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SHARP NEWS

Volume 11, Number 3

Summer 2002

CALLS FOR PAPERS

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies: The Global Trade in Books, Periodicals and Other Forms of Print in the Long Eighteenth Century

Location: University of California,
Los Angeles

Dates: 3-8 August 2003

Deadline: 15 September 2002

SHARP will sponsor a roundtable session at the 2003 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference that will be held in conjunction with the Eleventh International Congress on the Enlightenment. Proposals/abstracts of short papers are now being accepted for the roundtable, "The Global Trade in Books, Periodicals and Other Forms of Print in the Long Eighteenth Century."

As the session's title suggests, this roundtable will explore the international trade in books and other forms of print during the long eighteenth century. Besides seeking geographic breadth, this session welcomes proposals that deal with a variety of printed matter – from books to playing cards to maps to periodicals. Topics may also address the effects that an international trade in print had on producers and consumers of print. Proposals/abstracts addressing specific ways in which technology has assisted and/or fostered research in the global print trade are also invited.

You need not be a member of ASECS to submit a proposal, but you

will need to join ASECS if the proposal is accepted.

Please send one-page abstracts or proposals to:

Eleanor F. Shevlin
Apt. 42, 2006 Columbia Road NW
Washington, DC 20009 USA
Email: eshevlin@wcupa.edu

17th Annual DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth- Century Studies: The History of Manners

Location: Tampa, Florida

Dates: 20-22 February 2003

Deadline: 30 September 2002

Papers are invited on The History of Manners in the Eighteenth Century, the topic of the Seventeenth-Annual DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-Century Studies.

In literature, art, and culture, the eighteenth century has been noted for the prominence of manners. Whether celebrated as a minor artistic development – as in the comedy of manners – or touted as the hallmark of civility, the development of manners constitutes a varied and important field of history. Our topic encompasses literature, society, art, music, politics, comparative cultures and more. Manners may be simply (or perhaps not so simply) the accustomed way of doing things by a particular group of people at a particular time and place; or they may serve as normative standards of a group. As such, manners reflect na-

tional, cultural, sub-cultural, religious, gendered, and/or class identities. Some potential areas of investigation include – but are not limited to – manners as manifested in:

- Business and trade
- Civility, etiquette, and politeness
- Conversation (conversation clubs, circles, pieces, portraits, etc.)
- Material culture
- Food, dining, and dancing
- Hygiene, clothing, hairstyles
- Print culture – representations of manners
- Conduct literature
- Satire (both written and etched)
- Travel – cultural comparisons
- Education (children, men, and women)

The DeBartolo Conference is an annual meeting devoted to the interdisciplinary treatment of a theme in eighteenth-century studies. It follows a single-session, discussion-oriented format; consequently we are interested in scholars who are willing to share their research and to participate in the ongoing discus-

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SHARP NEWS

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COPY DEADLINES

1 March
1 June
1 September
1 December

SHARP WEB:

<http://sharpweb.org>

sion. In order to sustain this seminar quality, we ask conferees to attend as many sessions of the conference as possible. We invite single presentation abstracts or complete panels with individual abstracts for each paper. If you are interested in serving as a moderator, please contact the DeBartolo Conference Director:

Laura Runge
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Website: <http://www.cas.usf.edu/english/debartolo>

The History of Medicine

Location: University College London
Dates: 20-21 June 2003
Deadline: 16 October 2002

The History of Medicine, a two-day conference marking the sesquicentennial of the birth of Sir Henry Wellcome will be jointly sponsored by The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, The History of Medicine Panel of the Wellcome Trust, and The American Association for the History of Medicine. The conference will be devoted to themes in the history of medicine and related fields that reflect elements of Wellcome's own interests. Papers will be especially welcomed on the history of:

- British-American medical relations
- British and American pharmaceuticals
- Collecting books and establishing libraries
- Collecting and exhibiting objects
- Ethno-pharmacology and medical anthropology
- The history of medicine
- Philanthropy and medicine

Those who wish to present a twenty-minute paper at the conference are asked to submit a one-page abstract of no more than 350 words by 16 October 2002. Abstracts should reflect the question being addressed as well as anticipated findings and conclusions. Please include the name of the speaker, preferred mailing address, work and home telephone numbers, present institutional affiliation (if any), and academic degrees. All papers must represent original work not already published or in press.

The committee will issue invitations to speak during the months of November and December and will announce the plan of the programme early in 2003. It may be possible to help defer some of the expenses of PhD students and independent scholars who appear on the programme.

Please send an electronic version of the abstract via email attachment in Microsoft Word, or eight printed copies to:

Debra Scallan
PA to the Director
The Wellcome Trust Centre for the
History of Medicine
University College London
24 Eversholt St.
London NW1 1AD UK
E-mail: d.scallan@ucl.ac.uk

CONFERENCES

Literary London: 1660 to 1830

Location: Mayfair, London
Date: 13 September 2002

Literary London: 1660 to 1830 has been organised by the Cambridge Project for the Book Trust. Papers will be given by:

- Barbara Benedict: "London Haunts: The Literary Footprints of Ghosts"

- Sarah Kareem: "The Urban Wonderland: Wandering London in the Eighteenth-Century City Diarist's Imagination"
- Sandro Jung: "James Thomson and Literary Coterie in Early Eighteenth-Century London"
- Seth Denbo: "Mysterious Productions: The Circulation of Horace Walpole's 'hidden' Play in Late Eighteenth Century Literary London"
- Padmini Ray Chaudhury: "Under the Sign of the Ship" (John Murray II)
- Yvonne Cornish: "Literary London and its Part in the Construction of Eighteenth-Century Celebrity"
- Brycchan Carey: "Ignatius Sancho's Literary Communities"
- Felicity James: "Fostering soil for Genius: Charles Lamb's London Letters"

An evening reception will be held after the conference in the Eighteenth-Century Arts and Literature Room (Room 12) at the National Portrait Gallery, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, London.

Also note that on the previous day there will be an opportunity to see a demonstration of the database of members of the eighteenth-century London book trades being compiled by the Arts and Humanities Research Board/Oxford University project "Mapping the Eighteenth-Century London Book Trades."

For registration and further details please contact:

Nigel Hall
 Mansfield College
 Mansfield Road
 Oxford OX1 3TF UK
 Telephone: +44 (0) 1865-284626
 Email: nigel.hall@mansfield.oxford.ac.uk
 Website: <http://www.cambridgebook.demon.co.uk>

History of the Maritime Book

Location: Princeton University, NJ
Dates: 4-5 October 2002

According to O.H.K. Spate, voyages outstripped divinity as the most popular form of print in the first part of the eighteenth century. This fourth international and interdisciplinary conference – to be hosted jointly by Princeton University and the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich – aims to trace the reasons for the meteoric growth in the popularity of voyage and travel books between 1680 and 1800, and the methods by which copy was produced, exchanged, edited, published, and marketed.

This conference is intended to draw together specialists working on book publication, maritime and imperial history, and voyage literature in its various embodiments. The conference will consist of a number of keynote lectures by invited speakers, including Professors Max Novak, Glyn Williams, James Raven, and Beth Tobin, as well as a series of simultaneously held roundtable sessions.

For further information, please contact:

Ingrid Horrocks and Alexandra Neel
 Department of English
 22 McCosh Hall
 Princeton University
 Princeton, NJ 08544 USA
 Email: maritime@princeton.edu

The Future History of the Book

Location: Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, Netherlands
Dates: 7-8, (9) November 2002

Since 1998, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), the National Library of the Neth-

erlands, has been engaged in a project to create an electronic information system on the history of the printed book in the Netherlands. This project has resulted in an interactive tool, entitled Bibliopolis, based on World Wide Web technology. Bibliopolis consists of various components: a concise history of the printed book in the Netherlands, an image database, biographical and bibliographical data, full text digital copies of important book history studies, and various bibliographic tools. The Bibliopolis project has been developed in close cooperation with the universities of Amsterdam, Leiden, Nijmegen, and Utrecht, as well as the Nederlandse Boekhistorische Vereniging. Financial support has been provided by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research.

Bibliopolis will be presented at The Future History of the Book, an international conference to be held at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek. The theme of the conference will be: the influence of new media on book history research and new directions in book history. The conference language is English. On 9 November, an optional excursion will be organised to the KB's major exhibition on children's books in the Kunsthal in Rotterdam.

Robert Darnton (Princeton University, NJ) and David McKitterick (Wren Librarian, Trinity College, Cambridge) will be our keynote speakers. The plenary morning sessions will be devoted to Bibliopolis and the history of the book in the Netherlands. In the afternoon sessions, parallel workshops will be held. One session will be organised by the Consortium of European Research Libraries and one session will be devoted to Bibliopolis itself.

Registration forms for The Future History of the Book can be found online at <http://www.kb.nl/coop/bibliopoliscongres> and further information on the conference is available from:

Koninklijke Bibliotheek
 Department of Special Collections
 Bibliopolis Conference
 Postbus 90407
 2509 LK The Hague, Netherlands
Email: BibliopolisConference@kb.nl

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Cambridge University Library Munby Fellowship in Bibliography, 2003-2004

Deadline: 15 September 2002

Applications are invited for the Munby Fellowship, tenable for one year from 1 October 2003.

The Munby Fellowship is open to graduates of any nationality and is linked to a non-stipendiary Research or Visiting Fellowship at Darwin College. The stipend will be £18,500 per annum and an election will be made in December 2002.

For more information please contact:

D.J. Hall
 Deputy Librarian
 Cambridge University Library
 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR UK
Telephone: +44 (0) 1223-333047

William L. Mitchell Prize for Research on Early British Serials

Deadline: 15 October 2002

The Bibliographical Society of America announces the William L. Mitchell Prize for Bibliography or Documentary Work on Early British Periodicals or Newspapers, named in honor of William L. Mitchell (retired, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas). A cash award of \$1,000 and a year-long Society membership will be awarded in

January 2003 and every three years thereafter.

Submissions for the Mitchell Prize may concentrate on any periodicals or newspapers printed before 1800 in English-speaking countries. Research into primary sources of historical evidence should be involved, whether for establishing a text or understanding the history of the production, distribution, collection, or reading of serial publications.

Scholarly output may take the form of a book, article, Master's thesis, Doctoral dissertation, website, CD-ROM, etc. Normally, eligible scholarship must have been published or, in the case of theses and dissertations, approved during the year of the deadline or within the three previous calendar years. For the first award, however, the nomination period will be extended from 1 January 1997 to 15 October 2002. In subsequent award periods the submission deadline will be 1 September. Publications nominally disqualified from submission but actually published within the prize period may be nominated if a letter from the publisher or editor testifying to the actual date of publication is enclosed. Unpublished dissertations and theses must be accompanied by a letter from the candidate's director attesting to approval.

All scholars are eligible to apply for the Mitchell Prize regardless of membership in the Bibliographical Society of America or any other society, and regardless of their citizenship, academic affiliation, degree, or rank. Young or junior scholars who have not yet published extensively are encouraged to apply. Candidates may be self-nominated or may be nominated by other persons, including publishers, journal editors, and dissertation and thesis directors.

Applications must contain the following items: a letter of intent addressed to the "Mitchell Prize Committee," three copies of the work in question, a one-page *curriculum vitae*, and any required documentation regarding thesis or dissertation approval or publication date.

Web-based nominations do not require the submission of three copies, but free access to the website and instructions on its use must be offered, along with a statement regarding plans for maintaining and/or archiving the website.

The prize will be awarded in late January 2003 at the Bibliographical Society's annual meeting in New York. Questions should be addressed to:

James E. May
 English Department
 Penn State University
 DuBois Campus, College Place
 DuBois, PA 15801 USA
Email: jem4@psu.edu
Website: <http://www.bibsocamer.org>

Applications should be addressed to:

The Mitchell Prize Committee
 c/o Executive Secretary
 Bibliographical Society of America
 P.O. Box 1537 Lenox Hill Station
 New York, NY 10021 USA
Email: bsa@bibsocamer.org

CONFERENCE REPORTS

The History of Libraries in the United States: Hosted by The Library Company of Philadelphia 11-13 April 2002

Submitted by Michael A. Baenen
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

This conference brought together scholars from many disciplines for a wide-ranging exploration of the social and intellectual roles of American libraries from the colonial period to roughly the mid-twentieth century.

Three major themes wove themselves through the proceedings. Perhaps most notable was a focus on the library's public – the stated theme of one session and

the subtext of several others. What social groups promoted libraries? Were libraries part of the market economy, or a differently gendered domestic sphere? Who were libraries' intended and actual users? What was the relationship between the librarian and his or her customers?

Case studies explored the library experiences of groups including the marginalized – free African Americans in the antebellum North, immigrant children, the patrons of rural bookmobiles – as well as the powerful – civic elites and governmental leaders.

All these explorations drew in some way on the legacies of the (not any longer) “new” social history and the history of mentalities; taken together, they suggested ways in which the history of libraries may make itself important to a broader audience. Participants noted the abundant, and little exploited, opportunities for comparison with other cultural institutions, such as museums.

A second theme running through many contributions was learned culture – the important and much neglected role libraries have played in shaping intellectual life and academic enterprise, whether in the sleepy antebellum college or the German-influenced graduate school. This is not necessarily a success story, for not all of the choices made by learned libraries seem wise to succeeding generations.

The third major theme was the relationship between library experiences in the United States and abroad: a number of papers demonstrated that library development and collecting offer a rich field for study of American cultural independence and shifting relationships with the rest of the world. A panel session on the American library in international perspective – gathering distinguished participants from Canada, continental Europe, and Great Britain – offered an opportunity to consider influence, imitation, and disdain, and to put in comparative perspective the social and political conditions shaping the American public library movement.

Librarianship and institutional development have been perennial interests for library historians; here they figured largely as opportunities for broader-ranging social inquiry. With social-historical concerns at the fore, there was relatively little attention to bibliographic themes. Those who track the fortunes of high theory noted that there were as many references to Tocqueville as to Habermas over the course of the conference.

On the first full day of the conference, participants returned often to the question, “Who (or what) is a library historian?” Judging from the evidence on the ground, the field continues to attract many librarians, but also those who have studied or teach in American studies, education, economics, English, and history. (Whatever their disciplinary allegiances, many library historians are SHARP members – more than one-quarter of those registered.) By the second day, the concern over self-definition seemed to recede, the quality of the presentations proving that yes, Virginia, there is a library history, and that it has a major role to play in the study of books and culture.

The conference was sponsored by Princeton University, the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Bibliographical Society of America, and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. Fittingly enough, the gracious host institution was America's first lending library – thanks to Jim Green and his colleagues for local arrangements. And both thanks and congratulations to Kenneth Carpenter and Thomas Augst for organizing a landmark event in library history.

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Submitted by Eleanor Shevlin

Marking its seventh year as an affiliate of the American Society for Eighteenth-Cen-

tury Studies (ASECS), SHARP sponsored a session at the ASECS annual meeting that took place on 3-7 April 2002 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Edward Jacobs (Old Dominion University) organized and chaired the panel entitled “Magazines, Reviews, Periodical Essays, Part Books, Etc.: New Perspectives on Periodical Serial Publication.” Attracting an audience of just under twenty, the session featured three papers: Charles E. Clark (University of New Hampshire), “The Long Experiment: the Quest for a Successful American Magazine Formula;” George Justice (Marquette University, now at the University of Missouri, Columbia), “Distance Learning: Eighteenth-Century Pedagogical Editions of *The Spectator*,” and Elizabeth Hollow (City University of New York Graduate Center), “Chronic Writing and Serial Suffering in Boswell and Johnson.” As has become a tradition, copies of the 2002 Recent and Current Research Projects on Authorship, Reading, and Publishing by Members of ASECS and SHARP were distributed at the meeting. The 2002 List is now available on the SHARP website.

BOOK HISTORY SOCIETIES

The Ticknor Society

The Ticknor Society is a newly-formed organization of book collectors, book dealers, librarians, archivists, printers, publishers, writers, and lovers of books (largely from the New England region) who are dedicated to the enjoyment, promotion, and support of books and book culture. The Society is named in honor of George Ticknor (1791-1871), a prominent Boston collector, scholar, and library supporter, and his daughter, Anna Eliot Ticknor (1823-1896), who was an early member of the Massachusetts Library Commission (founded 1890), this country's first state library

commission. Both father and daughter were instrumental in making books widely accessible in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Members of The Ticknor Society will assemble several times during each year to socialize with colleagues and friends, listen to and present papers, share information, and spread good cheer. Membership in the Ticknor Society is open to anyone who loves and appreciates books. A modest annual subscription fee of \$20, payable annually to The Ticknor Society, should be sent to:

Kenneth Carpenter
16 Stafford Road
Newton Center, MA 02459-1819
USA

For more information on the Ticknor Society, please contact:

Karen Nipps
Senior Rare Book Cataloger
Houghton Library
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
Telephone: (617) 495-2509
Fax: (617) 495-1376
Email: nipps@fax.harvard.edu

OBITUARY

Peter Isaac

It is with enormous sadness that we notify SHARP members of the sudden death of Professor Peter Isaac in June 2002. A tribute to Peter will appear in the next newsletter.

BOOK REVIEWS

David Finkelstein and Douglas Peers, eds. *Negotiating India in the Nineteenth-Century Media*.

Basingstoke, Hants: Macmillan Press; New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000. xi, 285 p. ill. ISBN 0-33-71146-7; 0-312-23465-1. £42.50/\$65.00

This volume, which includes twelve essays and an introductory chapter by the editors, deals with various representations of India in newspapers, magazines, and journals published between 1840 and 1900. As the word "negotiating" in the title indicates, the project of the book is to move away from any kind of monolithic model towards a more nuanced account of the press's role in British imperialism.

Most of the essays focus on British publications, although there is one essay on Indian language periodicals, Javed Majeed's "Narratives of Progress and Idioms of Community in Two Urdu Periodicals of the 1870s," a subtle and well-argued piece on the way traditional linguistic patterns and tropes were recycled in the late nineteenth-century Urdu press.

Several chapters discuss the Anglo-Indian press, that is English-language publications produced in India for the expatriate community. These include John McBratney's essay on Kipling's Indian travel journalism, which offers a useful reading of Kipling through the lens of ethnography and post-colonial theory; T.R. Moreman's chapter on specialised army publications; and Mark Harrison's "Was There an Oriental Renaissance in Medicine?" Of the chapters that focus on periodicals published in Britain, Nupur Chadhuri's chapter discusses the Beeton women's magazines as creating a femininity which linked nationalism and imperialism to domesticity; Kelly Boyd argues that India was not the site of boy story adventures; and Hyungji Park and Laura Peters address the ways in which

the Indian Mutiny of 1857-1858 featured obliquely in the serialisation of *The Moonstone* (1868) and explicitly in Dickens's own work, while Martin Wainwright deals with the way technological advances were represented as justifying Britain's role in India. Glen Wilkinson develops a sophisticated argument about the way the North-West frontier was created by the press as an imagined masculine space on which were inscribed the hierarchies of race. Antoinette Burton's work on imperialism is well known, and her essay here shows that any simple classification of periodical by country of publication or even by the intentions of its producers will not do. Hers is one of the essays in this collection that focuses on the press itself, rather than using it as evidence of an argument, and which also fulfils the editors' aim of suggesting that the press was a site of contestation, one which could open up wide cultural and political agendas.

Any collection of this kind is bound to be eclectic and somewhat uneven. Some focus on one periodical over a short period of time, while some offer a reading of "the press" across decades. Some are descriptive, and others draw on theoretical work by Habermas (Majeed) or Homi Bhaba (McBratney). The editors have made no attempt to divide the chapters by subject or indicate thematic links, even though these exist. Despite the diversity – or perhaps because of it – readers of SHARP will find matter of interest here. This collection not only extends our understanding of the history of the press, but unlike most studies of the periodical press, which typically are contained within national boundaries, it also poses questions about international readership and the way power worked across and within the boundaries of nation and race at one particular period. From this focused set of studies we, as readers, can draw out wider cultural and scholarly agendas.

Margaret Beetham

Manchester Metropolitan University

Robin Myers, ed. *The Stationers' Company: A History of the Later Years 1800-2000*. London: The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers, 2001. x, 265 p. ill. ISBN 1-86077-140-8. £29.99

This collection of thematically-arranged articles explores the development of the Stationers' Company in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a period largely ignored or marginalised in previous histories of the Company. This volume bears the hallmarks of an official history, but it is nonetheless a valuable resource for the general book historian, and an illuminating study of the role of the Stationers' Company in the modern booktrade.

Several chapters concentrate on the Stationers' internal history (administrative, architectural, and charitable). However, the majority are of more general interest, and are concerned with the involvement of the Company in printing, publishing, and bookselling since 1800. Michael Berlin and Robin Myers' chapter, "From Masters to Managing Directors," includes a study of the social and geographical backgrounds of Company apprentices. David Whitaker's "The Registering Office and the Administration of Legal Deposit" charts the progress of nineteenth-century legislation surrounding legal deposit to British libraries, its evasion by publishers, and the process of registration carried out by the Stationers' Company until the Copyright Act of 1911. Michael Harris examines the historical relationship between newspaper publishers and the booktrade, its development in the nineteenth century, and the significance of the 1933 merger of the Stationers' Company with the Newspaper Makers' Company.

Robin Myers's collection is presented as a complement and "partial sequel" to Cyprian Blagden's *The Stationers' Company 1403-1959* (1960). Blagden describes the "featureless history" of the Stationers' Company in these centuries, and con-

cludes that "it was during the 19th century that the Stationers' Company retired from the booktrade" (283). Myers argues that this book challenges Blagden's conclusions and demonstrates the enduring significance of the Stationers' Company in the trade during these years. Yet, perhaps unintentionally, Blagden's interpretation is both confirmed and reinforced in this volume.

Through the chapters there is a pervasive sense of a Company in terminal decline, with ever-dwindling economic, social, and legal significance. For example, David Whitaker's chapter, "The Company and the Trades of the Guild," analyses the way that trade associations developed in the nineteenth century, carrying out the business of the trade and leaving the Company searching for a role. Richard Bowden describes the decline of the English Stock in this period: the gradual loss of income from book monopolies, and the succession of challenges to the almanac business through the nineteenth century. Michael Harris describes the Company in the early twentieth century as being in bad shape, not only because of its elderly and static membership, but also because the ending of official registration deprived it of its main sources of income and cultural justification. Indeed, the Stationers' Company tends to be portrayed in this volume as an anachronistic club on the periphery of the booktrade, reluctantly letting go of its traditional functions and privileges, but failing to create a new role for itself in supporting publishing and bookselling.

However, the historical significance of the Stationers' Company is indisputable, and this is the subject of Robin Myers's chapter, "From Past to Present." As Company archivist, she documents the previous scholarship associated with the Company and includes a detailed account of the collection in the archive. In addition, her appendices provide a thorough resource, including a glossary, a helpful chronology of events in the history of the Company alongside events in the

booktrade as a whole, and a comprehensive bibliography. This book exemplifies Myers's ongoing commitment to making the archival resources of the Stationers' Company more accessible to researchers, and offers further evidence of her impressive contribution to scholarship in publishing history.

Caroline Davis

Oxford Brookes University

Sandrine Ferré, *L'édition au Canada atlantique: le défi de publier une région*. Collection des thèses du Centre d'Études canadiennes de l'Université de Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle, no. 5. Paris: Sorbonne Nouvelle, 1999. ii, 497 p. ISBN 2-910578-03-8 (paperback). 200FF

This study examines the growth and development of the publishing industry in Canada's four easternmost provinces during the second half of the twentieth century. Through a chronological analysis of social conditions in the region and an examination of the activities of publishers of Atlantic Canada in response to changing social demands, Ferré exemplifies the Darntonian principle that printed material shares an inter-active and inter-dependant relationship with the political, economic, and cultural environment in which it is produced.

Shortly after the end of World War II, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland came to be identified by the rest of Canada as a single, unified entity, noted for its geographic isolation and economic destitution, but also for its natural beauty and the quaint lifestyle of its people. Genuine regional cohesiveness, however, was not internally attained: the vagaries of local politics and competition among the provinces for limited federal resources resulted in the evolution of four separate cultural identities. Nonetheless, the need to seek support and recognition

within the stronger national structure required cultural producers to acknowledge the value of reinforcing the perception of a unique and integrated “region.” It has been in answer to the challenge of preserving the diversity of each province while promoting the region *in toto* that Atlantic Canadian publishing has matured.

The author facilitates our understanding of this process by dividing her text into three sections, each of which corresponds to a distinct period in the publishing history of the Atlantic provinces. The fifties and sixties, for example, saw the establishment of government support for cultural activities. During the seventies, publishers were able to expand the market by responding to the demands of a growing tourism industry for provincial and regional material. As government aid declined in the eighties, publishers and writers began to take over responsibility for the future of the industry. Their efforts have ensured that Atlantic publishing is holding its own in provincial, regional, and national markets at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

In each section the author examines the personalities, motivations, and contributions of the publishers who flourished during the corresponding period. These descriptions are interspersed with analyses of major publishing trends and examinations of the role of universities and minority groups in the cycle of print production. Ferré, during the course of her research, also compiled a separate bibliography of material produced by Atlantic publishers, which is soon to be published in Canada.

The text, written in French, was originally a dissertation, but Ferré avoids disruption of an eminently readable story by placing tables, chapter bibliographies, questionnaires and analyses, and a description of methodology at the end of the book. Subject and name indices are included. It is hoped that translation into English will be considered so that readers of either of Canada’s official languages may benefit from the author’s thorough

research and meticulous presentation, and that well-deserved recognition for the accomplishments of Atlantic publishers may be promoted further.

Anne MacKinnon
Dalhousie University

Christine Pawley. *Reading on the Middle Border: the Culture of Print in Late-Nineteenth Century Osage, Iowa.* Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001. xi, 265 p. ISBN 1-55849-275-5 (cloth). £31.50/\$39.95

Just looking at the title of Christine Pawley’s book, one might be tempted to think that a study of such a small, Midwestern town would be of little interest. Yet, this book is an amazing treatment of reading. Its rich detail and insights into a particular reading community should be viewed as a model for future print culture studies. Pawley brings to life the townspeople and activities of that time in ways which make for absolutely fascinating reading. Pawley also gives her study wider resonance by discussing Osage, Iowa within the larger complex and shifting networks of nineteenth-century American ethnicity, religion, gender, economics, politics, and class.

Osage already has a place in literary history as the childhood home of Hamlin Garland; Pawley refers to his autobiography, *A Son of the Middle Border*, for a description of his reading novels and newspapers as a relief from farm chores. She also includes his experiences at the Cedar Valley Seminary in her chapter on school libraries. While chapters discuss print culture at additional Osage institutions and organizations (study groups like the Shakespearean Club and societies like the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, the Woman Suffrage Society, the Masons, and many others), Pawley’s main interest is in Osage’s public library. By constructing a detailed database of the library’s circulation records, supple-

mented with information about specific people from local newspapers and church and school records, Pawley is able to recreate an astounding amount of information about the reading practices of this community.

She further complicates her study by the extensive use of government census records. It is intriguing to see Pawley’s charts showing what books were popular and what gender, age, class, ethnic, and religious groups were regular library users, as well as what groups were not – and for what possible reasons. Anglophone Protestants (Universalists, Baptists, Methodists, and Congregationalists), Irish Catholics, Scandinavian Lutherans, and the one Jewish family in town all become players in her study.

One omission, which may have been due to publishing constraints, is that no historical photographs are present. After seeing the photographs of some of the ladies and Mrs. Hitchcock’s Victorian home reproduced in Pawley’s article, “Not wholly Self Culture: The Shakespearean Women’s Club, Osage, Iowa, 1892-1920” (*Annals of Iowa*, Winter/Spring, 1997, p. 12-45), one cannot help but wish to see more such images. What is not lacking in this book, however, is thorough research and knowledge of current literature; almost every page is footnoted with further explanations and citations. The research was conducted for Pawley’s 1996 dissertation at the University of Wisconsin, Madison: “Reading on the Middle Border: the Culture of Print in Osage, Iowa, 1870-1900.” While her research results in a wealth of information, not everything is presented as straightforward. Questions, problems, exceptions, and complications are brought forth for the reader to ponder, and for future print historians to consider.

Anne Marie Lane
University of Wyoming

Clarence Karr. *Authors and Audiences: Popular Canadian Fiction in the Early Twentieth Century.* Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000. xiv, 317 p. ill. ISBN 0-7735-2076-7 (cloth) £43.50/\$75.00; ISBN 0-7735-2109-7 (paperback) £21.95/\$27.95

It is not surprising that Canadians, notoriously memory-challenged about their cultural inheritance, know little about their international best selling writers of a century ago. Clarence Karr, an historian at Malespina College in Nanaimo, British Columbia, provides a ground-breaking study of Ralph Connor, Robert Stead, Nellie McClung, Arthur Stringer, and Lucy Maud Montgomery, whose careers coincided with the arrival of branches of international publishers in Toronto around 1900. These turn-of-the-century years mark Canada's first extended prosperity, a time remarkable for rapid social change and large-scale immigration. Karr argues that his authors' encounters with modernism (urbanization, liberalism, consumerism) challenged their readers to question and understand the new industrial world. In a detailed refutation of earlier evaluations, Karr concludes that "To dismiss [these authors'] works as late-Victorian romanticism or regional idylls is both unfair and inaccurate" (220).

In the first four chapters, Karr explains his use of modernism, describes the "golden age" of American magazine and book publishing, surveys Toronto publishing, and compares the apprenticeships of the five authors. The next five chapters describe how the major work(s) of each author presented a social philosophy, which clicked with their readers, through their books' entertaining plots, locales, and characters. Promoting their agendas through fiction, Connor celebrated muscular Christians who civilized the Canadian West, and McClung depicted women who campaigned for temperance and the franchise. By contrast, Montgomery, the only author still

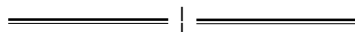
in print, adored by fans and scholars alike, scorned such uses for fiction, and her protagonists – Anne and Emily – immortalize the adolescent girl's transformation into artist.

The third section of Karr's book explores the response of international audiences to these books and their movie versions, and leads to Karr's generalizations about the socio-economic makeup of readers and his theories about audience reception. The final two chapters paint a pathetic picture of the five elderly authors, racked by illness, beset by financial losses, distressed by their lost audiences, and then castigated and ignored by modernist critics, until their partial resurrection in the 1980s. Much here is new and timely, but the cumbersome organization, which is occasionally repetitious, can overwhelm the most intrepid reader. Regrettably, there are also many typographical errors.

Karr acknowledges his debt to Laurence Lewis's emphasis on the audience as the missing link, to Janice Rodway's and Robert Darnton's studies on best sellers, and to David Hall's argument that pop culture is neither inferior nor escapist. Karr applies their approaches to the Canadian context – scouring biographies, women's studies, publishing history, and the archives of authors, literary agents, and publishers – to deliver one of the first extensive studies of audience response and the market for popular fiction in Canada. His abundant notes and index comprise almost one third of the text. Such sources were not readily available thirty years ago when this reviewer first looked into Canada's publishing history. Karr's book is a hint of the surprises in store for readers of the History of the Book in Canada Project.

George L. Parker

Royal Military College, ret.



Jenny Hartley. *Reading Groups.* [A Survey Conducted in Association with Sarah Turvey] Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. xii, 194p. ISBN 0 19 818778 5 (paperback). £5.99/\$9.95

"Naturally within our environment...we tend to put ourselves into little communities," said Joanne Harris, author of *Chocolat*, and *Coastliners*, explaining her fascination with the dynamics of social groups in her fiction. "As soon as you work in an office, or school...or you live in an apartment block and you know your neighbours then you live in a small community and you become part of the chemistry of it."¹ Harris – an author whom you might expect to find on contemporary reading group lists as her fiction is both topical and thematic – alerts us to the function of social groups as communities, a key theme in Jenny Hartley's exploration of reading groups in Britain.

Reading Groups is based on research by Hartley and Sarah Turvey. They sent out questionnaires requesting information about the composition, structure, and size of various reading groups in Britain. They asked about what these groups read, the forms their discussions took, and which books proved popular and unpopular. They attended some of the groups' meetings to gather observational data on the way groups structured their discussions. The 350 responses are analysed through a series of tables in the appendix and a discussion of what constitutes a reading group, who belongs to them, how they choose what they read and how they talk, ending with a look at reading groups beyond the shores of Britain. The main body of the text is an accessible presentation of the reading groups' "voices" in a sensitively balanced and contextualised narrative.

Portraying the social as well as the literary aspects of reading groups, Hartley records how one group was "started by a group of neighbours who wanted a reason to socialize." Others grew out of

the workplace or through library or media initiatives. Many pointedly rejected the discourse of their original shared interest out of a desire to talk about something other than work or children; or to discuss the experiences arising from their reading with a different social group than they normally might encounter. For instance, twelve percent of groups have a wide age span, one ranged from twenty-seven to eighty-four. Others were constrained by choice to single sex.

It is hard to read this book as an academic without wanting to link the research with studies of authorship and publishing and to explore a variety of theoretical interpretations. These groups are not isolated from commercial or institutional forces. Libraries actively foster reading groups and some have close ties to their local bookshops. Significantly, Hartley mentions two other initiatives which helped their research: the telecommunications company Orange in 1997 promoted reading groups and mailed out their questionnaire to groups registered with them as did the *Mail on Sunday's* YOU magazine. Both companies are in the business of creating readerships and encouraging communication within communities of friends, acquaintances, and colleagues.

Reading Groups maps out a corner of contemporary reading practice, and I am certain it will be added to the reading lists of many groups similar to the ones it studies. The enthusiasm of members for their reading groups shines through this book and is likely to inspire the reader to go out and start one. One note of caution however: Hartley points out that the one place reading groups have not been successful is in Universities.

¹Interview with Joanne Harris, *Open Book*, BBC Radio 4, 14 March 2002.

Alexis Weedon

University of Luton

Richard D. Altick, *A Little Bit of Luck: the Making of an Adventurous Scholar*. Philadelphia: Xlibris Corporation, 2002. 284 p. ISBN 1-4010-2312-6 (cloth); 1-4010-2311-8 (paperback); 1-4010-2313-4 (eBook). \$28.79 (cloth); \$18.69 (paperback); \$8.00 (eBook)

Richard Altick, known to most scholars as the author of the immensely important *The English Common Reader*, has taken advantage of a new self-publishing enterprise supported by Random House to publish a memoir of his career. Full of wit, whimsy and wonderful anecdotes, Altick allows us a personal look into his long and influential career as a scholar of Victorian Britain. This autobiography allows us to reflect upon the life and six-decade long career of one of print culture studies' pioneers. His reflections on writing *The English Common Reader* will be of particular interest to those in print culture studies.

David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery, eds. *The Book History Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 2002. x, 390 p. ISBN 0-415-22657-0 (cloth); 0-415-22658-9 (paperback). £62.60/\$90.00 (cloth); £17.99/\$27.95 (paperback)

Yet one more sign that history of the book studies are gaining weight and acceptance in the Academy is Finkelstein and McCleery's wonderful new collection of essays introducing many key concepts in print culture studies. In four general sections (What is Book History?; From Orality to Literacy; Commodifying Print: Books and Authors; and Books and Readers) this reader includes twenty-seven different essays from such notable scholars as Darnton, McKenzie, McGann, Chartier, Ong, Eisenstein, Altick and Radway. One is impressed with just how many standard, landmark pieces of history of the book scholarship are con-

tained or excerpted within this reader, making it a wonderful resources for a wide range of history of the book classes at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

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SHARP END

Editorial News

After a decade of never-failing work for *SHARP News*, Linda Connors will shortly be stepping down as our Bibliographer. This task requires a constant reviewing of publishers' catalogues and other forthcoming publication lists from

as many countries as possible. Linda's generosity in maintaining this time-consuming role since the launch of *SHARP News* deserves very special thanks. Those of you who attend this year's conference in London may witness the public thank you to Linda! Linda will be a hard act to follow, but I am very pleased to announce that Padmini (Tina) Ray Chaudhury, Post-graduate Researcher at the Centre for the History of the Book at Edinburgh University, will be our new Bibliographer. If you have publications to bring to Tina's attention, please contact her at: P.Ray-Chaudhury@sms.ed.ac.uk or tina.rayc@ed.ac.uk

This issue of *SHARP News* marks the first for Chuck Johanningsmeier as our US Review Editor. Please note Chuck's contact information in the Masthead on page two. Ian Gadd, Errin Armstrong, and I are delighted to have Chuck as a member of the newsletter's editorial team and we welcome him aboard. He has already demonstrated not only a fine and appropriate attention to detail in his review work, but also a fine and appropriate sense of humour, which is vital to this endeavour!

Greeting a new colleague means, of course, that we are bidding farewell to a valued friend and outgoing Review Editor. Paul Gutjahr has been a model of courteous efficiency and, as editor, I miss

him very much already. The tri-partite emailing between Ian, Paul, and me always lifted my spirits and reminded me of SHARP's well-deserved reputation as a "place" full of collegial delight. We wish Paul well in all of his future endeavours.

As *SHARP News* depends almost wholly on voluntary effort, may I ask members to keep me informed of their own future interests in any of our editorial positions? And, as always, contributions to the newsletter and feedback about it are welcome at any time.

CORRECTIONS

The editor apologizes for the following errors which appeared in the spring issue of the newsletter:

10th Annual SHARP Conference

The SHARP conference announcement on page one incorrectly referred to Trevor Howard-Hill, editor of the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, as President of the Bibliographical Society of America (BSA). The President of BSA is Hope Mayo.

400th Anniversary of the Bodleian Library

The Bodleian Library Conference will run from 18-20 September 2002 and not from 8-20 September as printed on page eight.

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