PRESS RELEASE
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The George A. and Jeanne S. DeLong Book History Book Prize 2020

The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) is delighted to announce the award of the 2020 DeLong Book History Book Prize to Kathy Peiss; Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History, Department of History, the University of Pennsylvania for her title Information Hunters: When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe (Oxford University Press, 2020)

In announcing the Prize at SHARP’s virtual conference judge Archie Dick commented:

“Professor Peiss’ book uncovers World War II and post-war collection missions in Europe that analysed books and documents for open-source and military intelligence gathering, as well as for preservation and restitution purposes. Sparked by an interest in the wartime activities of her librarian-uncle, she explains in an engaging style how and why information-intensive institutions, governments, and intelligence agencies collaborated. An initial assessment and collection mission escalated into mass and aggressively competitive acquisition projects in the period of post-war occupation. American research libraries vied to expand their international holdings, and innovative information science techniques found new applications in government, telecommunications, and higher education. Among the legacies of these collecting missions are difficult discussions about book collecting, book burning, and restitution. Their very nature had made books and documents terrains of battle during and after the war. Another information hunt, this time with a view to restoration and reconstruction, signifies the unfinished histories of books and ideas in times of international conflict”

Professor Kathy Peiss receives $1,000 as winner of the SHARP DeLong Book History Book Prize.
A commendation was also made to Robert Goree, Assistant Professor of Japanese at Wellesley College, for *Printing Landmarks: Popular Geography and Meisho Zue in Late Tokugawa Japan* (Harvard Asia Center, 2020)
About SHARP
SHARP was founded to create a global network for book historians working in a broad range of scholarly disciplines. Research addresses the composition, mediation, reception, survival, and transformation of written communication in material forms including marks on stone, script on parchment, printed books and periodicals, and new media. Perspectives range from the individual reader to the transnational communications network. With more than 1000 members in over twenty countries, SHARP works in concert with affiliated academic organizations around the world to support the study of book history and print culture. See http://www.sharpweb.org/

About the DeLong Prize

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