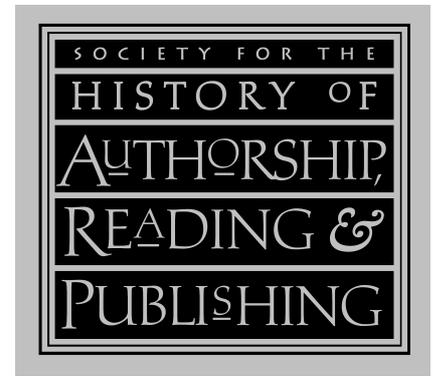


ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Ian Gadd, SHARP President



Welcome to Victoria and the ‘Technologies of the Book’! You will notice that the SHARP logo is not its usual white-and-black—and that’s because this is our silver anniversary year. We have a special session planned for Monday, and we will be launching a major fundraising campaign.

As always, I’d like to welcome those of you for whom this is your first SHARP conference—and to express my gratitude to the many first-time speakers who have joined the Society as a result. I hope you will seek out myself and my fellow officers to let us know how you’re finding us as an organisation.

A regular feature of our annual conference is the **Annual General Meeting**, which this year will take place on **Sunday 11 June at 3.15pm**. Everyone is welcome. The AGM is a formal requirement of our constitution 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** (currently chaired by Shef Rogers), various appointees (most obviously the editors of *Book History*, *SHARP News*, and our newest publication, *Lingua Franca*, 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. 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 but **Martyn Lyons**, **Eleanor Shevlin**, and **Corinna Norrick-Rühl** will be in attendance.

We hold elections every two years. At this year’s AGM, I will step down as President. I joined the Executive Council as Recording Secretary in 2003, becoming President in 2013, and it has been an enormous honour and privilege to serve the Society during that time. Although I will no longer be an officer, I have been asked to oversee our fundraising campaign and the establishment of our endowment.

Sydney Shep, the current Vice-President, will become President. **Shef Rogers** has been elected unopposed as the new Vice-President, which will mean that the Board will need to appoint a new Chair.

I’d like to express my thanks to Board members **Evelyn Ellerman**, **Lisa Kuitert** and **Alexis Weedon** who retire this year. Because we are reducing the size of the Board, there is only one vacancy for which we had five candidates. We will announce the result at the AGM. I am grateful to the Nominating Committee (**Leslie Howsam**, **Martin Antonetti**, and **Abhijit Gupta**) for overseeing the elections.

PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Ian Gadd and **Sydney Shep** are pleased to report that the Society continues to be able to support a wide range of activities and projects. Last year we joined the American Council of Learned Societies, and already we are feeling the benefits of being able to learn from, and work with, other scholarly organisations from across the humanities and social sciences.

We are in the second year of our three-year New Scholarly Bursary programme, in which we are funding 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, 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. The recipients of these scholarships can be found on our website.

June 2017 will mark the start of a year-long 25th anniversary fundraising campaign, whose aim is to establish a free-standing international SHARP fellowship.

Vincent Trott, our valued Executive Assistant, will continue for 2017–18.

president@sharpweb.org & vp@sharpweb.org

FINANCES

Jim Wald reports that we remain in robust financial health. During 2016, membership dues and royalties provided us with almost \$48,000 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 grew by just over 5%, and stood at \$294,609.12 as of 31 December 2016.

Membership fees are collected by Johns Hopkins University Press, who deduct a fee for their services and also deduct the cost of publishing *Book History* (15 cents and 45 cents per membership dollar respectively), 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).

Each year the Executive Council prepares a budget for the Board's approval. The budget for 2017 includes the one-off costs of re-aligning our membership year with our financial year which has given current members up to six months' extra membership—and an extra issue of *Book History*—for free. We will also be setting aside extra funds to provide a larger number of conference grants to support speakers attending next year's conference in Sydney.

We have not yet achieved our goal of establishing an endowment but this is the aim for 2017–18. A full financial report is available from Jim upon request.

treasurer@sharpweb.org

MEMBERSHIP

Eleanor Shevlin reports that we have seen a rise of 25% in our membership from last year, primarily a consequence of the Paris conference which was our largest ever. We currently have 1250 members, of which almost 80% are individual 'full' members and 20% are students or independent scholars. (We have a dozen or so institutional members.) Members came from almost fifty different countries: 53% were based in the US, 29% from Europe (of which about half came from UK and Ireland); we have healthy numbers in France, Australia, and the Netherlands. We welcomed our first members from Colombia, Malta, and Turkey. Over a fifth of our membership now comes from non-Anglophone countries.

Last year, the Board approved a plan to restructure our membership fees. Our rates have not risen since 2004 but we want to establish differential rates that better reflect SHARP's international membership. These rates will be based according to OECD assessments. The new membership rates will begin on 1 January 2018.

We are very grateful to the 5% of members who are Supporting and Sustaining Members as well as the many who include a contribution along with their dues.

members@sharpweb.org

SOCIETY AND REGIONAL LIAISONS

Eleanor also manages liaisons with 22 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 30 regional liaison officers representing 27 different countries. These liaisons do everything from supplying brochures and other promotional material for local events to mounting seminars or focused conferences.

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. His recommendations for how future annual conferences should support linguistic diversity will be considered by the Board this year. He and **Susan Pickford** have also been appointed as the editors of our newest publication: *Lingua Franca*.

atlarge@sharpweb.org

CONFERENCES

Josée Vincent, who many of you will remember as one of the organisers of SHARP 2015, has taken over as Director for Conferences from **Bertrum MacDonald**: we are very grateful to Bertrum for serving as an officer since 2009. The Director acts as our primary liaison for SHARP's annual and focused conferences. Last year's annual conference in Paris was the largest ever; next year will be SHARP's first annual conference south of the equator as we head to **Sydney, Australia, from 26 to 29 June**. A call for papers is included in your conference pack. In 2019, we will head back to the US for the first time in six years, and we are already in discussion with possible hosts for 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Every registration fee at an annual conference includes a surcharge (\$35) that goes directly to support conference attendance for PhD students, early career researchers, independent scholars, and academics from countries with developing economies. This year, with the generous support of the **DHSI** and the **Delmas Foundation**, we have provided conference grants to over thirty-five individuals, include several who will provide 'live' translations of presentations through social media.

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.

If you are interested in hosting a SHARP conference, or have ideas about where we might take a future conference, please contact Josée. We maintain an extensive online resource designed to help support the organisers of all SHARP conferences.

conferences@sharpweb.org

PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

Claire Squires oversees our three publications—*Book History*, *Lingua Franca*, and *SHARP News*—and also the George A. & Jean S. DeLong Book History Prize.

Our newest journal, *Lingua Franca: The History of the Book in Translation*, develops out of the work of our Translation Committee which was established about three years ago. It is an open-access electronic journal that aims to publish the best international research on book history, translated into English—both new work and work which as already appeared in languages other than English. This year also saw the launch of *Book History Unbound*, a digital supplement to *Book History*.

These developments coincide with the start of a consultation, overseen by the Board, to consider how SHARP's publications should develop over the next decade. The Board is currently receiving responses from the editors and the *Book History* advisory editors; a consultation of the membership is planned for later this year.

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.

Last year's DeLong Prize was won by **Kristina Lundblad** for *Bound to be Modern: Publishers' Cloth Bindings and the Material Culture of the Book, 1840-1914*. This year's winner will be announced at the AGM.

The *Book History* editors, **Greg Barnhisel, Beth Le Roux, & Jonathan Rose** award a prize for the best graduate student essay: last year, this was won by **Kristen Highland** for 'In the Bookstore: The Houses of Appleton and Book Cultures in Antebellum New York City.' This year's winner 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. This year he has worked with Greg Barnhisel to develop *Book History Unbound*.

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 a new team of moderators will be appointed. 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.

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; **Bonnie Mak**, 2023; **Ruth Panofsky**, 2021; **Susan Pickford**, 2023; **Goran Proot**, 2023; **Shef Rogers**, 2019; **Nelson Schapochnik**, 2023; **Alexis Weedon**, 2017; **George H. Williams**, 2019.

AGM Agenda

- Welcome & brief remarks on officers' reports *Ian Gadd*
- Acknowledgement of Conference Grants recipients *Ian Gadd*
- Announcement of SHARP Prizes
 - George A. and Jean S. DeLong SHARP Book History Prize *Claire Squires*
 - *Book History* Essay Prize *Greg Barnhisel, Beth Le Roux, Jonathan Rose*
 - #sharp17 twitter prize *Ian Gadd*
- Election result *Leslie Howsam*
- Announcements of next year's annual conference at Western Sydney University *Jason Ensor, Simon Burrows*
- Members' announcements

Twitter hashtag #sharp17