, Professor Bruce Lenman (Department of Modern History, University of St. Andrews), "War a Catalyst for Cartography: The Cases for Cartagena de Indias and Havana, 1660-1762".

The Institute for English Studies announces its Modernism Research Seminar Programme for 1999-2000. The seminar takes place on the last Saturday of each month during term time, 2-5 pm. Institute for English Studies, 3rd floor, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU.

28 November 1999, Rachel Bowlby (University of York), "The Passer-by and the Shop Window between the Wars" and Elena Gualtieri (University of Sussex), "Modernism and photography"

29 January 2000, David Trotter (University College London), "Paranoid Narrative and the Elimination of Mess" and Mary Hammond (University of Southampton), "The Great Fiction Bore: Free Libraries and the Construction of a Reading Public in England 1880-1914"

The Scottish Centre for the Book at Napier University announces its Autumn 1999 lunchtime series of Edward Clark Seminars dedicated to the history of the book. All seminars take place 12.30-1.30 pm in room 516, New Craig, Craighouse Campus, Napier University, Craighouse Road, Edinburgh. General public are cordially invited to attend.

20 October 1999, Laurence Davies (Dartmouth College), "What is the Sound of One Hand Clapping? Conrad’s Correspondence with Cunningham Graham"

24 November 1999, John Feather (Loughborough University), "The History of Publishing Revisited"

8 December 1999, Jo Haythornthwaite (Glasgow Caledonian U.), "Two Centuries of Author-Publisher Relations"

The Centre for the History of the Book at the University of Edin-
book trade in a way which few historians have done before, and pulls out connections and influences which other scholars have missed or ignored. Above all, perhaps, he shows how author, printer, publisher and reader were connected one to another in a complex cultural matrix in which they shared common assumptions about what was, and was not, permissible. In this reading of history, the early book is the product of many minds and hands, not of a single author and publisher; it is no longer ipso facto authoritative, its contents immutable even if they were wrong.

Is this interpretation convincing? Perhaps we can pose another question: would a contemporary participant in these activities have recognised Johns's account of what he or she was doing? By taking us into the centre of the world of the book, behind the facade of title pages and imprints, Johns seems to be giving us an insider's view of that world. He uncovers the conventions by which members of the trade related to each other and to their suppliers and customers; he shows how this is reflected in their formal regulatory arrangements which have been the subject of so much attention in the past. He describes a world of men and women working closely together in a small area of London, and closely associated with both authors and readers. The careful reconstruction of this world, hidden even at the time except from its most intimate actors, is drawn from an impressive range of contemporary materials, both from within the trade and from without. These first three chapters alone constitute a major contribution to our understanding of the history of the book in early modern England. This is perhaps as close as we can ever come to the trade's view of itself.

The book trade is, however, merely the starting point. It is central to Johns's argument that the trade had developed its own sense of "propriety" (his word, often repeated) about how it operated. This reflected little or no concern for what was later to be called intellectual property; knowledge and ideas were evolutionary and shared rather than revolutionary and unique. The central concern was with the conventions which contained the relationships within the trade; these conventions found their formal expression in how the Stationers' Company mediated in disputes between its members, and promoted their common interests. It was in this context, "the Stationers' commonwealth," that knowledge was created and through which it was disseminated. It was at the interface between that commonwealth and the wider world that conflict arose, and regulation by the agents of the state sometimes intervened against the interests of the trade. Johns invokes the historiography of printing itself to show how historical arguments were used to justify the use of royal prerogative on the one hand and the supremacy of commercial interests on the other, and indeed how the same discourse led to the articulation of differing views of the authority and reliability of the printed word itself.

This complex and subtle analysis of the early modern book trade is only one part of Johns's ambitious objective in this book, for he seeks to re-examine the scientific revolution as well as the alleged revolution of print. In the scientific world of the late seventeenth century, Johns sees many of the issues and conflicts which he finds in the world of the book. Authority and propriety, "Piracy and usurpation" as he calls them in the title of Chapter 7, lie at the heart of both spheres. The natural philosophers had to develop their own conventions, and they worked closely, wittingly or unwittingly, with the book trade. Again, the range of exploration is vast; Johns takes us through how the first generation of Fellows of the Royal Society established a claim to priority of observation or invention, how scientific publications were developed and published, how the Philosophical Transactions itself was a less stable phenomenon than historians of science publishing have often supposed.

Finally, Johns reconstructs the history of one of the great works of British science of this period, Flamsteed's Historia Coelestis (1712) and the heavily revised posthumous edition, Historia Coelestis Britannica (1725). All the themes of the book are brought together in this final tour de force. The proprieties of the book trade and of the world of science, the essential instability and unreliability of print, the comparative unimportance of the individual as creator and author, and the conflicts at the boundaries between interior and exterior worlds all have their impact on how this work was compiled, printed, published and revised. The central figures in the story are Flamsteed himself and Sir Isaac Newton as President of the Royal Society. Johns argues that Newton prevailed, in part, because he understood the proprieties of the book trade and had relatively easy access to it. Both men, however, were also struggling with new ideas of intellectual property, and the creation of a common body of shared knowledge in the public domain. The credit for the creation of knowledge, like the credit for its expression in written or printed form, was beginning to be differently understood. The appearance of a person's name on a title page had implications in 1750 which, Johns has amply demonstrated, cannot be assumed in 1650. The history of Flamsteed's Historia goes some way towards exposing the processes of that change.

A short review cannot do credit to this book. It is a work of great learning and ingenuity; it is logically argued and impeccably written. It challenges a major hypothesis in historiography, but it also proposes one of its own. Johns continually invites comparison with Eisenstein, and it is a comparison which must be made. He believes that he has shown that one essential plank of her argument — that print was a stabilising medium — is untrue. In fact, he has done both more and less than that. Johns starts and finishes in the real world of the book, the world of the printing house, the bookshop, the study and indeed the laboratory and observatory. His is a history of people and of the world in which people live, think and work. Eisenstein's world was one of impersonal influences exemplified in what she saw as the permanency of print. For twenty years, book historians have recognised that there was too little about books and those who made them, sold them and read them in The Printing Press as an Agent of Change. In The Nature of the Book, Johns has redressed that balance. In so doing, he has offered new insights which will have a profound influence on our understanding of the culture of early modern England, and of the two great "revolutions" of printing and science. The causal relationship between them which Eisenstein postulated is exposed here as a chimera; the parallels between them lie in the common culture in which they were rooted and the use the one made of the facility offered by the other. This important book sets a new agenda for a new debate.

John Feather, Loughborough University

Bibliographers and historians new to the early-modern German book (or indeed anyone with even a superficial interest in the subject) soon find they need to get to grips with the complexities of political particularism and confessional balance within the late Holy Roman Empire in order to understand the books in which. Schmidt's translation of the Bible, Paul S. Spalding provides, in effect, a useful introduction to the political and theological background of eighteenth-century German publishing.

Schmidt's translation, influenced by contemporary literary theory and editorial practice, sought to establish a 'literal' German rendition of the text, with commentary, clearly challenging Luther's highly imaginative, indeed poetic, interpretation. If the first instalment of the translation, issued at Wertheim in Franconia in 1735 (and all that was published), fails to convince, then the pre- and post-publication story of the Wertheim Bible reveals much about the opportunities and dangers that the settlement in Germany after the Peace of Westphalia (1648) presented for authors and the book trade.

The publication and early distribution of the book were only made possible by the typically bizarre Westphalian arrangements in the county of Wertheim itself, where a single territory was administered by rival courts, one Catholic and one Lutheran, and the censorship of print had never been delegated to local ecclesiastical authorities. Much of the first part of Spalding's narrative (perhaps rather too much) is devoted to the dynastic complexities of the county and the personal characters of its rulers and leading officials. He then widens his perspective to discuss those factors in contemporary philosophy, textual criticism and Lutheran theology that may have influenced Schmidt's approach to his translation, and especially the views of the Leipzig philosopher Christian Wolff (1679-1754).

Spalding's narrative traces the circles of controversy surrounding the Wertheim Bible as they widened to include more and more German-speaking territories and centres of political and ecclesiastical authority within the Empire. He takes the opportunity to set each in context, explaining, for example, the role of the Emperor's Aulic Council or the local government of Frankfurt with the arrangements to regulate the book trade both during and between the twice-yearly book fairs. He also describes the reaction of Germany's leading intellectuals to Schmidt's audacity, briefly introducing such key figures as Joachim Lange (1640-1744), Schmidt's chief theological opponent, and the critic Johann Christoph Gottsched (1700-1766) who, with his wife Luise, sympathised with Schmidt's aims and methods.

The title suggests a dramatic end both for Schmidt and for his Bible. In fact, after a year in a Wertheim gaol, Schmidt was able to escape, making his way incognito to Hamburg. In the more tolerant environment of a large commercial city with its close links with both Denmark and England, Schmidt ended his days as a translator of a variety of English books. The Bible itself, though formally suppressed by most of Germany's rulers, remained widely available. The case of the Wertheim Bible represented one of the very last instances in which the rusty wheels of Imperial authority were set in motion across the whole of the Empire in the vain attempt to suppress a contentious text.

Spalding's narrative is refreshingly readable and serves well as an introduction to a period that remains dauntingly complex for English-speaking readers. It is well supported by notes and references, although his practice of anglicising most titles of books and offices in the text can be irritating (though, oddly, he does not follow normal practice by using English forms of rulers' names).

Do not be deterred by the title: *Seize the Book, Jail the Author* is thoroughly recommended.

Graham Jefcoate, British Library


I'm new here myself. Like every other historian of reading, I am awkwardly groping my way through what is still a novel, uncharted, and often disorienting field of study. We are just beginning to invent the models, methods, questions, and theories that give more established disciplines their coherence and definition. Those who attended the recent conferences on reading history at Ben Gurion University (see The Book (March 1999): 4-6) and Napier University came away with the sense that this field, for all its vitality, is still without form.

A younger scholar in particular is likely to encounter difficulty on this marshy ground. Galbraith sets out to write a combined history of reading and schooling for children in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Britain. She is right to explore these two subjects together, and not only because so much children's reading consisted of textbooks. Classroom lessons are "read" — i.e., assimilated and interpreted — just as books are, and a reception history of both can be reconstructed using much the same sources.

Galbraith relies heavily on autobiography as a primary source — too heavily, in fact. She has consulted Edward Salmon's remarkable 1888 survey of adolescent reading, but does not use its revealing statistics. Nor does she draw on the vast oral history archive at the University of Essex, which was the basis of Paul Thompson's *The Edwardians*, though it offers a rich lode of information about both reading and education. Those oral sources can correct the assumption that school was a Dickensian purgatory for most British children, a stereotype Galbraith too easily accepts.

She also seems to have difficulty drawing conclusions from her index cards, and (perhaps for that reason) repeatedly falls back on the obvious. It's hard to feel surprised when we are told that autobiographers "drew upon other autobiographies, fiction, oral traditions, and shared cultural myths," that they "presented their child selves as signposts pointing towards the adults they had become," that they "associated childhood with imaginative play" (p. 10-11). No doubt their memoirs evaluated "the passage of time and historical change" (18): what memoir doesn't? Another chapter is devoted to proving that Mrs. Molesworth was considered a
wholesome children's author, and Oscar Wilde (at least after *The Picture of Dorian Gray*) wasn't. Some of Galbraith's generalizations — e.g., that children read for self-improvement and were intimidated by public libraries — may not be true of the majority. And she treats the Victorian class system as a simple binary division between the workers and the affluent, when in fact there were many more finely-graded layers.

More interesting is a comparison of two children's authors, Andrew Lang and E. Nesbit. While he was assisted by a team of poorly-paid female translators, she was weighted down with family responsibilities. But this chapter relies heavily on secondary works, and her discussion of the London School Board does not go far beyond the standard histories. There is more originality in her treatment of the "overpressure" controversy, when the popular press reported that working-class pupils were dying from excessive homework. Yet Galbraith brings this discussion to no clear conclusion.

Gretchen Galbraith deserves credit for adventurousness, yet the book as a whole adds up to a collection of independent essays without a common direction. This should serve as a bracing reminder to all historians of reading. Before we sit down to write, we must ask ourselves this question: Which questions are we going to ask?

*Jonathan Rose*, Drew University


Hypertextuality is not commonly associated with medieval manuscript books, but one of the more exciting essays in this collection of excellent studies argues that a fifteenth-century manuscript describing five visual representations of the Virgin Mary is, indeed, a hypertext. In "Medieval Hypertext: Image and Text from York Minster," Vincent Gillespie, who has written frequently on late medieval manuscripts, extends the claim for hypertextuality beyond the book which is the immediate object of his study. While his essay is not the first to assert that "a medieval reader's experience of illuminated, illustrated and glossed manuscripts" is similar to today's electronic "hypertextual experience" (p. 208), it makes a significant contribution to this new approach to medieval books. Gillespie outlines how an audience must imagine the visual images described by the text, forming "hypertextual links between words and pictures" (224) in order to fully "read" this text on images of the Virgin.

Each of the twelve essays in this rich festschrift for the renowned Oxford Professor of Paleography, Malcolm Parkes, offers detailed, often highly technical, information about manuscripts ranging from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries. Yet there is much for the non-specialist to enjoy and learn from here, for the authors try to place their studies within the context of broader questions. For example, in "Quaderni simul ligati": Recherches sur les manuscrits en cahiers" (the single non-English contribution), Jean Vezin shows how clues from manuscripts that have never been bound, or bound very simply, can provide information on scribal working practices. P. R. Robinson examines the evidence for nuns as book producers in the Middle Ages and outlines paths for further investigation of female religious copyists in "A Twelfth-Century Scriptorium from Nunnaminster." Other studies contribute to our knowledge of, among other subjects, the formation of English monastic libraries, the lives and careers of individual scribes, the international transmission of manuscript books, and the layers of meanings that ancient and medieval cultures attached to the personal autograph, the part of a letter or other text handwritten by the author himself, and not by a scribe.

Two essays by outstanding scholars of the medieval book deserve special attention. In "Stephen Dodesham of Witham and Sheen," A. I. Doyle traces with fluency and in remarkable detail the career of a fifteenth-century English scribe who was first a lay professional, and then a Carthusian. Although Doyle believes that current information allows only for speculation on much of Dodesham's career, his own investigation of over eighteen manuscripts that can be attributed to Dodesham offers a detailed portrait of the scribe's life — where he was likely trained, the kinds of texts he copied, his relations with patrons, and the connections among royal, monastic, and other professional scribes.

Most of the essays here focus on what we can learn about medieval culture from the physical book, but A. J. Minnis provides one of two essays on authority in medieval texts. In "The Author's Two Bodies? Authority and Fallibility in Late-Medieval Textual Theory," Minnis considers whether medieval writers in the vernacular like Dante and Boccaccio thought that the authoritas of their texts could be separated from their own lives and defects. Minnis then broadens this inquiry to include medieval discussions of the status of other authority figures, including the king, pope, preacher, and so on. Could a bad or "unworthy" man do a good job as a preacher or priest, or tell a moral tale? Minnis rightly points to the crisis provoked in late medieval England when John Wyclif and his followers raised this question, and in so doing he brilliantly connects medieval theories of textual status to the often grim political-religious conditions of the late medieval world.

The index, unfortunately, lists only proper names and places, although there is a separate manuscript index. A useful bibliography of M. B. Parkes' writings is included. Thirty plates contribute to the clarity of these essays, showing such details as letter formations or the particular contours of a scribe's hand that must be seen in order to understand the accompanying written discussion.

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The Harley Psalter is one of the "glories of Anglo-Saxon art" (p. 2), and this detailed study of this illustrated book of psalms from c.1020-c.1130 provides compelling arguments for the purpose and methods of its production. Scholars of Anglo-Saxon books will read Noel's work eagerly, but anyone interested in the process of making manuscripts in the Middle Ages will find it interesting and enlightening. In untangling the multiple and complex puzzles of the Harley Psalter, the author reexamines
assumptions about how monastic *scripторia* functioned, the relationships between scribes and artists who worked on books, the intended audience for this kind of luxury manuscript, and perhaps most importantly, the relationship between Harley’s texts and images.

Noel’s method of studying the Harley is to begin "with an analysis of how it was made" and from this analysis to build a picture of "the circumstances of its production" (6). He takes nothing for granted, including the relationship of the Harley Psalter to the famous Utrecht Psalter, the ninth-century Carolingian manuscript of which Harley was supposedly a copy. Noel’s study proves the relationship between the two psalters to be much less clear cut than has been assumed, shows how Harley was influenced by other manuscripts, and uses this evidence to question the implicit notion that a "copy" of a medieval manuscript will, like modern xerography, produce a duplicate of its model or exemplar.

Noel focuses in part on the "truly extraordinary" (21) ruling patterns found in the Harley. These vary, and Noel shows that in several quires the patterns could only mean that the ruling was done by artists, not scribes. His conclusion is that "artists were in command of the working procedure" (74) for some quires, which he later relates to the overall purpose of Harley. This was, he deduces, to provide a "lavishly illustrated manuscript" for someone who already knew the texts of the Psalter and would pay close attention to, or "read," the images (201). This deduction is supported by a close analysis of numerous images from the Harley, and their analogues in the Utrecht. Of the 83 illustrations in this volume, over 50 are comparisons of images in the two psalters. Noel is able to show precisely where and why the Harley artists chose not to follow Utrecht, how the two psalters differ in the relationships between their images and text, and also how the several Harley artists themselves differed in their approaches to their work and in their level of skill.

One of the strengths of this study is that Noel is able to carry the reader into the process of manuscript production. We can at times see the scribes and artists at work, how they made decisions about ruling the pages, altering the pictures, or the most efficient way to complete their work. Practical considerations of what was possible and likely dominate this analysis. For example, Noel believes that the different speeds at which the artists and scribes completed their work could account for some of Harley’s peculiarities. He argues that at a certain point the Utrecht Psalter, as Harley’s exemplar, was unbound in order to accelerate production, allowing artists and scribes to work at the same time.

Copious illustrations and diagrams provide support for the author’s detailed analysis. The only disappointment is that Harley’s images are reproduced in black-and-white, although the originals are in color, and Noel comments often on the different uses of color by the various artists. Two useful appendices compare the collations of Utrecht and Harley, and provide a folio-by-folio descriptive analysis summarizing Noel’s conclusions about who was responsible for the ruling, texts, and illustrations.

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Germany


Greece


Italy


Russia


United States


West Indies


In Memoriam

William Evan Fredeman (1928-1999)

Dick Fredeman, Ph.D., FRSC, FRSL, Emeritus Professor of English at the University of British Columbia (UBC, 1956-1991) died at home in Abbotsford 15 July 1999, four days before his 71st birthday. Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas 19 July 1928, Dick was raised in Little Rock and attended schools in Arkansas and in Tennessee. After service in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Reserve, and completion of a PhD, he emigrated to Vancouver in 1956. He received the first of many Canada Council, SSHRC, Killam, and Guggenheim Fellowships in 1959 and spent the...
following year in London doing research for Pre-Raphaelitism: A Bibliocritical Study, his first major book. Although he was enormously interested in and published widely about the Victorian era, he continued to work on the Pre-Raphaelite poets and painters for the rest of his life. He had completed two volumes of his major study, Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s letters, at the time of his death. This important scholarly undertaking is being published by Chadwyck-Healey Ltd of Cambridge, U.K. Other publications and activities included: editor of William Michael Rossetti’s PRB Journal (Clarendon, 1975); A Rossetti Cabinet (Ian Hodgkins, 1991); three John Rylands Library monographs, three special numbers of Victorian Poetry; four volumes of the Dictionary of Literary Biography with Ira B. Nadel; 50+ articles and reviews on Rossetti and the Pre-Raphaelites, Tennyson and bibliography; and the Introduction in the recently published Thomas Bird Mosher--The Pirate Prince of Publishers (Oak Knoll & The British Library, 1998). Fredeman also served as president of the Victorian Section of the MLA, founding member and first vice-president of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals; member of the editorial boards for Victorian Poetry, Victorian Studies, and the Journal of Publishing History.

Sharpend

As you see, it is time again for another 16 page bumper issue of SHARP News. This issue has been loosely based around the theme of Reading and Reading Practices. In addition to the provocative insights offered in ‘In My View’ by Wayne Wiegand, who so ably coorganised this year’s SHARP conference at Madison—Wisconsin, you’ll find reports on various reading and history of the book conferences, and a hefty stack of book reviews looking at some of the latest scholarship in reading and other topics. I hope you’ll find the material in this issue as interesting as I have.

Late breaking news has just come in of Sharpists on the move. Congratulations are in order for Simon Eliot, our eminent president, who has just been appointed to a newly created Chair in Publishing and Printing History at the University of Reading. Created with the cooperation of the departments of English and Typography, and with contributions from the Library, the Department of History, and certain publishers, this new chair will form the nucleus of a Research Centre for Publishing and Printing History to be established at Reading over the next few years. Simon will take up this new post in April 2000, and I have no doubt Professor (in waiting) Eliot will lose no time in establishing the presence of the new Research Centre as a major contributor to future book history research and development. Heartiest congratulations from all Sharpists are in order.

Secondly, our Book Review Editor, Fiona Black, fresh from a successful defence of her PhD this spring (here’s to you, Dr. Black), has taken up a one year post as Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida for academic year 1999-2000. You will find her mailing and email address on the masthead of this issue of SHARP News. Well done, but surely as far away as is possible to get on the North American continent from your beloved home town of Regina?!

Finally, your humble SHARP News editor leaves Napier on 31 January 2000 to take up a post as Head of Department of Media and Communication at Queen Margaret University College, a few miles down the road on the other side of Edinburgh. As a result and with regret I am stepping down as Editor to make way for someone else dedicated to keeping all of you informed in the customary SHARP News manner. I am happy to announce that Fiona Black has agreed to take on this task with effect from the Spring issue 2000. I hope you will welcome and support her with the same warmth and enthusiasm that you have offered me during my stint at the SHARP News helm. Fiona will step down as Review Editor.

Happy winter and new millennium celebrations, everyone!

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FIRST CLASS MAIL