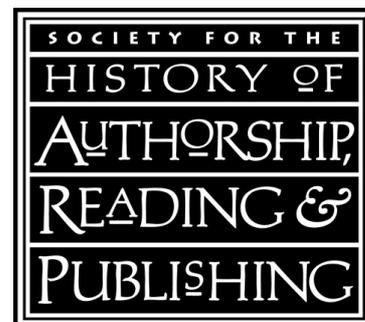


ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Ian Gadd, SHARP President



Welcome to Montreal and the 23rd SHARP Conference, 'Générations et régénérations du livre / The Generation and Regeneration of Books'!

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 **Friday 10 July at 12.30pm**. 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 Conference Officer (see below), 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.

This year is an election year, and we are grateful to the Nominations Committee (**Carole Gerson, James Raven, and Leslie Howsam**) for managing the nomination and election process for us. None of the Executive Council positions were contested, and so all the officers will continue in post for a further two years. The only exception is **Bertrum MacDonald** who has been appointed to the temporary, non-voting role of Conference Officer as he was no longer eligible to continue as Member-at-Large. **Martyn Lyons** joins the Council as the new Member-at-Large, with a particular focus on our international activities.

The following Board members will be stepping down at the AGM—**Robert Cagna, Ellen Gruber Garvey, Alistair McCleery, Bob Owens, Gail Shivel, and Paul Wright**—and we thank them for their support and counsel over the past eight years. We welcome **Marija Dalbello, Danielle Fuller, Alan Galey, Adam Hooks, Bonnie Mak, Susan Pickford, Goran Proot, and Nelson Schapochnik** as new members of the Board.

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 Over the past year, we sponsored SHARP scholarships at the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, the California Rare Book School, the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at Victoria University in British Columbia, and the Rare Book School at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. To improve our support for such scholarships, we have recently introduced a new competitive

scheme: organisations apply to us for three years' worth of scholarship funding. We hope to announce the successful applicants at the AGM.

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. There will be an announcement about BHO's future at the AGM.

Moving on We'd like to thank the following members who have stepped down from various official roles for all their hard work: **Carole Gerson**, chair of the Nominations Committee; **James Raven**, member of the Nominations Committee; **Dan Traister**, chair of the George A. & Jean S. DeLong Book History Prize committee.

Administration As SHARP's activities continue to expand, we are looking to appoint a part-time graduate assistant to help up with day-to-day administration.

Constitutional change We are proposing some alterations to our constitution, primarily the creation of a new Conference Officer position but also some minor revisions. These will need the approval of the membership, and more details will be circulated later this year.

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FINANCES

Jim Wald confirms that we are in robust financial health. Membership dues and royalties from *Book History* continue to provide us with over \$40,000 per year, enabling us to support the book prize and graduate essay prize, the maintenance of the website, professional affiliations, and the production of *SHARP News*; we also support SHARP members through scholarships, and SHARP activities across the world through our society and regional liaisons.

Membership fees—which have not increased for well over a decade—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 hosting institution(s).

Following on from discussion at last year's Executive Council and Board meetings, we intend to establish an endowment for the Society. A specially appointed Finance Committee will manage our investments, and the aim is to generate a reasonable annual return to support the Society's operating costs, thus freeing up more money for supporting members and their activities.

A full financial report is available from Jim upon request.

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MEMBERSHIP

Eleanor Shevlin reports that, for 2014–15, our membership stood at just under 1000. 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, the Netherlands, and Norway.

Johns Hopkins University Press has improved our online directory, enabling members to record our individual research interests much more extensively. We have also expanded the range of benefits for members.

members@sharpweb.org

SOCIETY AND REGIONAL LIAISONS

Eleanor also manages liaisons with 23 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, ASA, 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 25 regional liaison officers representing 23 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 New Zealand, Canada, Puerto Rico, Spain, Italy, and India. Simon is also leading our plan to host our first 24-hour online 'conference' next May.

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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 Antwerp, and a focused conferences in Monterrey, Mexico. Next year's annual conference will be held at the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris, from 18 to 21 July. A call-for-papers is included in your conference pack, and fuller details will be announced at the AGM. We will also formally confirm at the AGM our venue for the 2017 conference, and we are already in discussion with potential hosts for the annual conferences in 2018 and 2019. 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.

With the help of **Lee Wilson**, we have continued to convert our old paper-based conference manual into an interactive online resource; this should be available before the end of 2015. We also now host and manage the online system for receiving and reviewing proposals for the annual conferences.

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 this August in Jinan, China. Our delegation will be led by **Sydney Shep**, **Leslie Howsam**, **Martyn Lyons**, and **Jean-Yves Mollier**.

conferences@sharpweb.org

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.

Greg Barnhisel and **Beth Le Roux** have completed their first full year as editors of *Book History*, alongside founding editor **Jonathan Rose**. The *Book History* editors award a prize for the best graduate student essay: last year, this was won by **Albert A. Palacios** for his article "Preventing 'Heresy': Censorship and Privilege in Mexican Publishing, 1590–1612". This year's winner will be announced at the AGM.

SHARP News continues to appear quarterly with its digest of reviews and reports, but is now only issued electronically, which allows for more content and quicker distribution. **Sydney Shep** is stepping down as editor after twelve years, and will be succeeded by **Padmini Ray Murray**.

David McKitterick's *Old Books, New Technologies. The Representation, Conservation and Transformation of Books since 1700* (2013) won the DeLong Prize last year. This year's winner—as selected by **Marie-Françoise Cachin, Kirsti Salmi-Niklander, Helen Smith, and Janine Barchas**—will be announced at the AGM.

publications@sharpweb.org

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. This year he implemented a full redesign and restructuring of our website, which allows for more effective integration with Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and so on, improves its accessibility for mobile devices, and also makes it easier to update.

SHARP-L is one of the oldest scholarly listservs, and has been heroically managed by Patrick Leary since the early 1990s. Patrick is stepping down, and we are assembling a small team of moderators. More details will be supplied at the AGM.

webmaster@sharpweb.org

ARCHIVES AND RECORD-KEEPING

Corinna Norrick-Rühl is the Society's Recording Secretary, responsible for all record-keeping and management. She continues to work with our archivist, Jim Kelly, to maintain and organise our archive at the University of Massachusetts. She manages the Executive Council's communication and documents, as well as our LinkedIn account. In November, she also gave birth to a son, **Anton Maximilian**.

secretary@sharpweb.org

AGM Agenda

- Welcome *Ian Gadd*
- Brief remarks on officers' reports *Ian Gadd*
- Announcement of Elections 2015 *Carole Gerson*
- Acknowledgement of Travel Grants recipients *Ian Gadd*
- Announcement of SHARP Prizes
 - George A. and Jean S. DeLong SHARP Book History Prize *Marie-Françoise Cachin*
 - #sharp15 twitter prize *Ian Gadd*
 - *Book History* Essay Prize
Greg Barnhisel, Beth Le Roux, Jonathan Rose
- Commendations *Ian Gadd*
- Book History Online *Arjan van Dijk*
- Announcements of forthcoming SHARP conferences
 - Annual conference, Paris, July 2017
Claire Parfait and colleagues
- Members' announcements