



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

A warm, Pacific welcome from Sydney, Australia and the 26<sup>th</sup> SHARP Conference, “From First to Last Texts. Creators, Readers, Agents.” We acknowledge and pay our respects to the first peoples of this land upon which we stand, their elders past present and to come, and the space they have so graciously shared with us. Their guardianship and care shape our coming together and energize us now and for the future. We also acknowledge our hosts, our sponsors, and all of you who have travelled from far or near to made this event the highlight of our calendar year. Whether this is your first SHARP conference or you are a seasoned SHARPist/e/a, we extend a special invitation to everyone of you to participate fully in the life and activities of our Society. This Annual Report provides a brief overview of the Society’s activities since our last annual conference and furnishes a backdrop for our **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **Thursday 12 July at 4pm**. All are welcome. In addition to updates from our various committee meetings held throughout the conference, the announcement of our prizewinners, and a sneak preview of what to expect at next year’s conference, we encourage questions, discussion, and future-focused thinking as we move into our next 25 years of dynamic scholarship and collegiality. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Executive Council for more detailed information. And, do consider joining our network of over ninety-nine volunteers; individually and collectively, they make SHARP the vibrant organization it is today.

Sydney J. Shep, President, SHARP  
*president@sharpweb.org*

## AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome from the President *Sydney Shep*
2. The SHARP Year in Review 2017-2018 *Sydney Shep*
3. Celebrating our winners
  - a. Travel grant recipients *Jason Ensor & Helen Bones*
  - b. George A. & Jean S. DeLong SHARP Book History Prize *Claire Squires*
  - c. *Book History* Essay Prize *Greg Barnhisel, Beth LeRoux, Jonathan Rose*
  - d. #SHARP18 Twitter Prize *Ian Gadd*
4. Update on Executive Council business
  - a. Constitutional Amendments *Shef Rogers*
  - b. 2019 Elections *Leslie Howsam*
  - c. SHARP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research Fellowship *Shef Rogers*
5. Conference Alert
  - a. CISH 2020, Poznań, Poland *Leslie Howsam & Martyn Lyons*
  - b. SHARP Amherst 2019 *Jim Wald*
6. Members' Announcements *open mic*
7. Closing Remarks *Sydney Shep*

## THE SHARP YEAR in REVIEW 2017-2018

### ***PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT***

**Sydney Shep & Shef Rogers** are delighted to report that SHARP continues to prosper and is well-placed to support a wide range of activities: local, regional, transnational and global. With a healthy asset base, we can also plan for a sustainable future, guided both by our members and the shared community of scholarly organisations comprising the American Council of Learned Societies, whom we joined in 2016. As we round out our silver celebrations, we proudly announce the SHARP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research Fellowship, made possible by your generosity throughout our year-long fundraising campaign.

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

### ***FINANCES***

Treasurer **Jim Wald** confirms that we continue to be in good financial health. Membership dues and royalties provide us with just under \$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 our various publications; we also support members via scholarships and activities facilitated through our society and regional liaisons. 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 Travel 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 host institution(s). A full financial report is available from Jim upon request.

*treasurer@sharpweb.org*

### **MEMBERSHIP**

As of 1 January 2018, SHARP aligned its membership year with our financial year, introduced an OECD-indexed tier structure and simplified our sustaining category. The combination of an additional six months free membership and copies of *Book History* for those who joined after 1 July 2016 and received the automatic extension to 31 December 2017 meant a one-off expenditure, billed in 2018. Our Membership Secretary, **Eleanor Shevlin**, reports that it is too early to gauge the overall effect, but she is confident that we are on target for both increased revenue and membership numbers despite fluctuations due to the annual conference venue. As she notes, “that we have 832 members before the end of the halfway mark of our cycle is highly encouraging, especially since this year also marked an increase in membership rates. Overall, we are headed toward attaining 1,000 to 1,100 by the completion of the 2018 cycle.” Members come from forty different countries: 58% based in the US and 18% in Canada, with the UK and the rest of Europe contributing about 10% respectively; we have healthy numbers in Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, and the Netherlands and we continue to have a presence in Taiwan, Brazil, India, Israel, and China. Our sustaining members base is growing. We are grateful for their support and to all those who contributed to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign through their donations at the time of membership renewal.

*members@sharpweb.org*

### **SOCIETY & REGIONAL LIAISONS**

**Eleanor** also manages liaisons with 23 affiliated societies in various disciplines and interdisciplinary groupings, many of whom 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. Our Director of Transnational Affairs, **Simon Frost**, oversees 29 regional liaison officers representing 27 different countries. Their reports, dating back to 2012, are now available in the members-only section of our website. These liaisons do everything from supplying brochures and other promotional material for local events to mounting fully-fledged, SHARP-branded focused conferences. Highlights of the year have been events in Singapore, Lithuania, Argentina, and Finland.

*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, translation, and regional engagement. He also represents SHARP at CISH/ICHS [International Committee for the Historical Sciences] and, along with Past-President **Leslie Howsam**, is coordinating panels at the next Congress in Poznań, Poland, 23-29 August 2020. The theme of Publishing History / Éditer l'histoire has been accepted for the main programme and SHARP's one-day-and-a-half colloquium held during the Congress will consist of three panels: Histories of Reading and Writing, What is a bestseller?, and Digital Humanities and the History of the Book. Martyn has also been involved in the editing of selected papers from the previous 2015 CISH conference in Jinan, thus demonstrating the value of our continued participation in this so-called five-yearly 'History Olympics.'

*atlarge@sharpweb.org*

### **CONFERENCES**

Our new Director of Conferences, **Josée Vincent**, known to many as the co-organiser of SHARP 2015 in Montréal, is our primary liaison for SHARP's annual and focused conferences. Last year's annual conference was held in Victoria, Canada in tandem with the Digital Humanities Summer Institute. The 2018 conference in Sydney, Australia marks the first time SHARP has traveled outside North America and Europe. In 2019, we will return to the USA (Amherst, MA). Amsterdam is hosting us in 2020. Every registration fee at an annual conference includes a surcharge (\$35) that directly supports conference attendance for PhD students, early career researchers, independent scholars, and academics from countries with developing economies. Focused conferences are 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. 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 **Josée**. Her work is supported by an interactive online resource designed to help organisers of all future SHARP conferences through the process.

*conferences@sharpweb.org*

### **PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS**

Director **Claire Squires**, oversees our publications portfolio as well as our various awards. *Book History* and its tie-in digital presence, *Book History Unbound*, the online *Lingua Franca*. *The History of the Book in Translation*, *SHARP News* and *SHARP-L* all demonstrate our breadth of interests and diversity of scholarly publication and communication forms. As we grown into our next twenty-five years, how we package, manage, promote and sustain our entire digital ecosystem and infrastructure (including our website sharpweb.org) is the focus of ongoing discussions with editors and members alike. The editors of *Book History*—**Greg Barnhisel**, **Beth Le Roux** and **Jonathan Rose**—award an annual prize for the outstanding graduate student essay submitted to our journal. The competition is open to anyone pursuing a course of graduate studies at the time of submission. The author of the winning essay receives a prize of \$400, and the essay is published in

the journal. Our 2017 winner was Kathryn Schwartz for “Did Ottoman Sultans Banish Print?” SHARP annually awards a \$1,000 prize to the author of the best book on any aspect of the creation, dissemination, or uses of script or print published in the previous year. Owing to the generosity of the DeLong family in endowing the prize, from 2004 it has been known as the George A. and Jean S. DeLong Book History Book Prize. Our 2017 winner was **Eva Mroczek** for *The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity*. We also awarded highly commended citations to **Jonathan G. Alexander** and **Noah Millstone**. This year’s winner—as selected by **Janine Barchas (Chair), Fritz Levy, Kristina Lundblad** and **Dot Porter**—will be announced at the AGM.

*publications@sharpweb.org*

### ***ELECTRONIC RESOURCES***

**Jason Ensor** manages our digital activities, most obviously the website and our online conference proposal system; he is also ultimately responsible for SHARP-L and SHARP’s various social media accounts. SHARP-L moderators are currently Past-President **Ian Gadd** and SHARP Executive Assistant **Vincent Trott**. 2017-2018 has been a ‘gap year’ in new online developments with Jason’s focus on delivering SHARP Sydney 2018. Maintenance and content management of SHARP’s various online entities have been wonderfully supported by **Vincent**. Aside from a mild outage due to a domain name provider going AWOL, SHARP’s online products have experienced a remarkably stable year with no serious incidents and no major server upgrades or migrations. Projects in development, which include a revitalised *SHARP News* and Single-Sign-On (SSO) across all SHARP digital entities, continue to be progressed and are scheduled for delivery in the 2018-2019 year.

*webmaster@sharpweb.org*

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

Recording Secretary **Corinna Norrick-Rühl** is responsible for all our Society’s record-keeping and management. She manages the Executive Council’s communication and documents and, this year, has been responsible for completing our SHARP Policy Manual that, for the first time, documents our day-to-day administrative practices. She also collaborates closely with our archivist, Jim Kelly, to maintain and organise our archive at the University of Massachusetts.

*secretary@sharpweb.org*

### ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS (with retirement dates)***

The Board of Directors is elected to advise and oversee the work of the Executive Council, whose duty is to manage the affairs of the Society. Our current slate of Board members are: Kevin Absillis, 2019; Anne Coldiron, 2021; Marija Dalbello, 2023; Mike Everton, 2021; Danielle Fuller, 2023; Alan Galey [Chair], 2023; Adam Hooks, 2023; Bonnie Mak, 2023; Simone Murray, 2025; Ruth Panofsky, 2021; Susan Pickford, 2023; Goran Proot, 2023; Nelson Schapochnik, 2023; George H. Williams, 2019. As 2019 marks an election year and several Board members will be stepping down, please consider putting your name forward so we can continue to build our global outreach and keep our scholarly vision SHARP.