



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



RED Letter

The Newsletter of the Reading Experience Database



SPRING 2007

Edited by Rosalind Crone and Katie Halsey

The last few months have been busy ones at the RED nerve centre in the IT department at the Open University. Earlier this year, we were joined by three new members of the RED team: two Research Associates, Jenny McAuley and Sarah Johnson, and a data input assistant, Isabel DiVanna, who are all doing excellent work finding and entering reading experiences. Thanks to David Wong, our technical developer, our new online form is up and running, and getting lots of use, and an experimental version of our search functions has been built. We are grateful to all of you who have been using the online form to enter reading experiences, and thanks also for your feedback on it. Our trial online launch is now also complete, and we are indebted to all those who took the time to try out our search functions and complete our user feedback form. Feedback was in general positive and enthusiastic, and we will make every effort to act on your suggestions for improvements to our current version when it goes fully live in June this year.

But the Reading Experience Database is not, and never will be, only about technology. It is, of course, also about the people whose enthusiasm for the project makes it possible. At the heart of the project is the individual reading experience, and we are, as always, extremely grateful to all our volunteers who have been busily entering a wide range of fascinating material, from the reading experiences of heavyweight Victorians such as John Ruskin,

Thomas Carlyle and Charles Dickens to descriptions of the reading of more humble cobblers, butchers and printers. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new volunteers to the project.

Public and academic awareness of RED is crucial to the eventual success of the database. We have therefore been busy presenting conference and seminar papers, and giving talks in many different places. We are grateful to those who have helped us to spread the word, and particular thanks are due to Graham Allen, Siobhán Collins, Carrie Griffin and Mary O'Connell. of the *Making Books Shaping Readers* project at University College Cork, Nick Roe and Andrew Pettegree of St Andrews University, Luke Houghton of University College London, Alison Beer, Richard Daniels, Joanne Withers and Claire Harris of Hillingdon Libraries, Anne Henry and Andrew Taylor of Cambridge University, and Willard McCarty of the London Digital Text and Scholarship seminar. We will be at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) conference in Minneapolis in July with a RED panel, and also at the *Beyond the Book* project conference in Birmingham in September.

We are continuing to update the RED website regularly, especially our events page with details about relevant calls for papers, essay collections and forthcoming conferences, seminars and workshops. If you would like to advertise an event on the site, or in the next issue of **RED Letter**, please contact us. If you have a book for review, or if you would like to review a particular book for the website, please get in touch.

CHANGES TO THE RED TEAM

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Shafquat Towheed to the RED team. Shaf will be taking over from Mary Hammond as Project Supervisor at the Open University. Mary is leaving the OU to take up a Senior Lecturer position at Southampton, but will remain closely associated with the RED project as a member of our Management Group. We will miss her, but wish her every possible success in her new job.

Contact Details:

Rosalind Crone:
Literature Department
Faculty of Arts
The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA

Tel: +44 (0)1908 652092

E-mail: R.H.Crone@open.ac.uk

Katie Halsey:
Institute of English Studies
School of Advanced Study
University of London
Malet St
London
WC1E 7HU

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7862 8861

Email: Katie.Halsey@sas.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Culture of Print in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine (STEM)

The Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America
Madison, Wisconsin
September 12-13, 2008

The conference will include papers focusing on the dynamic intersection of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine (STEM) and print culture. Papers might address ways in which STEM-its histories and materials, its theories and practices, its economics, and its practitioners-affects or is affected by print culture. These approaches might include: innovations in the production and circulation of print; patterns of authorship and reading; publication, and dissemination of knowledge in the history of STEM. Alternatively, taking the various theories and methodologies that have grown out of half-a-century of historical and social studies of STEM, papers could investigate the social construction of STEM knowledge through print; technologies of experimentation and inscription as a print culture of the laboratory; and the social networks of readership in the production of scientific consensus or conflict. Though our emphasis is on the United States scene, we welcome submissions from other areas of the globe as well.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Jim Secord, of Cambridge University, Director of the Darwin Correspondence Project, and author of many publications, including the award-winning *Victorian Sensation: The Extraordinary Publication, Reception and Secret Authorship of Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*, (University of Chicago Press, 2000).

Proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (up to three papers) should include a 250-word abstract and a one-page c.v. for each presenter. If possible, submissions should be made via email.

The deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2008**. Notifications of acceptance will be made by early March.

As with previous conferences, we anticipate producing a volume of papers from the conference for publication in a volume in the Center's series, "Print Culture History in Modern America," published by the University of Wisconsin Press. A list of books the Center has produced, available on the Center's website: (<http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~printcul/>), offers a guide to prospective authors.

For information, contact:
Christine Pawley, Director,
Center for the History of Print Culture
4234 Helen C. White Hall,
600 N. Park St.
Madison, WI 53706

phone: 608 263-2945/608 263-2900
fax: (608) 263-4849
email: cpawley@wisc.edu

Co-sponsors: School of Library and Information Studies, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, the departments of the History of Science, the History of Medicine and Bioethics, and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Canterbury Christ Church University & Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library
Call for Papers for the Renaissance Colloquium: Reading and Writing in Provincial Society
1300-1700
Saturday 22nd September 2007

'...To understand the use of the materials we are investigating within the precise, local specific context that alone gave them meaning. This context might be ritual, political or at once religious and national.' Roger Chartier *The Culture of Print* (1989)

Twenty minute papers are invited for the Second Annual Renaissance Colloquium. The colloquia reflect a range of disciplinary approaches to the study of manuscripts and early printed books in a bid to provide a more fully contextualised understanding of literacy and 'book' culture in provincial society across the period. Working collaboratively with Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library, the day will draw together scholars working on a range of source material including, book lists and inventories, literary manuscripts, early printed books, common place books, letters and civic documents. Papers are particularly welcome from but not restricted to scholars who have worked on material housed at Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library.

Key themes include: types of literacy and the status of the literate, orality, dis/continuities between manuscript and print culture, reading and writing practices, issues of methodology, materiality, book ownership/access, coterie writing, reading communities, metropolitan and continental influences.

Please send a 300 word synopsis of your paper to
claire.bartram@canterbury.ac.uk
by **30th June 2007**

Dr Claire Bartram
Lecturer in Renaissance Studies
English Department
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Canterbury Christ Church University
Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1QU

CALL FOR PAPERS

2007 RSS CONFERENCE ON RECEPTION STUDY: MARXISM AND RECEPTION

The University of Missouri at Kansas City,

Thurs, September 27th, through Sat., the 29th, 2007.

Recent developments in theories of reception and in Marxist theory have reopened the issue of how Marxism and reading relate to each other. This panel addresses all aspects of this issue, which includes topics like the following:

1. Marxist history and reading.
2. Reading and race, class, and sex
3. Reading and ideological critique
4. The politics of reading
5. Recent Marxist or postMarxist theory and reception
6. The cultural industry and reception
7. Reading and the aesthetics of Adorno
8. Alain Badiou and reception study

The deadline for proposals is 1 MAY, 2007. To submit proposals and request more information, please contact Philip Goldstein University of Delaware, 333 Shipley St., Wilmington, DE 19801, or pgold_at_udel.edu . Or visit the RSS webpage: <http://copland.udel.edu/~pgold/webpage/RSSsite/index.html>

CALL FOR PAPERS

March 19, 2006 - I-CHORA 3 Call for Papers - deadline extended to May 19th!!!

The **Third International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (I-CHORA 3)** will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on **September 27-29, 2007**, hosted by the [Massachusetts Historical Society](#).

The theme of the conference will be the **history of personal records and personal recordkeeping practices**. This theme is intended to cover the full range of personal documents—including, for example, letters, diaries, journals, and scrapbooks—both as document types and as parts of recordkeeping systems that document personal life. We invite submissions of proposals for papers that report on original research into a topic and theme that has not been widely discussed in the archival literature, although there are many scholars in literary studies, history and the arts who have probed the personal and social functions and meaning of records made, kept, and exchanged by people in their private and professional lives. Papers may treat any time period and any national jurisdiction. Topics might include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- the forms of personal records
- the motivations for making and keeping personal records
- the collecting of personal records by individuals and archival repositories
- cross-disciplinary perspectives on personal records
- needs for research in the area of personal records

Please think about your work and how it may be shared with colleagues in the world of archives and beyond.

Proposals for papers should be no less than 500 words, double spaced, and in RTF format.

Proposals should be sent to i-chora@fis.utoronto.ca by **19 May 2006**. We will advise acceptance by the middle of June 2006.

Organizing and Program Committee:

Barbara Craig, University of Toronto
Philip B. Eppard, University at Albany, SUNY
Heather MacNeil, University of British Columbia
Brenda Lawson, Massachusetts Historical Society

CONFERENCE

Making Connections Between Library, Book, Reading and Information History

7-8 June 2007

Innovation North: Faculty of Information & Technology, Leeds Metropolitan University

A Conference Organised by the Information History Group, Leeds Metropolitan University, in association with the Library and Information History Group of the UK, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) and HIBOLIRE (The Nordic-Baltic-Russian Network on the History of Books, Libraries and Reading).

Scholars researching in the history of print culture, communication and knowledge organisation often confine themselves to niche colleges of scholarship within what is a broad, developing and, it might be argued, increasingly integrated area within the humanities. This conference aims to bring scholars from these distinct yet overlapping colleges together to exchange ideas and explore synergies.

Conference fee: £20. (Concessions: please apply).

CONFERENCE

Collectors and Collecting: Private Collections and their Role in Libraries

Chawton House Library, 19-20 July 2007.

This event is jointly organised by Chawton House Library, the University of Southampton English Department, and Goucher College, Baltimore.

There are many examples of collections put together by individuals that are now valuable assets of the libraries to which they have been donated and to the wider cultural heritage. Such collections include the Henry and Alberta Hirshheimer Burke collection of rare editions of Jane Austen's novels and related materials at Goucher College, and the John Charles Hardy collection of eighteenth-century novels, a substantial part of which now forms a part of Chawton House Library.

This conference will focus on individual collectors of books and manuscripts and their collections. Plenary speakers are Reg Carr (Director of University Library Services and Bodley's Librarian at the University of Oxford), Robert H. Jackson (Collector, author, and lecturer on literature, rare books, and collecting; founding member of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies), James Raven (Professor of Modern History, University of Essex) and Bruce Whiteman (Head Librarian, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies, University of California - Los Angeles).

CONFERENCE

SHARP 2007

Open the Book, Open the Mind

Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA July 11-15, 2007

The fifteenth annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) will be held in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota on July 11–15, 2007. The conference is organized in cooperation with the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota—including the Department of English and the Institute for Advanced Study; University of Minnesota Libraries; Minneapolis Public Library; Minnesota Historical Society; and Minnesota Center for Book Arts—a part of Open Book.

The conference theme, “Open the Book, Open the Mind,” will highlight how books develop and extend minds and cultures, and also how they are opened to new media and new purposes. However, individual papers or sessions may address any aspect of book history and print culture.

Pre-conference, July 10, 2007: Book Arts and Artists' Books

A pre-conference of practical workshops and a plenary session devoted to book arts and artists' books will be held at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, near the University of Minnesota campus, on Tuesday, July 10, 2007.

The conference program and online registration is available now.

Travel and Accommodations

The conference will be held on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport is well served by nonstop flights from London, Amsterdam, Tokyo, and other major cities. The airport is close to the Mall of America, one of the largest shopping malls in the world.

A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the Radisson University Hotel. Reservations must be reserved by June 17, 2007, and can be made by contacting the hotel directly at 800-822-6757.

About Minneapolis and St. Paul

Recently Minneapolis has welcomed several outstanding new buildings for the arts and learning, including the Guthrie Theater (designed by Jean Nouvel), additions to both the Walker Art Center (by Herzog & de Meuron) and Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Michael Graves), the Minneapolis Central Library (Cesar Pelli), as well as the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum (Frank Gehry). The remarkable Elmer L. Andersen Library houses one and a half million books and related archival materials in giant vaults carved into the banks of the Mississippi River literally below the campus of the University of Minnesota. The Andersen Library is part of the University of Minnesota Libraries, a system that owns more than 6.2 million books. The University of Minnesota is one of the largest university campuses in the United States. Minneapolis, where the conference will take place, is adjacent to St. Paul, the state capital, where the library of the Minnesota Historical Society houses extensive print and manuscript records. Both cities boast fine theaters, concert halls, and restaurants, as well as outstanding parks, many of which surround lakes. More than 10,000 other lakes lie within a several hours' drive, including vast Lake Superior and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, which stretches along the Canadian border. Chicago, with its many cultural attractions, is only 90 minutes away by plane. July is the warmest month of the year in the Twin Cities; daily high temperatures average 84 F (28 C).

Planning Committee

Michael Hancher, Professor of English, University of Minnesota - Chair

Douglas Armato, Director, University of Minnesota Press

Thomas Augst, Professor of English, University of Minnesota

Betty Bright, Independent Scholar and Curator

Patrick Coleman, Curator and Acquisitions Librarian, Minnesota Historical Society

Edward Griffin, Professor of English, University of Minnesota

Wendy Pradt Lougee, University Librarian, McKnight Presidential Professor

Marcia Pankake, Professor, Academic Programs, University of Minnesota Libraries

Donald Ross, Professor of English, University of Minnesota

Ann Waltner, Professor of History and Director, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota

For more information, please contact

Electra Sylva

612-624-3708

conferences5@cce.umn.edu

CONFERENCE

'Print Networks' Conference: Print culture in the provinces: the creation, distribution and dissemination of word and image

24-26 July 2007

University of Chester, Chester

The twenty-fourth annual 'Print Networks' conference on the History of the British Book Trade will take place at the University of Chester on 24-26 July 2007. The theme for the conference is 'Print culture in the provinces: the creation, distribution, and dissemination of word and image'. Provincial-metropolitan inter-trade connections will be acceptable or on aspects of trade relations with any part of the former colonies & dominions.

A selection of the papers will be published in July 2008 as part of the 'Print Networks' series, published by the British Library and Oak Knoll Press.

For details contact:

Dr Lisa Peters

Learning Resources

University of Chester

Parkgate Road

Chester CH1 4BJ

l.peters@chester.ac.uk

CONFERENCE

Beyond the Book: Contemporary Cultures of Reading

A conference at the University of Birmingham, UK

1 & 2 September 2007

Keynote Speakers:

Janice Radway (Duke University) & Elizabeth Long (Rice University)

Book groups, Lit Blogs, on-line bookstores, book festivals, reader magazines, 'One Book, One Community,' Reader's Guides, 'Richard & Judy's Book Club,' Book TV, 'Canada Reads,' the 'Nancy Pearl Action Figure,' 'Tuesday Night Book Club,' ... reading is hot!

This conference will explore the diverse formations, mediations, practices and representations of reading and readers in the contemporary moment. Cultures of reading are dynamic and complex: they involve not only readers reading, but also multiple agencies including publishers, booksellers, broadcast networks, national, regional and municipal governments, and educational institutions. The aim of the conference is to interrogate the relations among these agents and their investment in the meanings of reading. The study of readers and reading encourages, maybe demands, multi- and interdisciplinary analysis. We therefore invite scholars from across the humanities and social sciences to consider the contemporary meanings and experiences of reading in any culture or location. Selected papers will be included in an edited collection on contemporary cultures of reading/book cultures.

Beyond the Book is a three-year collaborative interdisciplinary AHRC-funded research project investigating contemporary cultures of reading. The transatlantic BTB team are: DeNel Rehberg Sedo (Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada), Danielle Fuller, Anouk Lang & Anna Burrells (University of Birmingham, UK).

CONFERENCE

Spaces of Print: Exploring the History of Books - Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand 2007 Conference

The Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand conference for 2007 will be held in Hobart, Tasmania. Papers are invited on any aspect of book history - the history of printing, publishing, bookselling, libraries and reading. Australian and New Zealand topics are especially welcome, however other topics within the Society's areas of interest will be considered. For more information about BSANZ and its interests, go to the website (see below).

Dates From: 15 November 2007
 To: 16 November 2007

Type of Event Conference

Closing date 31 March 2007
for papers

Intended Postgraduate, Researchers/Scholars,
Audience

Web site <http://www.csu.edu.au/community/BSANZ/>

Contact Ian Morrison. Email:ian.morrison@education.tas.gov.au Phone: 61 3 6233
Information 7474 Tony Marshall Email: tony.marshall@education.tas.gov.au Phone: 61 3
6233 7498

SYMPOSIUM

The Parker Library Now

A two-day symposium on preservation – digitisation – scholarship – public access: 6-7 September 2007

In the 1980s, Professor Raymond Page, then Fellow Librarian of the College, commissioned a review of the collections and their long-term preservation, and he established the Cambridge Colleges Conservation Consortium, still based in Corpus Christi College. A two-day conference was held in the College in 1988 to bring many of these issues to public discussion. The questions raised then are now seen representing a notable turning-point in the history of manuscript conservation in Britain. Two decades later it seems appropriate to ask whether they have stood the test of time, and to look at new directions for the Parker Library in the twenty-first century.

The Parker Library comprises one of the most important small collections of English medieval manuscripts ever assembled. It was entrusted to the College in 1574 by Matthew Parker (1504-1575), Archbishop of Canterbury, with detailed requirements of preservation and accessibility to scholars.

There are three current issues.

(1) The entire manuscript collection of the Parker Library is now being digitised, in a huge project in collaboration with Stanford University Library and with funding from the Mellon Foundation; and within three years every page of every manuscript will be available free on the internet. The project includes a searchable catalogue and comprehensive and up-to-date bibliographies for every manuscript.

(2) The Conservation Consortium has grown and flourished enormously, now encompassing eight colleges, and in 2006 it moved to new premises within Corpus Christi College, with facilities and opportunities inconceivable in the 1980s.

(3) The ground floor beneath the Parker Library will be vacated in the summer of 2007, allowing the creation of a proper vault and rare books reading room, which will, in turn, open the upstairs Wilkins Room for exhibitions and educational access on a scale and with possibilities unprecedented in Cambridge.

The symposium will include papers within all three areas, at their widest interpretation,

including library history, conservation, digitisation and its application, new discoveries and directions in medieval manuscript scholarship, and the benefits or problems of access to some of the most precious illuminated manuscripts in existence. The Parker Library and Cambridge Consortium workshop will be fully available to participants. On Friday afternoon, there will be a choice of workshop and library visits.

Corpus Christi College was founded in 1352, and has some of the finest medieval buildings in Cambridge. The Parker Library includes many of the oldest manuscripts in Britain, such as the sixth-century Gospels of Saint Augustine and the primary codex of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and some of the most celebrated English illuminated manuscripts, such as the twelfth-century Bury Bible and the original of the *Historia Maiora* of Matthew Paris. The conference facilities include the McCrum Lecture Theatre with seating for 150.

The symposium will take place at Corpus Christi College on Thursday to Friday, 6-7 September, 2007. Speakers will include Christopher Clarkson, who spoke at the first conference in the 1980s; Nicholas Pickwood, consultant for the initial conservation project, Melvin Jefferson, head of the Conservation Consortium; Mark Clarke, expert in pigment analysis, and Christopher de Hamel, Donnelley Fellow Librarian.

Accommodation is available within the College, up to a certain number on a first-come first-served basis.

The basic symposium fee of £90.00 includes all lunches and refreshments.

A very unusual optional extra is available on the Friday evening, 7 September. This is the Parker Library Audit Dinner, established by Matthew Parker to check the presence of every book under risk of forfeit of the whole collections to one of two other colleges; the Audit was revived on Parker's 500th birthday and is now among the most spectacular and interesting of the annual ceremonies in the College. Places at the Audit Dinner are available at £50.00 per head.

For further information, please contact: Gill Cannell, telephone 01223 338025, email gc110@cam.ac.uk, Christopher de Hamel, telephone 01223 339994, email cd281@cam.ac.uk or go to www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/parker/ for further details.

CONFERENCE

The Culture of the Publisher's Series 1700-2000

A major International Conference to be held on

18 -19 October 2007

Institute of English Studies, University of London

In the early 18th century, British publishers began gathering books together in themed series and packaging and marketing them as distinct, recognisable groups. The effects of this phenomenon were remarkable; by the mid-nineteenth century there were upward of 3,000

publishers' series in Britain alone, and the phenomenon is of course still with us today. During this 200-year period the culture of the publisher's series has opened up new possibilities for authors, publishers, distributors and readers, helped to establish a wide range of traditions from the establishment of national literary canons to the development of feminist lists, and influenced the kinds of literature we teach to the next generation of scholars.

While some publishers' series have been investigated in depth, there have been few opportunities for the work of individual scholars to be placed in meaningful dialogue. This major two-day conference seeks to encourage International scholars from all disciplines to examine the culture of the publishers' series with a view to furthering understanding of its historical, ideological, generic and geographical reach.

Confirmed Speakers Include: Robert Fraser, Mary Hammond, Elizabeth James, Andrew Nash, John Spiers

For details contact:

Dr Mary Hammond (m.e.hammond@open.ac.uk) and Professor John Spiers (jr.spiers@virgin.net).



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



The Open
University

CALL FOR PAPERS

'EVIDENCE OF READING, READING THE EVIDENCE'

A major international conference to be held at the Institute of English Studies, University of London

21-23 July 2008

Organised by the Open University and the Institute of English Studies

**Keynote speakers: Kate Flint, Jonathan Rose,
David Vincent**

Studies centred on the history of reading have proliferated in the last twenty years. They have sprung from several different disciplines, encompassed different periods and geographical locations and chosen divergent methodologies, but their common quest has been to recover and understand the traces of a practice which is central to our understanding of human history, yet notoriously elusive.

One such approach is 'The Reading Experience Database 1450-1945' (RED), a project run by the Open University and the University of London. While RED is already proving its worth as a digital resource, its methodological parameters are necessarily limited and its vision therefore partial. What is needed in order for the study of the history of reading to progress beyond the boundaries of specific institutions, disciplines, methodologies, geographical locations and time periods is a forum in which as many diverse approaches as possible are brought into energetic debate.

This major 3-day conference, the first of its type, seeks to provide such a forum. We invite 20-minute papers from international students and scholars of any discipline - both within and outside the Humanities - who are interested in the history and practice of reading in any period or geographical location. Topics may include, but are by no means limited to:

- Theories of reading
 - National and transnational histories
 - Reading communities methodologies
 - Genre reading development
 - Visual representations of reading
 - Issues of literacy
 - Reading and readers in fiction
 - Quantitative versus qualitative
 - Digital resources and their
 - Reading across disciplines/languages
-
- Using historical data in contemporary research fields
 - The sociology, psychology and neurology of reading experiences
 - Evidence of reading from private audio recordings and blogs
 - Finding, compiling, interpreting and preserving the evidence of reading

Paper titles, abstracts of no more than 300 words and short biographies should be sent electronically by **31 January 2008** to all three organisers: Dr Shaf Towheed (S.S.Towheed@open.ac.uk); Dr Rosalind Crone (r.h.crone@open.ac.uk); Dr Katie Halsey (Katie.Halsey@sas.ac.uk).