

## SHARP News

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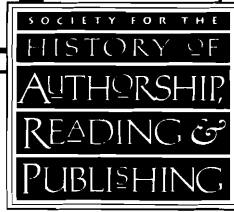
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# SHARP NEWS



Volume 4, Number 4

Autumn 1995

## *SHARP Begins Search for Book History Yearbook Editors*

The Editorial Board of Penn State Press has formally accepted SHARP's proposal to publish a scholarly yearbook devoted to book history. Following a plan endorsed at our Edinburgh conference, SHARP Publications Coordinator James L. W. West III has assembled a search committee to select an editorial staff for the journal. The committee includes Bill Bell (University of Edinburgh), Thomas A. Horrocks (Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine), Jane Millgate (University of Toronto), Priscilla Older (Mansfield University), and Alexis Weedon (University of Luton).

The yearbook will be a hardcover volume of 320 to 350 pages, underwritten by an increase in SHARP membership dues of about \$20. The dues increase will take effect a year before the publication of the first volume, now projected for late 1997. Responsibility for copyediting and proofreading the yearbook will be assumed by Penn State Press. Ultimately, the "editorial mix" will be decided by the editors themselves, but the journal will probably consist mainly of research articles—including selected papers from SHARP conferences as well as submissions from scholars outside SHARP. It may also publish "think" pieces by leading book historians, survey reviews of recent publications, and symposia on selected topics.

The search committee envisions a three-tiered editorial structure for the journal, as follows:

**Editor(s)-in-Chief.** Full editorial control will be vested in either a single editor or a team of two or three editors. If a team is selected, the co-editors would not necessarily belong to the same institution.

**Advisory Editors.** The editor(s)-in-chief will be assisted by a panel of 8 to 20 advisory editors. As a group, they would ideally cover all the important national and chronological subfields within book history. (The search committee therefore especially seeks applications from those who specialize in neglected areas, such as Latin America and Asia.) The advisory editors will actively seek out innovative research and call it to the attention of the chief editors, who will in turn call upon the advisory editors to assess articles submitted to the yearbook.

**Referees.** There will also be a large pool of outside readers who, as part of the jurying process, will occasionally be asked to review and judge submissions.

Applications are invited for all three levels of editorial work. Send a curriculum vitae, as well as a cover letter outlining your areas of specialization within the field of book history, to the chair of the search committee, Prof. James L. W. West III, Center for the History of the Book, 117 Burrowes Building, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802-6200, USA. Only SHARP members may apply, and applications must be received by 15 December 1995.

Applicants for the position of editor-in-chief should supply additional information. In your cover letter, describe in detail your editorial experience, and suggest some directions that the journal might take under your management. Also indicate the level of support you can expect from your home institution, such as release time, graduate assistants, secretarial services, a postal/duplicating budget, or a direct subsidy.

## *1996 Worcester Conference Update: Final Call for Papers*

For those who put it off, this is a last reminder to submit proposals for SHARP's fourth annual conference, which will meet 18-21 July 1996 at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. As always, there are no limitations on topics. Abstracts (one page) 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). (Original hard copy is *greatly* preferred to e-mail or faxes.) The deadline for submission is 20 November.

The program committee will meet in Worcester on 11 January 1996 to consider the abstracts. Any SHARP member who is not submitting a proposal may sit on that committee: if you wish to serve, please write to the committee chair, John Hench, at the above address by 20 November.

The registration fee for the conference will be about \$55, with a discount for students. For the conference banquet, there will be an additional charge of about \$30. Most sessions will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, where rooms may be reserved for \$70 per night; lodging will also be available at the nearby Hampton Inn for \$59 per room, including breakfast.

### *Collaborative Projects in Book History Discussed at Library of Congress*

On 12-13 September, the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress brought together more than 20 library and cultural historians to brainstorm two major collaborative projects in book history. They discussed plans for a multivolume history of American libraries, and they proposed to create an umbrella organization for the growing network of book history centers throughout North America.

Kenneth E. Carpenter of the Harvard University Library opened the conference with his lecture "Readers and Libraries: Toward a History of Libraries and Culture in America." He argued that librarians and professional historians must work together to advance library history beyond narrow institutional studies. Libraries should be treated as a force in social and cultural history, said Carpenter, and scholars must examine the influence of politics, class, ethnicity, and religion on library development. Carpenter's lecture will soon be published by the Center for the Book.

The sense of the meeting was that the moment had arrived for a new history of libraries in the United States. An informal steering committee was formed, with Kenneth Carpenter as chair; John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book and host of the conference, will serve as vice-chair. To advance this project, the Center for the Book plans to sponsor a series of small conferences to discuss issues and research opportunities in American library history.

The September conference brought together representatives of book history centers across the United States, including the American Antiquarian Society, the Penn State Center for the History of the Book, the Texas Group for the Study of Books and Print Culture at the University of Texas-Austin, the Faculty Working Group on the History of Print Culture in the South at the University of North Carolina, and the Center for the History of the Book at Drew University. This list promises to grow: Mary Niles Maack outlined a proposal to establish an Institute for the Study of Print and Electronic Culture at the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA. The Center for the Book of the Library of Congress will undertake to prepare and distribute a directory of book history centers.

Wayne A. Wiegand, co-director of the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America (Madison, Wisconsin), chaired a discussion of possibilities for collaboration among these centers. There was a proposal to create a "council of book history centers," which could promote collaborative research and conduct a joint fundraising effort. That council will hold an organizational meeting at the 1996 SHARP conference in Worcester, and will meet again at the Library of Congress in 1997.

### *Course Syllabus: A Graduate Seminar in the History of the Book*

This seminar introduces graduate students to the study of books as literary artifacts, technological products, and cultural signifiers. Because the instructors are both Americanists, the course has a fairly heavy slant in that direction. Two of the required texts are novels—Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* and Robert Grudin's *Book: A Novel*—which we read and interpret in the context of the literary marketplace of their times.

Students are required to write two papers of 6-8 pages and read a 10-minute summary of each to the class. For topics, they may select from four options: (1) Choose one of the essays in Cathy Davidson's *Reading in America* and compare it critically with William Gilmore's *Reading Becomes a Necessity of Life*; (2) Read/scan one year of the journal *Publishers Weekly*, then describe and summarize the major developments in the American book trade during that year; (3) Write an analysis of a self-help manual for authors, concentrating on what it reveals about the literary marketplace of its time; (4) Similarly analyze a publisher's memoirs, a house history, or an author's business letters. Each student must also write a research paper of 25-30 pages, likely involving archival work.

#### I. INTRODUCTION: COURSE OUTLINE AND AIMS

#### II. THEORETICAL OVERVIEW(S) AND THE QUESTION OF SOURCES

Cathy Davidson, "Toward a History of Books and Readers," and Robert Darnton, "What is the History of Books?" in Davidson, *Reading in America* (Johns Hopkins); Lewis Coser, et al., "Commerce and Culture: A Historical Survey of Book Publishing in America," in *Books: The Commerce and Culture of Publishing* (Basic Books).

#### III. THE PRINTING PRESS AS AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Elizabeth Eisenstein, *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge), part 1.

#### IV. THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LITERACY

Jack Goody and Ian Watt, "The Consequences of Literacy," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 5 (1963); Eisenstein, *Printing Revolution*, part 2.

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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. Send membership dues to Linda Connors, Drew University Library, Madison, NJ 07940, USA. Address editorial correspondence to the Editor, Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA, jrose@drew.drew.edu, fax 201-408-3768. The Book Review Editor is Philip A. Metzger, Special Collections Curator, Lehigh University Library, 30 Library Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015-3067, USA, pam5@lehigh.edu.

## V. READING AND WRITING IN THE NEW WORLD

William Charvat, *Literary Publishing in America* (Massachusetts); William Gilmore, *Reading Becomes a Necessity of Life* (Tennessee), chaps. 1-6.

## VI. PROBLEMS OF INTERPRETATION

Gilmore, *Reading Becomes a Necessity*, chaps. 7-10; Davidson, *Reading in America*, chaps. 2-7.

## VII. EVOLUTION OF THE MODERN LITERARY MARKETPLACE

William Charvat, "Literature as Business," in *Literary History of the United States*, 4th ed.; William Charvat, "Longfellow," "Literary Economics and Literary History," and "The People's Patronage," in *The Profession of Authorship in America* (Columbia).

## VIII. THE ANTEBELLUM LITERARY SITUATION, A CASE STUDY: HAWTHORNE

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The House of the Seven Gables*.

## IX. READING AS CONSUMPTION

Janice Radway, *Reading the Romance* (North Carolina).

## X. READING IN A CULTURE OF CONSUMPTION

Janice Radway, "The Book-of-the-Month Club and the General Reader," in *Reading in America*.

## XI. THE CONCEPT OF LITERARY PROPERTY

Lyman Ray Patterson, *Copyright in Historical Perspective* (Vanderbilt), chaps. 9-10; Alice D. Schreyer, "Copyright and Books in Nineteenth-Century America," in Hackenberg, ed., *Getting the Books Out* (Center for the Book).

## XII. AUTHOR/PUBLISHER RELATIONS: THE RISE OF THE LITERARY AGENT

Henry Holt, "The Commercialization of Literature," *Atlantic Monthly* (Nov. 1905); James L. W. West III, "The Agent," in *American Authors and the Literary Marketplace since 1900* (Pennsylvania).

## XIII. THE EXPANDING DOMAIN OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: THE VALUE OF SUBSIDIARY RIGHTS

Hugh Rawson, "What Authors Should Know about Publishing Economics," *Authors Guild Bulletin* (Winter 1982-83).

## XIV. A DECONSTRUCTIVE HISTORY OF THE BOOK

Robert Grudin, *Book: A Novel* (book and disk form).

## XV. DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

—James L. W. West III and Michael Anesko,  
*Pennsylvania State University*

### **SHARP Organizes ASECS Section, Seeks Information on Research Projects**

SHARP is now an affiliate of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, and is sponsoring a panel on "The Coming of the Book to Eighteenth-Century Studies" at the upcoming ASECS conference in Austin, 27-31 March 1996. Organized by Eleanor Shevlin, the panel will feature papers by SHARP members Raymond Birn, Nancy Mace, Richard Sher, and Patricia Howell Michaelson.

At that session, Prof. Shevlin would like to distribute a

handout listing the research projects in book history that ASECS/SHARP members are currently engaged in. If you are a member of both organizations, please send her an entry including the project title, a brief (4 to 5 sentences) description, and your name and affiliation. Send it by 1 February 1996 (earlier if possible) to Eleanor Shevlin, 2006 Columbia Road NW, Apt. 42, Washington, DC 20009, or es65@umail.umd.edu.

## Book Reviews

Beth Baron, *The Women's Awakening in Egypt: Culture, Society, and the Press*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1994. Pp. 259.

The movement for women's liberation in Egypt has often been seen entirely as the result of the activities of a cohort of turn-of-the-century Egyptian male intellectuals. Historians assumed that the practice of veiling and seclusion kept women from active participation in opinion making. Consequently they limited their analysis of women's contribution to this debate to the dramatic gestures of a few figures like feminist leader Huda Shaarawi, who in 1923 removed her veil in public upon returning to Cairo from a feminist conference in Rome.

A rich source of information contradicting this view is the thirty-odd Arabic women's periodicals that appeared in Egypt between 1892 and 1919. These journals were produced by, for, and about women and circulated throughout the Arab world and in Arabic-speaking communities in Europe and the Americas. In their pages editors and contributors discussed the proper outlet for women's expression in society, the effects of polygamy, the role of veiling, and the proper nature and extent of women's education and work outside the home. Baron's book closely examines these early Arabic women's journals to show that female intellectuals were far from passive, and did not leave the debate over women's role in society to men.

Early Arabic women's journals appeared at a time when several trends were converging in Egyptian society as it moved into the modern era: the rise of popular print culture, the rise of Egyptian nationalism as the Ottoman empire slackened its hold on its former province, the increased availability of secondary education for women, and the transition and development of the Arabic language caused by the rise of modern Arabic literary production.

The impetus for the founding of the Arabic press in Egypt came from Levantine Christian immigrants (for example, *Al-Ahram* newspaper was founded in 1876 by two Syrian brothers) and this was also true for women's journals. The first of these, called *Al-Fatah (The Young Woman)*, appeared in 1892. Egyptian women from a

variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds, but particularly Muslims, began increasingly to found and direct women's periodicals after 1907.

Despite the lack of information—in the form of diaries, letters, or biographies—about the lives of the women who produced and read these journals, Dr. Brown skillfully extracts from their pages a detailed picture of their production and of the reading habits of turn-of-the-century Egyptian women. Female intellectuals stepped into the role of writers and editors for this new popular press, thereby creating a new profession for women. These women were often educated in missionary schools and their families came from the emerging professional middle class.

In a period when both Muslim and Christian women's mobility was restricted, female editors often worked at home. Some maintained an office in town staffed by supportive husbands and brothers. Female readers and some editors, fearful of the exposure of print, at first used noms-de-plume when signing their names, although this practice eventually faded. Female editors continued to insist that it was neither immodest nor immoral for a woman to express her views in print.

The reading public consisted mainly of young urban women and some men. Subscriptions were relatively expensive. Subscribers shared issues, passed them around, read them aloud to family members who could not read, collected and lovingly bound their copies in leather volumes with the owner's name stamped on the spine. Editors eagerly solicited readers' contributions, and women who became accustomed to seeing their names in print often went on to found their own journals.

While the editorial points of view of these journals were diverse, they tended to advocate a domestic ideology that favored educating women not as a means to becoming wage laborers, but rather to prepare them for expanded roles in the home as savvy homemakers, educators of children, and suitable life partners. Some advocated a return to authentic Islamic values, although none called for the uncritical adoption of the Western feminist model. Rather, they urged a process of sifting and selecting what was new and reinvigorating what was old to create a modern, authentically Egyptian society. These publications also contributed to the "reimagining" of the Egyptian nation by promoting attitudes that shifted loyalty from the pan-Islamic or Ottoman community to the Egyptian territorial entity.

The importance of these journals lies not only in the detailed picture they present of Egyptian women's lives at this period: they also helped to prepare the ground for women's future participation in Egyptian society after the 1919 revolution by providing a forum for the expression of women's opinions and a training ground for reformist thinkers. As the first extended study of these materials, this book is a great contribution to the historiography of authorship, reading, and the press in the Middle East in general, and among Egyptian women in particular.

—Roberta L. Dougherty,  
University of Pennsylvania Library

Thomas Kunkel, *Genius in Disguise: Harold Ross of the New Yorker*. New York: Random House, 1995. Pp. 497.

Tom Dardis, *Firebrand: The Life of Horace Liveright*. New York: Random House, 1995. Pp. xvii, 394.

The era between the two World Wars brought enormous changes to the American publishing industry, when upstarts challenged houses founded in the nineteenth century. The story of the people who created the new publishing is gradually being unfolded, having received its first serious treatment in Matthew J. Bruccoli's *The Fortunes of Mitchell Kennerley, Bookman* (1986). After Bennett Cerf's posthumously published memoir *At Random* (1977) his life still deserves an independent look, but perhaps a rumored forthcoming history of Random House will help. Also rumored, and eagerly awaited, is a biography of Alfred A. Knopf.

It's an interesting coincidence—if indeed a coincidence, since both books are from the same publisher—that comprehensive biographies of Horace Liveright and Harold Ross have appeared within a few months of each other. They shared an outsider position in the patrician world of New York publishing, as well as a fondness (Liveright always and Ross sometimes) for the earthier side of life. And yet, although they must have known about each other—Liveright was in high gear when the first issue of Ross's magazine appeared in 1925—neither appears as a figure in the other's biography.

Liveright was born in 1884 and grew up in a Philadelphia merchant family. Always curious, and certainly the family rebel—he would have been any family's rebel—Liveright dropped out of high school to follow the theatrical muse as a would-be writer and producer. From this he moved into bond selling, with enough flash and style to be successful, eventually letting his literary interests draw him into publishing. His theatrical predilections were never very far away, and eventually investments in failed plays, along with his free-spending ways with authors and innumerable office parties, brought his publishing firm down. But during the 1920s he was a leading American literary publisher: sometimes half the titles on the best-seller list had the Liveright imprint.

Liveright has had one previous study, Walker Gilmer's *Horace Liveright, Publisher of the Twenties* (1970). Dardis has brought to bear more sources than Gilmer had available to him, and devotes much more space to discussing Liveright's life before and after his years as a publisher. The result is a much fuller picture, although the ultimate question—why Liveright was such a charming, dapper, womanizing, brilliant, and ultimately self-destructive publisher and human being—somewhat eludes Dardis, as perhaps such questions must elude any biographer. Certainly some of it had to do with Liveright's lack of formal education and his Jewish background in a patrician Christian publishing milieu.

Another figure who eludes ultimate understanding is Harold Ross, creator of the *New Yorker*. A native of Colorado (and eight years younger than Liveright), he got his start in journalism in World War I, when he was founding editor of *Stars and Stripes*. Equal to Liveright in his lack of formal education, his work as a journeyman newspaper reporter gave him the skills to become a superb editor. Kunkel, a journalist himself, is at pains to put to rest the idiot savant image which some have tried to project on Ross. James Thurber and Ross's first wife Jane Grant left memoirs of him, and there was an early biography in 1951 (the year of his death), but this is the definitive study.

In the final analysis, Ross's magazine was the product of his remarkable insight (probably possible only for a New York outsider) into a new literary climate, plus amazing luck in financing the venture and keeping it going through the first years. By the Depression, it had become so successful—even with the little old lady in Dubuque—that it continued to make money even in the bleakest years. And unlike Liveright's firm, Ross's creation has outlived him very successfully.

As trade publications, both books have a light apparatus, although enough to lead a reader to original sources where necessary. Each also has a competent bibliography. And both are well-written contributions to an emerging picture of the most tumultuous and important period in American publishing history.

—Philip A. Metzger, *Lehigh University Libraries*

Keith L. Sprunger, *Trumpets from the Tower: English Puritan Printing in the Netherlands 1600-1640*. Leiden: Brill, 1994. Pp. xvi, 240.

If one is to derive the maximum benefit from a visit to a strange country, one needs a competent tour guide. The intellectual world of late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century Puritanism, in which the printing trade was viewed not merely as a gift of God but regarded almost in sacramental terms, is indeed a strange one to the secular world of late twentieth-century Europe and those countries which draw upon it in large measure for their cultural heritage. Even those of us who have gone through the spiritual fire of loss of faith find it both disorienting and painful to retrace our steps into once congenial territory. On a journey through such a territory Sprunger is the ideal cicerone: sure-footed in his knowledge of the primary and secondary sources, he is at the same time never patronizing.

The enforced emigration, both physical and intellectual, of a significant part of its membership—significant, perhaps, more in terms of spirituality than numbers—must be to the eternal shame of the Church of England. Sprunger does well to allay our cynical assumption that most of the Puritans were self-centered in advocating freedom of thought and expression in religion. The

commitment to Christ of those who felt compelled to remove themselves to the freer atmosphere of the Netherlands shines through in this account.

Those who are unfamiliar with the intellectual history of the Netherlands in the seventeenth century stand indebted to Sprunger for his detailed exposition of the role of resident Puritans in promoting Hebrew studies, even if one accepts that there was often an ulterior motive, the conversion of the Jews to Christianity. One notes the arrogant behavior of the Amsterdam pastor and leading Hebraist, Hugh Broughton, who, while on a visit to a synagogue in Germany, told a member of the congregation that the cantor did not, as he supposed, sing like an angel, but rather barked like a dog. Sprunger appears uncharacteristically limp in excusing Broughton's conduct as brave but foolhardy.

The attempts of the English ecclesiastical and political establishment to hunt down and silence Puritan printing presses must darken the heart of all who hold the freedom of the press as much a basic, inalienable right as freedom of speech and thought. It is as sad as it is unsurprising that such illiberal attempts should have brought together unlikely bedfellows, in this case the Calvinist clergyman, Johannes le Maire, and the Arminian Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud. Perhaps the most charitable thing one can say is that they deserved each other's company. It was lucky for the printers, and for one's belief in humanity, that the Dutch authorities were unwilling to act against them, and, even when pushed by the English authorities, did so only with great reluctance and much foot-dragging. The subterfuges practiced by the printers and their associates to bring their books into English ports are told with a scholarly objectivity which subtly conceals Sprunger's admiration for their faith and their physical bravery.

A considerable body of bibliographical and typographical evidence is scattered throughout the text, often of an inconclusive nature in view of the clandestine conditions under which much of the printing was done. This has usefully been gathered and summarized in four appendices.

Sprunger's inconsistency, sometimes in adjoining sentences, in naming Dutch printers raises questions about his familiarity with the language. Although he accepts that the seventeenth century saw the (very slow) start of a move away from patronymics to family names, one does not refer to a Dutch man of the period simply by his patronymic (e.g., Christiaensz.) any more than one would refer to a Russian of a later period in that way. I also wish that the compositor had a better understanding of English word divisions when hyphenating. But such lapses were irritating only because they distracted from the overall intellectual pleasure which the book afforded me.

—W. A. Kelly, *National Library of Scotland*

## Calls for Contributors

*(Re)Soundings* is a new peer-reviewed multimedia journal to be published in electronic form on the World Wide Web. The focus of the first issue will be English arts and letters before 1700. Articles are particularly solicited that employ a variety of media, such as text, graphics, and music. Submissions are most easily accepted as HTML-coded materials, but hard copy is also welcome, as are diskettes utilizing IBM or Macintosh platforms. Send submissions by February 1996 to the co-editors, Bonnie Duncan and Steven M. Miller, Department of English, Millersville University, Millersville, PA 17551, telephone 717-872-3080, [bduncan@marauder.millersv.edu](mailto:bduncan@marauder.millersv.edu) or [smiller@marauder.millersv.edu](mailto:smiller@marauder.millersv.edu).

## Calls for Papers

The **Center for Holocaust Study** and the **Center for the History of the Book at Drew University** will co-sponsor a conference on "The Holocaust and the Book: Destruction and Preservation," which will meet 14 November 1996 at Drew University. The organizers welcome proposals for papers dealing with books in the Holocaust, including (but not limited to) such topics as burning, confiscation, censorship, and preservation of books; ghetto, camp, and clandestine libraries; underground, official, and collaborationist publishing; keeping of journals and diaries; and the reading experiences of Holocaust victims and survivors. Holocaust survivors are specially invited to contribute their personal recollections to an informal session on reading and writing experiences during the Holocaust. These reminiscences, along with the more academic papers, may be published in a planned volume of conference proceedings. One-page abstracts (for academics) or brief letters (for Holocaust survivors) should be sent by 1 March 1996 to the Center for Holocaust Study, Rose Memorial Library/301, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, telephone 201-408-3600.

## Conferences

"Learning, Literacy, and Gender in the Middle Ages" will be the topic of the annual conference of the **Center for Medieval Studies of Fordham University**, 29-30 March

1996. Contact H. Wayne Storey, Medieval Studies, Fordham University, Keating 107, Bronx, NY 10458-5162, telephone 718-817-4655, fax 718-295-0366.

## Courses & Seminars

The **American Antiquarian Society** (Worcester) will sponsor the following academic seminars in literary history: Gary Williams, "Julia Ward Howe, Her Husband, His Friend, and 'Passion Flowers'" (16 November 1995); Barry O'Connell, "Converting Indians, Making Indians, Being Indians: Literary Production, Reception, and the History of Native Americans in the 1820s" (7 March 1996); and James N. Green, "The Rural Book Distribution Network of Isaiah Thomas" (Spring 1996). For further information contact John B. Hench at 508-752-5813 or [cfs@mwa.org](mailto:cfs@mwa.org).

John Price will speak on "Publishing Philosophy in the Eighteenth Century" at the **University of London Seminar on the Sociology of Texts**, 22 November at 2:30 p.m., in Room 360, Senate House. For further information contact [r.dawson@sas.ac.uk](mailto:r.dawson@sas.ac.uk).

## Exhibitions & Lectures

"Designing a Past for the Present: Women Writing Women's History in Antebellum America" is the theme of the thirteenth annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture, to be delivered by Mary Kelley on 27 October 1995 at the **American Antiquarian Society**.

The **Center for the History of the Book** at Pennsylvania State University is presenting two fall speakers: Janice Radway will discuss the history of the Book-of-the-Month Club at 3:30 p.m. on 26 October; and Linda Lapidus will lecture on the figure of Struwwelpeter (Slovenly Peter) in German children's literature, at 3:30 p.m. on 13 November in the Rare Books Room. For further information call 814-865-0495.

The **Texas Group for the Study of Books and Print Culture** will present a lecture by W. Thomas Taylor, "The Temper of the Present: The Private Press Movement Adrift," 30 November at 4:30 p.m., Center for American History auditorium, University of Texas at Austin.

The **Grolier Club** (47 E. 60th Street, New York) will

mount an exhibit titled "Poets in a War: British Writers on the Battlefronts and the Home Fronts of the Second World War," 6 December 1995 through 17 February 1996. For information call 212-838-6690.

Clive Bloom will speak on "Pulp: Reading in Technicolor" at the **British Museum Lecture Theatre**, 13 December at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available from the British Library, Events Box Office, Russell Square, London WC1B 3DG, Britain, telephone 0171-412-7760.

## Fellowships & Awards

The **Library Company of Philadelphia** offers several one-month fellowships (\$1350) for research in its collections in early American history. Candidates should provide four copies each of a curriculum vitae, a description of the proposed project (2-4 pages) demonstrating that the Library Company has primary sources central to the research topic, and a single letter of reference. Apply by 1 February 1996 to James Green, Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, telephone 215-546-3181, fax 215-546-5167.

## On the Internet

It is a happy irony that historians of print culture are finding so many useful research tools in the new information culture. In this column, SHARP NEWS will report regularly on state-of-the-art electronic resources for scholars of the book.

Since 1992, SHARP has maintained the SHARP-L listserv, a forum where book historians from all parts of the world exchange information and ideas. (For a fuller description, see the SHARP Membership Directory.) EX-LIBRIS, managed by Peter Graham of Rutgers University Libraries, likewise provides a link for special collections librarians and others involved in the preservation and study of rare books. An excellent guide to book-related listservs can be found in Margaret Williams's essay "The Physical Book Online," available via SHARP Web at <http://www.indiana.edu/~SHARP>.

Perhaps the most useful way to think of the World Wide Web is as a means of organizing, presenting, and choosing among documents on the Internet—a handy, visually oriented interface for the 'Net akin to the interface that Microsoft Windows or the Macintosh operating system provides for your desktop computer. Before the Web came along, locating and retrieving documents on the 'Net

involved tools like Gopher and FTP (File Transfer Protocol), and the documents themselves could only be viewed as lines and blocks of text. Gopher and FTP are still with us, but using the Web makes it possible to move quickly between documents and parts of documents and, with a graphical browser, to view texts that integrate images and sound. Most university systems have at least one kind of Web browser available for their users, and most commercial Internet gateways are hastening to provide them. The simplest and most common browser at universities is Lynx, which cannot display pictures, but is very fast and easy to use. Among the graphical browsers, Netscape is by far the current favorite. A visit with a consultant at your local computer center can help you to get a graphical browser up and running from your home or office.

SHARP's cyberspace headquarters, SHARP Web, aims to gather together research and teaching tools and resources of all kinds for historians of print culture. By clicking on an entry on SHARP Web, you can browse a list of the locations of publishers' archives, call up a research guide for the history of newspapers, consult a bibliography or syllabus for book history courses, check the American Antiquarian Society's holdings in print history, or see an up-to-date list of calls for papers and conferences around the world, just to name a few. We will feature descriptions of many of these resources in SHARP NEWS in the months to come. Among those already accessible via SHARP Web are:

- A searchable index to the Lilly Library collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth century chapbooks (<http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/lilly6/chapbook>)
- A description of the American Antiquarian Society program in book history ([gopher://mark.mwa.org/0phbacdesc.text](http://gopher://mark.mwa.org/0phbacdesc.text))
- The Division for the History of Books and Libraries at the University of Lund, Sweden ([http://www.ub2.lu.se/~steingri/BBH/BBHtop\\_eng.html](http://www.ub2.lu.se/~steingri/BBH/BBHtop_eng.html))
- Graphion's Online Type Museum, featuring descriptive exhibits on the history of typography (<http://www.slip.net/~graphion/museum.html>)
- Syllabi for Daniel Traister's book history courses (<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~traister/bksyl.html>)
- Collections of manuscripts on twentieth-century publishing at the McFarlin Library, University of Tulsa (<http://www.indiana.edu/~sharp/tpubs.html>)

One particularly interesting resource on SHARP Web is the University of Oxford Early Printed Books Project (<http://www.lib.ox.ac.uk/icc/>). Begun last June, it aims to create a database of accurate bibliographic descriptions for all foreign early printed books in Oxford libraries outside the Bodleian. This will be made available to scholars around the world via OLIS, the Oxford Libraries Information Service. The web pages are still "under construction" and comments or suggestions are welcome. Contact Julianne Simpson, Libraries Automation Service, Oxford University, 65 St. Giles, Oxford OX1 3LU, Britain, telephone 44-1865-278273, [julianne.simpson@las.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julianne.simpson@las.ox.ac.uk).

—Patrick Leary, Indiana University



## Notes & Queries

Source material is sought relating to the export of British books to the Netherlands from 1800 to 1940. Contact Adriaan van der Weel, Department of English, University of Leiden, PO Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, Netherlands, aweel@rulcri.leidenuniv.nl.

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Check if you prefer *not* to be included in the SHARP Directory and SHARP mailing lists:

4/95

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## How We Are Doing

We can now confirm what we tentatively reported in our last newsletter: SHARP has accepted an invitation to hold its fifth annual conference at Magdalene College Cambridge 3-7 July 1997. The meeting will be hosted by James Raven, Elsa Meyland Smith, and the Cambridge Project for the Book. The SHARP Executive Council is now considering a site for our 1998 conference, and is already accepting applications for future meetings.

You can now pay your SHARP membership dues with Visa or MasterCard, as well as by check. We hope this option will be helpful to our members outside the United States and Britain, who often don't have dollar or sterling accounts.

We are sometimes asked about joint memberships in SHARP. The answer is that couples can simply share one individual membership: both parties will be listed in the SHARP Membership Directory, but they will receive one subscription to the Directory and SHARP NEWS. They also get a single ballot in SHARP elections, and must decide between themselves how to cast it. SHARP accepts no responsibility for marital discord arising therefrom.

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