

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Shef Rogers, SHARP President

Welcome to Amherst and the “Indigeneity, Nationhood, and Migrations of the Book” conference. SHARP begins its twenty-seventh year as a scholarly society following a period of constitutional revision and elections that have led to us having to farewell some outstanding long-term Executive Council (EC) members, but also welcoming an extremely impressive set of newly elected EC and Board members. **Yuri Cowan** also joined the editorial team of *Book History* and we will be revamping *SHARP News* to serve the membership more actively.

As always, I’d like particularly to acknowledge those of you for whom this is your first SHARP conference. I hope you will seek out myself and other SHARP leaders to let us know how you’re finding the conference and any thoughts you might have about SHARP as an academic community.

A regular feature of our annual conference is the **Annual General Meeting**, which this year will take place on **Wednesday 17 July from 2:00–3:30 pm**. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The AGM is not just a formal requirement of our constitution but also an opportunity to celebrate achievements of members and for you to ask questions or to promote your own event or project.

To help with the AGM’s proceedings and to provide you with a copy of the agenda, we produce this annual report to summarise the Society’s activities since our last annual conference and help you identify the various officers of the Society. Fuller reports for each area of activity are available from any member of the EC.

SHARP’S STRUCTURE & CONSTITUTION

SHARP is governed by an **Executive Council** of elected officers, a **Board of Directors** (currently chaired by Alan Galey), various appointees (most obviously the editors of *Book History*, *SHARP News*, *Lingua Franca*, but also the various review editors, the moderators of SHARP-L, the DeLong Book Prize judges, members of the Nominating Committee, and the archivist), 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. At last count, 10% of the membership contributed in some specific volunteer role to enable SHARP to carry out its activities. If you would like to be more involved in SHARP, please approach any of the EC officers. All except **Jason Ensor** (Director of Electronic Resources), **Martyn Lyons** (Member-at-Large, international), and **Josée Vincent** (Director of Conferences) will be in attendance, while incoming officers **Will Slauter** (VP), **Colin Ramsey** (Treasurer), **Vincent Trott** (Recording Secretary), **Lisa Maruca** (Membership Secretary), **Melanie Ramdarshan Bold** (Director of Awards), and **Sarah Werner** (Member-at-Large, pedagogy) are all at the conference as well. Attentive readers will also note that following the constitutional revisions the positions of Director of Awards and Director of Publications have been separated, with **Corinna Norrick-Rühl** taking over the latter role.

I’d like to express my thanks to Board members **Kevin Absillis** and **George Williams** who complete their terms this year, and to welcome the newly elected members, **Lisa Gitelman**, **Matthew Kirschenbaum**, and **Brigitte Ouvry-Vial**. I am extremely grateful to the three members of the Nominating Committee (**Leslie Howsam**, **Martin Antonetti**, and **Abhijit Gupta**) for organising and overseeing the elections.

Finally, I would like to thank our Executive Assistant, **Vincent Trott**, for his help with the details of the website, his assistance with the DeLong Prize process, and his contribution to moderating SHARP-L.

PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Shel Rogers and **Ian Gadd** both stepped into their roles following the conference in Sydney. Ian's wealth of experience has been invaluable in assisting both the President and Chair of the Board in working through the constitutional revisions and the consequences of those changes. Ian will revert to being Past President and be able to devote more time to fundraising and endowment issues, while Shel and Will look forward in the coming year to more time for planning and development rather than process, and Will represents SHARP at the ACLS annual conference. The Society enjoys sound finances and a solid membership base, enabling us to explore options, and we would welcome ideas from members on any aims that you would like to see SHARP pursue.

president@sharpweb.org & vp@sharpweb.org

FINANCES

Jim Wald reports that we remain in sound financial health. The 2019 budget was intentionally tight because of underspends in past years, and even that budget is not likely to be overspent this year, leaving the Society with assets of \$278,000 as of 31 December 2018. Our accounts are also in good order, meaning that the transition to a new Treasurer following the conference should be seamless. The EC has recognised (through comparison with other academic societies) that SHARP probably needs to commit more funding to its administrative organisation, and will continue with the position of Executive Assistant to support a number of annual activities, particularly the conference and the DeLong prize. The Society probably also needs to consider expanding the pool available for travel grants to conferences as our student membership grows, the number of independent scholars increases, and institutions provide reduced support for scholars.

treasurer@sharpweb.org

MEMBERSHIP

Eleanor Shevlin reports that as of this May SHARP has 927 current members representing over 40 countries. 280 of those members are students, demonstrating just how significant book history is across humanities graduate scholarship. 7 of our members are from outside the OECD and are availing themselves of SHARP's support for globalization through progressive membership fees. And 50 members are generously enrolled as sustaining members whose higher dues help SHARP continue to develop.

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, to which we added the Association for Research in the Cultures of Young People (ARCYP) this year. 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.

liaisons@sharpweb.org

TRANSNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Simon Frost oversees 29 regional liaison officers representing 28 different countries. These liaisons do everything from supplying brochures and other promotional material for local events to mounting seminars or focused conferences. In 2018 SHARP provided two seed grants to support international conferences in Marseilles and St. Andrews.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

As part of a focus on internationalisation, **Martyn Lyons** edits *Lingua Franca* with **Susan Pickford** and **Mariana Silveira**. Issue no. 5 (2019) presents a group of articles on Ottoman and Turkish book history, assembled with the help of **Neslihan Demirkol** of Ankara University. Future issues include one on China and East Asia (in 2020), and another on the history of the book in the Ibero-American world (2021). Martyn has also acted (in collaboration with **Leslie Howsam**) as liaison between SHARP and CISH (Comité international des Sciences historiques) to coordinate SHARP presentations in Poznań, Poland in 2020.

atlarge@sharpweb.org

CONFERENCES

Josée Vincent has had a busy year planning and liaising with conference organisers as far ahead as 2022. She also administers the post-conference surveys, coordinates the grants to support conference presenters, and maintains a very good set of resources for those organising SHARP conferences. Josée oversees the conference registration system and will be working with the new Director of Electronic Resources to see whether it can be developed further. She also has responsibility for planning around translation support for conferences, a topic that will be relevant in Amsterdam next year. She wishes to draw to members' attention that we have not yet had anyone commit to running the 2021 conference in North America. In the past, SHARP has paid to run conferences at hotels and could do so again, but that would increase the expenses for 2021, and the conference would lack the local connections with book historical groups that often make SHARP conferences special. Please contact her (or any EC officer) if you are interested in considering the possibility.

conferences@sharpweb.org

PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

Claire Squires oversees our three publications—*Book History*, *Lingua Franca*, and *SHARP News*—and also convenes the judging for the George A. & Jean S. DeLong Book History Prize. She also convened the appointment committee that selected **Yuri Cowan** as the new editor of *Book History* following the retirement of **Jonathan Rose**, a founding editor of the journal. *Book History* is now indexed on Scopus, and **Beth le Roux** is working on a submission to Web of Science. *Lingua Franca: The History of the Book in Translation*, an open-access electronic journal that aims to publish the best international research on book history, has just published its fifth issue, focused on Ottoman and Turkish book history. *SHARP News* continues to publish reviews online, but will be reviewed this year as part of the appointment of a new editor following the end of **Padmini Ray Murray**'s term.

The DeLong Book Prize and the *Book History* editors' prize for the best essay submitted to the journal by a graduate student will both be awarded at the AGM in Amherst. Claire extends her sincere thanks to the judges of the book prize, **Kristina Lundblad**, **Dot Porter**, **Martyn Lyons** and **Michael Hancher**. This year also saw the inaugural award of the SHARP 25th Anniversary Fellowship to **Trude Dijkstra**, a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam, for her project relating to the production and reception of Chinese medicine in early modern Europe.

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ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Jason Ensor manages all electronic media for SHARP and has worked this year to enable SHARP to expand its server space so that our digital presence can be both more engaging and more reliable.

webmaster@sharpweb.org

ARCHIVES AND RECORD-KEEPING

Corinna Norrick-Rühl has scheduled and provided minutes for the EC and Board meetings and worked tirelessly toward a manual documenting SHARP's roles and processes. She has also devoted time this year to succession planning for a new archivist to take over in 2020.

secretary@sharpweb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (WITH RETIREMENT DATES)

Anne Coldiron, 2021; **Marija Dalbello**, 2023; **Mike Everton**, 2021; **Danielle Fuller**, 2023; **Alan Galey** (chair), 2023; **Lisa Gitelman**, 2022; **Adam Hooks**, 2023; **Matthew Kirschenbaum**, 2023; **Bonnie Mak**, 2023; **Brigitte Ouvry-Vial**, 2023; **Ruth Panofsky**, 2021; **Susan Pickford**, 2023; **Goran Proot**, 2023; **Nelson Schapochnik**, 2023.

AGM Agenda

- Welcome & brief remarks on officers' reports *Shef Rogers*
- Acknowledgement of Conference Grants recipients *Shef Rogers*
- 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, Yuri Cowan*
- Recognition of those who have served SHARP
 - Book History Editors' presentation
 - Presentations to retiring EC members
- Announcements of next year's annual conference in Amsterdam
Lisa Kuitert, Everdien Rietstap and Marike van Roon
- Members' announcements

NB: #sharp19 twitter prize to be awarded by Ian Gadd at final session on Thursday

Twitter hashtag #sharp19