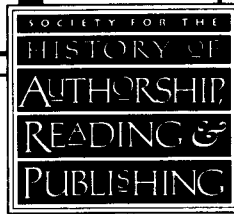


SHARP NEWS



Volume 5, Number 4

Autumn 1996

SHARP Announces New Prize for Best Publication in Book History

Acting on a recommendation by our Board of Directors, the SHARP Executive Council has voted to create an annual SHARP Book History Prize. This prize of \$1000 will be awarded each year to the best book-length monograph on the history of the book, broadly defined as the history of the creation, dissemination, and uses of script or print. We are seeking a permanent endowment for the prize; in the meantime, it will be funded out of SHARP's general revenues.

The first competition will be for books published in 1996. Reference works and collections of essays by more than one author are not eligible. All entries must be in English; translations into English published in 1996 are eligible.

Submit three copies of each entry, one to each member of the prize committee: Elisabeth S. Leedham-Green (chair), University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR, Britain; Robert L. Patten, English Department, Rice University, PO Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892, USA; and Beth Luey, History Department, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-2501, USA. Book parcels should be marked "Attn: SHARP Book Prize." The submission deadline is 1 March 1997. The first prize will be announced at the July 1997 SHARP conference at Cambridge University.

1997 Conference at Cambridge University: A Final Call for Papers

SHARP is still accepting paper proposals for its fifth annual conference, which will meet 4-7 July 1997 at Cambridge University. As always, there are no limitations on topics within the broad rubric of book history. But do not delay: the *absolute* deadline for receipt of proposals is 20 November 1996. Programme Committee Chair James Raven reports that, as of mid-October, abstracts were already cascading in.

You may submit proposals for full panels (three papers and a chair), individual papers (20 minutes in length), or shorter presentations on works in progress. You can also offer your services as a panel chair. All presenters must be or become members of SHARP. Abstracts (one page

maximum per paper) and inquiries should be sent to James Raven, SHARP Conference Programme Committee, 51 Sherlock Close, Cambridge CB3 0HP, United Kingdom.

Graduate students who present papers may apply for a \$250 travel assistance grant: simply mention in your cover letter that you wish to be considered for this award. All other participants will be expected to pay their own expenses.

Program and registration information will be mailed to all SHARP members early in 1997. Credit cards cannot be used to pay conference fees, but checks, Eurochecks, and international money orders in sterling made out to Cambridge Project for the Book will be accepted.

You can also pay by international bank transfer, if you pay the charges. Make out the receipt to Cambridge Project for the Book, Account No. 139834102, Sort Code 309156, Lloyds Bank, Cambridge Branch, 3 Sidney Street, Cambridge CB2 3HQ. Return the copy to Elsa Meyland-Smith, The Malting House, Newnham Road,

New Editors, New Addresses

With this issue, Jonathan Rose concludes his term as Editor of SHARP NEWS and hands over his duties to David Finkelstein. Henceforth, correspondence concerning all editorial matters (except book reviews) should be directed to Prof. Finkelstein, Department of Print Media, Publishing and Communication, Napier University, 10 Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH10 5DT, Scotland, telephone 131-444-2266, fax 131-455-2299, d.finkelstein@central.napier.ac.uk.

Simultaneously, Fiona A. Black succeeds Philip A. Metzger as Book Review Editor. She is currently seeking potential reviewers: if you are interested, send your resume, with a list of areas in which you can write reviews, to her at Information Services, Regina Public Library, PO Box 2311, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3Z5, Canada, telephone 306-777-6000, fax 306-352-5550, fblack@rpl.regina.sk.ca.

Continue to send membership checks and changes of address to our Membership Secretary, Linda Connors, Drew University Library, Madison, NJ 07940, USA, lconnors@drew.edu.

Cambridge CB3 9EY, United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the SHARP Executive Council has accepted an invitation from the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America to host our 1999 conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The Council is also considering a proposal to meet at the University of Mainz in 2000. Details will follow in future issues of SHARP NEWS.

A Manageable Scope?: The History of Print Culture in New Zealand

Following the lead of our Australian associates, and with the initiating enthusiasm and encouragement of Don McKenzie, scholars, publishers, and booksellers are actively formulating a structure of key topics for the history of print culture in New Zealand. In the process, individuals are uncovering or recovering fascinating materials that distinguish the history of New Zealand print culture, including, most significantly, the interaction of orality and literacy with the introduction of print to the Maori, and the attempts to use New Zealand flax (*phormium tenax*) as a printing substrate internationally. Newspapers of course were major contributors to New Zealand's print culture, along with educational and religious publishing, often with local or national government involvement. But far too much of this activity remains unanalyzed and even uncatalogued.

To date the study of New Zealand print culture has largely revolved around an annual conference: the first in Auckland in 1995, the second in Dunedin in 1996, the third to be held in Wellington in 1997. These occasions have brought together informed audiences with a diversity of interests, and have offered a forum to discuss just what the term "print culture" encompasses. The conferences have also provided opportunities for New Zealanders to hear about developments in book history in Australia and the United Kingdom, with which New Zealand's history is in many respects closely aligned.

The New Zealand Academy for the Humanities has endorsed the Print Culture Project as its first interdisciplinary venture, and is diligently seeking financial backing for it. With the possibility of support from a major government research body (the Marsden Fund), it is hoped that the Project will be funded to expand many local but limited initiatives in the service of a national history. The Steering Committee of the Print Culture Project also hopes to declare 1998 the "Year for the Study of Print Culture" and to nominate the Project as a worthy recipient of support from the Year 2000 initiative, sponsored by the Department of Internal Affairs. To learn more about the Academy and the Print Culture Project, contact Brian Opie, English Department, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand, brian.opie@vuw.ac.nz (or browse the home page described below).

Those interested in gaining a better understanding of the

origins of the study of print culture in New Zealand should consult Keith Maslen's article, "Towards a History of the Book in New Zealand," *Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand* 17 (1993): 199-202. David McKitterick's recent essay, "Perspectives in Two Hemispheres: Approaches to the History of the Book in New Zealand," *Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand* 20 (1996): 69-86, provides a provocative overview of the range of issues confronting scholars as we attempt to identify aspects of print culture unique to New Zealand, as well as contextualize local practice within the international setting. An entire number of the *Bulletin* (20.2) is devoted to papers from the Auckland conference, and the editor of the *Bulletin* hopes to produce a similar number in 1997 drawn from the papers at the Dunedin conference.

The Print Culture Project is currently developing a bibliographical database, housed at the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, of research on print culture topics, under the supervision of Dr. Opie. To provide a survey of the known terrain and to indicate possible paths through the wilderness, the Print Culture Project has also commissioned *A Guide to Print Culture in New Zealand*. The three joint editors — Penny Griffith (Wellington), Ross Harvey (Singapore), and Keith Maslen (Otago) — aim to publish the volume by late 1997. They have arranged contributors and issued a prospectus covering the following topics:

Introduction: *Aim and context of the publication.*

From Oral to Print: *Impact of an "imported" print-based culture on existing Maori oral culture; overview of publishing in Maori; development of New Zealand English.*

Printing and Production: *The technology of the physical book and how it is made.*

Publishing: *Factors which influence the decision to produce a work at a particular time, and associated editorial activities.*

Distribution: *Dissemination of published works and accessibility to the public.*

Readers and Reading: *Readership; development of a national print-based culture.*

Print Culture of Other Languages (where there is a New Zealand connection): *Other oral cultures; especially*

SHARP NEWS is the quarterly newsletter of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Inc. Annual membership in SHARP, which includes a subscription to SHARP NEWS, is \$15 in the United States and Canada, £10 in Britain, \$20 elsewhere. Editor: Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA, jerose@drew.edu, fax 201-408-3768. Book Review Editor: Philip A. Metzger, Special Collections Curator, Lehigh University Library, 30 Library Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015-3067, USA, pam5@lehigh.edu. Send membership dues and changes of address to the Associate Editor, Linda Connors, Drew University Library, Madison, NJ 07940, USA, lconnors@drew.edu. ISSN 1073-1725.

Pacific Island; other languages and initiatives.

Select Bibliography: *Consolidated list of references contained in the text.*

The 1997 conference, entitled "In Visible Languages: The Visible Dimensions of Print Culture," will meet in Wellington from 29 to 31 August. It will address such topics as the visual dimension of typography, mapping New Zealand, children's book illustration, print culture in/of everyday life, artists' books and objects, contemporary Maori publishing, and the relationship of print culture to the electronic revolution. Those interested in learning more or wishing to be added to the mailing list should contact Sydney J. Shep, Wai-te-ata Press, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand, sydney.shep@vuw.ac.nz.

Finally, SHARP members may enjoy a glance at the Print Culture Project's home page. Along with general information about the Project, it includes the program and abstracts from the Dunedin conference, with contact addresses for speakers, at <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/humanz/pchome.html>.

—Shef Rogers, University of Otago

Conference Aims to Open Up Access to Publishers' Archives

Essential source materials for book historians were the subject of a recent conference on "Publishers Archives" in the 1990s: The Changing Marketplace, Technology, and Scholarship." Meeting 3-5 October at Columbia University, the conference attracted 81 participants, bringing together academics, librarians, archivists, and publishing professionals. The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library sponsored the meeting, in cooperation with the Book Industry Study Group (BISG) and the Association of American Publishers (AAP).

The BISG and the AAP will help follow up with one of the meeting's major recommendations: that more be done to alert publishers to the value of their own archives and historical records. With the cooperation of the publishing industry and the scholarly community, the conference organizers also hope to stimulate publication of practical guides that outline model agreements between publishers and repositories, describe different kinds of publishers' archives and related historical records, and explain how to use them.

Robert Giroux, former chairman of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, offered a memoir of his career in his keynote address, "An Editor's Life." The conference then proceeded to explore how changes in the publishing process, print technology, and the business environment are affecting publishers' archives as research resources. Intellectual property law, scholarly access, and the "bottom line" imperatives of the conglomerates that dominate contemporary publishing were issues that

stimulated particularly lively discussion.

Patrick Leary of Indiana University discussed the SHARP Web Page as a site for listing archives. The Book Industry Study Group unveiled *A Guide to Book Publishers' Archives*: compiled by Beth Luey, Martha Broderon, Audrey Brichetto Morris, and Rosanne Trujillo, this volume describes the records of more than 600 twentieth-century America publishers. Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, Alexis Weedon and Michael Bott have published a second and much expanded edition of *British Book Trade Archives 1830-1939: A Location Register* (Bristol and Oxford: HOBODS, 1996).

More detailed reports about the conference and archival resources will be presented in a future issue of the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* and at the 1997 SHARP conference at Cambridge University.

—John Y. Cole, Library of Congress

Book History for Undergraduates I: Bibliography Course at Birmingham University

Book historians are clearly eager to introduce their work into the undergraduate curriculum. A panel on that topic at last July's SHARP conference attracted quite a large crowd. This is the first in a series of articles discussing practical methods of teaching the history of the book on the undergraduate level. — Ed.

Reading the recent correspondence on the SHARP-L listserv questioning the possibility of teaching bibliography as an undergraduate subject was rather like reading the latest book about the possibility of the existence of the Loch Ness monster. If, that is, you happen (as I do) to be the monster in question.

There is a three-year undergraduate course called "Bibliography and Paleography" in the School of English at Birmingham University. For most of its long life it has consisted of a seminar group of twelve students (maximum), usually selected by lottery since it has normally been quite seriously oversubscribed. It meets for two hours a week, with quite a lot of extra time devoted to practical work. It was founded by my admired predecessor Peter Davison, former editor of the *Library*, and I was appointed to teach it in 1974.

The subject matter of the course is the book as a physical object. For "book" read any carrier of the written word: manuscript, Web page, forged check, advertising billboard, etc. Obviously the subject expands towards a study of the presence and significance of written language in this and any other culture, but it retains its allegiance to bibliography as W. W. Greg defined it by resolutely placing more emphasis on the physical vehicle than on the content it conveys.

There are other defining emphases. The theoretical base is deconstructive. Students (eventually) study the theory of text as revealed in the theory (or lack of it) of textual

editing, and from there on out to topics like access to print, canon formation, and so on. This means that students can take the course towards cultural studies or sociolinguistics (both of which are strong disciplines at Birmingham) and it will cheerfully follow them. The more I teach this course, the more amazed I am at the opportunity it offers to study and penetrate deeply into almost any aspect of the culture through looking at its central vehicle, the written word.

Another emphasis is practical. From this viewpoint, the course teaches two things: usable marketable skills, and the theoretical consideration of those skills. Students learn how to create print, from hot metal to HTML, and to think about the implications of what they are doing while they are doing it. So they learn the hand press (perhaps not a very marketable skill, but certainly character-forming) from a specially created package of three videos and a manual, and then from work in our own small but reasonably well-equipped printing shop, the Flat Earth Press. The task is to design, print, and sell a Christmas card in time for the holiday. It is a useful microcosm of all aspects of creating and selling print, and the students learn both the economics and the techniques of hand printing with their own hands. At the same time they learn the principles and problems of textual editing in hand- and machine-pressed books, leading up to a critique of Greg's *Rationale of Copytext*.

After this they are introduced to desktop publishing. Each student is asked to do a series of exercises on the computer, beginning with a simple poster using only typography to make its point, through more complex arrangements of graphics and type, until by the end of the second year they create their own pages on the World Wide Web.

The teaching methods incorporate this emphasis on the technologies of communication. At the beginning of the course students are introduced to e-mail: they are then expected to use it for all course-related communications. There is a typing test after Christmas. Some seminar sessions are presented as lectures: for each, two students are appointed scribes and are asked to collaborate in preparing a set of lecture notes, which they then e-mail to me. I check the notes for error and post them on the Bibliography Web Site (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/english/bibliography/biblio.htm>). They thus learn about note-taking and simultaneously work together to construct a complete outline of the course. The students' efforts at desktop publishing are also posted on the Web, as are of course their own Web pages. As the Web develops and becomes more rich in information (and this is happening very fast) students will be encouraged to perform Web-based research projects that will be published as Web pages.

The Paleography aspect of the course was originally a training in how to read secretary hand. This was enjoyable (as crossword puzzles are enjoyable) but perhaps not highly useful. My own interests moved from paleography to the study of forgery (I have been a practicing forensic

handwriting consultant since 1974, and now have a vast set of samples of handwriting problems from my casework) and the course has followed me in this pursuit. So the students study crime in handwriting: how it is done, and how to detect it. In addition they get a training in the theory and practice of scientific research: sampling, experiment construction, literature searching, report writing, and so on. By the end of the course they are expected to have taken part in two practical exercises in real research in forensic handwriting analysis.

I am by early training and inclination an analytic rather than a historical bibliographer. The forensic work has satisfied this detecting impulse in a way that analytical bibliography and textual editing failed to do, and at the same time has led to a certain skepticism about any stories about the past whatsoever. Luckily my valued colleague Maureen Bell does not suffer from this cynicism, and she introduces the bibliography students to the history of the book with exactly the same balance of practical and theoretical work that is the spirit of the course.

So: can, or should, undergraduates study bibliography? What would one use as evidence to decide this question? Students enjoy the course, and are stretched by it, and learn a great deal, it seems to me. And every year I get letters from former students thanking me for helping them develop a particular skill that was the key to finding a job they wanted. To give pleasure, instruction, and employment certainly feels as if it validates the work we do in bibliography at Birmingham. Mind you, I expect the Loch Ness monster has much the same feeling.

—Tom Davis, University of Birmingham

Book History for Undergraduates II: The History of Literate Culture

In spring 1996 I taught an upper-division undergraduate course in "The History of Written Culture." The course was motivated by my interests in what people have been able to accomplish with the written word, the differentiations of written discourses, and the way the development and distribution of written documents have influenced societies and cultures. Law, commerce, religion, knowledge production and use, politics, and government all seem to be illuminated if understood as socially organized practices mediated by particular forms of writing.

The course examined the interaction among technologies of literacy, literate practices, social structure, cognitive habits, and cultural themes throughout history, with a running comparison to the restructuring of all these elements in electronic media. Half the class time was spent in a high-end computer lab. The syllabus and related documents can be seen on my home page at <http://humanitas.ucsb.edu/users/bazerman/index.html>.

Although enrollment was modest — about a dozen undergraduates (mostly English majors, but also from

environmental studies, art studio, physics, and other majors) and three graduate students in education — both the students and I considered the course a great success. Some students were baffled at the beginning of the semester, but by mid-term light bulbs were going on in heads all around the room. End-of-term student evaluations were about as good as they get. Most of the students found that the course offered radically new perspectives on themselves, their experiences, and what they had been learning in other classes.

In the first of two class sessions each week we discussed the historically and conceptually oriented readings in the syllabus, considering such issues as the inscription process and its various manifestations — writing names on buildings, tattooing, instructions and advertising on packaged goods, generating graphs out of biological specimens, creating chronicles of events, and cataloguing citizens and property. Inscription turned out to be one of the key concepts we kept returning to — inscribing names, concepts, identities, instructions, and values as well as inscribing objects, ideas, and identities into systems of meaning. The creation of places of inscription, the systems of inscribed meaning, and then the dissemination, use, and influence of these systematized places of inscription within material and social worlds provided a framework for considering how literacy and books formed stages on which to carry out activities and enact relationships. We also discussed issues such as the relation of literacy to the development of commerce, government, and scriptural religion; literacy and social critique expressed in the Reformation and political revolutions; the formation of literary culture; and the history of authorship.

In the second class meeting of the week, in the computer lab, students were asked to examine particular computer programs or to search the Net in relation to the course topics of the week. Sessions included:

- An examination of SimLife and SimEarth to consider how natural processes were inscribed in a virtual environment.

- A search of religious pages on the Web to consider the forms of controversy, critique, proselytizing, reinforcement, and counseling among mainline and fringe religions in cyberspace.

- A comparison of what counted as news in a variety of local and international on-line newspapers.

- A search of the Web pages of political parties, candidates, government agencies, and activist organizations to see how debate, fundraising, vote-getting, and loyalty maintenance are enacted in virtual media.

- A comparison of traditional and Web information to consider the organization of and ease of access to different sorts of information and to explore the implications for knowledge dissemination and thought.

- A survey of commercial and financial activities carried out on the Internet.

- An examination of personal, institutional, and entertainment celebrity home pages to consider modes of self-presentation on the Internet. This was done in

conjunction with the history of authorship readings.

Each lab session ended with students writing up a page or two about what they had found. Three more formal papers were also assigned. In the first, students described how some aspect of their lives was organized around a form of literacy that we had studied. A second paper specifically discussed the issues surrounding books, newspapers, and democracy that we had examined in relation to the American Revolution and American politics today. The third was a larger project: students chose such topics as literacy programs for children of migrant workers, a history of bookmobiles, a Web project pulling together resources on the history and function of the publishing industry, religious cults and controversies on the Internet, self-representations of militias on the Internet, and a synoptic essay on the role of the press in American democracy.

Because the course was so wide-ranging, it sometimes became a bit baggy, and we often discovered ourselves making preliminary explorations and speculations in areas where there was little scholarly guidance. But that's what made it fun for all of us.

Readings

I. THE PERVASIVENESS OF WRITING

Jonathan Kozol, *Illiterate America* (Garden City, NY: Anchor/Doubleday, 1985), 1-2. Zora Neale Hurston, *Dust Tracks on a Road* (New York: Harper & Row, 1984), 53-56. Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, trans. Ormsby (New York: Norton, 1981), 25-29. Plato, *Phaedrus: The Dialogues of Plato I*, trans. B. Jowett (New York: Random House, 1937), 277-282. S. Lagerfeld, "The Reading Revolution," *Wilson Quarterly* 10 (Spring 1986): 104-115. **Suggested:** David Russell, "Autobiographical Anecdotes," *The Dynamics of Reading* (New York: Ginn & Co., 1977), 21-43.

II. EARLIEST WRITING

Wayne Senner, "Theories and Myths on the Origins of Writing," *The Origins of Writing* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989), 1-26. Denise Schmandt-Besserat, "The Origins of Writing," *Written Communication* 3:1 (1986): 31-45. Sylvia Scribner and Michael Cole, "Unpackaging Literacy," *Writing: The Nature, Development and Teaching of Written Communication*, ed. Marcia Farr (Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum, 1981), 57-70. **Suggested:** Jack Goody and Ian Watt, "The Consequences of Literacy," *Literacy in Traditional Societies* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968), 3-27. Walter J. Ong, *Orality and Literacy* (London: Methuen, 1982), 31-116. David Barton, *Literacy* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1994), 95-129.

III. INSCRIPTION

Old Testament, Genesis 1-4, Exodus 17-38. Bruno Latour and Steve Woolgar, *Laboratory Life* (London: Sage, 1979), 45-53.

IV. THE WORD OF GOD AND THE WORD OF MAMMON

Jack Goody, *The Logic of Writing and the Organization*

of Society (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), chaps. 1-3.

V. THE WORD OF THE STATE: GOVERNMENT AND LAW
Goody, *Logic of Writing*, chaps. 4-5. *The Constitution of the United States*. James Boyd White, "Literature and the Law," *Heracles' Bow: Essays on the Rhetoric and Poetics of the Law* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985). Max Weber, "The Chinese Literati," *Sociological Writings* (New York: Continuum, 1994), 122-150.

VI. THE PRINTING PRESS AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
Elizabeth Eisenstein, *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), chaps. 1-4 (chaps. 7-8 suggested).

VII. DEMOCRACY, THE PRESS, AND THE CULTURE OF NEWS

Tom Paine, "The Crisis #1," *Common Sense, The Rights of Man, and Other Essential Writings* (New York: New American Library, 1989), 75-82. Michael Schudson, *The Power of News* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995), 37-52. James Russell Wiggins, "The Legacy of the Press in the American Revolution," *The Press and the American Revolution*, ed. Bernard Bailyn (Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1980), 365-372.

VIII. COLLECTING KNOWLEDGE: ENCYCLOPEDIAS, LIBRARIES, AND THE INTERNET

Tom McArthur, *Worlds of Reference* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 3-8, 102-123. Vannevar Bush, "As We Think," *Atlantic Monthly* (July 1945): 101-108. **Suggested:** Roger Chartier, "Representations of the Written Word," *Forms and Meanings* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995), 6-24.

IX. SCHOOL LITERACY AND POPULAR CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES

E. Jennifer Monaghan, "Literacy and Gender in Colonial New England," and Janice Radway, "The Book of the Month Club and the General Reader," *Reading in America*, ed. Cathy Davidson (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 53-80, 259-284. Alfred Burns, "The Nineteenth Century: Supremacy of the Written Word," *The Power of the Written Word* (New York: Peter Lang, 1989), 285-293.

X. WHAT IS AN AUTHOR?

Martha Woodmansee, "On the Author Effect: Recovering Collectivity," *The Construction of Authorship*, eds. Woodmansee and Peter Jaszi (Durham: Duke University Press, 1994), 15-28. Mark Rose, *Authors and Owners* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993), 1-30.

—Charles Bazerman,
University of California at Santa Barbara

Book Reviews

Catherine Gallagher, *Nobody's Story: The Vanishing Acts of Women Writers in the Marketplace, 1670-1820*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1994. Pp. xxiv, 339.

This is a marvelously ambitious work. It attempts to reconstruct the history of the English novel by reconstructing contemporary notions of authorship among all the participants in the production, exchange, and consumption of literature. In presenting her argument, Catherine Gallagher jumps along a path of momentary stepping stones. The construction of nobodies is a five-woman journey from Aphra Behn, Delarivier Manley, Charlotte Lennox, and Frances Burney to Maria Edgeworth. An impressive and embracing narrative combines a probing and close reading of selected texts with an engaged interest in the circumstances of production, circulation, and reception. The economic exchange that provides the course of this journey is a fertile theme and one given deft treatment.

Gallagher argues that the product of the multivalent transition from closed patronage to an open marketplace as the supporter of the writer was "nothingness and disembodiment." For women writers this mechanized anonymity and authorized facelessness was particularly common. Women fiction writers further pursued the remodelling of reality and the creation of imaginary worlds. Resulting representations, it is claimed, reflected and reinforced wider perceptions. The "nobodies" are authors, fictions, and reading audiences. The complexity of the interwoven themes of indebtedness, productivity, dispossession, and materiality (and their opposites) is relentless. The writing, however, is never obfuscating, always stimulating, and contributes in multiple ways to our understanding of the changing literary marketplace and concepts of authorship.

I suspect that both Jim Mitchell and Mike Crump would wish to distance themselves from some of the conclusions based on early trawls of the *Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue*. Moreover, some of the author's asides about the relative state of literary productivity in the mid- to late-eighteenth century are problematic. To be fair, Gallagher does acknowledge the preliminary nature of her research, but the problem remains.

At the close, the author emphasizes that "Nobody has many stories. In this book I have outlined only a few, concentrating on those in which nobodiness is peculiarly weighty." It is a modest and sensible conclusion. Many other paths can be followed — or indeed, as Gallagher might have permitted herself to boast, can now be better followed — through the literary and cultural history of eighteenth-century Britain.

—James Raven, Oxford University

Scholarly Liaisons

SHARP continues to build its network of affiliations with sister scholarly organizations. Last year we held one panel session at the **American Historical Association** convention in Atlanta. This year, when the AHA meets in New York, we will sponsor four panels and co-sponsor a fifth:

Subversive Literature: Censorship and Meaning (3 January, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sheraton: Carnegie Room 2)

Chair: Bernice Glatzer Rosenthal, Fordham University
 "Fires of Expiation: Book-Burnings and Cultural Politics in Early Nineteenth-Century France," Martyn Lyons, University of New South Wales

"Text Makers, Meaning Makers: The Construction of News for the Masses in Nineteenth-Century Paris," Thomas Cragin, University of Scranton

"Censorship and the Reading Community: Lady Chatterley Meets the Authorities," Priscilla Coit Murphy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Comment: Margaret A. Blanchard, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Printing Press as an Agent of Change Outside Europe (4 January, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sheraton: New York Ballroom A)

Chair: Jonathan Rose, Drew University
 "Agent of Change or Trusted Servant: The Eighteenth-Century Williamsburg Press," Susan Berg, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Library

"From Xylography to Typography: The Printing Press as an Agent of Change in Japan, 1850-1900," Giles Richter, Columbia University

"The Coming of Print to Egypt in the Late Nineteenth Century and Its Impact," Roberta L. Dougherty, University of Pennsylvania Library

Comment: Elizabeth L. Eisenstein, University of Michigan (emerita)

The American Common Reader: From Little Eva to Miss September (4 January, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Sheraton: Carnegie Room 1)

Chair: Patrick Leary, Indiana University
 "Approaches to the History of Reading: Responses from Antebellum New England," Ronald J. Zboray, Georgia State University, and Mary Saracino Zboray, Atlanta

"Selling the American Common Reader on the Modern American Novel: John Dos Passos and Gertrude Stein at Harcourt Brace," Catherine Turner, University of Texas at Austin

"Reading Consumer Culture, Reading *Playboy*," Jesse Berrett, University of California at Berkeley

Comment: E. Jennifer Monaghan, Brooklyn College CUNY

Periodicals and the Politics of Intellectual Authority (5 January, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Sheraton: Carnegie Room 1)

Chair: Linda E. Connors, Drew University Library
 "Authority and Trust in the Early History of Academic Peer Review," Harold S. Stone, American University in Cairo

"Purifying Nietzsche in France: Reading Strategies of the *NRF* Group," Christopher E. Forth, University of Memphis

"The *American Historical Review* 1895-1995: A Bibliometric Analysis," Thomas D. Walker, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Comment: James Smith Allen, Southern Illinois University

At the same conference, SHARP is co-sponsoring a session with the **American Society of Church History**, as arranged by our ASCH liaison, Bradford Verter:

Creating Communities of Believers: Toward the History of the Religious Book (5 January, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sheraton: Empire Room 3)

Chair: Jonathan Rose, Drew University
 "Religious Publishing and the Rise of the Unitarian Controversy, 1805-1835," Leon Jackson, Ferris State University

"Religious Narratives: Creating a Democratic Print Culture, 1790-1835," Cathleen McDonnell Schultz, College of St. Francis

"Lodestones of Metaphysics: Anglo-American Publishing and the Construction of Popular Occultism 1800-1920," Bradford Verter, Princeton University

Comment: David D. Hall, Harvard Divinity School

SHARP is already seeking papers for the next AHA convention, which will meet 8-11 January 1998 in Seattle. Please send proposals by 1 March 1997 to F. J. Levy, History Department, Box 353560, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98105, flevy@u.washington.edu.

Thanks to the organizing efforts of Michael Winship, SHARP will also sponsor two special sessions at this year's **Modern Language Association** convention in Washington, DC:

Reaching out to Readers: Book Distribution in Nineteenth-Century America (27 December, 9:00-10:15 p.m., Sheraton Washington: Eisenhower Room)

Session leader: Jeffrey D. Groves, Harvey Mudd College

"Forgotten Readers: Marketing Books and Reading in Antebellum African-American Contexts," Elizabeth McHenry, University of Texas at Austin

"'A Dream That Went by Contraries': Charles Chesnutt's Divided Audience," Robert M. Myers, University of Texas at Tyler

"*Tribby*: Illustrations Create a Fad," Emily Jenkins, Columbia University

In Search of the Historical Reader (28 December, 1:45-3:00 p.m., Sheraton Washington: Virginia Suite A)

Session leader: Leon Jackson, Michigan State University
 "The Reader Retailored: Reconstructing Carlyle's Historical Audiences," Leon Jackson, Michigan State University

"Virgil and the Myth of Venice: A Study in Renaissance Readership," Craig Kallendorf, Texas A&M University

"Virtual Communities: Readers' Networks in Late Nineteenth-Century Japan," Giles Richter, Columbia University

"Moving Readings: Early Train Travel in France and the Bibliothèque des Chemins de fer," Mark Wolff, University of Chicago

As part of our effort to become an associate allied organization of the Modern Language Association, SHARP will propose two panels for next year's MLA convention, which will meet in Toronto in late December 1997. Sessions run 75 minutes and typically consist of three papers and a response. All panelists must be members of both SHARP and MLA. If you are interested in organizing a panel for MLA 1997, please contact Michael Winship, Department of English, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712, bal@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu, by 1 December 1996.

What is especially encouraging is that even where SHARP has no official connections and no aggressive lobbyists, scholarly societies are featuring more book history in their conference programs. A good example is the recent meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies at Loyola University of Chicago, which featured papers on "English Corantos and Newsbooks in the 1630s," "Readers, Writers, and the Early Royal Society," and "Enlightenment and Revolution in Tory Journalism, c. 1810-1832," as well as entire panels on "Irish Identity and the Press" and "After the New Historicism: History and Literature in Early Modern Britain."

Calls for Contributors

Contributors are invited for a collection of essays on histories of the mass reading public in any period and in any country, with the working title "The Global Common Reader." Papers (in English) may deal with reading audiences, publishing firms and their dealings with the mass reading public, distribution, and other aspects of reading and publishing popular literature. The University of Massachusetts Press has expressed an initial interest in such a volume (subject to peer and editorial review) for its series "Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book." *The Chicago Manual of Style* (14th ed.) will be used. Please send five hard copies of each submission by

1 October 1997 to the editor, Lydia C. Schurman, Northern Virginia Community College, 3215 North 22nd Street, Arlington, VA 22201. Inquiries welcome at nvschul@nv.cc.va.us.

The *Journal of the Early Book Society* is a new annual periodical that plans to publish its first issue in Fall 1997. The editors are seeking essays of 20-25 pages (including endnotes) on any aspect of medieval manuscripts or early printed books produced between 1300 and 1550. They also solicit letters of interest from potential reviewers. Contact Martha Driver, Early Book Society, Box 732, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156-0602.

For a special issue of *Reader*, the guest editors invite manuscripts about the relationship between readers and popular culture or about the connections between the theory and practice of using reader-based methods for popular culture study. Direct inquiries to Linda Adler-Kassner (kassn001@maroon.tc.umn.edu) or Sherry Linkon (sjlinkon@cc.ysu.edu). Manuscripts are due 1 May 1997 and should be mailed to Linda Adler-Kassner, General College, University of Minnesota, 128 Pleasant Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

The Quodlibet Press is compiling a collection of Extreme and Adverse Literary Criticism. Fully documented examples of critical review and appraisal (under the headings Personal, Anecdotes, Literary, and Miscellaneous) should be sent to Adam An-tAthair-Siorai, The Quodlibet Press, Kirsch Strasse 17, D-27318 Hoya, Germany, fax (+49) 04251-7516.

Calls for Papers

"William Gilmore Simms and the Development of American Letters" will be the theme of a conference meeting 10-13 April 1997 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, sponsored by the **Center for the Study of the American South**. Proposals are invited on such topics as the growth of American publishing, changes in cultural literacy, education, and readers and reading in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, including Simms's roles in such developments and his careers as author, editor, and champion of American and Southern letters. Send paper and session proposals by with curriculum vitae by 17 January 1997 to Stephen Berry, Center for the Study of the American South, 03A Manning Hall, University of North Carolina, Campus Box 3355, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. For further information call 919-962-5665, fax 919-962-4433, or e-mail swberry.irss@mhs.unc.edu.

Conferences

The annual **Booktrade History Conference**, devoted to "The Stationers' Company and the Booktrade 1550-1990," will meet on 30 November and 1 December 1996 at Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London. Those wishing to attend should send £65 with their details to Carol Watts, Centre for Extra-Mural Studies, Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ, Britain, telephone 171-631-6652, fax 171-631-6686.

The ninth international conference of the **Society for Textual Scholarship** will meet 10-12 April 1997 at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. Contact D. C. Greetham, Ph.D. Program in English, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 W. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036-8099.

The **Bibliographical Society of Canada** will convene a foundation conference to plan a History of the Book in Canada. It will meet at the National Library of Canada in Ottawa from 23-25 May 1997. The Society decided at its 50th anniversary meeting in 1996 to support a program of scholarly research aimed at producing a national Canadian history of the book, to be published in French and English. Contact the Bibliographical Society of Canada, PO Box 575, Postal Station P, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2T1, Canada, fax 416-971-1399, fleming@fis.utoronto.ca.

The biennial conference of the **Society of Bookbinders** will meet 3-6 July 1997 in Durham, England. Contact Owen Bradford, Robinson Library, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 4HQ, Britain.

Lectures

Antonette Di Paolo Healey will speak to the Toronto Centre for the Book on "Words, Story, History: The Mapping of Meaning and Toronto's Dictionary of Old English," 25 November at 4:10 p.m. in Alumni Hall, Victoria College.

Courses & Seminars

The Columbia University Seminar on the Book in

History will feature Milton McC. Gatch on "The Reformation of the Bible/The Bible of the Reformation" (19 November) and Roger Bagnall on "Books and Notebooks on Wood from the Late Antique Egyptian Desert Oasis" (3 December). Contact Jean Ashton, Director, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, 535 W. 114th St., New York, NY 10027, ashton@columbia.edu.

Exhibitions

The **Huntington Library** (1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA) will present an exhibition, "Let There Be Light: William Tyndale and the Making of the English Bible," from 19 November 1996 to 7 February 1997. A day-long symposium on the Tyndale Bible will be held on 11 January 1997. For information call 818-405-2100. The exhibition will travel to the New York Public Library (22 February-17 May 1997) and the Library of Congress in Washington (4 June-6 September 1997).

Fellowships & Awards

The **Bibliographical Society** awards research grants ranging from £50 to £2000. Applicants may be of any nationality and need not be members of the Society. Application forms are available from, and should be returned by 30 November 1996 to E. S. Leedham-Green, University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR, Britain, EL17@cam.ac.uk.

On the Internet

A couple of typographical errors slipped into the notes on SHARP-L and SHARP Web in our 1996 Membership and Periodicals Directory. To subscribe to SHARP-L, send the message SUB SHARP-L, followed by your name, to listserv@iubvm.ucs.indiana.edu. And you can reach SHARP Web at <http://www.indiana.edu/~sharp>.

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Austria

Sandra McColl, *Music Criticism in Vienna 1896-1897: Critically Moving Forms*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.

Britain

R. A. Carroll, *The Printed Maps of Lincolnshire, 1576-1900: A Carto-Bibliography with an Appendix on Road-Books, 1675-1900*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell & Brewer, 1996.

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Lydia H. Liu, *Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity — China, 1900-1937*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1996.

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Italy

E. Alberto Gallo, *Music in the Castle: Troubadours, Books, and Orators in Italian Courts of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Centuries*, trans. Anna Herklotz. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.

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The Low Countries

Nadine M. Orenstein, *Hendrick Hondius and the Business of*

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Russia

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How We Are Doing

This has been a season of milestones, both sad and happy. We report with sorrow that Susan Swartzburg, one of SHARP's keenest enthusiasts, died recently at age 58. A librarian at Rutgers University, Susan had been planning to organize a circle of book historians in New Jersey.

She was one of many SHARP people working to enhance the public visibility of book history, and we can see their efforts already bearing fruit. Beginning 26 October at 4:00 p.m., BBC Radio Four began broadcasting "A History of Reading in Five Volumes," a weekly series arranged by Don Fowler of Oxford University, featuring Marilyn Deegan, Sven Birkets, Elizabeth Eisenstein, Anthony Grafton, Roger Chartier, Kate Flint, Simon Eliot, Michael Clanchy, and Robin Alston.

All this conveys a sobering sense of how far we have come since I began editing this newsletter five years ago. "Inventing a new scholarly society is a fascinating enterprise," I wrote in the first of these columns, where I promised to "report regularly on our progress in getting SHARP airborne." So how are we doing? Over the years, the answer has consistently been: Very Nicely Indeed. All over the world, volunteers have stepped forward to organize conferences, start up research and publishing projects, launch journals, develop courses, and send me a constant flow of news about it all. That kind of cooperative effort has marked SHARP from the start, and it accounts for our gratifying success. To thank everyone who deserves to be thanked, I would have to work through most of the Membership Directory, but it has been a special privilege to serve with Linda Connors and Philip Metzger, who invested so much hard labor in producing SHARP NEWS.

Now I can put this, my last issue, to bed with every confidence for the future. Welcome on board the new editorial team of David Finkelstein and Fiona Black! They will bring a new look to SHARP NEWS, and work toward making it not just our house organ, but the global newsmagazine of book history.

—Jonathan Rose

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