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SI 633. Winter 2009.

List of Suggested Books for Review: For your first review, please choose from among the books marked by an asterisk, as they are either of broader scope or pertain more closely to material covered in the first half of the term.

Please clear with me any divergence from the list below. You may also consult the other bibliographies for which I've provided links in the "Websites, General" folder on the CTools class site.

General Treatments, both Recent and Classic, of Basic Topics:

- *Amory, Hugh, ed., *et al. A History of the Book in America, 2000-07*. (Collection of erudite articles on a wide range of topics. Vol. I: 18th C. Vols. II and III, with different editors and too recent to be in most libraries, cover 19th C. issues.)
- *Briggs, Asa and Peter Burke, *A Social History of the Media, from Gutenberg to the Internet*, Cambridge (UK), 2005 (2nd ed.). (Two eminent British historians bring a socio-historical viewpoint to the discipline of media studies. Covers 500 years in some detail, with a focus on 19th and 20th centuries. Reads like a textbook; a refuge for the footnote-weary.)
- Dane, Joseph A. *The Myth of Print Culture: Essays on Evidence, Textuality, and Bibliographical Method*, Toronto, 2003. (Seven essay-chapters: cranky & contrarian but thought-provoking treatment of an important topic.)
- *Eisenstein, Elizabeth, *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*, Cambridge, 1983 & 1993 (Classic treatment of the topic by U of M history professor, now somewhat contested in some circles; condensed version of her 2-vol. *The Printing Press as an Agent of Change*)
- *Gaskell, Philip. *A New Introduction to Bibliography*, New York, 1972 & 1995. (Nuts-and-bolts presentation of all the classic issues [type, composition, paper, presswork, binding, etc.] comprising what was for decades a core of librarian training—that is, “analytical bibliography.” Lengthy. Wonky.)
- *Johns, Adrian, *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making*, Chicago, 1998. (Massive and very erudite tome on print culture and 17th and 18th C. European history, especially as regards the natural sciences. Argues that the printed book had to earn respect and reliability for accuracy over several centuries via a number of strategies.)
- *Eisenstein, Johns, et al. *American Historical Review* 107.1 (February 2002), 84-128: “How Revolutionary Was the Print Revolution?” (Pointed exchange of opinion between scholars with differing approaches. This exchange will give you an insight into their books, which you should consult so as to evaluate their respective arguments.) (available at <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/107.1/ah0102000084.html>)
- *McKitterick, David. *Print, Manuscript and the Search for Order, 1450-1830*. Cambridge, 2003 (British librarian argues that print was integrated much more slowly into European culture than generally assumed. Broad and thorough.)
- McLuhan, Marshall. *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, New York, 1964. (Classic work of media studies. Quirky but often brilliant.)

*O'Donnell, James J. *Avatars of the Word: From Papyrus to Cyberspace*, Cambridge, MA, 1998. (A classicist reflects on the history of written communications technology. Highly readable. Available only to students not having read this book in a previous S.I. course.)

*Steinberg, S. H., *Five Hundred Years of Printing*, London, revised edn. 2001 (orig. ed. 1955). (Classic and conventional treatment of the topic announced by the title)

Probably too specialized to review but worth knowing nonetheless:

Multivolume *Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*, 1999--. Each volume covers approximately 150 years.

Printing techniques, printing trade, the culture of print:

Balzac, Honoré de, *Lost Illusions / Les illusions perdues* (various editions)
(Classic 19th century novel by the master of French realism on the printing trade in Paris, early 19th C.)

*Bowen, Karen L., and Dirk Imhof. *Christopher Plantin and Engraved Book Illustrations in Sixteenth-Century Europe*. Cambridge UK, 2008. (Focused study on one of the most important printers of the Renaissance and his use of illustration.)

Bringhurst, Robert, *The Elements of Typographic Style*, Vancouver, 1992 / 1996 / 2004 (Mixture of graphic design and the history of typography)

*Chappell, Warren, *A Short History of the Printed Word*, New York, 1970. (Basic and very clear presentation of the mechanics of printing. Less dense than Steinberg's and Gaskell's treatments. Good starting point for beginners.)

*Echard, Siân, *Printing the Middle Ages*, Philadelphia, 2008. (Overview of the history of printing medieval European manuscripts since the 16th C.; numerous categories of analysis: Elizabethan-era font issues, 19th C. children's editions of Chaucer, etc.)

Lupton, Ellen, *Thinking with Type*, Princeton, 2005
(Reflections on typography as an esthetic system. For graphic-designer types.)

*Parkes, Malcolm, *Pause and Effect: An Introduction to the History of Punctuation in the West*, 1992. (Dense and erudite treatment of topic announced in title. Lots of illustration.)

*Raymond, Joad, *The Invention of the Newspaper: English newsbooks, 1641-1649*, Oxford, 2005. (Locates in the 1640s English "newsbook" the origins of the modern newspaper. Readable but very focused.)

*Shubao, Luo, *An Illustrated History of Printing in Ancient China*, Hong Kong, 1998. (Short, lavishly illustrated bilingual treatment of topic in the form of a museum guide. Helps to have had some Chinese history.)

Truss, Lynne. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*, London, 2003. (The social phenomenon. More about typography than grammar. Takes the long

view, including breezy but well grounded mentions of Aldus Manutius.)

Wershler-Henry, Darren, *The Iron Whim: A Fragmented History of Typewriting*, Ithaca, 2007.
(Professor of communication studies sees in the typewriter an instrument of social control.)

Books and Culture, Books and Society

Barker, Nicholas, ed. *A Potencie of Life: Books in Society*, London, 1993. (Useful essays on a wide range of topics—bookbinding and paper-making to a new model for the history of the book. Title taken from Milton's *Areopagitica*.)

*Burman, Thomas E., *Reading the Qur'an in Latin Christendom, 1140-1560*, Chicago, 2007.
(Argues medieval learned Christians did not just attack the Qur'an, but rather engaged with it on a number of levels, including, surprisingly, its grammatical and stylistic problems.)

*Chartier, Roger, *The Order of books*, Palo Alto, 1994. (Short examination of the methods of classifying—and thereby conceptualizing—books in the European tradition, c. 1400-1800)

*Darnton, Robert, *The Literary Underground of the Old Regime*, Cambridge, MA, 1982
(Classic *Annales*-style social history of printing in pre-Revolutionary France)

*---. *The Forbidden Best Sellers of pre-Revolutionary France*, New York, 1995
(Another classic work of social history by a leading authority on 18th century France)

*Clanchy, M. T., *From Memory to Written Record: England 1066—1307*, London, 1979 / 1993
(Historical treatment of orality and writing during crucial period in English cultural history)

*Gilmartin, Kevin, *Print Politics: The Press & Radical Opposition in Early Nineteenth-Century England*, Cambridge, 1996 (Studies the radical movement for political reform in early 19th century Britain through its pamphleteering in the broader cultural context of the day.)

*Goldsmith, Elizabeth C. and Dena Goodman, *Going Public: Women and Publishing in Early Modern France*, Ithaca, 1995. (Explores the ways in which French women “went public” through publication; argues they contributed to the formation of the public sphere in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; examines memoirs, legal briefs, novels, poems, fairy tales.)

Hajdu, David, *The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How it Changed America*, New York, 2008. (Argues that the 1940s and 50s saw a crucial early form of the intergenerational cultural war in the comic book controversy of the time. Details mass burnings of the hated form.)

Hungerford, Amy, *The Holocaust of Texts: Genocide, Literature, and Personification*, Chicago, 2003. (Literary-theoretical refutation of the notion that books embody human traits in the context of 20th century Anglo-American history and literature. Bradbury, Plath, Derrida.)

Lerer, Seth, *Children's Literature: A Reader's History, from Aesop to Harry Potter*, Chicago, 2008.
(Stanford English professor reflects on children's literature.)

- *King, John N. *Foxe's Book of Martyrs and Early Modern Print Culture*. Cambridge, UK, 2006. (Detailed study of one of the most important English books of the sixteenth century, a Reformation polemic.)
- *Kuskin, William, *Symbolic Caxton: Literary Culture and Print Capitalism*, South Bend, 2008 (Situates both Caxton and introduction of printing in England in social, cultural and political context; argues fifteenth century crucial for understanding all later development in English literature.)
- *---, ed. *Caxton's Trace: Studies in the History of English Printing*, South Bend, 2006 (Collection of essays on Caxton)
- *Lowry, Martin. *The World of Aldus Manutius: Business and Scholarship in Renaissance Venice*, Ithaca, 1979. (Well-written examination of both idealistic and pragmatic dimensions of the early printing business in one of Europe's most important cultural centers)
- *---. *Nicholas Jenson and the Rise of Venetian Publishing*, Oxford, 1991. (Close examination of another foundational figure of early Renaissance printing)
- *Martin, Henri-Jean. *The French Book: Religion, Absolutism, and Readership, 1585-1715*, trans. P. & N. Saenger, Baltimore, 1996. (Printing and power in early modern France by a foundational historian in the field.)
- *Raven, James. *The Business of Books: Booksellers and the English Book Trade 1450-1850*, New Haven, 2007. (Four-hundred years of the English book trade.)
- *Robin, Diana. *Publishing Women: Salons, the Presses, and the Counter-Reformation in Sixteenth-Century Italy*, Chicago, 2007. (Investigates the role of women in the early years of Italian book production and acquisition in five different cities.)
- *Sherman, William H., *Used Books: Marking Readers in Renaissance England*, Chicago, 2007. (Proposes to replace notion of "reading" with a much broader concept of the "use" of books in the early modern era.)
- *Summit, Jennifer, *Memory's Library: Medieval Books in Early Modern England*, Chicago, 2008. (Argues that collecting of medieval manuscripts by early-modern bibliophiles in England shaped Western book culture.)
- *Watt, Tessa. *Cheap Print and Popular Piety 1550-1640*. Cambridge, UK, 1991. (Print history from the bottom up: the popular culture of the English Reformation—broadside ballads, and so on--in print.)
- Wilson, Ben, *The Laughter of Triumph: William Hone and the Fight for the Free Press*, London, 2005. (Biography of the most important satirical British journalist of the 19th C, tried on blasphemy charges in 1817. Gifted caricaturist but debt-ridden printer. Political panic in wake of Napoleonic victories and its effect on limiting political speech not without parallels to a certain other English-speaking country 200 years later.)
- Wright, Bradford W. *Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America*, Baltimore, 2003. (Examines major post-war cultural currents as reflected in comic books.)

Reading, sometimes as opposed to digital-age pursuits:

- Badia, Janet and Jennifer Phegley, eds. *Reading Women: Literary Figures and Cultural Icons from the Victorian Age to the Present*, Toronto, 2005. (Ten or so self-contained essays on various aspects of the theme announced in the title, women as readers of literature.)
- Bayard, Pierre. *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read* (orig. *Comment parler des livres que l'on n'a pas lus?*), Paris, 2007. (More substantive than title implies; French-style reflection on what it means to read fragmentarily, approximately; how we construct a public self through a wide range of relationships to the printed word. Intentionally provocative.)
- *Birkerts, Sven, *The Gutenberg Elegies*, New York, 1994. (Loosely connected essays by a preeminent critic; doom and gloom on reading and the literary book. A classic of the genre.)
- Bradbury, Ray, *Fahrenheit 451*, New York, 1953. (Classic novel about the lamentable rise of television-watching at the expense of literary reading, not censorship, according to recent correctives issued by author.)
- Bradshaw, Tom and Bonnie Nichols, *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, Washington, 2004. (National Endowment for the Arts policy paper that confirms Birkerts' hunches through statistics. Very prosaic; a survey report. Available on line.)
- *Brown, Matthew P. *The pilgrim and the bee : reading rituals and book culture in early New England*, Philadelphia, 2007. (American studies joins forces with history of the book.)
- *Coleman, Joyce, *Public Reading and the Reading Public in Late Medieval England and France*, Cambridge, 1996 (insightful exposition of the period-specific phenomenon of public reading out loud; scholarly audience)
- Hackel, Heidi Brayman, and Catherine E. Kelley, eds. *Reading Women: Literacy, Authorship, and Culture in the Atlantic World, 1500-1800*, Philadelphia, 2007. (A popular title and topic.)
- *Jackson, H. J., *Marginalia: Readers Writing in Books*, 2002, or *Romantic Readers: The Evidence of Marginalia*, New Haven, 2005 (A professor of English investigates the phenomenon of handwritten notations made in books over the past several hundred years. Surprisingly engaging. The more recent study is much more focused; ascribes meaning to the marginal notes that British readers made in two thousand books between 1790 and 1830.)
- Johnson, Steven, *Everything Bad is Good For You*, New York, 2005.
(Science writer argues provocatively in favor of the conceptual and esthetic complexity of products of electronic technology; subtitle is "How Today's Popular Culture Is Actually Making Us Smarter") (makes a good second book for comparison with the Birkerts book)
- Manguel, Alberto, *A History of Reading*, London, 1996. (Readable, general-public treatment of the topic over vast time and subject area.)

Pearson, Jacqueline, *Women's Reading in Britain, 1750-1835: A Dangerous Recreation*, Cambridge, UK, 1999. (Explores literary and social ramifications of a surge in the number of women reading; argues for considerable ambivalence towards this trend in these years.)

Radway, Janice A., *A Feeling for Books: The Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Taste, and Middle-Class Desire*, Chapel Hill, 1997. (Sociology of reading via the Book-of-the-Month Club.)

*Saenger, Paul, *Space Between Words: The Origins of Silent Reading*, Stanford, 1997. (Seeks to explain why word separation, absent from the classical world's written texts, came about in Europe after centuries of evolution and what social shifts are implied.)

*Slights, William W.E., *Managing Readers: Printed Marginalia in English Renaissance Books*, Ann Arbor, 2001 (self-explanatory)

Wolf, Maryann, *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*, New York, 2007. (Dyslexia researcher expounds on reading as a physiological process.)

Writing, Literacy:

*Gaur, Albertine, *Literacy and the Politics of Writing*, Bristol, UK, 2000. (study of the history of writing and literacy, treating language as a political system, over a period of millennia)

*Goody, Jack, *The Logic of Writing and the Organization of Society*, New York, 1986. (sociological perspective; treats non-Western [African] societies)

*---. *The Domestication of the Savage Mind* Cambridge (UK), 1987. (A classic on oral versus written culture.)

*---. *The power of the written tradition*, Washington, 2000.

*Martin, Henri-Jean. *The History and Power of Writing*. Translated by Lydia G. Cochrane. Chicago, 1994. (Broad overview of an important topic.)

Pre-print or pre-writing:

*Carruthers, Mary, *The Book of Memory: A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture*, Cambridge (UK), 1990. (Important study of an important topic in the rhetorical tradition.)

*Diringer, David. *The book before printing : ancient, medieval, and oriental*, London 1953 & New York 1982. (Self-explanatory; lengthy and complete but accessible.)

Foys, Martin K., *Virtually Anglo-Saxon: Old Media, New Media, and Early Medieval Studies in the*

Late Age of Print, Gainesville, 2007. (Argues for unsuspected parallels between medieval manuscript reading conventions and post-print electronic textuality.)

- *Lord, Alfred R. *The Singer of Tales*, Cambridge (MA), 1960. (Classic treatment of the question of oral composition and performance of epic poetry)
- *Ong, Walter J., *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*, London, 1982. (Classic study of the topic; a must-read for anyone with interests in oral tradition)
- *Parkes, Malcolm, *Scribes, Scripts and Readers: Studies in Communication, Presentation and Dissemination of Medieval Texts*, London, 1991. (Fifteen essays on scribes and scribal techniques in light of larger issues of literacy and written communication.)
- *Tsien, Tsuen-Hsuei, *Written on Bamboo and Silk: The Beginnings of Chinese Books and Inscriptions*, Chicago, 1962 and 2004. (Comprehensive treatment of all aspects of the development of the book in pre-modern China—calligraphy, paper, printing, etc.)
- *Yates, Frances A., *The Art of Memory*, Chicago, 1966. (Classic investigation of the system of information storage that the written book displaced)

Post-print:

- Baker, Nicholson, *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper*, New York 2001
(Argues for rigorous conservation of the supposedly ephemeral daily newspaper by librarians)
- Jacoby, Susan, *The Age of American Unreason*, New York, 2008 (Another jeremiad about people getting stupider by the day, thanks to TV and the internet. Cf. Postman, below.)
- Lanham, Richard, *The Electronic Word: Democracy, Technology, and the Arts*, Chicago, 1993.
(Early [pre-WWW] investigation into effect of digitization on learning and culture)
- . *The Economics of Attention: Style and Substance in the Age of Information*, Chicago, 2007.
(Wide-ranging study that treats textuality pre- and post-electronic revolution)
- O’Gorman, Marcel, *E-Crit: Digital Media, Critical Theory, and the Humanities*, Toronto, 2006.
(Post-print digital culture will save the North American university; it’s time to adapt)
- Postman, Neil, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, New York, 1985. (Lauds print, denounces televisual culture; makes a good pairing with Johnson)
- Shillingsburg, Peter. *From Gutenberg to Google: Electronic Representations of Literary Texts* Cambridge, 2006. (Explores implications of shift from print to electronic form for storage and reading of literary works.)
- Stoicheff, Peter and Andrew Taylor, eds., *The Future of the Page*, Toronto, 2004.
(Collection of essays on the history and future of page layout; you may select a subset of essays to review.)
- Winston, Brian, *Media Technology & Society: A History from the Telegraph to the Internet*, London, 1998. (Challenges the idea of “information revolution” in considering relationship between society and technological innovation)

Young, Sherman, *The Book is Dead (Long Live the Book)*, Sydney, Australia, 2007. (Argues for restoration of book, in electronic form, to center of public sphere.)

Libraries:

*Battles, Matthew, *Library: An Unquiet History*, New York, 2004. (Rare-book librarian at Harvard chronicles the rise and success of the idea of the library over millennia on various continents. General readership rather than scholarly treatment.)

*Petroski, Henry, *The Book on the Bookshelf*, New York, 1999. (An engineer looks at why books came to be shelved and stored the way they are; forthright and interesting. More recent investigation by this author: the cultural history of the toothpick [!])

*Polastron, Lucien X. *Books on Fire: The Destruction of Libraries Throughout History*, 2007. French Historian of Arabic and Chinese surveys topic announced in title.

Materiality (production and reproduction), Ownership, Attribution, Control:

Anderson, Donald M., *The Art of Written Forms: The Theory and Practice of Calligraphy*, New York, 1969 and 1992 (latter edition entitled merely *Calligraphy: The Art of Written Forms*) (covers millennia and many cultures, including some non-Western)

*Bloom, Jonathan M. *Paper Before Print: The History and Impact of Paper in the Islamic World*, New Haven, 2001.

Fawcett-Tang, Roger, ed. *New Book Design*, London, 2004. (Graphic design concerns combined with vaguely marketing-oriented approach in treatment of topic announced by title.)

*Minnis, A. J. *The Medieval Theory of Authorship*, Toronto, 1984. (an ancillary but important issue to history-of-the-book considerations)

*Raz-Krakotzkin, Amnon, *The Censor, the Editor, and the Text: The Catholic Church and the Shaping of the Jewish Canon in the Sixteenth Century*, trans. Jackie Feldman, Chicago, 2007 (Jewish publishing and reading practices in sixteenth-century Europe as influenced by Christian censorship.)

Rhodes, Barbara, and William Wells Streeter, *Before Photocopying: The Art and History of Mechanical Copying*, Northampton, 1999 (Surprisingly engaging treatment of the social and mechanical dimensions of book copying)

*Rose, Mark, *Authors and Owners, The Invention of Copyright*, Cambridge (MA), 1993. (Engaging treatment of the issue in its 17th-century context)

Schiffirin, André, *The Business of Books: How the International Conglomerates Took Over Publishing and Changed the Way We Read*, London, 2000. (Title says it all; policy wonks will enjoy. Author is the son of French WWII émigré parents to New York; socialist activist and founder of several non-commercial publishing houses.)