



The Book

Newsletter of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture
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Program Slates Two Summer Seminars

The unique series of opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary work that the American Antiquarian Society's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture began in 1985 resumes this summer. Moreover, we shall in 1992, for the first time, offer two summer seminars, each lasting a week. The first session, a "Seminar in Critical Methods in the History of the Book in the United States," will take place June 14-19. The second, a "Seminar in Bibliographical Approaches to the Nineteenth-Century Book in the United States," will follow the next week, June 21-26. Michael Winship, one of the co-leaders of the 1990 summer seminar, will lead both. He will be assisted by a visiting faculty in the first session and by AAS staff members in both.

The seminars are intended for literary scholars and historians (including advanced graduate students), librarians and bibliographers, and other scholars who are working, or contemplate working, on historical topics involving the interpretation of the cultural role of books and other forms of printed material.

The first seminar (June 14-19) will examine various critical and methodological approaches to the history of the book in the United States. Key to the seminar will be sessions by four visiting scholars who are currently working on different aspects of American book history. The four are William Gilmore-Lehne, associate professor of history at Stockton State College; Philip F. Gura, professor of English and American Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Mary Kelley, William Sloan Dickey Third Century professor in the social sciences at Dartmouth College; and David Paul Nord, associate professor of journalism at Indiana University.

The June 21-26 seminar will present scholars with the bibliographical skills and techniques useful to the study and analysis of printed materials from the nineteenth-century United States. The seminar will consist of both formal presentations and discussions of the method of production and distribution used in the United States during this period, as well as a series of laboratory sessions where participants will have the opportunity to examine and describe a variety of nineteenth-century American books and to analyze and interpret the evidence that these books contain about the conditions of their production and the history of their subsequent use.

Persons may apply for either or both seminar. Applications will be accepted until all slots in the seminars are filled, but applications received by March 9, 1992, will be accorded priority.

Winship, the leader of the seminars, has been editor of *Bibliography of American Literature* since 1977. He holds a doctorate in bibliography from Oxford University, where he studied with D. F. McKenzie. He is completing work on a history of the important nineteenth-century publishing house Ticknor and Fields. He has been a faculty member or co-leader in all four previous AAS summer seminars and was the recipient in 1989-90 of a Peterson Fellowship at the Society.

Housing for seminar participants will be available in a residence hall at nearby Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Further details of the seminar, including information on fees and housing, and an application form is included as an insert in this issue. If the sheet is missing, write to John B. Hench, Director of Research and Publication, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-1634 or telephone (508) 752-5813 or 755-5221.

News of the Collaborative History

As was previously reported in this newsletter, the Editorial Board of the American Antiquarian Society-sponsored collaborative history of the book in American culture has adopted a structure that assigns major responsibility for each volume in the series to a separate team of editors, all of whom will be responsible to the Board. This is the structure that our British colleagues have defined, and we hope to put it to good use ourselves. To repeat what was said previously, Hugh Amory (Harvard University's Houghton Library) and I are responsible for Volume 1, Robert A. Gross (College of William and Mary) and Mary Kelley (Dartmouth College) for Volume 2, and Michael Winship (University of Texas, Austin), with the recent addition of Stephen Nissenbaum (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), for Volume 3. In the ensuing months and years these editors will be calling broadly on the community of scholars in the history of the book for contributions of sections and chapters.

The Executive Committee of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture and the Editorial

collaborative history. Hitherto, we had accepted as an approximate end date the general terminus (1876) that AAS sets for itself in collecting American imprints. Responding to advice and encouragement from many quarters, we have realized that the logic of the series is different from the logic of AAS collecting policy, and have therefore determined to bring the series into the twentieth century and up to our own times. To this end, the Board has added Janice Radway (Duke University) and Carl Kaestle (University of Wisconsin—Madison) to its membership, and as soon as possible will move to appoint editors for what are probably an additional two volumes. We intend as well to hold a "Needs and Opportunities" conference relating to the twentieth century.

National Endowment for the Humanities funding, also previously announced, will help meet the expenses of a series of working conferences that will bring together contributors and others with expertise. The first of these working conferences, to address the colonial period, will take place this coming fall. Others will follow.

D.D.H.

Volume 1 Editors Call for Information and Participation

The editors of Volume 1 of the collaborative history (Hugh Amory and David Hall) request information about and invite participation in the following topics. If you know of published or (especially) unpublished scholarship relating to any of these matters, we would be most grateful to receive such information. We encourage anyone currently pursuing research in the history of the book in the colonial period, or anyone interested in doing so, to be in touch also. (Responses may be sent care of AAS.)

- 1) the book trade in the southern colonies;
- 2) the formation (and, possibly, the dispersion) of any collection of books. We are particularly hopeful that someone may study the library assembled by the Mathers;
- 3) the history of reading, or of consumption, as indicated in probate inventories;
- 4) records dealing with the importation of books into the colonies from Europe;
- 5) labor practices in printing offices, and the social and economic history of printing;
- 6) publishing by subscription;
- 7) the production and circulation of manuscripts.

New Organizations, Periodicals Added to Field of Book History

News of several new organizations--formed or in the process of being formed--as well as new newsletters and journals covering various aspects of the field of the history of the book has come to our attention.

The first number of *In Octavo: Bulletin International d'Information sur l'Histoire du Livre et de l'Édition*, a newsletter (hinted at in David Hall's "Letter from Göttingen" published in these pages a year ago) that seeks to provide a link among the various international centers for the history of the book, appeared in November 1991. The newsletter is published by la Maison des sciences de l'homme in Paris, the Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte in Göttingen, Germany, and l'Institut Mémoires de l'édition contemporaine in Paris for le Réseau international sur l'histoire du livre et de l'édition. Subscriptions to *In Octavo* are gratis. The deadline for material for issue number two is February 29, 1992. Address: *In Octavo*, IMEC, 25 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris, France.

The Research Society for American Periodicals (RSAP) was formally organized in May 1991 in Washington during the Conference on American Literature of the American Literature Association. A preliminary meeting was held in Waco, Texas, the previous September in conjunction with the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. An annual membership in RSAP costs \$15 and includes subscriptions to the *RSAP Newsletter* and an annual journal, *American Periodicals: A Journal of Historical, Critical, and Bibliographical Commentary*, which is published by the University of North Texas Press and the University of North Texas English Department. To join, make payment to the society and mail to James T. F. Tanner,

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Editors: David D. Hall and John B. Hench
The editors welcome all news relevant to the interests of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. The Program in the History of the Book in American Culture is supported in part by a grant from the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation, Inc.

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The Program in the **History of the Book** in American Culture
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS TO THE 1992 SUMMER SEMINARS

Seminar in Critical Methods in the History of the Book in the United States
Sunday through Friday, June 14-19, 1992

Seminar in Bibliographical Approaches to the Nineteenth-Century Book
in the United States
Sunday through Friday, June 21-26, 1992

PLEASE COMPLETE the application form on the other side of this sheet and mail it with a current curriculum vitae to John B. Hench at the above address as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted until all slots in the seminars are filled, but applications received by Monday, March 9, 1992, will be accorded priority.

FACULTY: The leader of both seminars will be Michael Winship (University of Texas at Austin). Also participating will be members of the AAS staff and, as faculty in the June 14-19 seminar, William J. Gilmore-Lehne (Stockton State College), Philip F. Gura (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Mary Kelley (Dartmouth College), and David Paul Nord (Indiana University).

FEES: The general fee will be \$350 per seminar. Matriculants will pay a fee of \$30 per seminar, in addition to the general fee, to help defray the costs of readings and other research materials provided them during the seminar.

The general fee includes the cost of two dinners and all weekday lunches, taken in common. Other meals will be at the expense of the participants individually.

HOUSING: A number of dormitory rooms located on the campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, which is adjacent to the American Antiquarian Society, have been reserved for the use of seminar participants during the period June 13-28. The rate will be \$35 per person per night. Persons attending both seminars may remain in the residence hall over the intervening weekend (during which a special activity will be planned). The WPI snack bar will be available at certain times during the seminar; several restaurants in all price ranges are also nearby.

THE REGION: New England is replete with research libraries, museums, historic sites, and recreational facilities. Seminar participants may wish to consider combining their trip to Worcester with a visit to some of the other major research facilities in the region, as well as, perhaps, with a family vacation.

APPLICATION FOR 1992 AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SEMINARS
June 14 - 19 and June 21 - 26

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Title and affiliation _____

I am applying for the following (check one or both):

_____ Seminar in Critical Methods in the History of the Book in the
United States (Sunday through Friday, June 14-19, 1992)

_____ Seminar in Bibliographical Approaches to the Nineteenth-Century
Book in the United States (Sunday through Friday, June 21-26, 1992)

In the space below, please write a brief statement of your interest in the history of the book, provide any other pertinent background, and tell how you think participation in one of these seminars (or both) would enrich your research, teaching, or other professional development. Return this form together with a current curriculum vitae to AAS as soon as possible. Applications will be accepted until all slots are filled, but applications received by Monday, March 9, 1992, will be accorded priority.

Treasurer, Research Society for American Periodicals, University of North Texas, P.O. Box 5096, UNT Station, Denton, Tex. 76203-5096. RSAP will hold a session during the annual meeting of the American Literature Association, which convenes in San Diego May 28-31. The society is soliciting proposals on any theme but especially papers that fit within the theme "A Mediating Presence: American Periodicals and Cultural Change." Contact Tanner for further information.

The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) is another new organization, devoted, according to its prospectus, "to all aspects of book history. It promotes research into the social and economic history of authorship; the publishing histories of books, writers, editors, and literary agents; the development of printing and bookselling; the politics of literary criticism; the history of copyright, censorship, and underground publishing; the spread of literacy, book circulation, and library usage; and the history of reading response." The society plans to hold an inaugural conference at New York University in June 1993 in conjunction with the International Association of Publishing Education. Further information on SHARP may be had by writing to Jonathan Rose, Department of History, Drew University, Madison, N.J. 07940.

Wiggins Lecturers Named for 1992, 1993

The deliverers of the annual James Russell Wiggins Lectures in the History of the Book in American Culture for 1992 and 1993 have been selected. Ian Willison, a principal member of the editorial group directing the project on the history of the book in Britain and now retired from the British Library, will speak in September 1992 on the history of the book in the twentieth century and on the trans-Atlantic aspects of book history. The topic is pertinent and timely, given the recent decision, announced elsewhere in this issue, by the AAS Program to extend coverage of its collaborative history to the twentieth century and to underscore the international character of the field. Details on Willison's lecture (and on the traditional dinner that follows it) will appear in the July issue of *The Book*.

Delivering the 1993 Wiggins Lecture will be Henry Louis Gates, Jr., W.E.B. DuBois professor of African American history and director of the DuBois Institute at Harvard University. Watch this space next year for details of that lecture.

Program Now Has E-Mail Address

The ongoing revolution in scholarly communication and networking overtakes the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. We now have an E-Mail (electronic mail, in plain English) address for the use of those of you with access to BITNET who wish to communicate with us. The address is BM.AAH@RLG.BITNET.

About People

Three new members have been appointed to the Program's Advisory Board for three-year terms beginning September 1, 1991. They are Philip F. Gura, professor of English and American Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Barbara Sicherman, Kenan professor of history at Trinity College; and Wayne A. Wiegand, professor of library and information studies at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. . . . Program chairman David D. Hall was awarded the Organization of American Historians' Merle Curti Prize for Intellectual History in 1991 for his book *Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgment: Popular Religious Belief in Early New England* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1989). . . . Nancy H. Burkett, an AAS staff member since 1973, was named the thirteenth librarian of the Society, effective September 1. She is the first woman to hold the post. Marcus A. McCorison, who was appointed librarian in 1960, remains as president of the Society until his retirement in October 1992.

Grants and Gifts to Program

The following grants or gifts in support of the activities of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture have been received and are gratefully acknowledged: Klaus G. Saur, of K.G. Saur Verlag GmbH, Inc.; Sebastian F. Weyrauch, Microcomposition, Wolfenbüttel, Germany; and the School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America. We are grateful to two members of the Program's Advisory Board, Erdmann Weyrauch of the Herzog August Bibliothek and Deanna Marcum, dean of the Catholic University library school, for their key roles in our securing these contributions.

Individuals who have participated in Program activities or who work in the field of the history of the book can help support the continuation of the Program by becoming a member of the Alliance for the American Antiquarian Society, the Society's principal friends' group. Membership in the Alliance is achieved by contributing \$50 or more to AAS. Address: Membership Office, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Mass. 01609.

Upcoming Conferences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA: BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Bibliographical Society of America and the University of South Carolina will co-sponsor a conference in Columbia, S.C., March 6-8, 1992. Submissions were invited for papers on all topics of bibliographical interest, including British and American publishing, libraries and collections, the bibliography of Southern literature, and developments in bibliographical practice and theory. For further information, contact Trevor Howard-Hill, Department of English, Box 188, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: READING IN BRITAIN

Histories of reading in late medieval and early modern Britain often assume a polarity between orality and literacy. A conference on "The Practice and Representation of Reading in Britain from the Fourteenth to the Nineteenth Century," to be held at Magdalene College, Cambridge University, March 20-22, 1992, will seek to explore the reading of texts as a dynamic process--not as a set of dichotomies between readers and non-readers. The aim is to encourage a richer understanding of the reading processes, of the history of the circumstances and habits of reading, and how its practice was regarded by contemporaries. Particular emphasis will

be given to the methodologies and theoretical models adopted to understand the history of reading practice and its representation in contemporary art, literature, and personal memoir.

Study of reading performance has suggested new questions about culture and society in this period. There have been important studies of literacy in Britain, but relatively little about different interpretations of "reading," the way in which people read, where they read, why they read, and what people thought reading and readers were or should be for.

For further information, contact James Raven, Magdalene College, Cambridge CB3 OAG, England.

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