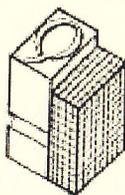


Quadrat



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

Issue 19

Summer 2005

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The British Book Trade Index on the Web
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THE FUTURE OF QUADRAT

IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE of *Quadrat*, it was reported that the future of the bulletin was rather uncertain. Since the three-year British Book Trade Index development project ended, on 31 March 2005, the costs of producing *Quadrat* can no longer be met from the AHRB project funding. The committee which manages the *Print Networks* conferences and series of books has considered the future of *Quadrat* and made the following decisions:

- The committee believes that *Quadrat* serves a useful function which is different from that of other journals and bulletins and would therefore like to see it continue to be published for the foreseeable future.
- The possibility of charging a subscription was considered but rejected because of the high cost (relative to income) of collecting subscriptions and chasing late payments.
- Additional income to be raised where possible by inserting publishers' publicity leaflets. (Thanks to Ashgate for their support.)
- The committee, having taken account of all these points, decided to invite donations (these are *not* subscriptions) from readers to support the cost of future issues.

YOU ARE THEREFORE INVITED to make a donation towards the cost of producing *Quadrat*.

The amount you give is, of course, your decision but if every reader donated £5 it would cover production and postage costs for two years. Cheques – payable to 'The British Book Trade Seminar' – should be sent to our honorary treasurer:

Barry McKay
Kingstone House
Battlebarrow
Appleby in Westmorland
Cumbria CA16 6XT

B.B.T.I. NEWS

AS REPORTED IN QUADRAT 19, the 'British Book Trade Index on the Web' project was completed on 31 March 2005. That means that the planned development of BBTI has been carried out, in accordance with the funding provided by the Arts & Humanities Research Board (as it then was). Since April 2002 the database has almost doubled in size and has been made into a website with complex searching capability and on-line forms for adding and amending records.

What of the future? The following are the key points:

- The University of Birmingham is committed to keeping the website freely available.
- Additions and amendments to the BBTI database can still be accepted on-line from registered contributors. **Please note** that large amounts of data (new records or amendments) can no longer be dealt with in any other way than by using the on-line forms. (Occasional minor changes may be emailed.)
- Maureen Bell (Department of English, University of Birmingham) remains the Director of BBTI and John Hinks (as Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of English) is continuing as editor of the database and website. However **please note** that he is now mainly based at the Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester.

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**'PRINT NETWORKS'
CONFERENCES AND
SERIES OF BOOKS**

The 2005 Conference will be held at West Hills House, near Birmingham, 22-28 July. The programme and booking details will be found at www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/PrintNetworksBham.htm. Places at West Hills are limited, so book NOW!

Printing Places: Locations of Book Production and Distribution in Britain since 1500 – edited by John Hinks and Catherine Armstrong (the book of papers from the 2002 Exeter conference) is due for publication by the British Library & Oak Knoll in early July 2005.

Worlds of Print: Diversity in the Book Trade – also edited by John Hinks and Catherine Armstrong (the papers from the 2004 Edinburgh conference) is due for publication in October 2005.

The papers from the 2005 Birmingham conference will be published in June/July 2006, bringing the series back onto its normal schedule.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

ORAL HISTORY AND THE BOOK TRADE

John Handford

I BECAME INTERESTED in oral history while I was archivist at the Macmillan publishing group. We had a number of pensioners who had spent a lifetime with the company, some of them having served as long as fifty years. They remembered days when the company was privately owned and family run, and, while the “official” history of the firm was well documented, much of the story of what life was really like in those days would be lost unless some record could be preserved. It was particularly important to give at least equal coverage to the workforce as to the management, so the obvious solution was to use recorded speech.

On my retirement, I offered to use and broaden the experience so gained by making recordings for the Book Trade History Group, who kindly set aside a sum of money to cover out of pocket expenses. They had intended for some time to build on the pioneering work of Caroline Archer in this field, but they had been unable to secure an interviewer. Meanwhile, the University of Reading were unsuccessful in bidding for funds for a similar scheme, and the National Life Story Project produced their excellent series on Book Trade Lives.

In 2003, the Book Trade History Group dissolved itself and transferred ongoing initiatives to like-minded organisations. My project came under the wing of the Department of Typography and Graphic Communication at the University of Reading, under the guidance of Martin Andrews, Curator of Collections. Peter White, a very experienced printer, volunteered his services as an interviewer, thus giving a big boost to the programme.

After some very helpful discussions with Simon Eliot, Maureen Bell and more recently Martin Andrews, it became clear that my best way forward was to cover the printing and bookbinding industries, and to concentrate mainly on people who had worked

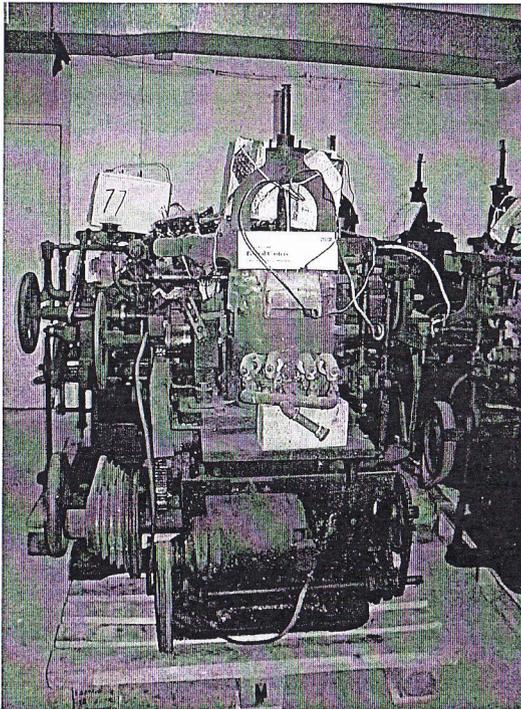
on the shop floor. This avoided duplication with *Book Trade Lives*, which had concentrated on publishers and booksellers, while at the same time making the best use of my earlier experience, both in the industry from the 1950s on, and in my previous oral history project.

If you are taking up oral history, you are well advised to get on with it as quickly as you can. The people you most want to talk to are very old, and may not be around for much longer. There are always more people to interview than I can cope with – I try to select the ones most likely to tell an interesting story, and those who may make a contribution that is a little different. Of course, the older people get priority. Many of them have remarkable ability to recall detail from the distant past – details of composing or printing equipment they handled year in year out, and the vocabulary that surrounded it. Apart from day to day work, there are notable events to record – wartime bombing is a recurrent topic, and factory fires happened from time to time. Then there are themes woven in to the social and industrial history of the time – the apprenticeship system, inequalities in the treatment of women, the dominance of trade unions, the paternalist society within companies – and slants on the life of the time – holidays, courting, travel, spare time activities.

Working with people who have no training and often little experience in communication of this kind, it is sometimes difficult to prise a story out of an interviewee. Compared with, say, members of their own management, some of these people are understandably hesitant and brief in telling their story. This means that it is necessary to put up with a few long silences and unfinished sentences from time to time, and there is sometimes more of the interviewer's voice than is usual in oral history. Moreover, the interviews are much shorter than, say, those in the National Life Story Collection – most are between one and two hours. I find it preferable to do little or no rehearsing, as it detracts from spontaneity. Some of the more fluent speakers are, not surprisingly, those who graduated from the shop floor to become overseers or managers.

I hope all this sounds great fun, which it is. But I like to believe that it has some relevance to the work of students of printing and book history. I will try to demonstrate this by giving some examples from the many hours of recording archived at Reading, which may strike a spark of interest in the minds of readers of these pages.

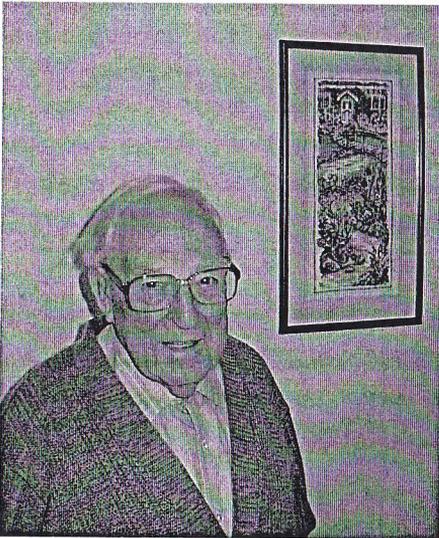
There is a special thrill in discovering that you are talking to the last survivor to be able to describe a long obsolete operation. I had this sensation when I spoke to Ernest Crapper, though he is not one of the oldest people I have interviewed. He, together with possibly one other person, remembers how the pivotal caster (pictured below), used for well over a century at the Stephenson Blake foundry in Sheffield, was operated. The Type Museum, where I met Ernest, has several examples of the machine, but it is Ernest's testimony that brings it back to life. These brutes, built by Stephenson Blake themselves, date back to the era of the Great



Exhibition, were converted from coal firing to gas, and then to electricity, and remained in production until the 1990s. They were dangerous - a damp ingot could explode, splashing molten metal at 750°F all over. The cast type, for which Ernest was paid at piece rates, had to be finished and made ready for sale by hand "dressers". Yet he cast the emerald type (I think this translates to 6½

point) for hand setting the share prices in the *Financial Times* until the computer age took over. Ernest's guess at the date is 1980, but what matters is not the accuracy of the date, which can easily be checked in a newspaper library, but the first hand account of what happened in the heat and noise of the foundry.

Continuing on the theme of Victorian working conditions, there is the story of Vince Hopkins, who joined a small firm in Ilkeston as a teenager in 1952. His account makes it clear that, in spite of the activities of the unions, there were still places where boys could be exploited as cheap labour - in his case, setting and printing posters from a mixture of wood and metal type.



Noise, smoke and smell were accepted as inevitable in printing. Jack Burrells (pictured left, aged 92), whose fifty-year career at Anchor Press in Tiptree began with apprenticeship in the Monotype casters in 1926, also recalls the way they spoke to each other over the din of the machines.

“You get six casters and a supercaster – people wouldn’t come in, they’d beckon to us from the door, you couldn’t hear yourself speak.”

“But could you hear each other?”

“Yes, I could tell which machine stopped.”

“You could distinguish people’s voices, even in the clatter of the Monotype?”

“Yes, we never used to shout to each other.”

"You could just talk in an ordinary voice. Were you lip-reading?"

"No."

"You were hearing each other simply because you could distinguish..."

"And we had a deaf fellow with us... he used to get on all right – you could talk and he could hear that."

"And he wasn't lip-reading?"

"No – he lives at Tollesbury now, he's eighty-one."

At the time of this conversation, Jack was ninety-two, and I didn't have to raise my voice to make myself heard.

As their working lives spanned the age of the closed shop, all these people were trade union members, and some, such as George Uren at Butler & Tanner and John Pamphilon at Anchor Press, held office in their chapels. The long national strike of 1959 is universally remembered for producing no winners. Feelings about unions are generally favourable. Vince Hopkins recounted how a union official, though unable to halt the bad practices at the small firm where he was working, helped him to move to a composing apprenticeship at Thomas Forman in Nottingham. Those who transferred from letterpress to litho printing, mainly in the 70s, felt that the unions were open-minded about technological change, but hinted that the retraining given was insufficient and that standards, especially in composition, suffered. The only unfavourable comment came from Charles Willis, who, after he had been promoted to management, found the union stand on manning and demarcation frustrating.

Charles Willis worked his way from apprenticeship in the stereo department at Anchor to a directorship of the Hutchinson Printing Trust, with a little help from family connections and a "good" war. He recalled how the use of paraffin to heat stereo metal in a wooden building led to a disastrous fire in 1934. One of

his most fascinating passages describes making moulds and stereos; it goes into considerable detail, and ends with this account of pouring the molten metal into the box to make a curved stereo for the Crabtree press of the 30s:

“You had a ladle, and you ladled into the box – two-handed box – you gauged the amount of metal to go in the casting box, cooled that because it was always hotter than you required, to what you thought was the right degree – if it was too hot it would burn the mould, if it was too cold you wouldn’t get a good plate anyway, so you had to be quite precise on the temperature of the metal without any instrumentation.”

“You had no thermometer?”

“No thermometer.”

“You had to guess the temperature?”

“Pure guesswork - and then you yelled out ‘Help’ and then somebody within the department would come along and take the other end of the handle while you had the two handles, and went up and tipped it slowly in until it came nearly to the top of the box, then you had to grab a chunk of already prepared metal to put in the mouth to force the metal down, as it were.”

“You had to do that quick before it set?”

“Immediately, immediately. You then waited five, ten minutes – it was water-cooled. You then turned the water on, waited five or ten minutes for the cold water to go through, then you opened the box up, lifted out the plate, put it on the bench, give it a quick look – OK – in with the next one.”

“So you were handling molten metal almost as though it was soup, with a ladle?”

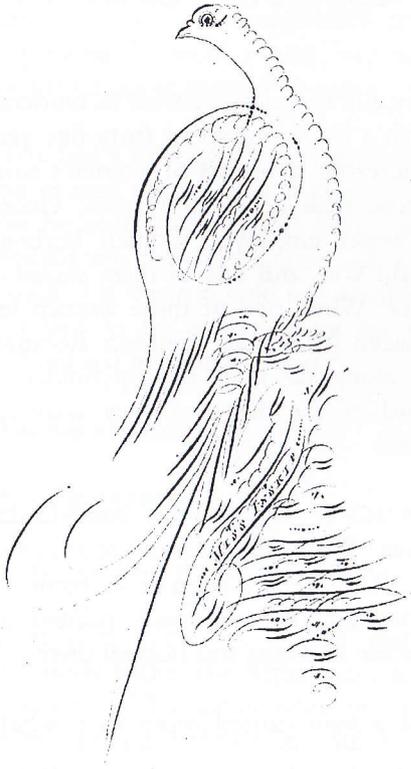
“That’s right. Oh yes. Yes, so there was a lot of splashes and a lot of errors and a lot of burns.”

The great majority of the women in the industry were in binderies, and there is one interview with a lady who spent forty-five years binding. Some of the more interesting accounts of women’s work, however, come from the more male-dominated areas. George Uren tells how Butler & Tanner employed women keyboard operators during the first World War, and one of them stayed on to complete sixty years’ service. When one of these women left, however, she had to be replaced by a man. Gordon Robinson remembers women working alongside men as copyholders at Lund, Humphries in Bradford in the 50s, but they were not allowed to graduate to be readers.

One task that almost always fell to women was hand-feeding printing and folding machines. Vera Whyatt was recruited to Anchor Press as a teenager in 1928 to join a team of six feeders in the department where paperback covers were printed on letterpress Miehles. Discrimination in wages was normal then:

“We took it for granted that a man earned more than what a woman did.”

The recordings have their lighter side too. When I asked Vera and her friend Nancy Thorburn what the feeders did while the machines were made ready, they replied in chorus, “Knitting”. Gerry Drayton, Monotype engineer, arrived at a railway station at Glasgow with a Monotype caster to be met with a horse and cart to get it to its destination. One of the reasons why Gordon Robinson enjoyed working at the Herald Press at Stratford-on-Avon was the free theatre tickets. Then there’s the tale of the distraught employee rushing back into the burning factory to recover his false teeth.



VICTORIAN CHILDREN'S EXERCISE BOOKS

Tanya Schmoller

*Illustrations produced
by Jacob Blandy*

I FIRST BECAME AWARE of these when a bookseller, who knew of my interest in decorated papers, offered me, seven years ago, a set of three hard-bound and two semi-hard-bound exercise books of around the 1860s, with pretty patterned-paper covers, belonging to a Miss Inskip, with no indication of where her seat of

learning was. These books, as well as many of the others I have acquired since, are quarter-bound in leather, with leather protective corners, have marbled fore-edges, and their pages are elaborately double-ruled in red about a centimetre from the margin. The pupil has divided her arithmetic books into sections headed Reduction, Division, Addition, Weights and Measures, Subtraction, Multiplication, Proportion and Practice (many titles within a calligraphic bird sometimes in different-coloured ink). The cheaper soft-bound books are not machine-ruled, but often ruled by the pupil.

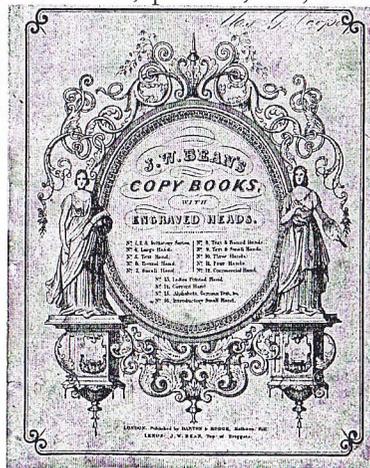
I have been looking out for specimens ever since, and now have about sixty, mostly writing books expressing worthy sentiments, including a Vere Foster's Copy Book of 1891 which I recall using



myself at school slightly later; mathematics books; and map books. Geography was a very different subject in those days, based on a mechanical ability to draw maps accurately: one of the specimens contains maps of all parts of the world drawn from memory, the teacher making such comments as 'the mouth of the Ganges not quite right' or 'the South Island [of New Zealand] too wide'. The illustration is from J H Timmins, Birmingham Middle Class School 1878, in a hard-

bound exercise book with a frontispiece entitled 'The Midland Mapping Book'. He got a mark of 35 for this, I hope out of 50, not 100. What really stands out is the trouble taken over the headings of sections, and the fact that there appear to be no erasings in the vastly long multiplications and divisions, or indeed anywhere else. I then came across several examples in Sheffield Archives with frontispieces and a printer's name: Bean of Leeds, and later additions to my collection include several produced by this firm. Industries of Yorkshire, part I (Historical Publishing Co., 1888) describes them as School Stationers, printers, etc., of 149 Briggate, 8 Duncan St and Old Mercury Office Yard:

a flourishing and representative house in the bookselling, stationery, lithographic and engraving trade: the business having been carried on successively for four generations. Founded in 1804 at 92 Briggate, but to extend and because of street improvement moved in 1870 to what was for many years



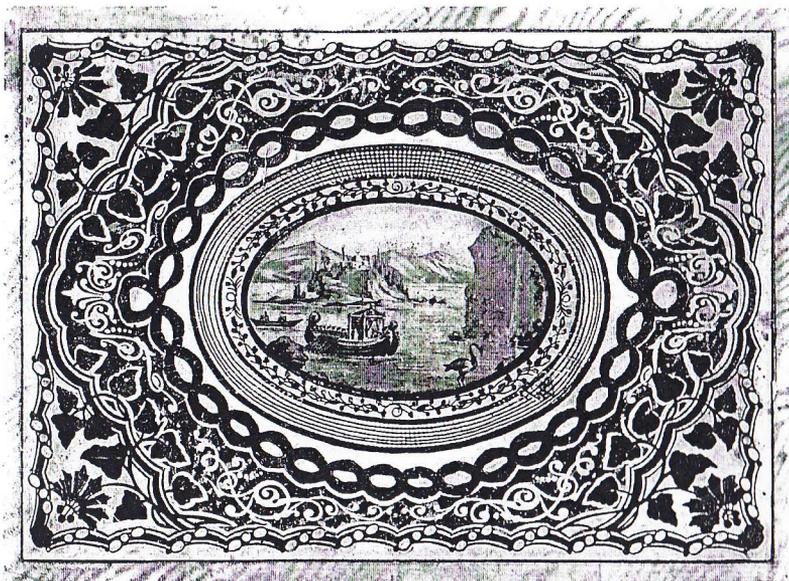
the locale of the Thunderer of the North, the Leeds Mercury, until the latter needed more room. Here is found a most complete and comprehensive display of educational and technical works of every description, all the classical and scientific works used by students at the Yorkshire College and scholastic mercantile stationery in great variety. It is beyond our resources to give anything like an accurate idea of the dimensions of this stock, except to say that it includes all the standard educational primers, text books, scientific treatises, handbooks essential to all the ordinary curriculum of an English commercial or university training. The stationery includes copybooks, together with books ruled faint [sic] and common for all kinds of tutorial and commercial purposes, globes, maps and scientific diagrams, and all other office requisites abound ad libitum and by such makers as have obtained a worldwide celebrity for the utility of their productions. The stock is kept in excellent order and the business conducted in the most thorough manner, the depot being usually as inconveniently crowded with customers as with stock. The clientele of the house includes most of the leading mercantile houses of the town and the most important educational institutions in the county of York.

Several of these exercise books belonged to George Cooper, who in the 1860s was at Nether Yeadon School (West Yorkshire), all Bean publications, some hard- and some soft-bound. There is a Poetry Book, a Cash Book & Ledger, two Correspondence Books, a Letter Book, a Journal, a Waste Book which is as neat as the others, and several Copy Books with printed headings, ready to be copied, such as:

- Adhere to honest conduct
- Emulate good examples
- Misery is produced by intemperance
- Learning is only acquired by diligence
- Sincerity is a virtue highly recommended
- Wisdom is more valuable than riches



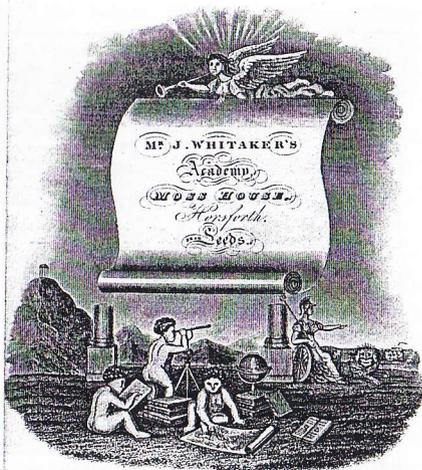
From *Stationery Book*



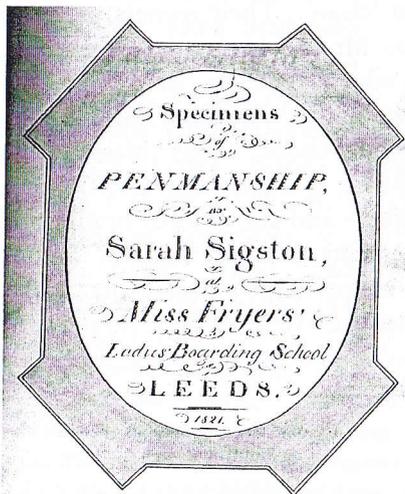
The symbolism of the frontispieces could lead to hours of speculation: it glorifies patriotism, classical learning, and possibly cheering Cambridge on in the boat race.

The hard-bound books must have been very expensive – some are interleaved with coloured tissue: perhaps their pristine state means that rough work was copied out 'clean'. Their owners probably went to private schools such as Mr Hebblethwaite's Academy, Sheffield; Mr Wilkinson's Academy, Batley; Mr Whitaker's Academy, Horsforth, near Leeds; Ladies' Seminary, Middleham; and Miss Fryer's Ladies' Boarding School, Leeds. Master John Willison's (of Batley) landscape-format book (above left) has a coloured cover, a printed frontispiece and also printed headings in ornate type: War and Peace; Activity ('Never think of finding gratification in doing nothing'); Summer; God's Voice; The Ocean; Selections from Cowper; Christmas. (I have not found any information about Mr Wilkinson's Academy in Batley, nor can I find a theme linking these headings.)

I have three books dated 1841 which belonged to M Craven, in large landscape format, one with red moiré cover tied with ribbon, the others in blue and black embossed covers. I suspect the student was a boy, as the writing specimens headed 'Chemistry of the Earth', with sub-headings, surrounded by calligraphic flourishes, on Silex; Zircon; Glucine; Yttria; Lime; Barytes; Strontian, judging



from my own experience almost a hundred years later, would have related to a subject not taught to a mere girl. My earliest specimen, bound in vellum, dates from circa 1796, and is said to be the work of a pupil under twelve. It shows carefully shaded models of geometric figures, with sections 'To find the Solid Content of the middle zone of a Sphere'; 'Of Round Timber whose Bases are equal' or ... whose Bases are unequal', for example.

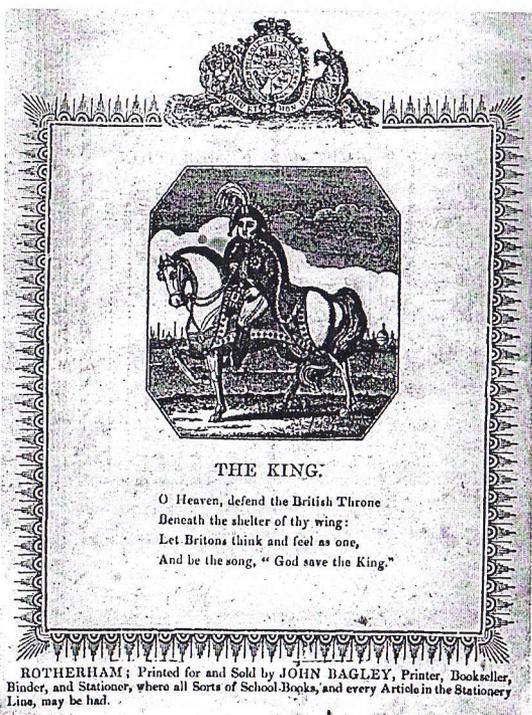


Next is that of Sarah Sigston, 1821, who attended Miss Fryer's Ladies' Boarding School in Leeds. From directories it seems that the Sigston family ran both a ladies' boarding school and a boarding academy for young gentleman in the first quarter of the nineteenth century: perhaps discipline outside the family had been chosen. An 1826 writing book (this and the above are of course pre-Victorian) printed by John

Bagley of Rotherham is illustrated (overleaf) because of its patriotic undertones and because it is local (to me). It has a printed 'pence table & numeration' on the back cover,

My latest example falls into a different time category: Sally Sooby's Laundry book (IB), dated 1949, with pasted-in examples of fabrics and instructions about cleaning them, newspaper cuttings illustrating the latest appliances, instructions for removing stains and for folding napkins into cock's comb or bishop's mitre shapes, also has several pages on how to iron ties, trousers, etc. Fifty years on, it seems very time-consuming and a world away.

The backs of most of the soft-cover examples are printed with calligraphic birds, or illustrations of well-known landmarks. What



is the explanation for this obsession with swans and eagles? There is very little doodling, and this could be a later addition to a copy-book with blank pages: I am left with the impression of a strict regime bent on training the young to copy and thus imbibe the pious sentiments of their elders. Needless to say, there are bound to be many examples of these books in local archives: the John Johnson

collection in the Bodleian has several, many very early, as has the Harry Parks collection at Manchester Metropolitan University. So far I have not ventured further afield.

SELF-FLAGELLATION AND SELF-DESTRUCTION IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY NORWICH

David Stoker - University of Wales, Aberystwyth

READERS OF *QUADRAT* who are not also subscribers to the *Journal of the History of Sexuality* may not have come across an article by the late Lawrence Stone of Princeton University entitled 'Libertine sexuality in post-restoration England: group sex and flagellation among the middling sort in Norwich in 1706-7'.¹ This article concerns a series of cases brought in the Bishop of Norwich's Consistory Court between December 1707 and August 1708, involving a bookseller and bookbinder Samuel Self and his wife Sarah. Apart from details of their private life, the proceedings provide some interesting information on bookselling in the provinces at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

In October 1707 Self evicted his wife from their house and sought a legal separation without payment of alimony, on the grounds of her adultery with his friend John Atmeare. Sarah's defence brought into the open extraordinary sexual behaviour involving all three of these parties together with their servants, lodgers, and a house guest. According to Stone,

For about three months during the summer of 1707, this group undoubtedly indulged in almost every sexual practice known to the age.²

As a result of Sarah Self's revelations, further charges were brought by the court against Samuel and herself, Atmeare, and Jane Morris (the wife of Self's lodger), for behaving "indecently, immodestly, lewdly, and incontinently".

Readers seeking more information about the sex lives of Samuel and his associates (and it is remarkable how much detail is recorded) are referred to Professor Stone's article. This account

¹ Lawrence Stone, 'Libertine sexuality in post restoration England: group sex and flagellation among the middling sort in Norwich in 1706-7, *Journal of the history of sexuality*, 2 (4), April 1992, 511-526.

² Stone, 'Libertine sexuality', 522

will rather focus on the information provided by the case relating to his business activities. Stone's article (which was based entirely on the surviving Court records³) will also be supplemented from other contemporary sources.

Samuel Self purchased his freedom of Norwich as a bookbinder for three pounds on 3 May 1700⁴ and set up shop at 'the Bible and Crown' in Cockey Lane, close to the market place.

When he had started his business, some time before 1701, he had been earning a modest net income of about £40 a year and had a stock-in-trade in books, paper, stamped paper, and parchment worth about £400, half of which he had acquired on credit from London wholesalers, and half of which he had purchased for cash.⁵

The business gradually acquired some respectable customers. In 1701 and again in 1704 Self is listed as the local distributor for editions of Humphrey Prideaux's manual for the churchwardens of his archdeaconry, printed by Francis Burges.⁶ In the latter year he was paid three shillings by his local churchwardens for binding one of their parish registers, and by 1706 he could count John Moore, Bishop of Norwich, and the foremost book collector in England as one of his customers.⁷ However, a few influential customers would not sustain a business, and the bookseller had substantial debts to repay.

In July 1703 he married Sarah, the 18 year-old daughter of Henry Tanton a recently deceased rough mason.⁸ One of this lady's undoubted attractions was a £300 marriage portion, which would have injected much-needed cash into the new business, enabling him to pay off his metropolitan creditors. However, whereas the

³ Norfolk Record Office CON 49, 52, 59. 62, containing libels, allegations, answers, interrogations and the decree, together with depositions by those involved and their neighbours at Dep 54.

⁴ Percy Millican, *The Register of the freemen of Norwich 1548-1713*, (Norwich, 1734), 19.

⁵ Stone, 'Libertine sexuality', 512

⁶ Humphrey Prideaux, *Directions to church-wardens for the faithful discharge of their office*, (Norwich, 1701 and 1704). The first edition was advertised as 'printed for Samuel Selfe'; in the *Term Catalogues III*. 395. The second edition has Selfe's name and address in the imprint.

⁷ Cambridge University Library, CC 95579-80.

⁸ St Peter Mancroft parish registers for 27 July 1703, and 9 Nov 1684, and Millican, 114.

acquisition of an affluent and business-like wife would have been an asset to any tradesman, Samuel proved to be singularly unfortunate in his choice. The promised dowry was never paid by his mother-in-law (who disappeared from the city leaving her daughter penniless) and Sarah is reported to have helped herself freely from the till when serving in the shop.⁹ Furthermore, despite her youth, Sarah was far more sexually experienced than her hitherto virginal husband and infected him with gonorrhoea. The bookseller may therefore have engineered his wife's adultery with his friend in 1707 as a means of getting rid of her.

Nevertheless, during the summer of 1705 Samuel and Sarah had their first child, Henry although there were ominous signs that their relations were deteriorating.¹⁰ In the November Sarah is said to have made sexual advances to one of their neighbours, in his bedroom, whilst he was in bed with his wife. This shameless event may have been the catalyst for Samuel to pursue his own latent sadistic fantasies, which were to be exposed two years later.

By the 1706 the bookselling business was in serious trouble:

when both his financial affairs and his personal life began to unravel, he was not making more than £10 a year at most, and the value of his stock was down to about £60 to £70. He had been steadily losing money for several years, partly because of his own negligence and inattention to business and partly because of the extravagance, mismanagement, and dishonesty of his wife.¹¹

One attempt at solving his financial problems was to let rooms to a 35 year old doctor and his young wife. This offered a temporary solution to their financial problems but ultimately proved to be the couple's undoing, for it provided additional participants to the voyeuristic and sado-masochistic activities that were beginning to take place in the Self household.

⁹ Stone, 'Libertine sexuality', 512

¹⁰ St Peter Mancroft parish registers for 11 July 1705.

¹¹ Stone, 'Libertine sexuality', 512. This was confirmed by evidence of Thomas Goddard, a bookseller in the same parish, who had "heard that the greatest part of the said Saml Self's substance has been wasted by his wife's unfaithfulness and extravagancy" (N.R.O. Norwich Consistory Court Depositions DEP 54. Self v. Self ux. Deposition of Thomas Goddard 14: Jun: 1708).

The critical financial situation of the business in 1708 was spelled out in the evidence given to the court by his assistant James Taylor ... that his Master Saml Self's trade is very low, and scarce enough to pay house rent, maintain himself and this deponent and other necessary expences belonging to a tradesman, for that his mater Saml works little or nothing himself, and has scarce half business enough to imploy this deponent, but this deponent believes that his Master's trade was better in some of the years ... his master might get by bookselling and bookbinding about thirty or forty poundes per annum, but his Master's trade has decreas'd very much every year since.¹²

Upon interrogation, Taylor confirmed he had known Self before his marriage, "but was not acquainted with his worldly circumstances, which at present, he believes are not sufficient to pay his just debts".

That he knows there is owing to several persons in London for paper, books and other stationary wares above two hundred and thirty pound from his master Saml Self articulate that his roudent believe his Master Self is indebted to Mr Lancaster and other persons in Norwich in several sums, but he don't know the particulars ... saving that he don't believe his [master] Saml Self is worth forty shillings after his just debts are paid.¹³

When Samuel Self expelled his wife from the family home, she was four months pregnant, but given his testimony before the Court it must have been questionable whether Self or Atmeare was the father. She gave birth to a second child, Samuel, (christened 21 March 1707/08), in the neighbouring parish of St Andrew, indicating that the couple were then living apart. Samuel subsequently achieved the legal separation after several months, but for reasons that are not recorded, the additional charges of indecency against all four were later dropped.

The scandal created by Self's action before the Consistory Court during the first half of 1708, undoubtedly destroyed any chance he might have had of retrieving his business fortunes. He was forced to look for other ways of staving off the increasingly pressing

¹² N.R.O. Norwich Consistory Court Depositions DEP 54. Self v. Self ux.. Deposition of James Taylor, St Andrew's parish 12 June: 1708.

¹³ Ibid.

demands of his creditors, which were to bring about the final destruction of his business, and probably the loss of his life. On 25th February 1709/10 the *Norwich Gazette* reported

About the beginning of last week one Mr Samuel Selfe, a bookseller in this city was apprehended in London for Feloniously Counterfeiting Stamp paper. And on Saturday last one Mr Robert Marris in this city was apprehended and committed to our Jayl for the same crime being taken with counterfeit stamps about him. And on Wednesday last one Mr Smith of Yarmouth was apprehended and brought to our jayl, on suspicion of making counterfeit stamps, and we hear the Commissioners are gone to fetch up another of the Gang from Lynn.¹⁴

The following week there were further details implicating Samuel: Yesterday morning Her Majesties Officers of the Stamp Duties seiz'd two Boxes of Samuel Selfe's Counterfeit Stamps, which had they been good would have amounted to about £260 which with those seiz'd before in this City make near £700 besides the computation of £100 seiz'd in London. And since the publishing the Advertisement several parcels of Stamps had from Selfe & his confederates, have been deliver'd to the Mayor of this City. Note That Counterfeit Stamps were not found upon Mr Marris, (as I was misinform'd) but in Mr Selfe's House.¹⁵

Self was found guilty of selling counterfeit stamped paper on 3rd August 1710, and is likely to have been the death penalty¹⁶ Soon after his arrest, Self's shop was occupied by Richard Ward a brazier, but following the trial his London creditors appear to have foreclosed and sent a thirty-two year old journeyman named Edmund Hollaway up from London to take over the business.¹⁷ Laurence Stone suggests that Self may have developed his tastes for exhibitionism and flagellation through contact with pornographic literature:

The book trade is thus by far the most likely source of information and influence. It offered a morality of sorts with which all to defy the previous cultural norms; it provided a vocabulary with which to describe what happened; it guided the choice of sexual acts performed; and, more significant still, it governed the selection of possible sexual deviations that were not performed. There is not a

¹⁴ *Norwich Gazette* 177, 25/2/1710.

¹⁵ *Norwich Gazette* 178, 4/3/1710.

¹⁶ *Norwich Gazette* 200, 5/8/1710.

¹⁷ *Norwich Gazette* 186, 29/4/1710, and 204, 2/9/1710.

shred of evidence in the court records to prove that this hypothesis of a link with pornographic literature, but it is a fact that the central figure of the group was a bookseller down on his luck, who bought his stock-in-trade in London. It seems more than likely that, as business declined, he took to selling pornography in an effort to recoup his fortunes, especially since at the time "the worst books ... bring most profit". If Samuel Self read these books and lent them to his friends before selling them, it may be that the financial troubles of his book trade were the root cause not only of his economic undoing but also of the range and limitations of his psychosexual preoccupations and those of the group with whom he associated.¹⁸

There was no evidence to connect Self with the sale of pornography, and it is unlikely that the Bishop or the Archdeacon would have dealt with him if his shop had been well-known for stocking such literature. Yet obscene titles were certainly available in one of the five bookshops in the city in 1707, for in another, unrelated, matter there is the following brief reference:

Alas, poor Religious Gentleman! I am afraid 'twill make him desert the Booksellers Shops, and shun 'em as much as an Ermine Mudd, tho' perhaps before they us'd sometimes to be visited for a vicious Play, or a *Rochester's SODOM*.¹⁹

The disgrace brought about by Self's trial before the Consistory Court in 1708, followed by his arrest and impending trial for forgery may have been a factor in the choice of a sermon to be preached before the Corporation on 19 June 1710. *The scandals brought upon Christianity by the ill lives of Christians*²⁰ was subsequently printed at the request of the Mayor and Alderman, and appeared in the booksellers' shops soon after the trial.²¹

¹⁸ Stone, 'Libertine sexuality', 523

¹⁹ *A real vindication of the much injur'd Mr. Baldwin*, ([Norwich], 1707), 13.

²⁰ William Coyte, *The scandals brought upon Christianity by the ill lives of Christians, set forth in a sermon preached in the cathedral church at Norwich, June 19, 1710*, (Norwich, printed by H. Cross-grove, 1710).

²¹ *Norwich Gazette* 206, 16/9/1710.

CUSTOMS DUTIES ON PAPER IMPORTED INTO THE AMERICAN COLONIES

Alan Longbottom

I FOUND THE FOLLOWING extract in a book at the Leeds Library and hope it may be of interest in that the 1767 Act referred to was only a few years before American Independence. An interesting contrast would be to investigate what duties the fledgling States of America used later when raising their own revenues. The high rates of duty charged on some papers raise the question whether some publications were printed on paper inferior to what might have been expected as a result.

The Present State of the British Empire

Rev. John Entick, M.A. dec'd and other gentlemen
4 Vols, London, 1774.

[There is another copy in the British Library. *Ed.*]

Vol 4 – 573 pp.

p. 307 **Customs Duties on paper for America**

Act of 7 George III c.6. – Whereas it is expedient that a Revenue should be raised, in your Majesty's Dominions in America, for making a more certain and adequate provision for defraying the Charge of the Administration of Justice, and the support of Civil Government, in such Provinces where it shall be found necessary; and towards further defraying the Expenses of defending, protecting, and securing, the said Dominions; we, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, have therefore resolved to give and grant unto your Majesty the several Rates and Duties herein after mentioned; and do most humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, that from and after the 20th Day of November 1767, there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid, unto his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, for and upon the respective goods herein after mentioned, which shall be imported from Great Britain into any

Colony or Plantation in America which now is, or hereafter may be, under the Dominion of his Majesty, his Heirs, and Successors, the several Rates and Duties following; that is to say :-

(Amounts copied re. paper items only)

[Editor's note: fractions have been substituted for the words 'halfpenny' and 'farthing' and the word 'and' has been omitted in e.g. '1s and 6d']

For every Ream of Paper called - Atlas Fine	12s
For every Ream of Paper called - Atlas ordinary	6s
For every Ream of - Double Copy	1s 6d
For every Ream of Blue Paper for Sugar-bakers -	10½d
For every Ream of Blue Royal	1s 6d
For every Bundle of Brown Paper containing 40 Quires, not made in Great Britain -	6d
For every Ream of - Brown Cap not made in Great Britain	9d
For every Ream of - Brown Large Cap made in Great Britain	4½d
For every Ream of - Small Ordinary Brown made in Great Britain	3d
For every Bundle containing 40 Quires of Paper called Whited Brown, made in Gt. Britain	4½d
For every Ream of - Cartridge Paper	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - Chancery Double	1s 6d
For every Ream of - Genona Crown Fine	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - Genoa Crown Second	9d
For every Ream of - German Crown	9d
For every Ream of - Fine Printing Crown	9d
For every Ream of - Second Ordinary Printing Crown	6¾d
For every Ream of - Crown Fine made in Great Britain	9d
For every Ream of - Crown Second made in Great Britain	6¾d
For every Ream of - Demy Fine not made in Great Britain	3s
For every Ream of - Demy Second not made in Great Britain	1s 4½d
For every Ream of - Demy Fine made in Great Britain	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - Demy Second made in Great Britain	9d
For every Ream of - Demy Printing	1s 3d
For every Ream of - Genoa Demy Fine	1s 6d
For every Ream of - Genoa Demy Second	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - German Demy	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - Elephant Fine	6s
For every Ream of - Elephant Ordinary	2s 5¼d
For every Ream of - Genoa Fools Cap Fine	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - Genoa Fools Cap Second	9d
For every Ream of - German Fools Cap	9d
For every Ream of - Fine Printing Fools Cap	9d

For every Ream of - Second Ordinary Fools Cap	6¼d
For every Ream of - any Fools Cap Fine not made in Great Britain	1s 10½d
For every Ream of - any Fools Cap Fine Second not made in Great Britain	1s 6d
For every Ream of - Fools Cap Fine made in Great Britain	9d
For every Ream of - Fools Cap Second made in Great Britain	6¾d
For every Ream of - Imperial Fine	12s
For every Ream of - Second Writing Imperial	8s 3d
For every Ream of - German Lombard	9d
For every Ream of - Medium Fine	4s 6d
For every Ream of - Genoa Medium	1s 10½d
For every Ream of - Second Writing Medium	3s
For every Ream of - painted Paper not made in Great Britain	6s
For every Ream of - Fine Large Post	1s 10½d
For every Ream of - Small Post	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - Fine Genoa Pot	6¾d
For every Ream of - Second Genoa Pot	6¾d
For every Ream of - Super-fine Pot not made in Great Britain	1s 6d
For every Ream of - Second Fine Pot not made in Great Britain	1s 1½d
For every Ream of - Ordinary Pot not made in Great Britain	6¾d
For every Ream of - Fine Pot made in Great Britain	9d
For every Ream of - Second Pot made in Great Britain	4½d
For every Ream of - Super Royal Fine	9s
For every Ream of - Royal Fine	6s
For every Ream of - Fine Holland Royal	2s 5¾d
For every Ream of - Fine Holland Second	1s 6d
For every Ream of - Second Fine Holland	1s 6d
For every Ream of - Ordinary Royal	9d
For every Ream of - Genoa Royal	2s 5¼d
For every Ream of - Second Writing Royal	4s 1½d
For every Ream of - Second Writing Super Royal	6s
For every 100 cwt. - Paste boards, Mill boards and Scale Boards not made in Great Britain -	3s 9d
For every 100 cwt. - Paste boards, Mill boards and Scale Boards made in Great Britain -	2s 3d

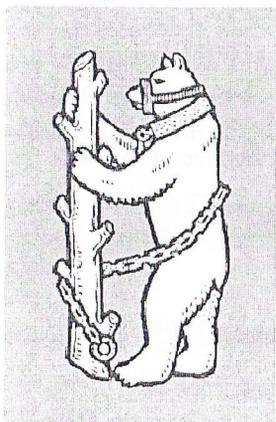
And for all Paper which shall be printed, painted, or stained in Great Britain, to serve for hangings, - three farthings for every Yard Square, over and above the Duties payable for such Paper by this Act, if the same had not been printed, painted, or stained; and after those Rates respectively for any greater or less Quantity.

And that all other Papers (not being particularly rated in this Act) shall pay the several Duties that are charged, by this Act, upon such Paper as is nearest above in Size and Goodness to such unrated Paper.

And that a Ream of paper, chargeable by this Act, shall be understood to consist of 20 Quires, and each Quire of 24 Sheets.

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BOOK TRADE HISTORY RESEARCH AT LEICESTER

John Hinks

SINCE TAKING UP my Honorary Visiting Fellowship at the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester, I have been awarded a British Academy Small Research Grant to support my next two years of research on the subject of *Book trade communities in English provincial towns: 1695-1850*.

The aim is to explore the extent and nature of communities in the book trade from 1695 to 1850, with a particular focus on towns in the Midlands and East Anglia. Evidence will be sought towards an overview of the topic and a number of case-studies will be investigated in more depth in order to illustrate the range of communities and to formulate an agenda for further research on specific aspects of book trade communities. The main types of community to be studied are (a) within the book trade, (b) between the book trade and authors and (c) between the book trade and readers. For more details see:
www.le.ac.uk/urbanhist/staff/hinks.html

WORKSHOP – 2 December 2005

My research funding includes provision for two one-day Workshops, the first of which will be held in Leicester on Friday, 2nd December 2005. Speakers include John Feather (keynote), Catherine Armstrong, Maureen Bell, Giles Bergel and Julian Pooley. More details will be available soon but if you are interested in attending, please let me know now: jh241@le.ac.uk

BOOK HISTORY RESEARCH NETWORK

www.bhrn.bham.ac.uk

THE NETWORK continues to thrive and a number of new members have joined recently. The Study Day held at Chetham's Library, Manchester, on 28th April was a great success, thanks to some excellent speakers, the hospitality of Michael Powell at Chetham's and not least to the enthusiasm of the local organizer, Catherine Feely, whose report on the day will be found at: www.bhrn.bham.ac.uk/ChethamReport.htm A summary of Catherine's report follows on the next page.

Catherine Feely's own paper, *Interdisciplinarity run riot: the pleasures and pitfalls of research design in book history*, has been posted on the website and comments on the paper are invited. See: www.bhrn.bham.ac.uk/DiscussionPaper.htm

The next Study Day is likely to be held in Birmingham towards the end of 2005 but details are not available at the time of going to press.

To receive occasional emails about BHRN activities and other matters of interest, join the Network by using the form on the website.

If you are a BHRN member, please check two things:

- Do we have your current email address (several emails bounce back regularly!)
- Are your research details up to date on the website?

THE STUDY DAY AT CHETHAM'S LIBRARY started with Michael Powell giving us a tour of the library (the oldest public library in the English speaking-world, established in 1653) and we then had an opportunity to handle some of the Library's book-trade related treasures. Caroline Webber (Liverpool) then presented the first of the day's papers, on Ann Radcliffe's posthumously published historical gothic novel *Gaston de Blondville* (1826). Barry McKay gave a very entertaining slice of his recent Gryphon Lecture on the History of the Book at the Fisher Library, University of Toronto, on the subject of chapbooks, giving us a superbly illustrated sense of how these eclectic little booklets made a huge contribution to the development of British popular culture.

In the first paper of the afternoon, Joseph Maslen (Manchester) explored the absence of a book. His paper examined Margot Kettle's failure to find a publisher in the late 1980s for her oral history of the 1930s British Communist youth movement. Joseph showed how the failure to get 'Recollections of a Younger World' published reflected changing priorities on the part of publishers, in the cultural climate of Thatcher's Britain. Matthew Yeo (Manchester) followed with a paper on the critical issues surrounding his MA thesis, on a sing-a-long grammar primer for young women published in 1788. Painstaking research has allowed Matthew to trace how the popular songs used in the primer subsequently reappeared during the French Revolution, and to investigate the effect they may have had on the reinforcement of gender roles in the public sphere after 1789.

In the final paper of the afternoon, Catherine Feely gave a general account of the methodological issues surrounding her research on the diffusion of ideas (particularly those of Marx and Freud) in Britain between 1880 and 1939. These individual issues were then related to wider ones for 'book history', particularly in relation to the demands of interdisciplinary research. This led to a lively general discussion in which we discussed, amongst other things, the suitability of the term 'book history', the physicality/materiality of the book and the place of reading in contemporary society.



The Bibliographical Society invites applications from scholars engaged in bibliographical research (on, for example, book history, textual transmission, publishing, printing, bookbinding, book-ownership and book-collecting) for awards to be made in the calendar year 2006.

Details on the website:
www.bibsoc.org.uk

Major grants, of sums up to £2000 will be awarded annually. The deadline for applications, which should be on the form provided and supported by two referees, who should be asked to write directly to the Secretary of the Fellowships and Bursaries Sub-committee at the address below, is **1 December 2005**.

Minor grants: a small proportion of the funds available each year will be set aside to provide small grants of £50 to £200 throughout the year for specific purposes such as travel expenses or the cost of microfilming. Applications for such grants may be submitted at any time, and should be supported by one referee and a statement that funds are not available from other sources. If the applicant is registered for a research degree the application should be accompanied by a letter of support from their academic supervisor.

For further information and an application form, contact:

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BOOKS FOR REVIEW SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR
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Back issues are available from the above address. An INDEX and recent issues are on-line at www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/QUADRAT.htm

Composed by John Hinks in Microsoft Garamond.

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