

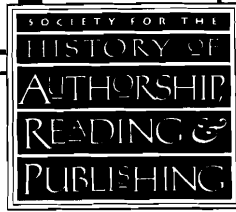


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## Volume 4, Number 3

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# SHARP NEWS



Volume 4, Number 3

Summer 1995

## ***Edinburgh Conference Endorses Plan to Publish a SHARP Yearbook***

At SHARP's recent annual conference in Edinburgh, the Executive Council and the general membership meeting both unanimously approved a proposal to launch a scholarly yearbook devoted to book history. It will be published by Penn State Press under an arrangement outlined by SHARP Publications Coordinator James L. W. West III.

The journal—which has the working title *Book*—will be a hardcover annual of 300 to 400 pages. The contents will, of course, be finally determined by the editors, but some general guidelines emerged from the discussions at Edinburgh. While the yearbook will certainly publish selected papers from SHARP meetings, it will also be open to the best work in the field from all quarters. The sense of the meeting was that the journal should consist mainly (if not entirely) of scholarly articles: book reviews would remain the province of SHARP NEWS, which can publish them in a more timely fashion. The yearbook, however, might present long review essays or annual surveys of new publications in book history.

Under this plan, each SHARP member would receive a subscription to the yearbook as a membership benefit, and annual dues would be raised by about \$20 to cover the cost. We may set a still higher rate for institutions, while students might be offered the option of a special low membership fee which would not include a subscription to *Book*. In any case, dues will not be increased until the year the journal is first published, certainly no earlier than 1997. For the time being, however, SHARP is suspending its two-year membership option: we will now accept renewals for only one year at a time.

James West is assembling a search committee to find editors and an institutional base for the journal. A formal call for applications will appear in the next SHARP NEWS.

The Edinburgh conference, meeting from 14 to 17 July, was a gratifying success. There were about 170 registrants, compared with the 200 who attended last year's meeting in Washington. This was a good turnout considering that most SHARP members had to cross an ocean to attend: four of them were awarded travel grants by the American Council of Learned Societies. And we did well to schedule the conference to follow the meetings of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals and the

International Association for Publishing Education: many who attended those conferences stayed on for SHARP.

Our local organizers in Edinburgh, Bill Bell and David Finkelstein, combined magnificently together to overcome all emergencies, including two one-day British Rail strikes. They arranged a strong program of papers and an entertaining array of diversionary activities, including a reception at Edinburgh City Hall, a literary tour, and a well-attended whiskey-tasting session.

The conference opened with an energetic keynote speech by Elizabeth Eisenstein, "Proclaiming the End of the Book: Some Perspectives on Media Change." Another perspective on that issue was offered by Ian Donaldson (King's College Cambridge) in his address to the conference banquet, "The Destruction of the Book." In fact, the alleged "death of the book" proved to be one of the recurring themes of the meeting: journalists covering the conference for BBC Radio Scotland repeatedly returned to that question.

At the general membership meeting, John Hench discussed our plans for bringing the 1996 SHARP conference to the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. The Executive Council announced tentative plans to hold our 1997 meeting at Cambridge University: we hope to confirm that in the next issue of this newsletter. There was broad discussion of conference arrangements at the SHARP Board of Directors meeting, and the clear sense was that we should aim for future sites outside Britain and the northeastern United States. The Board also decided to set up a more formal application procedure for prospective conference hosts. Anyone who wishes to explore the possibility of hosting a SHARP conference should contact Jonathan Rose here at the home office.

## ***Call for Papers: 1996 Conference at the American Antiquarian Society***

The fourth annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing will take place 18-21 July 1996 in Worcester, Massachusetts, under the auspices of the American Antiquarian Society and its Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. SHARP welcomes proposals for papers dealing with the creation, diffusion, or reception of the written or printed word in any historical period. Conference proceedings will

be in English, but papers may deal with any national literature. There are no limitations on topics, but we may organize special panels on comparative histories of the book; the book in the Americas; the collection and description of archival material and statistical information on printing, publishing, and reading; and future agendas for the field.

Submissions are encouraged from academics, graduate students, librarians, professionals in the book trades, and others with a special angle of vision on the field. Proposals for either individual papers or full panels may be submitted.

Proposals (one page maximum per paper) and inquiries about the conference itself should be sent to: SHARP 1996, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-1634, USA, fax 508-754-9069, e-mail [cfs@mark.mwa.org](mailto:cfs@mark.mwa.org). Although submissions by e-mail and fax will be accepted, original hard copy is *greatly* preferred. The deadline for submission of proposals is 20 November 1995. For information about AAS and its Program in the History of the Book in American Culture, contact John B. Hench, the Society's director of research and publication, or Caroline F. Sloat, as above.

John Hench will chair the program committee, which will meet in Worcester in early January 1996 to consider the abstracts. Any SHARP member who is not submitting a proposal may sit on that committee: please inform Mr. Hench in writing of your intention to serve by 20 November.

### ***SHARP Inaugurates Internet Resource Center on World Wide Web***

Patrick Leary, our Recording Secretary and manager of the SHARP-L listserv, has created a new electronic resource center for book historians on the World Wide Web. As announced at our Edinburgh conference, **SHARP Web** will serve as a sort of Internet headquarters for our organization. A private demonstration at Cyberia, Edinburgh's first cyber cafe, suggested dazzling possibilities for this new information tool. Whether you are new to navigating the Web or an experienced Internaut, pay SHARP Web a visit and explore the increasingly rich variety of materials available on-line to scholars in book, periodical, and newspaper history. To reach SHARP Web, simply point your Web browser to this address: <http://www.indiana.edu/~sharp>.

Some of the resources currently available include conference and journal calls for papers, links to book history exhibits at major libraries, and information about related scholarly societies. We have also posted the finding lists for publishers' archives compiled by Alexis Weedon and Nan Albinski.

But this is, we hope, only the beginning. For years we have talked about the need for a universal bibliography of

book history: the Web page might be the ideal medium for such a reference tool. Certainly, SHARP Web is very much a work-in-progress, and we have yet to explore fully its potential for scholars of print culture. When you have had a chance to visit SHARP Web, please send your comments and suggestions to Patrick Leary at [pleary@indiana.edu](mailto:pleary@indiana.edu) (new address) or the Department of History, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

### ***Library History Projects Under Way in Britain and the United States***

Collaborative, multivolume histories of libraries in Britain and the United States are currently being planned by scholars on each side of the Atlantic. These two projects specifically aim to bring library history out of what has been called "a scholarly ghetto" and into the mainstream of intellectual and social historiography. They will incorporate and address the work of scholars in other disciplines, including literature, history, education, technology, social philosophy, architecture, and the arts.

Cambridge University Press has commissioned *A History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland*, outlined by its General Editor, Peter Hoare, at SHARP's Edinburgh conference. It will be produced under the aegis of the Library History Group of the Library Association and the Institute for Historical Research of the University of London. The first volume, covering the early Middle Ages to 1660, will be edited by Teresa Webber and Elizabeth Leedham-Green; the second, from 1660 to 1850, will be edited by Robin Alston; and Alistair Black and Peter Hoare will edit the final volume, from 1850 to the present day. Each volume will feature statistical and bibliographical apparatus, and appendices will include lists of library catalogues, sale catalogues, subscription and circulating libraries, and library archives. For further information contact Peter Hoare, c/o The Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, Britain, or by telephone or fax at 0115-978-5297.

The prime mover behind the American project is Kenneth E. Carpenter, assistant director for research resources at Harvard University Library and editor of the *Harvard Library Bulletin*. On 12-13 September, the Center

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for the Book in the Library of Congress will convene an invitational conference of leading library and book historians to discuss the goals, feasibility, and possible content of a such a reference work. Kenneth Carpenter will open the conference with a free public lecture on "Libraries and Readers: Toward a History of Libraries and Culture in America," scheduled for 6:00 p.m., 12 September in the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the Madison Memorial Building. For further information contact the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, telephone 202-707-5221.

### ***SHARP to Sponsor Sessions at American Historical Association Meetings***

Having affiliated with the American Historical Association, SHARP can now sponsor its own panels at AHA conventions. We have already scheduled a session on "Transatlantic Print Culture, 1750-1850" for the upcoming AHA conference in Atlanta, 4-7 January 1996. The panel, chaired by C. John Sommerville (University of Florida), will feature Barbara E. Lacey (Saint Joseph College) on "Word and Image in Eighteenth-Century American Magazine Illustration," James Raven (Magdalene College Cambridge) on "Library Societies and Really Respectable Booksellers: The Import of Books to the American Colonies c. 1750-1812," and Leslie Howsam (University of Windsor) on "Artifact, Work, and Identity: The 1850 London Bible Dispute."

To enhance the visibility of book history among historians, we hope to offer more sessions at the next AHA convention, which will meet 4-7 January 1997 in New York City. Accordingly, we issue a call for papers dealing with any of four suggested themes: (1) The Printing Press as an Agent of Change, (2) Libraries and Culture, (3) The History of Reading, or (4) Censorship and Human Rights. (We will also consider panels on other topics.) Send a 300-word abstract (for a 20-minute paper) and a vita by 15 October 1995 to Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940. We also seek a chair and a commentator for each panel.

SHARP would like to appoint a permanent liaison to the AHA—someone who would undertake to organize SHARP panels for future AHA meetings. If you are interested, contact Jonathan Rose, as above.

### ***Academic Publishers Create New Monograph Series in Media History***

Spurred by growing public and academic interest in the history of the book, several scholarly publishers have recently begun new series of monographs devoted to this field. And, reflecting current intellectual trends, these series often venture beyond the book per se to deal more generally with media and cultural studies.

The University of Massachusetts Press has inaugurated "Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book." This interdisciplinary series will include but not be limited to studies of authorship, reading, writing, printing, and publishing in all forms and media. The editorial advisory board consists of Roger Chartier, William Gilmore-Lehne, Robert A. Gross, Joan Shelley Rubin, and Michael Winship. Proposals and manuscripts should be sent to the Executive Editor, Paul M. Wright, University of Massachusetts Press, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA 02125-3393, telephone 617-287-5710, fax 617-265-7173.

Duke University Press has announced its new series "Cultures of Authorship: From Gutenberg to the Internet," edited by Martha Woodmansee (Case Western Reserve University) and Peter Jaszi (American University). It will deal with the history of authorship and the cultural and material conditions of information production and dissemination, including the history of the book, motion pictures, and broadcasting. The editors are seeking projects employing comparative methodologies and foreign case studies as well as investigations of the relationship between the production of meaning and the various disciplines of information, including science, public policy, the law, and economics. Manuscript proposals may be sent to the series editors or to Rachel Toor, Editor, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708.

Garland Publishing is actively seeking manuscripts for an ongoing series of scholarly books, "Literature and Society in Victorian England." Contact Prof. Sally Mitchell, English Department, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, telephone 212-204-1790, e-mail smitch@vm.temple.edu. Inquiry letters should describe the book's topic, intended audience, special features, length, date of anticipated completion, and relation to other published works in the field. Also provide a vita and an abstract of no more than five pages.

In Germany, Edition Sigma (Heimstr. 14, D-10965 Berlin) has published since 1992 "Empirische Literatur- und Medienwissenschaft" (The Empirical Study of Literature and the Media), edited by Norbert Groeben, Margrit Schreier (both of the University of Cologne), and Peter Vorderer (University of Music and Theater Hannover). Working in the context of an interdisciplinary cultural studies (*Kulturwissenschaft*), the series has so far produced volumes on television as a medium (*Fernsehen als Handlung* by Peter Vorderer) and reading choices (*Leseentscheidung und Lektürewahl* by Katinka Dijkstra).

### ***Book History in Bulgaria: A Report from the Field***

*The following is the first in a series of reports on the state of book history in nations throughout the world. The author published an article on SHARP in the 3 May 1995 issue of Literaturin Forum, a Bulgarian weekly.—Ed.*

The Bulgarian *knigoznanie* (the study of books) has been defined in the professional literature in accordance with the Russian tradition of *knigovedenie*—as a holistic discipline concerned with the book as a cultural phenomenon and a manufactured object, in both history and the present day. *Knigoznanie* embraces the origins and development of language and script, the material carriers of script from the most ancient to the most advanced, the printing press and its historical development and technological innovations, the ways and means of book circulation (publishing and bookselling), the preservation of the book, the description of books (bibliography and catalogues), the study of readers and bibliophiles, and book statistics. The "study of the book" in the broadest sense includes also paleography, documentation, and even literary history. Thus it is a global discipline that studies all aspects of the creation, circulation, and consumption of books; but, on the other hand, it is an array of partly autonomous disciplines and fields concerned with particular aspects of the book.

Book history in Bulgaria—limited by the available sources and the financial resources of the country—focuses exclusively on our national history. One may note further the lack of research on the social dimensions of the book: e.g., research on readers and reading in different epochs of Bulgarian history. To a certain extent this is due to the silence of the historical sources from the medieval period (ninth to fourteenth centuries) and the greater part of the Ottoman domination (fifteenth to eighteenth centuries). While one may find isolated attempts at research on the social functioning of manuscripts (done by literary historians in the main), no such research has been done for the epoch of the printed book in Bulgaria—the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Issues surrounding the circulation, possession, and reading of books in the nineteenth century have been touched upon in a large-scale study of the Bulgarian intelligentsia of the period (as the main producers and consumers of periodicals under conditions of limited literacy); and historians of pedagogy have done a certain amount of research on the creation of textbooks and supplementary school literature for the needs of mass education. There exist very accurate and professional positivist studies treating the technical production of books, including the history of Bulgarian printing and the role of printing entrepreneurs during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the 1970s the first sociological surveys of present-day readers and reading were carried out; though in the absence of a free book market during state socialism, they are of limited value.

**Teaching.** There is no analogy in Bulgaria to the discipline "History of the Book" as it exists today in Western Europe and North America: i.e., a well-defined field of study with teaching and research centers, M.A. and Ph.D. programs, a network of scholarly societies and forums, and specialized periodicals. Nevertheless, attempts have been made recently to overcome this relative neglect. "The History of the Book" was first introduced as a subject in the curriculum of the Center for the Study of

Culture at Sofia University several years ago. After the formation of an independent Faculty of Library and Information Sciences within the Department of Philosophy at the same university, it became part of its curriculum. The subject is taught here in two tracks: as an introductory course for first-year students, and in the framework of seminars on various aspects of the history of Bulgarian and European scribal and print culture: e.g., manuscripts in Western Europe, the Slavic countries, and the Byzantine Empire; education, literacy, readers, and reading from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century; authorship and copyright; censorship and publishing. Other courses offered include the history of libraries, the history and theory of bibliography, and the history of book publishing and distribution in Western Europe. Since 1991-92, several courses on the past and present of the book have been taught in the Department of Library and Information Sciences of the St. St. Cyril and Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo, such as the history of libraries and the psychology of readers and reading. In 1994-95 a course on the function of books within communications systems was first offered by the Communications Department at the University of Blagoevgrad. Courses on the book and libraries are also taught at the College for Librarians in Sofia.

**Research Centers.** Besides the above-mentioned institutions, which function as both teaching and research units, book studies research is conducted by the National Library. In addition to having the largest book stock in Bulgaria, it keeps valuable collections of Bulgarian manuscripts, incunabula, and printed books from the nineteenth century, when intensive printing activities in the Bulgarian language began in several locations (Constantinople, Wallachia, Moldavia, Russia, Serbia, Austria). The Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Institute for the Study of Culture in Sofia are also centers for book research. However, the most valuable Bulgarian medieval manuscripts are kept in the British Library, the Vatican, and some Russian collections.

**Periodicals.** Some of the academic and research institutions publish their own periodicals, such as the *Yearbook of the National St. St. Cyril and Methodius Library*, *Bulletin of the Institute for Research on Culture*, and the journal *Library*. Individual articles on book studies appear in other journals, e.g., *Studia Culturologica* (published in English) and *Sociological Review*. There is still no specialized periodical for the study of the book and, in the present conditions of economic hardship in Bulgaria, it would hardly be possible to maintain such a journal.

**The Future.** An M.A. and Ph.D. program will be set up within the framework of the Department of Library and Information Sciences at Sofia University, modelled after analogous programs in Western Europe, such as those at the University of London and the University of Versailles-Saint Quentin. In the academic years 1995-96 a specialization in the history of book publishing will begin at the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications at

Sofia University, where courses on the history of the book will be offered as well. Meanwhile, to facilitate the teaching of the subject, Sofia University Press is preparing a reader on the history of the book to be published next year. It will include selections by Henri-Jean Martin, Roger Chartier, Robert Darnton, Elizabeth Eisenstein, Donald MacKenzie, John Feather, G. Thomas Tanselle, David Hall, and Bernhard Fabian.

—*Krassimira Daskalova*  
*Center for Theory and History of Culture*  
*University of Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski*  
*15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria*

### ***Russian Scholars to Host International Print Culture Conference***

"Print Culture in Times of Critical Cultural Change," an international conference on the history of books, libraries, and reading, will meet in Vologda, Russia from 13-15 June 1996. Co-sponsored by the American Library Association and the International Federation of Library Associations, the meeting will bring together American, Russian, and European scholars from a broad range of disciplines. It will address such issues as (1) books, readers and libraries as harbingers of cultural change; (2) the impact of changing cultural contexts on libraries and reading; (3) changes in the literary canon and the selection of library materials; and (4) the inclusion of new cultures in reading and library activities.

Vologda is directly north of Moscow and east of St. Petersburg, in the northern lake district. It is famous for its gold-domed medieval monasteries, and the final day of the conference is reserved for excursions to historic sites.

SHARP has been invited to participate in the conference, and we very much want to have a representative there. Plenary speakers are already committed, but if you are interested in participating as a discussant or in workshops, contact the American organizer, Prof. Pamela Spence Richards, Department of Library and Information Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, e-mail [prichards@zodiac.rutgers.edu](mailto:prichards@zodiac.rutgers.edu). And if you plan to attend, please get in touch with us here at SHARP NEWS.

## **Book Reviews**

John Feather, *The Information Society: A Study of Continuity and Change*. London: Library Association Publishing, 1994. Pp. viii, 160.

To attempt a study of change when one is in the middle of it takes courage. John Feather is aware of this, which is perhaps why he subtitles his introduction, "The Information Society: Myth and Reality." The revolution that began

in the 1970s and that Alvin Toffler warned us about in *The Third Wave* (1981) is still evolving and will continue to do so with unexpected twists and turns for some time to come. That is because this revolution is not a political one (at least not overtly so) but rather one like the change from an agrarian to an industrial society, a process still incomplete in many parts of the world. It is no longer a question of dividing the world into rulers and ruled: the division is increasingly between cultures that have decided that people are an expensive and troublesome resource and are shedding "labor" and cultures in which "labor" is still the primary resource. There are far more of the latter than the former. We may find, as the ancien regime found to its distaste, that there is the prospect of a real revolution before too very long.

In some ways, the analogy between the changes brought about by harnessing steam and the changes brought about by the computer is faulty: machines created by the Industrial Revolution are by their nature task-specific and dimension-specific. The machines of today (and tomorrow) are neither. The machines of today are essentially governed by a binary principle; those of tomorrow may well be governed by subtler architectures modelled on a quantum principle. What such machines might be able to accomplish must be a cause for concern for the countless millions seeking employment. These are not issues specifically addressed by Feather, though he is well aware of their importance. Other parts of the world are mentioned in passing, but the main thrust of this book is to examine certain aspects of the "information revolution" against British developments. In many respects these parallel developments in the United States since both countries have to cope with an increasing retired and aging population and cultural minorities that do not share in the wealth created by companies developing electronic technology.

Chapters 1 and 2—"The Historical Dimension"—canter through familiar territory and give an adequate summary of the changes brought about by the inventions of writing, the alphabet, printing, photography, recorded sound and radio, the cinema, and television. Governments, churches, and other institutions with a vested interest in controlling information as a means of exercising power have, since the ninth century, moderated the democratization of cultures. Nowhere can this be seen with such clarity as in societies with distinct geographical boundaries such as islands (Britain, Ireland, Sicily, Malta, Mauritius) or countries protected by defended borders (East Germany, China). But communicating with the masses, while it spells trouble for governments, spells money for those who can achieve it, which is why the democratic "rights" so stridently claimed by the monopolists of communication power are regarded with such suspicion. At a time when it is an axiom of political belief that knowledge should be democratized we cling to the proposition that the marketplace is the governing principle, thereby ensuring that fewer (not more) voices are heard. Information is now so firmly in the control of the few that it is hard to believe any more in the principle of "freedom of information."

These are the issues that Feather discusses in Chapter 3 and 4, "The Economic Dimension."

The importance of information can hardly be exaggerated in societies that are anxious to exploit the marketplace. I am sure that the manufacturers of computers and the software houses—we may soon see these separate economic units joining forces—are preparing to exploit the colossal market in an evolving culture like China. This is a point that those who promote the "information revolution" conveniently forget: that it has very little to do with promoting knowledge or self-fulfillment, and a great deal to do with opening up the world's trade to enable conglomerates to control even more resources. The dominant hunger needing to be satisfied now seems to be, after real hunger, entertainment. What the global entertainment budget is today is probably incalculable; it certainly exceeds that for what Bacon would have described as the "advancement of knowledge." In this century we have seen the rise and fall of the cinema replaced by television, a far more effective medium for exploiting ways of persuading us to part with money for goods and services. In terms of mass distribution the personal computer at home is probably where television was in 1950, but behind the plans for the "information superhighway" there are colossal capital resources waiting to exploit the opportunities it will provide. As Feather points out (p. 57): "Surveys over the last 20 years have fairly consistently produced the same results; while 99% of the adult population watch television at some time during the week, fewer than 50% read a book." The superhighway, Feather rightly predicts (pp. 59-60), will bring about "radical changes in the patterns of work and leisure even greater than those which have already happened....The new competitors in the information marketplace do not share, or perhaps even understand, the benevolent desire to inform which is the common heritage of the traditional information providers, the librarians."

In attempting to describe the precise relationship between those who supply information and those who need it, Feather observes (p. 61) that while *cost* can readily be calculated for any service, *value* is a more elusive dimension. Where value is judged to be non-significant (the price charged for borrowing a novel from a library) then the cost of such a transaction will be modest. If, however, the value is judged to be high (the price for access to a report on a new drug for victims of AIDS) then the cost of such a transaction will be high. The change we are now witnessing lies in the fact that not only have the processes governing the transfer of information altered but the information itself carries a variable price tag. That this should be so is obvious when one considers the vast sums that the developed countries have invested in automation. In the money market, for example, access to instantaneous information can make the difference between a profitable and an unprofitable transaction.

One is tempted to wonder whether this is not as it has always been. Given that political stability has always depended upon financial stability, that wars can only be

waged with the efficient raising of taxes, we have certainly accelerated the process of making money earn money and using information as an instrument of power, but it is doubtful that we have discovered some new principle. The primary importance of information in governing the affairs of men can be demonstrated in the Mesopotamian tablets. At the heart of every empire lay the archive: anyone who doubts that can see the process at work in the records of the Knights of Saint John preserved in Malta for their rule between the mid-sixteenth century and 1800.

"Access to Information" (Chapter 4) is concerned with such matters as the BBC broadcasting privilege and the Net Book Agreement (two peculiarly British monopolies) and publishing. Feather notes some developments—new in Britain but commonplace in North America—such as the use by a narrow sector (business and higher education) of electronic mail, listervers, and electronic publishing. The first two represent a novel employment of electronic robots. Electronic publishing, however, remains stubbornly unable to "fly," for at least two reasons. The publishing of scholarly books and journals is a requirement for promotion in most institutions of higher learning, but there remains a deep suspicion that abandoning the traditional processes involved in getting the fruits of research published will simply lead to inferior "quality." Moreover, it is not at all clear who will pay for a process that effectively puts knowledge in the public domain without reward for the author or the promoter. Setting aside the matter of how electronic research is to be catalogued and stored, there is the obvious fact that the majority of the potential customers for research in science and technology have no access to electronic information. As far as libraries are concerned, the shift from a "benevolent" publicly supported service in Britain to a model based on market forces now seems inevitable. This process will, without doubt, have important cultural consequences for the poor not only in Britain but everywhere.

It is strange that the principle of independence—a slogan of our age—which has for so long been seen as the principal benefit of democratizing society, seems to have disappeared from the cultural equation. How can there be independence when every development in technology drives us inexorably towards greater control by fewer players? Imagine, if you can, the prospect for knowledge when all major channels of communication (the networks) are controlled by consortia that also own all available media: publishing (print and electronic alike), television and cinema, and radio. Feather discusses this in Chapters 5 and 6 ("The Political Dimension") and observes, rightly, that one lasting benefit of empire is the political and economic importance of English as a language in countries long since "independent," an advantage for British publishers in the post-colonial period which made them a prime target for conglomerate acquisition. In countries still struggling to emerge from political and economic conditions which we would call "medieval," acquiring knowledge is a very expensive (and sometimes dangerous) business: it requires hard currency and must sometimes sit

uneasily with prevailing religious beliefs, particularly in countries with large and growing Islamic populations. In China, which adheres rigidly to the Chinese language, there is unease about the fact that the newly-installed computer systems are based on Western technology and Western programming. The lingua franca among joint-venture capitalists in Beijing, rapidly becoming a replica of Hong Kong, is English: welcome news, no doubt, for Microsoft and IBM.

There is one aspect of the economic dimension that Feather does not touch on—fraud. The cost of computer fraud can only be guessed at, as banks and credit companies steadfastly refuse to disclose how much they lose of our money each year because of it. Nor do companies reveal what they spend per annum to try and frustrate it. As more governmental transactions become electronic the opportunities for fraud multiply, and expensive routines have to be adopted to police those who would be "economical with the truth."

Communication technology undoubtedly assists the state in interfering with the ambitions of terrorists and drug barons, but it also makes the activities of citizens easier to trace, and therefore to control. Ironically, the lack of such technology in underdeveloped countries makes essential state activities like collecting taxes virtually impossible. Electronic dossiers on individuals have grown so pervasive in developed countries as to raise genuine concerns about the limits of personal privacy. The benefits of a cashless society have required the surrender of many rights we once thought sacred.

And then there is the Internet, which would seem to contradict the assertion that global communication carries with it restrictions on personal liberty. Not yet. That is because its growth during the past five years has outstripped every prediction made in 1990. For how much longer we can expect to have this extraordinary resource I am not certain, but I do know that it is regarded with profound suspicion in China because it represents a breach in the effective control of thought. In spite of a notable attempt in October to get the National Library of China connected using the link at the High Energy Physics Laboratory (just up the road) all is so far silence. What we shall see when Beijing hosts the International Federation of Library Associations in 1996 is another story!

*The Information Society* is a readable book and lives up to the aim expressed in the preface: "I hope that I have raised as many questions as I have answered." In fact, the author never undertook to provide answers: there are none. But questions there are many. "Like nuclear energy," writes Feather, "the power of the computer will have to be controlled if it is to work for our benefit, and we have not yet fully absorbed all its implications for the relations between individuals, the states of which they are citizens, and indeed between states themselves." Can we harness technology for the benefit of the many and not just the few? The history of the internal combustion engine does not predispose me to optimism.

—Robin Alston, University College London

Herbert Charles Morton, *The Story of Webster's Third: Philip Gove's Controversial Dictionary and Its Critics*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Pp. xv, 332.

John Willinsky, *Empire of Words: The Reign of the OED*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. Pp. viii, 258.

It is curious how the work once characterized (not altogether in jest) as harmless drudgery remains capable of exciting scandal among journalistic writers. With a few exceptions, those who write about what Sidney Landau has called "the gentle art of lexicography" seem compelled to politicize what in fact remains one of the last bastions of old-fashioned, painstaking, apolitical scholarship.

The past year has seen the publication of two books about dictionaries and dictionary writing: Herbert Morton's *The Story of Webster's Third* and John Willinsky's *Empire of Words*. I review them together because of the telling contrast they represent. Only rarely has the process of lexicography been given such insightful and understanding treatment by a non-lexicographer as we find in Morton's book. One wishes the same could be said about Willinsky's discussion of the *OED*.

Morton, of course, didn't have to jazz his subject up with scandal. The controversy was built in ever since journalists jumped on some ill-considered advance publicity for *Webster's Third*. Morton's detailed discussion of this controversy is fascinating in itself and serves as a cautionary tale for lexicographers faced with the daunting task of modernizing a cultural icon. That most of the criticism was unfair, beside the point, or simply wrong (many of the critics seem to have had little in-depth knowledge of either *Webster's Second* or *Third*) is made clear in the early chapters devoted to Philip Gove's thoughtful planning and brilliant execution of the revision. All the major changes in *Webster's Third*—the exclusion of non-lexical (encyclopedic) material, the consistent if cautious labeling policy based on citation evidence, the revision of etymologies, and the sharpened defining style—were in fact dictated by the need to reflect changes in the language (incorporating over 100,000 new entries) while retaining what was most valuable in the previous edition. Though all of these changes, especially Gove's "descriptivism," were subjected to harsh criticism, they reflected standard modern practices, with precedents not only in the *OED* but in *Webster's Second* as well. James Murray noted in his preface to the *OED* that "no one's English is *all* English. The lexicographer must be satisfied to exhibit the greater part of the vocabulary of *each* one, which will be immensely more than the whole vocabulary of *any* one." In such circumstances, the best a "scientific" lexicographer can do is trust the citation evidence, and if this is broad enough, it is certainly more objective than the opinions of any usage panel could hope to be.

Of course, lexicography has never been a hard science practiced in the best of all possible worlds. As an editor

of the *OED*, I can testify that Morton is particularly good at conveying a sense of the practical difficulties, unknown to most outside the field, but common to all dictionaries. A changing, underpaid staff must be trained and retrained (and all real lexicographic training is on-the-job training) so as to produce a homogeneous end product. Careful, scholarly work must be produced within the unrealistic deadlines set by publishers. The minute details of proof-reading and printing are far more various and difficult than those faced by ordinary scholars: the sheer number of special printing characters in *Webster's Third* and the *OED* is mind-boggling. That Gove could deal with these problems as well as he did and produce his dictionary so close to schedule represents a remarkable accomplishment. What he did not do well was to explain to the public, who maintained a proprietary attitude toward Webster's dictionaries, what he was trying to accomplish. This, combined with the fact that (like most lexicographers) he exercised little control over the publicity department, led to the debacle at publication time.

Much of what Morton writes about *Webster's* could describe the *OED* as well, and sad to say the reader will learn more about what went into making the *OED* from Morton than from *Empire of Words*. Willinsky, whose original working title was "The Book of Books," has parlayed a series of interviews from the mid-1980s into a book that, as its cover proclaims, "challenges the authority of this imperial dictionary, revealing many of its inherent prejudices and questioning the assumptions of its ongoing revision."

Willinsky's thesis (and his is a thesis-driven book) is that the *OED*, as a product originally of Victorian times, cannot help but express British imperialism: that it is, as it were, a dreadnought of British "gunboat linguistics" that specifically disempowers women, the working class, and regional speakers of English. All this is offered on the basis of some misleadingly used statistics generated by computer searches and "close readings" of a handful of the *OED's* more than 600,000 word-forms. It would have been interesting to see an honest critical reading of a dictionary, but all that Willinsky's attempted deconstruction gives us is a tissue of innuendo, much of it beside the point. The term that best describes this book is politically correct passive aggression.

Willinsky insinuates that the *OED* claims an "imperial authority" for itself and that an "unshakeable regard" for the dictionary has sprung up, threatening the disempowered classes. In fact, no *OED* editor from Murray onwards claimed more than the respect due the best and unstinting scholarly efforts of the many men and women who contributed to the dictionary. Harmless anecdotes that have long been part of the lore of the dictionary are given an undeserved, sinister spin. For example, one of the *Supplement's* more eccentric, volunteer readers, a well-known author in her own right, once went on record as saying that when she couldn't find a word she thought *should* be included, she would use it

in her own writing and "card" it. But Willinsky's implication that these words have entered the dictionary is laughable. No terms would be put forward for drafting on the strength of one reader's use of them or, with exceptions like Shakespeare, one author's use.

Indeed, the heavy representation of Shakespeare in the original *OED* comes in for a lot of niggling criticism, but I believe a case can still be made for somewhat special treatment of the writer Harold Bloom has recently called "the very center of the canon." If we accept the modern dictionary genre, flawed though it invariably is, as at all useful and valid, then we must accept at least provisionally its recourse to the authority of the *printed* word. It is not really surprising or unwarranted that Shakespeare, Milton, and the Bible are given more weight than Hester Chapone. They are given more weight than T. S. Eliot as well. It is interesting that Morton's list of the most cited sources in *Webster's Third* begins with (you guessed it) Shakespeare, the Bible, and Milton. No one denies that Murray was in many ways a man of his age—an age that did not subscribe to and should not be judged by Willinsky's brand of political correctness. Yet the *OED* was, as early as Murray's tenure, remarkably liberal in the range and variety of its sources. One need only compare Murray's citations with those of Dwight Whitney, the editor of the *Century Dictionary*. A dictionary, nevertheless, must be more than a fashionable demographic register.

There is one more essential weakness in Willinsky's book: his knowledge of the "on-going revision" that he would like to call into question is woefully out of date. What he witnessed was merely a transition period in the 1980s. The real planning of the revision has taken place in the years since then. Although he claims to have interviewed people in Oxford as late as 1992, he makes no mention, even in passing, of the North American Reading Program, which was begun in 1989 and was in full swing by then, producing as many as 16,000 fully electronic citations a month drawn from a wide variety of "regional" sources. As this at least doubled the size and range of Oxford's reading, one would think it would be relevant to Willinsky's subject. Nor is there mention of the *OED's* full-text historical corpus, now over 40 million words in electronic form, including a great many women writers such as Mary Wollstonecraft. We have made no secret of these, and one must assume that Willinsky simply ignored them because they did not fit comfortably with his thesis. Morton has written perhaps the definitive book on *Webster's Third*, but Willinsky's book, originally and wisely turned down by Cambridge University Press, is not the book of the *OED*.

—Jeffery Triggs, *North American Reading Program*,  
*Oxford English Dictionary*

## Calls for Papers

A symposium on the Antebellum Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression will be held at the **University of Tennessee at Chattanooga**, 2-4 November 1995. Papers dealing with mass media in the United States are solicited for presentation at the conference and for developing a monograph series on the antebellum press, the Civil War and the press, and nineteenth-century concepts of free expression. Those wishing to read papers (10 to 15 pages in length) should send four copies and a 300-word abstract by 15 August to Dr. S. Kittrell Rushing, Communication Department, 311 Pratt Hall, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598, telephone 615-755-4695.

"Nineteenth-Century Design" will be the theme of the fifteenth annual conference of the **Southeastern Nineteenth Century Studies Association**, to be held at Florida International University in Miami, 11-13 April 1996. The organizers solicit papers on all manner of designs, including narrative structures, verbal constructions, illustrations of texts, modes of literary production and circulation, and the history of the book in the nineteenth century. Proposals for individual papers (20 minutes) or entire panels, each accompanied by a brief vita and a three-sentence abstract, should be sent by 1 November 1995 to Kathleen McCormack, English Department, Florida International University, Miami, FL 33199, telephone 305-348-2260, fax 305-348-3878.

An international conference on "Dickens, Europe, and the New Worlds" will be held at the **Université de Bourgogne** from 13-16 June 1996. Contact Prof. Anny Sadrin, Department of English, Université de Bourgogne, 2 Boulevard Gabriel, 21000 Dijon, France, telephone 33-80652254, fax 33-80395619. If you wish to attend, inform Prof. Sadrin as soon as possible whether you plan to give a paper, its title, whether you prefer a hotel or a more Spartan but cheaper university room, and whether you will stay for a tour of the wine country and the Clos de Vougeot on 16 June.

The fifth biannual conference of the **International Society for the Empirical Study of Literature** will meet 21-26 August 1996 at the University of Alberta, Banff Centre for Conferences. Abstracts (300 words) of papers—*theoretical, methodological, or empirical*—should be sent by 15 October 1995 to Steven Tötösy, Research Institute for Comparative Literature, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E6 Canada, fax 403-492-5662, e-mail stotosy@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca. Thematic volumes of selected conference papers will be published.

The **Research Society for Victorian Periodicals** seeks

papers on any aspect of nineteenth-century British periodicals for its 1996 annual conference, to be held 14-15 September in Portland, Oregon. Send proposals (2 to 3 pages) for individual papers or complete panels by 1 March 1996 to Sally Mitchell, English Department, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, e-mail smitch@vm.temple.edu. Suggestions are welcome concerning workshops on teaching or other sessions which will not consist of people reading papers.

"Print for Free: Non-Commercial Publishing in Commercial Societies" will be the topic of the third biennial conference sponsored by the **Cambridge Project for the Book Trust**, to be held at Magdalene College, Cambridge University, 20-22 September 1996. Speakers will examine the production, presentation, and reception of non-commercial print from the seventeenth century to the present, including the free distribution of religious literature, political propaganda, and civic and personal gifts. Send additional paper proposals to Dr. James Raven, Magdalene College, Cambridge CB3 0AG, Britain.

The **Society for Textual Scholarship** is accepting paper proposals for its April 1997 conference in New York. Abstracts or session plans dealing with the discovery, enumeration, transcription, editing, or annotating of texts in any discipline should be sent by 1 October 1995 to George Bornstein, English Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, fax 313-764-3522, e-mail george\_bornstein@um.cc.umich.edu.

## Conferences

The **Association of Literary Scholars and Critics** will hold its first national conference from 22-24 September 1995 in Minneapolis. Travel stipends are available for junior faculty. Send an application and vita to Prof. Ricardo Quinones, Bauer Center, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA 91711-6400.

The **North East Popular Culture Association** will hold its annual conference from 6-7 October 1995 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Contact Prof. James Hanlan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Humanities Division, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609.

**Rutgers University** (Newark campus) will hold a symposium on book arts in New Jersey 13 October 1995. Contact Michael Joseph, Box 1350, Rutgers University Libraries, Piscataway, NJ 08850-1350, telephone 908-445-5904, e-mail mjoseph@gandalf.rutgers.edu.

"Constructed Languages and Language Construction:

Planned Languages and Language Planning" is the theme of the **American Society of Geolinguistics** conference, to be held at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York on 13 October 1995. Contact Prof. Wayne H. Finke, 7 E. 14th Street, New York, NY 10003.

The **European Humanities Research Centre** at the University of Warwick will hold its second conference on Literary Journalism and Literary Scholarship, 3-4 November 1995. The Centre is also planning a conference on "The Letter in History" for 20-21 March 1996. Contact Marian Franklin, European Humanities Research Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, Britain, telephone 01203-523401, e-mail [ehrac@csv.warwick.ac.uk](mailto:ehrac@csv.warwick.ac.uk).

"Antiquaries, Book Collectors and the Circles of Learning" will be the theme of the annual book trade history conference organized by **Birkbeck College**, meeting 2-3 December 1995 at the Society of Antiquaries of London. Contact Michael Harris, Centre for Extra-Mural Studies, Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ, Britain, telephone 0171-631-6680, fax 0171-631-6688.

## Exhibitions & Lectures

The **Library Company of Philadelphia** (1314 Locust Street) is presenting a lecture series to accompany its exhibition "Making a Case for Cloth: Publishers' Case Bindings, 1830-1900." Sue Allen will speak on "Decorating the Nineteenth-Century Book Cover" (5 October 1995, 5:30 p.m.) and Michael Winship will lecture on "Making a Case for Cloth: The Publishers' Point of View" (26 October, 5:30 p.m.). Admission is free, but please pre-register by calling 215-546-3181.

The **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture** (515 Malcolm X Boulevard, New York) will feature exhibits on Arturo Alfonso Schomburg through 14 January 1996. For information call 212-491-2200.

The **Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America** (Madison, Wisconsin) announces its annual lecture: Catherine A. Lutz will speak "On Reading *National Geographic*" at 5:30 p.m., 4 October 1995, Room 976, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin. The Center is also presenting, as part of its colloquium series, Christine Pawley on "'Better than Billiards': Reading and the Public Library in Osage, Iowa, 1890-1895" (13 September) and Anne Lundin on "Twentieth Century Pioneers in Children's Library Services" (15 November), both scheduled for 3:30 p.m. in 4207 Helen White Hall. For information call 608-263-2900.

The **Grolier Club** (47 E. 60th Street, New York) will mount an exhibition to celebrate the Keats Bicentenary from 19 September to 22 November 1995. For information call 212-838-6690.

**Fairleigh Dickinson University Library** (Madison, NJ) will present "100 Years of the Comics: The Comics as Mirror," an exhibition from the Harry A. Chesler Collection of Comic Art. The exhibit will be opened on 15 October 1995 by a special guest speaker. For information call 201-593-8710 or e-mail [green@alpha.fdu.edu](mailto:green@alpha.fdu.edu).

## Fellowships & Awards

The **Bibliographical Society** annually awards several grants to assist research in historical bibliography. For information and application forms, contact Dr. E. S. Leedham-Green, University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR, Britain, e-mail [EL17@cam.ac.uk](mailto:EL17@cam.ac.uk). Applications should be submitted by 30 November 1995, supported by letters from two referees.

To encourage research in its library of American history and culture through 1876, the **American Antiquarian Society** will award several short- and long-term Visiting Research Fellowships during the year 1 June 1996-31 May 1997. For information and application forms contact John B. Hench, Director of Research and Publication, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609-1634, e-mail [cfs@mark.mwa.org](mailto:cfs@mark.mwa.org), telephone 508-752-5813 or 755-5221. The deadline for receipt of applications, including letters of recommendation, is 15 January 1996.

## Resources

The **Biography Database 1680-1830** is the product of ongoing research at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, under the direction of John Cannon and Frank Robinson. Distributed by Avero Publications of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the first five CD-ROMs will be published one per year, beginning 30 September 1995. They will ultimately embrace all the records of United Kingdom and United States directories (national, town, and trade) to 1830; all United States and United Kingdom book subscription lists to 1830; all birth, marriage, death, promotional and bankruptcy records in the *Gentleman's Magazine* and similar journals to 1870; and all United States and United Kingdom society membership lists to 1830.

## General

- A. H. Ashe, *A Historical Handbook of Literary Criticism*. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1995.
- Claire Hoertz Badaracco, *Trading Words: Poetry, Typography, and Illustrated Books in the Modern Literary Economy*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1995.
- Seán Burke, *Authorship from Plato to the Postmodern: A Reader*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1995.
- Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 12 (1995), no. 2: special issue on "Medicine and Book Culture."
- Sebastian Carter, *Twentieth-Century Type Designers*. London: Lund Humphries, 1995.
- Joseph Childers and Gary Hentzi, eds., *The Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.
- David Crystal, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Philip Gaskell, *New Introduction to Bibliography*. Winchester: St. Paul's Bibliographies, 1995.

## How We Are Doing

SHARP's annual business meeting, convened in Edinburgh on 17 July, approved our financial report for the year ended 31 December 1994. The activity for our account in the United States was as follows:

*Expenses:*

Newsletter and Directory	\$2,110.78
Other printing	528.28
Postage	2,682.45
Office supplies	170.55
1994 conference subsidy	1,000.00
Conference planning	<u>70.00</u>
Total expenses	\$6,562.06

*Income:*

Membership dues	\$9,806.11
Sale of mailing list	260.00
Interest	<u>11.37</u>
Gross income	\$10,077.48

Gross income	\$10,077.48
Less expenses	<u>-6,562.06</u>
Net income	3,515.23
Cash on hand 1 January 1994	<u>5,171.81</u>
Balance 31 December 1994	\$8,687.23

SHARP also maintains a sterling account in the United Kingdom:

*Expenses:*

Travel	<u>£104.00</u>
Total expenses	£104.00

*Income:*

Membership dues	£147.00
Interest	<u>1.54</u>
Gross income	£148.54

Gross income	£148.54
Less expenses	<u>-104.00</u>
Net income	44.54
Cash on hand 1 January 1994	<u>769.26</u>
Balance 31 December 1994	£813.80

Membership Secretary Linda Connors reported that we now have 741 members worldwide, not counting those who signed up at the Edinburgh conference. That represents a gain of 201 over the past year.

Having launched the book review section of this newsletter, Patrick Leary is now moving on to another project: setting up the new SHARP Web page on the Internet (see p. 2). He is therefore turning over his duties as Book Review Editor to Philip A. Metzger, whom we welcome on board. He wants to expand our pool of potential reviewers, so if you are interested, send a note to Philip Metzger, Special Collections Curator, Lehigh University Library, 30 Library Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015-3067, e-mail pam5@lehigh.edu. Include your institutional affiliation, postal and e-mail addresses, a list of relevant publications, and your areas of interest and expertise. Mention also any languages other than English in which you feel competent to read a book for review.

Dr. Linda Connors  
Drew University Library  
Madison, NJ 07940, USA

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The Publishers' Papers Project is completing an archival guide to 1162 collections relevant to the history of book publishing in Canada. The database is currently being edited prior to loading onto Simon Fraser University's SFULIB system. The project team is also considering CD-ROM or other electronic distribution, and on-demand publication for specific requests. Please send comments, suggestions, and questions to the Publishers' Papers Project, Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K3 Canada, telephone 604-291-5074, fax 604-291-5098, e-mail Ann\_Cowan@sfu.ca or Carole\_Gerson@sfu.ca.

Norman Ross Publishing of New York is the distributor of several microfiche collections of interest to book historians. These include *Book Sales Catalogues of the Dutch Republic 1599-1800*, *The Famous Frankfurt and Leipzig Fair Catalogues*, *Nineteenth-Century Directories for the German Book Trade*, *Nineteenth Century Directories for the Dutch Book Trade*, *Archive of the Amsterdam Booksellers Guild 1662-1812*, *International History of Paper and Paper Making*, and *International Book Trade in the Eighteenth Century*.

Linnea Hendrickson's 1987 bibliography *Children's Literature: A Guide to the Criticism* is now available on the Internet. To access, type: gopher gopher.unm.edu Select #12 (Test). On the second menu you will see a listing for the online book. Instructions for searching the text are included in the section "About Children's Literature: A Guide to the Criticism." Please send questions and suggestions to Linnea Hendrickson at lhendr@unm.edu.

## Notes & Queries

For a book about the history of the African-American press and publishing houses before 1900, the author seeks documents, rare publications, letters, and other papers related to black-owned publishing companies and

periodicals from 1800 through the early twentieth century. Contact Leigh Donaldson, JFK Station, Box 6061, Boston, MA 02114.

*The New Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press) seeks a contributor to write an entry on the bookseller Alfred Richard Mowbray (1824-75). Contact Dr. Douglas A. Reid, Economic and Social History, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, Britain, telephone 44-1-482-465723, fax 44-1-482-466216, e-mail d.a.reid@esh.hull.ac.uk.

A study examining European influences upon medical (particularly surgical) practise in late Tudor and Stuart England has encountered a paucity of information concerning the number of copies of foreign texts (or their English translations) imported into England, and their subsequent distribution. An example of such a book is *Les Oeuvres de Chirurgie* by Jacques Guillemeau, translated into English and imprinted at Dort in 1597 under the title *The French Chirurgerye*: How widely available was this work to English surgeons? If anyone can offer any sort of information—e.g., reference to a particular title in a Customs roll or bookseller's stock—or suggest areas to explore or fellow researchers to contact, please write to Dr. A. S. Hargreaves, c/o Department of History, Armstrong Building, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 7RU, Britain.

## New Publications

**Quadrat** is a new occasional bulletin of research in progress on the British book trade, issued by the British Book Trade Index. To receive a free subscription—or to submit short notes on any aspect of the British book trade—write to Prof. Peter Isaac, 10 Woodcroft Road, Wylam, Northumberland NE41 8DJ, Britain.

Space limitations compelled us to abbreviate this section considerably. We will catch up with our listing of recent publications in our next issue.

Begin or renew your membership in SHARP, and you will receive SHARP NEWS as well as the SHARP Membership and Periodicals Directory, which is published each summer. Annual dues are \$15.00 in the United States and Canada, £10 in Britain, \$20 elsewhere. Send a check in American or British currency, made out to SHARP, to Dr. Linda Connors, Drew University Library, Madison, NJ 07940, USA.

Name:  
Address:

Institution:  
E-mail:  
Research interests:

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3/95