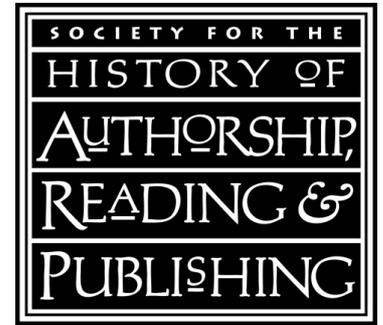


# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

*Ian Gadd, SHARP President*



Welcome to Paris and the 24<sup>th</sup> SHARP Conference, ‘Languages of the Book / Les langues du livre’! In particular, I’d like to welcome those of you for whom this is your first SHARP conference—and express my gratitude to the many first-time speakers who will have joined the Society as a result. I hope you will seek out myself and my fellow officers to let us know how we’re doing as an organisation. (I realise the expectation to join SHARP as a speaker may have been surprise—although it is common practice among many scholarly societies that host annual conferences—so I hope that you will find your membership to be a useful and interesting experience.)

A regular feature of our annual conference is the **Annual General Meeting**, which this year will take place on **Thursday 21 July at 1.45pm**. Everyone is welcome. The AGM is a formal requirement of our constitution, at which the Executive Council 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 & CONSTITUTION

SHARP is made up of an **Executive Council** of elected officers, a **Board of Directors**, various appointees (most obviously the editors of *Book History* and *SHARP News*, but also the Conference Officer, 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. As always 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. All of us, except Simon Frost, will be in attendance.

No elections this year; instead, we took the opportunity to review and propose revisions to our Constitution. These revisions were put to the membership for consultation and then a vote; we will announce the results at the AGM on Thursday. I am very grateful to **Leslie Howsam** for overseeing this process.

## 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.

We are delighted to announce that SHARP has been recently accepted as the 74<sup>th</sup> member of the American Council of Learned Societies. This recognises and enhances our scholarly profile, reflects our maturity as an organisation, and gives us an invaluable opportunity to learn from, and work with, other scholarly organisations from across the humanities and social sciences. SHARP is the youngest member, by over a decade—a testament to our achievements over the past 25 years.

At last year’s conference, we announced a major initiative to fund 3-years’ worth of scholarships, known as New Scholar Bursaries, 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, London Rare Book School, the Institut d’Histoire du Livre in Lyon, the Australasian Rare Book School, and the Texas A&M University’s Book History Workshop. These scholarships form a

crucial part of SHARP's outreach programme. The recipients of these scholarships can be found on our website.

We appointed our first Executive Assistant, **Vincent Trott**, to help us as SHARP's activities continue to expand.

Finally, we'd like to thank **Kirsti Salmi-Niklander**, chair of the DeLong Book History Prize committee, who is stepping down after several years of service.

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

## FINANCES

**Jim Wald** confirms that we continue to be in robust financial health. Membership dues and royalties provide us with over \$50,000 per year, enabling us to support the book prize and graduate essay prize, the maintenance of the website and other digital resources, professional affiliations, and the production of *SHARP News*; we also support members through scholarships, and activities across the world through our society and regional liaisons. Our assets have grown by 15%, and our goal in the coming year is to establish an endowment, to be managed by a specially appointed Finance Committee. A full financial report is available from Jim upon request.

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 hosting institution(s).

*treasurer@sharpweb.org*

## MEMBERSHIP

**Eleanor Shevlin** reports that, for 2015–16, our membership stood at a whisker under 1000. About 80% were individual 'full' members, 17% were students or independent scholars, with the remainder being institutions such as libraries. Members came from over forty different countries: 60% were based in the US and 15% in Canada, with the UK and the rest of Europe contributing about 10% respectively; we had healthy numbers in Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, and the Netherlands. We also welcomed our first members from Taiwan and the UAE.

Membership dues have not risen since 2004 (except in 2012 when the rate for non-US/Canadian members was *reduced* to harmonise the membership rates as a whole). For the past several years, however, we have been looking to establish differential membership rates that better reflected SHARP's growing international membership, and we hope to make an announcement about this at the AGM.

We are also very grateful for the generosity of the 6% of members who are Supporting and Sustaining Members as well as the several dozen each year who include a contribution along with their dues.

*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 29 regional liaison officers representing 27 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. Over the past year, we have supported events in Canada, Brazil, Lithuania, Germany, and Taiwan.

We are saddened to report the death of our liaison for Peru, Professor Teodoro Hampe-Martinez.

*liaisons@sharpweb.org & transnational@sharpweb.org*

### MEMBER-AT-LARGE

**Martyn Lyons** oversees the development of our internationalisation strategy, paying particular attention to issues of language support and regional engagement. He is also closely involved with the work of our Translations Committee, chaired by **Susan Pickford**. Two ‘issues’ of translated articles can be found on our website.

*atlarge@sharpweb.org*

### CONFERENCES

**Bertrum MacDonald** acts as our primary liaison for SHARP’s annual and focused conferences. Last year’s annual conference was held in Montreal; next year will see us return to Canada, to the **University of Victoria in British Columbia from 9 to 13 June**—a call for papers is included in your conference pack. In June 2018, we will travel to Sydney, Australia, and we are already in discussion with possible hosts for 2019 and 2020.

Every registration fee at an annual conference includes a surcharge (\$35 from 2017) that goes directly to support conference attendance for PhD students, early career researchers, independent scholars, and academics from countries with developing economies. For the annual conference in Australia in 2018, we are planning to increase significantly the amount available for these conference grants.

We also run ‘focused’ conferences: typically smaller conferences that either focus on a new area of interest to book historians or take place in countries where book history is an emerging field. Our last focused conference was in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2015, and we are delighted to report that it has resulted in a publication: *Print Culture through the Ages: Essays on Latin American Book History* edited by Blanca López de Mariscal, Donna M. Kabalen de Bichara, and Paloma Vargas Montes (2016). Future focused conferences are being considered by organizations in Europe, the United States, and Australia.

If you are interested in hosting either a focused or annual conference, or have ideas about where we might take a future conference, please contact Bertrum.

With the help of **Lee Wilson**, we have almost completed an interactive online resource designed to help support the organisers of all future SHARP conferences.

*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.

Our *Book History* editors, **Greg Barnhisel**, **Beth Le Roux**, and **Jonathan Rose** award an annual prize for the best graduate student essay: last year, this was won by **Elizabeth Della Zazzera** for her article ‘Translating Revolutionary Time: French Republican Almanacs in the United States’. This year’s winner will be announced at the AGM.

We are also considering plans to pilot an online platform to host, initially, supplemental materials related to *Book History* articles.

*SHARP News*, edited by **Padmini Ray Murray**, continues to appear quarterly with its digest of reviews and reports. It is only published in electronic form.

Two books won last year’s DeLong Prize: **Daniel Wakelin**’s *Scribal Correction and Literary Craft: English Manuscripts 1375-1510* (2014) and **Paula Rabinowitz**’s *American Pulp: How Paperbacks brought Modernism to Main*

*Street* (2014). This year's winner—as selected by **Kirsti Salmi-Niklander, Helen Smith, Janine Barchas, and Fritz Levy**—will be announced at the AGM.

*publications@sharpweb.org*

#### **ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

**Jason Ensor** manages our digital activity, most obviously the website and our online conference proposal system but he is also ultimately responsible for SHARP-L and SHARP's various social media accounts. He has run the 2016 conference website and has also prepared an interactive online resource listing all the conference abstracts. He is working with Padmini to develop an interactive online platform for *SHARP News*, and with Greg to support a related platform for *Book History*.

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 also works 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. This year, she has been responsible for preparing our first Policy Manual.

*secretary@sharpweb.org*

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WITH RETIREMENT DATES)**

**Kevin Absillis**, 2019; **Anne Coldiron**, 2021; **Marija Dalbello**, 2023; Evelyn Ellerman, 2017; Mike Everton, 2021; **Danielle Fuller**, 2023; Alan Galey, 2023; Adam Hooks, 2023; **Lisa Kuitert**, 2017; **Martyn Lyons**, 2021; **Bonnie Mak**, 2023; **Ruth Panofsky**, 2021; **Susan Pickford**, 2023; **Goran Proot**, 2023; **Shel Rogers**, 2019; **Nelson Schapochnik**, 2023; **Sydney Shep**, 2017; **Alexis Weedon**, 2017; George H. Williams, 2019. [*Conference attendees in bold.*]

## **AGM Agenda**

- Welcome & brief remarks on officers' reports *Ian Gadd*
- Announcement of Constitutional Vote *Leslie Howsam*
- Acknowledgement of Travel Grants recipients *Ian Gadd*
- Announcement of SHARP Prizes
  - George A. and Jean S. DeLong SHARP Book History Prize *Kirsti Salmi-Niklander*
  - #sharp16 twitter prize *Ian Gadd*
  - *Book History* Essay Prize  
*Greg Barnhisel, Beth Le Roux, Jonathan Rose*
- Announcements of forthcoming SHARP conferences
  - Annual conference, University of Victoria, Canada, June 2017 *Ray Siemens, Alyssa Arbuckle & colleagues*
- Members' announcements