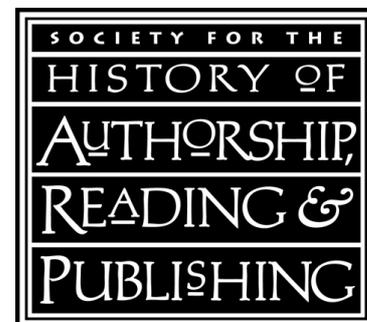


# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Ian Gadd, SHARP President



Welcome to Antwerp and the 22<sup>nd</sup> SHARP Conference, 'Religions of the Book'!

As many of you will know, a regular feature of our annual conference is the Annual General Meeting, which this year will take place on **Saturday 20 September at 12pm**. Everyone is welcome. The AGM is a formal requirement of our constitution, at which the officers of the Society report to the membership at large, but it is also an opportunity for you to ask questions or to promote your own event or project.

To help with the AGM's proceedings, we produce an annual report that gives a brief overview of the Society's activities since our last annual conference. More detailed, individual reports are available on request from myself or my colleagues.

## SHARP'S STRUCTURE

SHARP is made up of an **Executive Council** of nine elected officers, a **Board of Directors**, various appointees (most obviously the editors of *Book History* and *SHARP News*, but also the various review editors, the moderator of SHARP-L, the Book Prize judges, members of the Nominating Committee, and so on), as well as of course the membership as a whole. There are no paid positions, so we are very grateful to all those members who volunteer their time to support the Society and its activities.

If you would like to be more involved in SHARP, please do approach any one of the Executive Council officers.

The next election for positions on the Executive Council and the Board of Directors will be held at next year's conference. If you wish to stand, please contact Carole Gerson, chair of the Nominating Committee: [gerson@sfu.ca](mailto:gerson@sfu.ca)

## PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Ian Gadd and Sydney Shep are pleased to report that the Society continues to flourish, and that we are in the fortunate position of being able to support a wide range of activities and projects. These include:

*Scholarships* We continue to sponsor SHARP scholarships at the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, the California Rare Book School, and the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at Victoria University in British Columbia—so far, we have awarded twenty scholarships. We are also funding a Rare Book School scholarship at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

*Translations* We are delighted to announce the first fruits of our translations project, whose purpose is to make key works of scholarship in the history of the book more widely known. Selected articles in Hebrew, Spanish, Japanese, French, and Chinese have now been translated into English and published on the SHARP website. We are grateful to the Translations Committee and especially the chair, Susan Pickford, who will speak about the project at the AGM and is also chairing a panel on translation during the conference.

*Book History Online* SHARP continues to work with Andrew Pettegree and his colleagues at the University of St Andrews, and the publisher, Brill, as they redevelop this valuable online bibliography, which was formerly based at the Royal Library of the Netherlands.

*Moving on* We'd like to thank the following members who have stepped down from various official roles for all their hard work: Ezra Greenspan, editor of *Book History*; Patrick Leary, moderator of SHARP-L; Meraud Ferguson Hand, *SHARP News* bibliographer; Kathy Harris, *SHARP News* e-resources reviews editor; Millie Jackson, *SHARP News* North American books review editor

*Futures* Last year, we began a process of reflecting on our ambitions and activities as an organisation, and we circulated a short 'manifesto' to all the members earlier this year for comment. We are now revising this document, with a view to using it to identify our priorities for the coming years.

*president@sharpweb.org*  
*vp@sharpweb.org*

## **FINANCES**

**Jim Wald** confirms that we are in robust financial health. Membership dues and royalties from *Book History* provided us with over \$48,000 since last July, of which we have spent almost \$34,000. That expenditure included regular items such as the Book Prize, the maintenance of the website, professional affiliations, and the production, printing, and distribution of *SHARP News*; we also supported SHARP members through scholarships, and SHARP activities across the world through our society and regional liaisons. We currently have over \$240,000 in the bank, and among our priorities for 2014–15 is the establishment of an endowment for the Society.

Membership fees are collected by Johns Hopkins University Press, who deduct a fee for their services and also deduct their costs for the publication of *Book History*, before passing the balance on to us. The Conference Grants that we award every year are funded by a surcharge on all the registration fees collected at the previous annual conference; apart from these grants, each conference is self-contained and managed by the sponsoring institution.

A full financial report is available from Jim Wald upon request.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Eleanor Shevlin** reports that, for 2013–14, our membership stood at just over 1100, a slight increase from the previous year. About 80% are individual members, 15% are students or independent scholars, with the remainder being institutions such as libraries. Members come from over forty different countries: 60% are based in the US, with Canada, the UK, and the rest of Europe each contributing about 10%; we also have healthy numbers in Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Johns Hopkins University Press has improved our online directory to enable easier searching for other scholars working on similar topics, periods, or regions, and will shortly be implementing a more sophisticated system for recording our own research interests. We have also expanded the range of benefits for members.

*members@sharpweb.org*

## **SOCIETY AND REGIONAL LIAISONS**

**Eleanor** also manages about two dozen liaisons with affiliated societies in various disciplines and interdisciplinary groupings, many of which host SHARP- sponsored panels. These include major North American scholarly organisations such as MLA, AHA, and ASECS. The work of liaison officers is vitally important to increasing SHARP's reach beyond our own annual and focused conferences. Often they can propose a SHARP- sponsored panel to be held in the context of a larger conference; they also circulate brochures and sometimes host receptions to bring SHARP to the attention of scholars who were previously unaware of our activities.

**Simon Frost** oversees a host of regional liaisons based in over twenty different countries. These liaisons do everything from supplying brochures and other promotional material for local events to mounting full-fledged focused conferences with the SHARP stamp of approval. In the past year, we have supported events in Argentina, Puerto Rico, Australia, Spain, Ireland, and Finland.

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## CONFERENCES

**Bertrum MacDonald** acts as our primary liaison for SHARP's annual and focused conferences. Last year, that included the annual conference in Philadelphia, and focused conferences in Le Mans and Rio de Janeiro. Next year, our annual conference will be held in Montréal, Canada, hosted by l'Université de Sherbrooke, McGill University, and the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec; there will also be a focused conference in Monterrey, Mexico. Fuller details of both will be announced at the AGM. We will also formally confirm Paris as the venue for our 2016 conference. In addition, we are already in discussion with potential hosts for the annual conferences in 2017 and 2018, and are exploring the possibility of a focused conference in the US. If you are interested in hosting either a focused or annual conference, or have ideas about where we might take a future SHARP conference, please contact Bertrum.

We have implemented two major changes to how we support conference planning and organisation. We are currently converting our old paper-based conference manual into an interactive online resource, which should be available later this year, and we are very grateful to Lee Wilson for all his help with this.

As most of you will know, it has been our regular practice to submit paper and panel proposals for the annual SHARP conferences using an online system. This is something that conference organisers themselves have always had to organise. However, from next year SHARP itself will be providing the online system for receiving and reviewing proposals for the annual conferences. Each conference will still appoint its own programme committee to select proposals and draw up the programme, but our hosting of this system will enable members to retain the same log-in details year-on-year and will allow us to maintain an archive of proposals.

Finally, SHARP is an Affiliated International Organisation of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, and accordingly we have organised panels for its five-yearly conference, which will take place next August in Jinan, China.

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## PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

**Claire Squires** oversees our two regular publications—*Book History* and *SHARP News*—and also the George A. & Jean S. DeLong Book History Prize.

Ezra Greenspan, one of the two founding editors of *Book History*, has now stepped down, and we have appointed two new editors, Greg Barnhisel and Beth Le Roux, to join Jonathan Rose. We are very grateful to Fiona Black, Jason Ensor, Abhijit Gupta, Barbara Hochman, Miha Kovač, and Robert Patten who assisted Claire with the selection. We have also moved to an online editorial management system which will allow us to keep track of article submissions more effectively.

*SHARP News* continues to appear quarterly with its digest of reviews and reports. We are developing a digital version to enable it to become more timely and more responsive to members' needs. The editor, Sydney Shep, is to step down so we are looking for someone to guide the newsletter through this period of transition.

Helen Smith's *Grossly Material Things: Women and Book Production in Early Modern England* (2012) won the DeLong Prize last year. This year, the judges—Daniel Traister, Marie-Françoise Cachin and Kirsti Salmi-Niklander—have considered over fifty books, and the winner will be announced at the AGM.

The *Book History* editors award a prize for the best graduate student essay: last year, this was won by Brigitte Beck Pristed for her article 'Glasnost Noire: The Soviet and Post-Soviet Publication and Reception of James Hadley Chase'. This year's winner will also be announced at the AGM.

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#### **ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

**Jason Ensor** manages our digital activity, most obviously the website, but he is also ultimately responsible for SHARP-L and SHARP's various social media accounts. He has been closely involved in developing the conference resources site with Lee Wilson and Bertrum MacDonald, and the implementing of the online conference proposal system that we will be using for all future annual conferences. He is also currently preparing a major redesign of the website to make it more accessible on mobile devices and easier for us to keep it updated.

SHARP-L is one of the oldest scholarly listservs, and has been heroically managed by Patrick Leary since the early 1990s. Patrick is now stepping down, and we are assembling a small team of moderators. Please contact Jason if you're interested.

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#### **ARCHIVES AND RECORD-KEEPING**

**Corinna Norrick-Rühl** is the Society's Recording Secretary which makes her probably the busiest person at the conference after the conference organisers. She has also been working with Jim Kelly at the University of Massachusetts to develop an archival policy for all SHARP's activities, and we have recently signed a formal Deed of Gift to that effect. She manages all the Executive Council communication and documents, as well as our LinkedIn account.

*secretary@sharpweb.org*

## **AGM Agenda**

- Welcome *Ian Gadd*
- Brief remarks on officers' reports
- Acknowledgement of SHARP and Delmas Travel Grants recipients
- Announcement of SHARP Prizes
  - *Book History* Essay Prize  
*Greg Barnhisel, Beth Le Roux, Jonathan Rose*
  - George A. and Jean S. DeLong SHARP Book History Prize  
*Claire Squires*
  - #sharp14 twitter prize *Jason Ensor*
- Report by the Translations Committee *Susan Pickford*
- Announcement of Elections 2015 *Carole Gerson*
- Announcements of forthcoming SHARP conferences
  - Focused Conference, Monterrey, March 2015  
*Blanca Lopez, Marina Garone*
  - Annual conference, Montréal, July 2015  
*Josée Vincent, Eli MacLaren, Joanie Grenier*
- Members' announcements