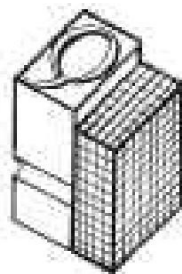


# Quadrat



*A periodical bulletin of research in progress  
on the history of the British book trade*

**Issue 23**

**Summer 2010**

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## CONTENTS

Editor's Note <i>Catherine Armstrong</i>	2
<i>Print Networks</i> conference: report from Stratford <i>Claartje Rasterhoff</i>	3
Progress report on the <i>Print Networks</i> series <i>Matthew Day</i>	5
<i>Print Networks</i> conference 2011	6
Sheffield Library Remark Book and Minute Books <i>Tanya Schmoller</i>	7
Communities and Networks in the Book Trade <i>John Hinks</i>	13
Report on the future of the Book History Research Network <i>Catherine Armstrong</i>	15
'Murders and Marvels': Chapbook Project at Leicester <i>John Hinks</i>	16
Printing Historical Society <i>Francis Cave</i>	18
Notes and Queries: Published 'by allowance'?	19
Future Events	19
Book review: <i>Memory's Library</i>	21
Bibliographical Society Grants available	23
Printing Historical Society Grants available	24

***The British Book Trade Index on the Web***  
**[www.bbti.bham.ac.uk](http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk)**

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Published in the Department of English, University of Birmingham  
ISSN: 1357-6666

## ***EDITOR'S NOTE***

Welcome to another issue of *Quadrat* containing articles, notes and queries, book reviews and reports from conferences and workshops, all designed to give you an indication of the vibrancy of our topic of book and printing history.

In response to the last issue's call for subscribers to move to an electronic format many readers have chosen to receive *Quadrat* via email. If you would like to receive *Quadrat* electronically in the future could you send an email to the editor (see address below).

Please include the following information:

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Do be assured that anyone who wants to continue to receive *Quadrat* in a traditional, 'hard' copy will be able to continue doing so.

Any queries about anything in this journal or suggestions for future material, please contact me: [C.M.Armstrong@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:C.M.Armstrong@mmu.ac.uk)

*Catherine Armstrong*

## Report on *Print Networks* conference, Stratford upon Avon, 2010

This year's Print Networks Conference took place in Stratford upon Avon, where almost everything breathes Shakespeare and his time. The theme "The book trade in early modern Britain" made for a broad range of papers, but some overarching themes cropped up. Many of the papers dealt, directly or indirectly, with the question of how early modern English booksellers, publishers, printers and authors took the hurdles they encountered when trying to publish books.

Several papers dealt with censorship and the organization of production. Alexandra da Costa's paper on the impact of restrictive government policy in the years 1529-1523 showed how restrictions on Reformation works made it increasingly difficult for Catholic authors to defend their faith. Matthew Day pointed out the role of binders in suppression of texts in early modern England and Adam Hooks discussed publisher Michael Sparke's motives behind the charge against the patent system in the London book trade in his 1641 pamphlet *Scintilla*. Guest speaker Professor Bernard Capp spoke about bookselling and distribution in the Interregnum period on the parish-level, and the degree to which government policies could be put into practice. My own paper compared the size and development of book production in England and the Dutch Republic, and tried to explain some of the differences by looking at entry barriers influencing the freedom of competition in the book trade.

Other papers dealt with the facilitation rather than the hindrance of book production, for example through collaboration and networks. Both Helen Smith and Stacy Erickson effectively used individual booksellers and their networks to study how publishers went about their business. Catherine Armstrong provided insight in the influence of author, publisher and printer in the publication of *The English-American* by Thomas Gage, while Dan Mills showed how Henry Neville used the book trade to draw attention to his works. Giles Mandelbrote, the second guest speaker, delivered a paper on capital and credit in the seventeenth century London book trade. He discussed the problems and

possibilities of using probate inventories to study credit relations and networks, and showed some promising results.

Editing and translation practices were discussed in Mariko Nagase's paper on the production of *The Mayor of Quinborough*, and Sara Barker's analysis of translations of news pamphlets in English print, based on the *Renaissance Cultural Crossroads Catalogue*. Louise Wilson presented examples of paratexts with direct references to book production, while Henry Newman pointed out the use of the trope of midwifery for printing in paratexts. Stephen Brown presented the newspaper as pre-eminent genre in commercial culture, from advertisements in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, 1720-1750, and thereby also pointed to changing demand. Lucy Lewis's paper on reader and collector Sir Thomas Smith further enabled the customer to enter the discussion.

This conference showed not only important academic results, but also the hurdles researchers of book history encounter in their work, and the range of different methods available to tackle them. The organizing committee, especially local organizer John Hinks, deserves much praise for the terrific organization of the conference. The pleasant atmosphere in the timber-framed Music Room of Mason Croft, once home to novelist Marie Corelli, allowed for a fruitful exchange of ideas both on the early modern book trade and the more topical subject of football! I am very grateful to have been this year's Fellow.

*Claartje Rasterhoff*  
*Utrecht University*

## Progress report on *Print Networks* series

In July 2009, the latest volume in the *Print Networks Series* entitled *Periodicals and Publishers: The Newspaper and Journal Trade 1740-1914* was published. It seems to have been well received and had positive reviews in both *SHARP News* and *The Library*.

The current volume, *Libraries, Collectors and the Book Trade* is with the publishers' readers. The eleven essays in it cover the period from the early 17<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries and consider the topic not only in relation to England, Scotland and Ireland but also the USA. They bring to light information about previously unknown collections, exemplify the very different nature of libraries and librarianship of earlier epochs compared with today's practices and the contingent nature of collecting as a mixture of serendipity and design.

The editors are currently working on two more volumes, the first of which looks at the way texts are transformed, as they come into print publication, by those involved in the book-trade, whether through textual revision, paratextual accretions, or the arrangement of texts. It promises to be a fascinating collection and the topics covered range from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries; it brings together papers from the conferences held at Lincoln in 2008 and Cambridge in 2009, with one or two papers from the 2010 conference held most successfully at Stratford in July. Most papers from that conference however, are expected to be included in the other volume on which the editors are working, provisionally entitled *The Early Modern Book-Trade*.

If you have any questions about the series, please email one of the editors:

John Hinks - [jh241@le.ac.uk](mailto:jh241@le.ac.uk)

Matthew Day - [M.Day@newman.ac.uk](mailto:M.Day@newman.ac.uk)

***PRINT NETWORKS CONFERENCE 2011***

***RELIGION AND THE BOOK TRADE***

**National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July 2011**

**CALL FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP**

The Twenty-Ninth Print Networks Conference on the history of the British book trade will take place at the National Library of Wales on 19th-21st July 2011. En-suite accommodation will be provided on the attractive campus of Aberystwyth University overlooking Cardigan Bay. In addition to a full programme of papers, there will be a Conference dinner and a visit to the Roderic Bowen Library in Lampeter. 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the Authorised Version of the Bible, and so "Religion and the Book Trade" has been chosen as the theme for the conference. The theme is broadly defined, and any papers relating to the production, distribution and reception of religious texts and images from the Middle Ages to the modern era will be considered. Papers should be of 30-40 minutes' duration. An abstract of the offered paper and a brief CV (no longer than one side of A4 in total) should be submitted by 31st January 2011 to: Timothy Cutts, Head of Rare Books Unit, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth SY23 3BU - [tjc@llgc.org.uk](mailto:tjc@llgc.org.uk)

The Print Networks Conference also offers an annual fellowship to a scholar whose research falls within the parameters of the Conference's brief, and who wishes to present a paper at the Conference. The fellowship covers the cost of attending the Conference and some assistance towards costs of travel. A summary of the research being undertaken accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a tutor or supervisor should be sent to the above address by 31st January 2011.

The papers presented will be considered for publication in the Print Networks series. Papers offered to the Conference must be original work and not delivered to any similar body before presentation at this Conference. It is part of the agreement with the publishers that papers will not be published elsewhere.

# Sheffield Central Library Remark Book and Minute Book

*Tanya Schmoller*

This volume (ref. CA-L/2/2) runs from 1881 to 1917, and contains about fifty pages of remarks noted by readers. One can imagine why it was withdrawn when one finds that there are about twenty-five pages of comments by the same person, ending with a request by the Librarian: 'Please to make no more entries of this nature' - followed by a further three pages and a cutting from a newspaper signed by the same reader pointing out that the heating and ventilation need attention. Here are some examples of his comments:

'I beg to suggest that the subordinate officials in charge of the reference library be re-instructed as to their duties which include to be truthful and to act impartially to frequenters of the Library.'  
'The footpath in front of the Reference Library is again blocked by a Theatre queue.'

'The Reference Library is cold again...still as low as 63 degrees. I am off out. Better to walk the streets than to remain in this miserably uncomfortable room.'

'As the titles of small books cannot be read I beg to suggest their removal from the top shelves to lower ones.' (See entry for 1910.)

'Again I beg to protest against a privilege allowed certain frequenters to the Reference Library but denied to an old reader. At the present time a person is helping himself to books off a shelf with the consent of the official...'

'Referring to the Manchester Guardian of the 4th inst. (only 3 days back) I find that over a column has been cut out including perhaps that which I am in search of.'

(The Librarian here notes that the only papers filed are the two Sheffield papers and The Terrier. All others are considered and sold as waste with all faults. The cuttings complained of are for official information and the system is quite in order.)

So enough of the chief grouser: here are some comments from other readers:

1881: Sirs, I wish to call your attention to the nuisance of organ grinding of 15 minutes in front of this place.  
May 20, 1881: The gas pipes are so covered with dust that I cannot read.

Sept 30, 1885: The rule by which you issue books from the lending department, namely according to the size of the book, is not a proper one, in my opinion. I have borrowed several small books, very closely printed, for example Gibbon's History of Rome. Seven days only allowed, while larger books but containing less reading may be kept out fourteen days. In stating the period for which books may be kept out, surely some regard should be paid for the subject contained within the binding.

(This suggested alteration would not conduce to the Convenience of the Librarians, but would cause much confusion. A Book may be taken out again at the expiration of the time it is allowed for. By Order of the Committee.)

1888: Might I suggest that periodicals and magazines be placed on the tables in the Reading Room as soon as they arrive, and also that the assistants be requested to use civility to the public.  
1886/7 nd: I propose, a second time, Dr Hardwicke's book of Creation and Evolution. The library should be representative of all honest opinions, and it is utterly unfair to exclude a work written by a local gentleman simply because he is a Freethinker. The library contains a large number of works attacking Freethought and Atheism, and it is only fair to Christian as well as anti-Christian readers that Atheism should be heard in its defence. Besides, the library is supported and maintained by ratepayers of all shades of opinion and therefore the literature selected should represent every variety of thought.

Mar 3, 1888: The Lending Department having been closed for an indefinite period I suggest that it be reopened on condition that the borrower satisfy the Chief Librarian or his Assistant that he has been re-vaccinated. The borrower might fill up some form similar to the Application form or get the doctor who revaccinated him to sign a certificate certifying that he has been revaccinated.

This would be an argument in the hands of his district vaccinator that might induce several obstinate people to be 'done' and the books could take no harm because re-vaccination is a preventative of smallpox. (The Council has decided otherwise.)

Chess, its Poetry and Prose: To the best of my knowledge there is no really good work on the Problem Art in the Library - to many quite as delightful and interesting as the game itself. This is a standard work, a masterly exposition, theoretically and practically illustrating this part of the Noble game.

1889: The Leeds Mercury and Manchester Guardian are two papers more read and more in demand than any others in the Newsroom and which I find are sometimes nay very often sent for into the Ladies room - why cannot the Ladies come in to the newsroom like everybody else if they want to read them and take their turn or else get some of their own - I would suggest that the Committee get the Ladies' room papers of their own - and also add another copy of these two much sought after papers to the newsroom. I also suggest that the Bradford Observer a leading daily commercial be added to the newsroom.

1889: Two pages suggesting that 'Mignon' by Gilbert & Sullivan (which has twice been rejected) should be added to the collection.

1891: The Colliery Guardian is the leading Mining Journal containing all news relative to improvements in mining machinery &c. Laid on the table it might prove very useful to many young colliers who don't know of its existence.

1895: That in consideration of the cheap nature of, and the small amount of information in, the present books in the library on cattle drawing, the artistic anatomy of cattle, of the Horse, of the Human Figure, as also on Woodcarving, further and more advanced works should be obtained on these branches of art.

1896: I would suggest that the works of Herbert Spencer be added to the Library, that is so far as the volumes not now there. It is to say the least annoying to read the first part of a work and then find that following parts are not to be had.

1898: I would suggest that a good sized clear type copy of the Bible (Authorised or Revised) should be placed within reach of all frequenters of the central or other Libraries in the city of Sheffield. Being desirous on this date of referring to some portions of the "Word" referred to by the writer of a book I was reading I was

surprised to find on enquiry that no Bible was accessible excepting in the reference department and that to be enquired for. [ I was surprised he didn't have a Bible at home]

1901: That the Reference Room be properly and efficiently ventilated, as the present vitiated condition of the air is neither conducive to the health of the assistants, nor the comfort of the public using this room.

1902: Is it right that the Central Free Library Reading Room should be allowed to be the daily resting-place of a number of objectionable men, who may be seen sitting and sleeping in front of papers and magazines to the exclusion of rate-paying citizens.

1905: I think if the door that leads from the Lending into the Women's Reading Room ought to be done something to. It is not pleasant for respectable girls and women to be stared at by Boys and Men going to and from their Reading Room.

1907: The ventilation of the General Reading Room is very bad: a small electric fan would make the room much pleasanter to remain in for a time.

1907: Would it not be better if Ladies were allowed the use of the Lavatory when requested, not denied when key is applied for.

Nov 1908: I think during this depression of trade that the Committee of this valuable Building should take in the two evening papers. I know for a fact there are people who come in this Reading room who really have not got a single coin on them.

1910: Would the Committee be kind enough to put a raised step at the counter of the lending department as we cannot see the titles of the books.

It would be great if these readers could come back and sample present-day excellent facilities: many of us seem to spend most of our day enjoying them. No need for raised steps, increased heating, electric fans, vaccination against smallpox. I wonder what they would make of the army of people researching their ancestry, of the computers making almost everything accessible, and the helpful staff who are always civil.

Sheffield Library Minute Books, ref SLPS 211/214, 1843-1929

This is a subscription library, in which members had shares, and the minutes of the monthly meetings record mainly the titles of books voted in - a dozen or two a month - though it is not clear how these were chosen.

In 1894 the paucity of subscribers is mentioned, while in 1906 there is an entry lamenting the considerable decrease in their number, which led to the library being taken over by the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society.

There are very few comments apart from records of transfers of shares, reports of deaths of eminent shareholders, and towards the end of the period the books voted in were recorded in a separate now non-existent volume.

I have recorded a few comments, mainly to show what events seemed to perturb people at the time!

8/1/1852 A volume of 'Pilgrimage to the Land of my Fathers' in which an engraving of a medal had been cut out of the centre of one of its pages. As no clue could be discovered as to the person by whom such a disgraceful act was committed the President was requested to put up a notice expressive of the Committee's regret &c.

2/11/1852 A special meeting having been convened to consider the propriety of having a copy of the Large Monograph Edition of Shakespeare by J. O. Halliwell about to be published by subscription to extend over a period of six years or more. It was resolved after due deliberation 'That the Committee do not deem it desirable to have the above-named work'.

13.1.1853 It was resolved that the President address a note to the Proprietors of the Music Hall [where the Library was sited] to have the water closet adjoining the Reading Room properly repaired so as to do away with the offensive and unwholesome stench arising from it.

1853 A General meeting was attended by 70 gentlemen and 10 ladies.

5.5.1864 A report states that there are 60,000 volumes in the Library.

13.2.1865 A prolonged discussion took place relating to the three magazines [not named] which were re-proposed and the unanimous opinion of the Committee was opposed to the reintroduction of these periodicals.

16.8.1866 Proposed that the *Quarterly & Edinburgh Reviews* have a cloth back pasted upon them at a cost not exceeding two pence each. Carried.

13.5.1873 A further offensive smell in the Reading Room.

13.9.1875 It was resolved that the wages of the cleaning woman be raised to 5 shillings per week.

11.10.1875 It was agreed that Whitaker's *History of Richmondshire* be substantially rebound.

10.12.1883 It was resolved that the Librarian be instructed to intimate to gentlemen who may be found smoking in the Library that as Ladies frequenting the Library may object to the habit and that increased danger of fire is occasioned by smoking, the Committee consider it should be prohibited.

13.5.1889 It was decided to destroy the following, viz *St Nicholas Magazine* and *Julian Horne* on a/c of there being an infectious disease in the Subscriber's residence.

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Advance notice is given that the **2012 Print Networks Conference** will be held at the University of Leicester, 10-12 July. This will be a joint conference of Print Networks with the Chapbooks Project at the University of Leicester. The theme will be "**Cheap Print and the Book Trade**".

Enquiries to John Hinks: [jh241@le.ac.uk](mailto:jh241@le.ac.uk)

# Communities and Networks in the Book Trade

[www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/communities](http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/communities)

This new area of the BBTI website aims to share some resources relevant to research on communities and networks in the British book trade, including (but not limited to) the recent research, funded by the British Academy, carried out by John Hinks at the Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester. Resources available on the website include programmes for the three one-day Workshops held at the Centre for Urban History (see Maureen Bell's review in *Quadrat*, 22, Summer 2009, pp. 12-16) plus abstracts of many of the papers presented. There is also a selection of journal articles, conference papers and other material relevant to the topic of book-trade networks and communities:

- ***Book Trade Communities in English Provincial Towns: 1695-1850***  
Summary of research aims
- ***Distributing Catholic Texts in Jacobean England***  
Abstract of a conference paper
- ***Exploring the meaning of 'community' and 'network'***  
Introduction to first Workshop
- ***Freedom and Apprenticeship Records as a Source for Book Trade History***  
Article from *Book Trade History Group Newsletter*
- ***Local and Regional Studies of Printing History: Context and Content***  
Article from *Journal of the Printing Historical Society*
- ***On the Margins of the Book Trade in Early Modern England***  
Abstract of conference paper
- ***Radical Communities of Print in England?***  
Conference paper
- ***Towards a theory of book-trade networks***  
Presentation to second Workshop

Additional material from the ‘Communities and Networks’ research is available, including copies of handouts on: spatial typology, functional typology, alternative models, and research outcomes – plus some examples from Leicester:

- Civic networks: book-trade mayors of Leicester
- Apprentice networks: Leicestershire apprentices bound to members of the Stationers’ Company
- Apprentice networks: John Gregory's apprentices and their Midlands links
- Family and apprentice networks: Denshires
- Family and apprentice networks: Wards

Some additional material from Maureen Bell will be added shortly.

### **Please can you offer additional resources?**

If anyone can offer additional material broadly relevant to the theme of book-trade networks, communities or other connections, please email John Hinks on **[jh241@le.ac.uk](mailto:jh241@le.ac.uk)**

## ***Report on the future of the Book History Research Network***

Sadly, the previous organiser of the network has been unable to continue her duties, so the Network has now been taken over by the editor of this journal, Catherine Armstrong.

### Future plans:

The Network has been a thriving source of support and information to scholars of Book History. The Network has previously held biannual workshops at universities around Britain to encourage the exchange of ideas, exploration of methodologies and trouble shooting sessions. These events will be revived this academic year. A day-long workshop jointly held with the Textual and Visual Cultures seminar series at Manchester Metropolitan University is being planned for June 2011. The Network will also develop fruitful liaisons by running events with other Book History groups around the country.

A new website is currently under construction and will be live shortly, including information on future events and, most importantly, the register of members' interests which will be fully searchable to enable scholars to find like-minded researchers.

### Current members:

Anyone who has previously joined the Network will be contacted directly with information about events in 2010-11 and to be asked to update their interests and contact information ready for the launch of the new list of members' interests.

### New members:

Please email me [C.M.Armstrong@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:C.M.Armstrong@mmu.ac.uk) and I'll send you details of our forthcoming events. I'll also alert you to the web address of the new site when it goes live so that you can add your details to the register.

## ***'Murders and Marvels' - the Chapbooks Project at the University of Leicester***

**A summary of a presentation to the Bibliographical Society on 15 December 2009 by Professor Roey Sweet, Dr Kate Loveman, Malcolm Noble and Dr John Hinks**

John Hinks gave a brief account of the genesis of the project: five years ago, the Bibliographical Society formed a working group on chapbooks. The original aim was a published checklist of English chapbooks but this soon expanded into an ambitious plan to create a website to support chapbook research. Three elements were planned: (i) a database of libraries' holdings of chapbooks, (ii) digitised text and images from a range of chapbooks, and (iii) information on historical background, production, distribution and readership of chapbooks. A chapbooks study day was then held and in 2008 the Bibliographical Society invited applications for a unique series of large research grants, of up to £10,000 each. The University of Leicester was awarded one of these grants, which enabled the employment of a research assistant, Malcolm Noble, to work for six months, part-time, on the Chapbooks Project; he sampled chapbooks from three collections: Cambridge University Library, Nottingham University Library and Birmingham City Library, with the aim of demonstrating what *needs* to be done and what *can* be done. The results indicate what could be achieved if funding could be secured for a major chapbooks project along the lines originally envisaged.

Malcolm Noble then gave an outline of the research and the pilot database, whose main task had been the production of a trial database, inputting data into this framework, and drawing some conclusions, of both qualitative and quantitative nature, to assist in the identification of future questions for the project to address, as well as some of the issues relating to cataloguing this kind of literature, which would be most effectively highlighted through practical application.

Kate Loveman summarized the research aims of the project: (i) to investigate the content of chapbooks (What are the common subjects? How are chapbooks related to other genres?), (ii) to assess evidence for readership, and (iii) to assess evidence for publication. Popular short titles are one way to identify chapbook content using the database. The most frequently found short titles included collections of songs, Robin Hood, Jack the Giant Killer, Valentine and Orson, and Cinderella. An alternative way of identifying common content is to use the 'tags' with which the trial database labels the types of information provided on title-pages (and thus what chapbook publishers believe will sell). The most frequently occurring tags were: morality, gender, tales, historical figures, death, animals, crime, magic, religion, local interest, wit, song, and 'canonical' (claiming connection to a well-known work or author). Readers' annotations can also be revealing: seven per cent of the chapbooks surveyed have annotations, which can help to date chapbooks (which are usually undated). The database can also be used to produce maps that show the publishing place for contents in the individual collections.

The presentation concluded with Roey Sweet's outline of future directions for chapbooks research at Leicester: building on the findings of the pilot project a series of research questions has been formulated, along with a strategy for funding and research. Further examination is needed of (*inter alia*): the qualitative content of the chapbook, deconstructing existing teleologies, the clear continuity between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century chapbooks and those of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (when does this continuity begin to breakdown and why?), the contribution of chapbooks to the development and expression of national identity, the extent to which the morality of chapbooks was gendered, the religious sentiments expressed by chapbooks in the eighteenth century, the role of chapbooks in disseminating cultural assumptions regarding urban and rural society, and the relationship between image and text in chapbooks.

The University of Leicester is funding a PhD studentship on 'National identity, popular culture and eighteenth-century chapbooks'. (Update: Gervase French has recently been appointed and commences his research in October.) Longer term possibilities

are being investigated, including AHRC collaborative doctoral awards with libraries, and possible applications for further major funding.

In July 2012, the University of Leicester will run a joint conference with 'Print Networks' on the topic of cheap print and the book trade.

A fuller report on the presentation (including tables and a map) is available from John Hinks: [jh241@le.ac.uk](mailto:jh241@le.ac.uk)

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## *Printing Historical Society*

Founded in London in 1964, The Printing Historical Society fosters interest in the history of printing and encourages the study and preservation of printing machinery, equipment and records of historical value.

The Society's *Journal*, issued twice annually, maintains a high standard of scholarship and distinction in production, publishing the results of original research in the histories of the machinery and equipment, of the industry and its personnel, of the printing processes, and of the design of its artefacts (books, newspapers, journals, fine prints, and ephemera). A newsletter, *Printing History News*, is published jointly with the Friends of St Bride Library and the National Printing Heritage Trust and is issued four times annually.

The Society welcomes individual and institutional members. Current members include printers, designers, typographers, publishers, librarians, collectors, booksellers, and historians. Further information on the Society and how to become a member can be found on the Society's website:

<http://www.printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk>.

## ***NOTES AND QUERIES***

Query from Catherine Armstrong: I have spent the summer researching travel narratives to North America in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. One of the more intriguing was a 1669 pamphlet about Virginia and Maryland by Nathaniel Shrigley which says on the title page ‘published by allowance’. I was unsure as to the meaning of this phrase and my best guess was that the book had been licensed by the censor but if this is the case, why does the phrase not appear on all books during this period?

Maureen Bell most helpfully suggested that the phrase ‘with allowance’ was probably spurious – i.e. claiming a licensed/registered status without being specific. They could, after all, have named the licenser; or indeed (as was usually the case) not mentioned it at all, silently assuming the licensing/entering in register was all in order. Maureen wonders if this is a bid for ‘authenticity’, especially in fields of writing that were liable to be controversial and therefore challenged by others.

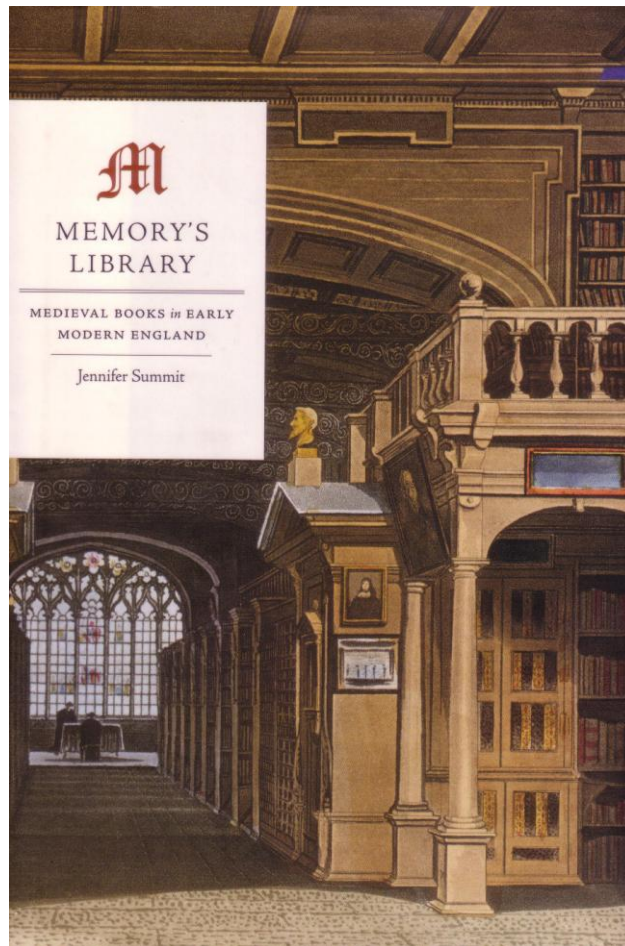
Does anyone else have experience of seeing this phrase appear and if so, how have you interpreted it? If you have any advice or comments, please reply to me at the usual address: [C.M.Armstrong@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:C.M.Armstrong@mmu.ac.uk)

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## **FUTURE EVENTS**

On 8 December 2010 at Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, London, the Lady Reid lecture will be held on the topic of **‘Franklin: Writer and Printer’**. The cost to non-members is £5.

The third St Andrews book history conference **‘Documenting the Early Modern Book World: Inventories and Catalogues in Manuscript and Print’** will be held on 7-8 July 2011 at St Andrews. Proposals to Natasha Constantinidou by 30 November 2010: email: [nac21@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:nac21@st-andrews.ac.uk)



## ***BOOK REVIEW***

**Jennifer Summit, *Memory's Library: Medieval Books in Early Modern England*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008, pp. x, 343, ISBN 9780226781716, illustrated.**

This outstanding study of English libraries (1431 to 1631) will inspire a diverse audience of *inter alia* librarians, historians and literary scholars. The book is structured thematically – a sensible and productive approach – plus a thought-provoking Introduction and Coda. The main themes of each chapter are: (1) Lydgate's libraries: Duke Humfrey, Bury St Edmund's and 'The Fall of Princes', (2) The Lost Libraries of English Humanism: More, Starkey, Elyot, (3) Reading Reformation: the Libraries of Matthew Parker and Edmund Spenser, (4) A Library of Evidence: Robert Cotton's Medieval Manuscripts and the Generation of Seventeenth

Century Prose, (5) 'Cogitation against libraries': Bacon, the Bodleian, and the Weight of the Medieval Past'.

The early modern library may not spring to mind as a site of tension, but tensions there undoubtedly were. Some of them become clearer when viewed in the light of the pre-modern allegory of the human memory (whence Summit's title) as a library, sometimes as God's library. Francis Bacon recognised a conflict between the apparent 'repose' of a library and its dynamic role in the advancement of learning – requiring librarians simultaneously to preserve a corpus of past knowledge and to restructure it to meet modern scholarly needs. This key tension between preservation and re-presentation was evident in early modern England, as librarians strove to retrieve books scattered from monastic libraries and to find new, more relevant, ways of arranging and recording their collections. New connections were found between subjects, and (crucially, even then) between the myriad formats (texts and artefacts) in which knowledge is handed on between generations. Sir Robert Cotton had no qualms about pulling apart bound volumes of collected texts in his library and reassembling them in new patterns reflecting the perceived needs of contemporary readers. This willingness to break down and re-assemble recorded knowledge indicates, in part, the ways in which humanist scholars like Cotton, and his associates William Camden and John Speed, pioneered the use of the primary source text while, paradoxically, confronting it 'as a vehicle of potential falsehood' (p. 7), so that the heritage of *lectio divina* morphs into a '*lectio* of suspicion' (chapter 3). 'Memory as imagined library' may be an old figure but in this eloquent author's hands it becomes a key which releases new and potent insights about the nature and use of books and libraries.

*John Hinks*



## *The Bibliographical Society*

### Research Grants and Fellowships 2011

Applications are invited for the following awards:

#### **Katharine F. Pantzer Jr Research Awards in the History of the Printed Book**

A generous bequest funds a Fellowship (up to £4000) and a Scholarship (up to £1500) for research on the bibliographical or book-historical study of the printed book in the hand-press period (to c.1830). Applicants should be established scholars in the field, either university-based or independent.

**Major Grants** (several awards of up to £2000 each) support bibliographical research, e.g. book history, textual transmission, publishing, printing, bookbinding, book ownership and book collecting.

All of the above awards are intended to assist with immediate research needs, such as travelling expenses, and longer-term support, for example prolonged visits to libraries and archives.

Part of the Pantzer Fellowship may be used to pay for teaching cover. There are no restrictions on applicants' age or nationality.

Applications for all of the above awards must be received **by 15 January 2011**.

The Society also accepts applications throughout the year for **Minor Grants** (£50-£200) and for **Subventions** (up to £250) for conference organizers.

Application forms and Guidelines for Applicants for all of the above awards may be found at **[www.bibsoc.org.uk](http://www.bibsoc.org.uk)**

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### ***Grants in Printing History for 2011***

The Printing Historical Society is pleased to resume its limited number of annual grants, for three years beginning in 2011. The grants, for up to £1,000 each, should relate to historical research in: printing technology, the printing and related industries, printed materials and artefacts, type and typesetting, print culture, and printing processes and design. On the whole the Society tries not to overlap with the grants offered by bibliographical societies.

The deadline for application, which must be submitted on paper, is 1 January 2011. For detailed instructions on how to apply, please see the grants and prizes section of the PHS website, [www.printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk) or contact Peggy Smith at [m.m.smith1@btinternet.com](mailto:m.m.smith1@btinternet.com).

*BOOKS FOR REVIEW SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR*

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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Composed by Catherine Armstrong in Microsoft Garamond.  
THE QUADRAT SYMBOL ON THE COVER WAS DESIGNED BY HENRY DAVY  
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