GRADUATE FIELD EXAM IN HISTORY OF THE BOOK AND OF READING

Reading suggestions

Students taking an exam with me in this field should form their own reading list by selecting from the various sections below (or with chronological and geographical limits in consultation with me). Further additions are also welcome. Stars indicate items I consider particularly important. Each student will end up with an individual list of a few pages, much shorter than this list (which is also inevitably incomplete).

GENERAL/MULTIPERIOD [including handbooks, reference books, historiography]


Balsamo, Luigi. Bibliography.


*Cavallo, Guglielmo and Roger Chartier, eds. A History of Reading in the West. First published 1997. Useful collection of articles spanning Antiquity to the present.


*Finkelstein, David and Alistair McCleery, The Book History Reader, 2nd ed. useful major articles excerpted.


Pearson, David. *Books as History: The Importance of Books Beyond their Texts*. British Library
and Oak Knoll Press, 2008.

Leah Price, “From the History of the Book to The History of a Book” Representations 108 (Fall 2009), 120-37


Winckler, Paul A. Reader in the History of Books and Reading.
THEORY


Fish, Stanley. Is there a text in this class? 1980.
--- Fish, Stanley. "Interpreting the Variorum.” Book History Reader


Habermas, Jürgen. The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. 1962.


Street, Brian, Literacy in Theory and Practice. Critique of Goody.


MANUSCRIPT CULTURES

ANTIQUITY AND LATE ANTIQUITY

Arns, Paolo. La technique du livre selon St Jerome. 1953. Brief


Knox, Bernard. Article on silent reading in antiquity in Greek, Roman and Byzantine studies. 1968.


Robb, Kevin. Literacy and Paideia in Ancient Greece. 1994. Intro has a concise summary of the debates in this field.


MIDDLE AGES in Western Europe


Coleman, Joyce. [different from Janet Coleman] Public Reading and the Reading Public in Late Medieval England and France. Cambridge University Press, 1996.


Illich, Ivan, In the Vineyard of the Text. 1994.


---. *Space Between Words*.


ISLAMIC WORLD


MESOAMERICA


MANUSCRIPTS IN EAST ASIA

China


Japan

Chibbett, David. The History of Japanese Printing and Book Illustration. 1977. Pages 13-28. The first book in English that addresses the history of Japanese printing. Chibbett was actually a librarian at the British Library; he unfortunately died at the age of 32 in the same year – 1977 – as this book, his first, was finally published. As the title indicates, the bulk of the book is about print culture, but the pages listed above treat manuscripts in outline.

Hillier, Jack. The Art of the Japanese Book. 2 vols. 1988. I actually hesitate to put this book on the list. Hillier was a cataloguer of Japanese prints at Sotheby’s, and his conviction was that Japan was unique in that its print culture of books proved primarily determinative of its art. Thus, Hillier deliberately chooses not to treat manuscripts as part of the "Japanese book." I include this here as an interesting polemical view (of course, it will be useful later on for Japan as we move to discussing print).


LaMarre, Thomas. Uncovering Heian Japan: An Archaeology of Sensation and Inscription. 2000. Look at Pt. 2 “Inscription and Sensation” (77-139). LaMarre is a bit of a chameleon, starting out as a scholar of premodern Japanese literature but now doing primarily film and media studies (in this sense, his trajectory parallels that of Harvard's own Tomiko Yoda). His primary referent is Deleuze, but within our context, one could say he parallels D.F. McKenzie in the contention that every element of form and material bears upon the interpretation of the symbolic meanings of a “text.” As far as I know, LaMarre was the first (within the Japanese literature field), to use questions of brush, calligraphic style, paper type and design, etc. to read Japanese court poetry. The section I cite gives a good sense of his material hermeneutics.

----, “Willful Copyists and the Transmission of Suspect Narratives of Literary Production,” Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies 7 (2006): 46-60. Bourdieu applied to Heian Japan. Ratcliff is interested in scribes, scribal culture, and the way in which cultural refinement expressed through writing, especially poetic exchanges, formed a distinct cultural politics of legitimacy within the "field" that was Heian court society.
MANUSCRIPTS IN THE AGE OF PRINT


Elizabeth Yale, "With slips and scraps: how early modern naturalists invented the archive" Book History 12 (2009), 1-36
PRINTING and TRANSITION TO PRINT in Europe

Blair, Ann. Too Much To Know: managing scholarly information before the modern age. 2010.

Blum, André. Origins of Printing and Engraving. 1940. Should include blockbooks.


Chartier, Roger. Inscription and Erasure. literature and written culture from the 11th to the 18th ct (2007)


*"How Revolutionary was the Print Revolution?" A forum featuring a debate between Elizabeth Eisenstein and Adrian Johns, American Historical Review 107:1 (2002), pp. 84-128. (on-line)


Orth, Myra. Articles on 16th ct French manuscript and print comparison, e.g. "French ren mss and l'histoire du livre" Viator 32 (2001) 245-78.

Richardson, Brian. _Print Culture in Renaissance Italy: the Editor and the Vernacular Text, 1470-1600_. Cambridge University Press, 1994.


AUTHORSHIP


Burke, Sean, ed. Authorship. Collected primary source excerpts.


Ezell, Margaret. Social Authorship and the Advent of Print. 1999.

Foucault, Michel. “What is an Author?” in Book History Reader.


Pask, Kevin. The Emergence of the English Author: Scripting the Life of the Poet in Early Modern England. 1996.

Simonin, Michel. Vivre de sa Plume: La Carrière de François de Belleforest.

Viala, Alain. La naissance de l'écrivain. Useful book on patronage in France; only in French.


---. “The Genius and the Copyright: Economic and Legal Conditions of the Emergence of the

WOMEN AS AUTHORS


Meale, Carol. Women and Literature in Britain, 1150-1500.


Gonzalez-Quijano, Yves. "Le livre arabe a la recherche de son histoire," In Octavo (1996).

Hannebutt-Benz, Eva, ed, Middle Eastern Languages and the Print Revolution (2002)


---. "Manuscript, Not Print: Scribal Culture in the Edo Period," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 32:1 (Winter 2006): 23-52. He argues here about the way in which manuscripts persisted widely into the mid-19th century as a medium for texts that were rare or censored, as well as for manuals and writings that were circulated only locally or within specialist circles.


KOREA


Censorship

---. *Press Censorship in Caroline England*. Authors not as constrained as we once thought.

---. "A Police Inspector Sorts his Files," in *The Great Cat Massacre*.


Fragnito, Gigliola, ed. *Church, Censorship and Culture in Postridentine Italy*.


Grendler, Paul. *Culture and Censorship in Late Renaissance Italy and France*. 1981.

Higman, Francis. *Censorship and the Sorbonne*.


Guido Kisch, “Die Zensur jüdischer Bücher in Böhmen,” *Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für*


Patterson, Annabel. Censorship and Interpretation. 1984.


Shuger, Debora. Censorship and Cultural Sensibility: Regulation of Language in Tudor-Stuart England. 2006. Authors not as constrained as we thought.


Censorship in China


Guy, R. Kent. The Emperor’s Four Treasuries: Scholars and the State in the Late Ch’ien-lung Era. Cambridge, Mass.: Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University. Describes the operation of the Qianlong (r.1736-1795) inquisitions and the ways in which state censorship was
manipulated by both scholar-officials and local elites.

---. “The Inquisition Against Su Shih: His Sentence as an Example of Sung Legal Practice,” Journal of American Oriental Society, Vol. 113, No. 2 (Apr. – Jun., 1993). The earliest complete dossier of Chinese poetry trail is from 1079, the Northern Song dynasty, when Su Shih, the most influential literatus at that time, was put into prison because of his poetry and prose. He was charged of slandering the court and the emperor, criticizing the New Policy, sending his works to a lot of friends, and most importantly, having one collection of his printed anonymously. He was interrogated for three months, and his deposition and the final judgment of the court later came out.

Sae, Okamoto. Shindai kinsho no kenkyu (Research on prohibited books in China), Tokyo: Tokyo daigaku Toyo bunka kenkyujyo, 1996. Provides a detailed analysis both of the impact of the inquisition at the provincial level and of the large repercussions of censorship for late imperial Chinese intellectual and political history.
TRADE


Pettegree, Andrew. The Book in the Renaissance.


Trade in China


COPYRIGHT and PRIVILEGES


McGill, Meredith. American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting, 1834-1853.


Copyright and Privileges in China

MONTAIGNE

George Hoffmann, Montaigne's Career.


SHAKESPEARE

Kastan, David. Shakespeare and the Book.
BROADSIDES, PAMPHLETS AND NEWSPAPERS

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*.


Edwards, Mark. *Printing, Propaganda and Martin Luther*.


Sawyer, Jeffrey K. *Printed Poison: Pamphlet Propaganda, Faction Politics and the Public Sphere in Early Seventeenth-Century France*.

OWNERSHIP and LIBRARIES


Thornton, Dora. The Scholar in his Study. 1997. Images of scholars in their studies in the 16th and 17th centuries.

POPULAR BOOKS


Scribner, Robert. Articles and book on German print culture.

LITERACY


READING


Raven, James, ed. The Practice and Representation of Reading. 1996.


*---. Used Books: Marking Readers in the Renaissance.


Stallybrass, Peter. "Books and Scrolls: Navigating the Bible." Books and Readers in Early Modern


ENLIGHTENMENT


Chartier, Roger. The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution. Chapter "Do books make revolutions?"

---. The Literary Underground of the Old Regime.
---. The Great Cat Massacre. Chapters “Readers Respond to Rousseau” and “An Inspector Sorts His Files.”


Hunt, Lynn, ed. The Invention of Pornography.


correspondence only it seems) and in the periodical press.


Schön, Erich. Der Verlust der Sinnlichkeit oder die Verwandlungen des Lesers. Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta, 1987. Importance of 18th in history of reading; use of iconography (all reproductions are black and white); reading in the open. Starts with general overview of history of reading, includes figures on kinds of books published total, broken down into categories. esp 18th-19th. End of reading aloud (starts ch with quotation from Sacchini). Comaprtmentalization of work time and free time, the night time being for reading. Pedagogy about waking kids up so they don't become habituated to sleep (cf. Rousseau's Emile).


Wittmann, Reinhard. “Was there a Reading Revolution in the Eighteenth Century?” in Cavallo and Chartier, A Hist of Reading in the West.
NOVEL


NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES


Cross, Nigel. The Common Writer. 2318nt19.w51.


Brodhead, Richard. *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth Century America*.


Green, James. "Benjamin Franklin as Publisher and Bookseller" in *Reappraising Benjamin Franklin*, ed. J.A. Leo Lemay.


---. "Uses of Literacy" in *Worlds of Wonder; Days of Judgment*. Harvard University Press.


Lehuu. *Carnival on the Page*. 


Zboray, Ronald. *Fictive People: Economic Development and the American Reading Public*. 
INFORMATION AGE/NEW MEDIA


Birkerts, Sven. Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age


Robert Darnton, the Case for books.


Lewis Hyde, Common As Air (2010)

Henry Jenkins, Convergence culture: where old and new media collide. NYU press, 2006

Hugh Kenner, The Mechanic Muse (OUP, 1987)


Lyotard, J-Francois. The Postmodern Condition. First few pages.

Jim Macnamara, The 21st century media (R)evolution: emergent communication practices. Peter Lang, 2010


Robert S Nelson, “The slide lecture or the work of the art historian the age of mechanical reproduction,” *Critical inquiry* 26;3 (2000), 414-34


About the Reading Lists The following lists were compiled by the faculty of the English Department to help students study for the Advanced Test of the Graduate Record Exam. These lists are more than that however; they are excellent texts that every English major should aspire to read, whether or not graduate school beckons. Ideally, all of us would be able to take a class in these subjects and study them with the guidance of a professor who has made the period or subject a specialty. The reality is that most of us will have studied many of these texts, recognize others by name or title, and ne In higher education, a comprehensive examination (or comprehensive exam or exams), often abbreviated as "comps", is a specific type of examination that must be completed by graduate students in some disciplines and courses of study, and also by undergraduate students in some institutions and departments. Unlike final examinations, comprehensive examinations are not linked to any particular course, but rather test knowledge across one or more general fields of study. Answer: One of the books that I have recently read is called *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by an author called Bill Bryson. It is a thick, factual book about many different subjects. It is really a collection of information and anecdotes related to our private lives, past and present. The book is mainly about things that have been included in our homes over the centuries. This sample answer took around 2 minutes, which is the maximum amount of time you need to speak for Part 2 of the IELTS exam. ** You can download a FREE PDF of this lesson at the bottom of this page, and if you are a subscriber to DailyStep Audio Lessons, you can also download this audio file.** IELTS Interactive Audio Course for Speaking Test Part 2. Are you trying to get a better score in your IELTS exam?