AAS Collaborative History
Gains Funding and Publisher

There is important and welcome news on two fronts for the Society’s multivolume collaborative history, now officially called A History of the Book in America (HBA). The National Endowment for the Humanities has made a major grant to the Society for the preparation of the work, while Cambridge University Press and AAS have agreed to terms whereby Cambridge will publish the series jointly with AAS.

The Endowment’s grant is in the amount of $165,000 in outright funds, plus an offer of $20,000 in additional funds if an equal amount is raised from third-party sources. The three-year grant will provide funds principally for two meetings annually of the project’s Editorial Board, a series of planning conferences and working editorial conferences linked to the volumes in the series, and a half-time administrative and research assistant for the project in the central office at AAS. A previous grant of $33,000 from NEH financed the early round of Editorial Board meetings and planning conferences.

The association with Cambridge University Press, the world’s oldest publishing house, is welcome on many counts. For one thing, Cambridge is especially experienced in shepherding through the press large and complex multivolume collaborative projects like HBA. For another, Cambridge has already signed on as the publisher of the parallel series A History of the Book in Britain (HBB), also now underway. This dual involvement will extend the already-strong communication and collaboration between the two national book histories and facilitate efforts at developing a comparative, international approach to the subject. As many readers of The Book will know, HBA and HBB will join other national histories of the book already completed (France), underway (Germany and Italy), or in preliminary stages of development (Canada and Australia).

David D. Hall will serve as general editor of the planned four-volume series. Marcus A. McCorison, president emeritus of AAS, has recently been named to HBA’s Editorial Board, which Hall chairs.

Reaching agreement on the publication of A History of the Book in America were (left to right) John B. Hench, AAS director of research and publication; Ellen S. Dunlap, AAS president; Andrew Brown, director of humanities publishing, Cambridge University Press; and David D. Hall, general editor of the series.
Report on the 1993 Summer Seminar

[Editors’ Note: Once again, the AAS summer seminar was led by Michael Winship, associate professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin and co-editor of volume 3 of the AAS-sponsored A History of the Book in America. Winship’s report on the seminar follows. The Society wishes to acknowledge Winship’s excellent leadership of the seminar.]

This year, the AAS Summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture (the seventh summer seminar) was entitled “Critical Methods in Bibliography and the History of the Book in the United States.” Eighteen scholars from around the country were registered in the seminar, which was held June 2-8. The goals of the seminar were to explore the place of bibliography within the history of the book and to introduce participants to the “language” of bibliography, the conventions and techniques that are used for describing and analyzing printed materials, especially those of the industrial era.

As in the past, the participants brought a great amount of energy and expertise to the seminar, which was made up of formal presentations and discussions, as well as laboratory sessions where everyone had an opportunity to try their hand at collating and describing American books.

David Hall and Bill Gilmore-Lehne each came for an afternoon to discuss their current work and to reflect on future directions. AAS staff members also contributed much: Joanne Chaison, head of readers’ services, spent a highly useful evening introducing the participants to the AAS reading room and describing a choice selection of important bibliographies and other reference tools essential to research in the field; Alan Degutis, head of cataloguing, and Susan Wolfe, a cataloguer, gave over a Saturday morning to showing off the wonders of MaRK, the Society’s new online catalogue, and to instructing the participants in getting the most out of the detailed bibliographical records generated by the Society’s North American Imprints Program now available through the system; and Thomas Knoles, curator of manuscripts, described the research opportunities available in the Society’s rich collection of manuscripts relating to all aspects of the book trades (and the consumption of print) in America through the nineteenth century. And, of course, many deserve thanks for making things run smoothly, including Loren and Nancy Ghiglione, John and Lea Hench, Ann-Cathrine Rapp, and Diane Schoen.

There was one new element in the seminar offering this year. Through an agreement with the Graduate School
of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America, graduate credit was available for persons attending the seminar and doing a follow-up independent study with me. AAS staff and I are grateful to Deanna Marcum, former dean of the library school; Jean Preer, the acting dean; and the Rev. John E. Lynch, dean of the graduate school, for making this valuable arrangement possible.

A pool of financial aid was made available to 1993 matriculants thanks to generous contributions from the following summer seminar alumni: Martha Burns, Scott Casper, JoAnn Castagna, Boyd Childress, Marilyn Davis-DeEulis, Ann deKlerk, Jeff Groves, Lee Heller, Jeffrey Kaimowitz; Michael Kearns, Deborah Keller-Cohen, Russell Martin, Mary McCarl, Granland Rice, Stephen Small, William Stone, Jonathan Tryon, Richard Venekly, Marjorie Warmkessel, Bruce Weiner, Susan Williams, and Charles Zarobila.

Taking part in the 1993 seminar were: David L. Andrews, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Robert D. Arner, professor of English, University of Cincinnati; David Boocker, assistant professor of English, Tennessee Technological University; Laura Byers, consulting cataloguer, Wave Hill, Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States; Cynthia D. Earman, M.S.L.S. candidate, Catholic University of America; Alice Fahs, instructor in history, New York University; Susan Grigg, M.S.L.S. candidate, Simmons College; Paul Gutjahr, Ph.D. candidate in American studies, University of Iowa; Paul L. Holmer, reference/interlibrary librarian, Buley Library, Southern Connecticut State University; Thomas A. Horrocks, director of the Library for Historical Services, College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Kiyoshi Imai, book conservation technician, Northeast Document Conservation Center; Christopher Kox, Ph.D. candidate in library and information studies, University of California at Berkeley; Mary Rhinelander McCrall, independent researcher, Birmingham, Alabama; Mary Kate McMaster, Ph.D. candidate in American studies, College of William and Mary; Stephen Z. Nonack, head reference librarian, Boston Athenaeum; Timothy D. Pyatt, curator of Marylandia and rare books, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland at College Park; Amy M. Thomas, assistant professor of English, Montana State University; and Bruce White, professor of English, Gallaudet University.

Some of this year’s participants were familiar faces, but others were visiting the Society for the first time. All contributed enthusiastically to the seminar and helped make it a success. This seminar involved more hands-on work with books and focused more on bibliographical skills than in past years, but it is clear that the seminars continue to provide an important forum for bringing together and encouraging scholars, both new and old, in the history of the book.

Michael Winship, University of Texas at Austin

Notes from Virginia

“In Electronic Age, Scholars Are Drawn to Study of Print.” So declares the headline for a recent cover story in the Chronicle of Higher Education (July 14, 1993), announcing that the history of the book is “hot.” Indeed, the field is bursting with new energy, projects, and institutions. Book series and publications abound: notable works in the past year include Ronald Zboray’s A Fictive People: Antebellum Economic Development and the American Reading Public (1992) and Richard Brodhead’s Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth-Century America (1993). Pennsylvania State University Press has just launched a series in the area, which will surely sign up authors at that school’s new interdisciplinary Center for the History of the Book. Academic programs are growing as well: the latest is a new Ph.D. minor in the field, established by the English Department at the University of South Carolina. With this burgeoning of interest has come a new level of organization. The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing, founded in 1991, has just held its first annual meeting in New York. Finally and most importantly, the premier patron of letters in our time, the National Endowment for the Humanities, has awarded a $165,000 grant to the AAS to carry forward our multivolume History of the Book in America.

Whence this remarkable enthusiasm? The Chronicle attributed the growth to a variety of influences, noting the challenge to print by electronic media, the impact of the French Annales school, and the rediscovery of context in literary studies. But it neglected the force of personality — specifically, that of David D. Hall, who as founding chair of the AAS’s Program in the History of the Book in American Culture, has played a major role in advancing the field. As he steps down from the position of chair and assumes active direction of the AAS’s multivolume history of the book, it seems appropriate to take stock of Hall’s many contributions to the theory and practice of this scholarship.

A leading student of New England Puritanism, David Hall has pioneered in the reconstruction of American intellectual and cultural history. He has recast the world of Samuel Sewall and Cotton Mather by placing the Puritans within a trans-Atlantic perspective, informed by the latest European scholarship on popular religion and culture in the early modern era. Thanks to this cosmopolitan outlook, Hall was quick to see the relevance for early American history of the French histoire du livre, and he has become, along with Robert Darnton, the principal conduit of the latest currents in European scholarship to American audiences. From him we have learned that the history of the book in American culture is part of an international enterprise, involving the cooperative efforts of scholars in Europe and North America. Just as books in the past have...
readily traveled (or been smuggled) across national borders, so book history, Hall has insisted, must cut across the boundaries of place and time.

The history of the book transcends divisions within the academy, too. For David Hall, the field is an inclusive, interdisciplinary endeavor, encompassing scholars in numerous specialties. He has brought together ideas and people from diverse areas—art history, bibliography, journalism, library history, literature, printing history, and social and cultural history, to name a few—in a constant effort to foster a common conversation. Communication is at the heart of book history, both subject and model for the field. Reflecting the spirit of this inquiry, David Hall is always engaged in exchange.

In his role at the AAS, Hall has been an institution builder, organizing conferences, sponsoring seminars, developing editorial projects, with the goals of promoting research and advancing the field. This close attention to institutions marks his scholarship as well. For the domain of culture, he has shown us, is not simply a realm of ideas or mentalités; it comprises a field of concrete practices, networks, and institutions, which shape the formation and expression of popular values and beliefs. Within the history of the book, he has written, the production, distribution, and consumption of print—that is, the diffusion of books and knowledge through society—is central. It calls our attention to the many contributors to book history: the enterprise of publishers and booksellers; the labor of masters, journeymen, and apprentices; the intervention of censors and the subsidies of the state; the reform crusades of educators, librarians, and evangelicals; the reading clubs of women; the sponsorship of political parties; and the cultivation of learning by academies, universities, and other intellectual circles. In the contests over culture, the spread of ideas moves inexorably forward, breaking through the barriers of class, region, and gender to penetrate society as a whole. No firm lines of distinction, he insists, can be erected to stop the flow of print. In Hall’s framework, the levees are constantly breaking down; in their wake, diverse groups and classes, possessing different levers of wealth and power, are brought up against one another, with unpredictable consequences for the society and culture as a whole.

It is this final point that helps to explain the current appeal of book history. The field promises to illuminate large issues in the past: as Hall’s own example attests, the investigation of print culture can generate new understandings of the structures of power, the lines of division, the conduct of discourse, and the formation of consensus in the complex societies of Europe and North America. These matters are the focus of inquiry throughout the humanities and social sciences today. The history of books may not solve any of the controversies. But by obliging us to attend to the medium as well as the message, the field is complicating old questions, raising new ones, and sharpening awareness of the inescapable interconnections between the means and ends of knowledge. To David Hall, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude for his remarkable contributions to our common undertaking. In succeeding him as chair of the AAS Program in the History of the Book in American Culture, I, for one, will be drawing on his work and consulting his ideas in the years to come. So will we all.

R.A.G.

## Sloat Joins AAS Staff

Caroline Sloat has joined the staff of the American Antiquarian Society as assistant editor in the Department of Research and Publication. In that position, which is half-time, she will be involved with editorial and production work on the Society’s semianual journal, the *Proceedings*, and its book publications. Within the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture, she will serve as assistant editor of this newsletter and will be involved in the editorial process of *A History of the Book in America*. She comes to AAS from Old Sturbridge Village, where she worked for many years in the Research Department and most recently as editor of publications. We are delighted to have her (and her wealth of easily translatable experience) at AAS.

J.B.H.
Report on HBB Conference


Michael Turner led the discussion by contributors Robin Alston (statistical survey), Bernhard Fabian (overseas markets), Michael Harris (newspapers), Richard Landon (antiquarian books), James Mosely (print technology), and James Raven (national markets). Contributors James Green (American markets) and Nicolas Barker (book design) sent short outlines of their chapters. Present as observers and commentators were your reporter as co-editor of Volume 1 of the History of the Book in America (HBA), Andrew Brown (for the Cambridge University Press), Simon Eliot (HBB, Volume 6), Christine Ferdinand (for the Biographical Database on the London Book Trades), Annabel Jones (for the History of Longmans project), D. F. McKenzie and John Bernard (co-editors for HBB, Volume 4), Robin Myers (archivist of the Stationers' Company), and Ian Willison (editor, HBB, Volume 7). Discussion was vigorous and exhilarating.

An editor of HBA can only rejoice that his problems and ambitions are on a far smaller scale than those of Michael Turner and Giles Barber. Indeed, there was a collective sigh of relief, not unmixed with apprehension, when a date of completion was fixed for HBB, and the remotest implications of the project receded. Reality, with its dramatic mixture of reward and disappointment, assembled itself in the eyes of the conferants like symbols in a slot machine.

Hugh Amory, Houghton Library, Harvard University

South Carolina Establishes New Program

The University of South Carolina's English department has established a Ph.D. minor in the "History of the Book and Authorship." According to the program description, the program offers "graduate students interested in literary history the opportunity to design within their general Ph.D. studies a concentration of courses revolving around the central idea of the historicity of the book." The chief departmental strengths are in the fields of American and British literature. Students may also take appropriate offerings in other departments.

For further information, write the Director of Graduate Studies, English Department, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 or telephone (803) 777-5063.

AAS Fellowships

Scholars at work on projects in the field of the history of the book in America are encouraged to apply for a visiting research fellowship at AAS. The Society offers both short-term (one to three months' tenure) and long-term (six to twelve months) fellowships. The former are supported by several sources, the latter by a grant to AAS from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The AAS-NEH long-term awards are for a maximum of $30,000. The short-term fellowship stipend is $850 per month. Fellows may rent bedrooms in the Society's Goddard-Daniels House, where they have kitchen privileges. The application deadline for 1994-95 fellowships is January 15, 1994. For further information and application forms, contact John B. Hench at AAS.


SHARP Holds First Meeting, Calls for Papers for 1994

The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) held its first annual meeting June 9-11 at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. About 130 persons registered for the three-day program, which featured some eighteen panels on book-history topics ranging widely in chronological scope and geographical focus. About a dozen representatives of both not-for-profit and commercial publishing houses and journals spoke in a plenary session on publishing opportunities in the history of the book. David D. Hall, general editor of the AAS's A History of the Book in America, addressed those attending the conference banquet on several approaches to the history of reading.

Reflecting on the success of the meeting, SHARP president Jonathan Rose noted that "despite concern about bringing together such a large group for the first time, common interests soon led to collegiality. Many commented on their pleasure that after working all alone on their projects on their separate campuses, they have found scholars who share their interests and outlook. The majority of those attending were from academia, but working publishing professionals, librarians, and members
of the antiquarian book trade were also present exchanging notes, ideas, and business cards."

The call for papers has been issued for the 1994 SHARP conference, which will be held July 14-16 at the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress in Washington. SHARP invites proposals for papers dealing with any aspect of the history of the book, including the history of authorship, copyright, literary agency, publishing, censorship, book production and distribution, bookselling, book reviewing, libraries, canon formation, literacy, reading habits, and reader response. Conference proceedings will be in English, but SHARP welcomes papers devoted to any national literature. Nonacademics and academics alike are invited to participate. Abstracts (maximum of two pages) should be sent by December 10, 1993, to John Y. Cole, Director, Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540; telephone (202) 707-5221.

The 1995 SHARP conference will be held at the University of Edinburgh.

**Saur Announces Pre-1901 Bibliography**

K.G. Saur has begun publication of the *Bibliography of American Imprints to 1901*. The ninety-two-volume work will include descriptions of over 400,000 books, pamphlets, broadsides, and journals published in America from the beginning of printing on these shores in 1640 through the year 1900. The sources for the bibliography are the bibliographical databases of the American Antiquarian Society and the Research Libraries Group’s RLIN.

The main body of the series consists of forty-two volumes and is arranged by title. The title sequence gives such additional bibliographical detail as author, publisher, place and date of publication, and notes. Additional indexes include name, subject, place, and date.

For further information or to order, contact K.G. Saur, Ortlerstrasse 8, D-8000, Munich 70, Germany.

**Gates to Deliver Wiggins Lecture**

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., W.E.B Du Bois Professor of the Humanities and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research, will deliver the eleventh annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture on Thursday, November 4, 1993. Details will be announced in the fall. The lecture is open to the public free of charge.

The lecture has been scheduled to coincide with the beginning of the American Studies Association’s convention in Boston. We invite persons on their way to Boston to ASA to stop in Worcester to hear Gates, or to run out from the Hub for the evening.

The Executive Committee of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture will meet that afternoon at 1:30.

**New AAS Publications**


The issue also contains papers delivered at a symposium entitled "Serendipity and Synergy: Collection Development, Access, and Research Opportunities at the American Antiquarian Society in the McCorison Era," held last October to honor the retiring AAS president. These papers themselves may be said to constitute a contribution to the history of American research libraries and scholarship in the second half of the twentieth century.

A single copy of the issue costs $22.50. An annual subscription to the *Proceedings* costs $45.00. Offprints of these articles (the symposium papers being gathered together) are also available from AAS.

Incidentally, scholars working in the field of American book history are encouraged to consider submitting papers to AAS for possible publication in the *Proceedings*.

**ASA Meeting in Boston**

The American Studies Association will hold its annual meeting in Boston from November 4 to 7, 1993. Historians of the book will be interested in “Old Collections, New Questions: A Workshop on American Studies Research Opportunities at the American Antiquarian Society.” This session will make the extensive resources of AAS better known, specifically the new electronic access to the collections of children’s literature and early-American engravings, as well as current work in the history of the book. Two AAS staff members, Laura Wasowicz and Georgia B. Barnhill, will deliver illustrated presentations entitled, respectively, “Not Just About Children: The AAS Children’s Book Collection and Cataloguing Project” and “‘Reading’ Images: A Primer on the Use of Graphic Arts Materials in Interdisciplinary Research.” Robert A. Gross, chairman of the American studies program at the College of William and Mary and chairman of the AAS Program in the History of the Book in American Culture, will speak on “The History of the Book: Research Trends and Source Materials.” John B. Hench will chair the session, which is scheduled for 8:30-10 a.m. on Saturday, November 6.
Editors Convene Planning Conference for HBA's Twentieth-Century Volume

On May 28 and 29, we, the co-editors of Volume 4 of A History of the Book in America (1880 to the present), chaired a planning conference at the Society's Goddard-Daniels House. Some leading experts on the history of the book gathered to think about the concepts and the content of a volume that will bring the history of the book in America into the twentieth century, with all its complications of mass education, corporate conglomeration of media, and electronic communication. The editors asked participants to prepare for the meeting by writing a brief informal statement about the latest developments in their area of expertise and to think about the editors' tentative rationale and topical outline, as well as matters of format and potential contributors.

Participating on the advisory group were Sally Foreman Griffith (Villanova University), Nicolas Kanellos (University of Houston), Jeremiah Kaplan (formerly of Macmillan and Company), David Nord (Indiana University), Joan Shelley Rubin (State University of New York at Brockport), Michael Schudson (University of California at San Diego), Barbara Sicherman (Trinity College), Wayne Wiegand (University of Wisconsin), and Christopher Wilson (Boston College). Also participating were Ellen Dunlap, president of AAS, David D. Hall (Harvard University), who chairs the HBA editorial board, John Hench, director of research and publication at AAS, Andrew Brown, director of humanities publishing, Cambridge University Press, David McKitterick (Trinity College, Cambridge) representing the History of the Book in Britain, and the co-editors of Volume 3 of the U. S. project, Stephen Nissenbaum (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), and Michael Winship (University of Texas at Austin).

Among the major topics discussed were consolidation and diversity in print cultures and how to define "the book" itself. As to the first question, the conferees explored at length the complex processes of integration and concentration, on the one hand, and the contrasting myriad counter-responses at geographic and social remove from the mainstream, which resulted in the creation of diverse reading and writing communities, market segmentation, and the creation of specialized print cultures. While this complexity is daunting, it will remain a central theme of the volume.

As to the second question, many historians of the book have interpreted the field to include other print forms such as newspapers, journals, broadsides, and magazines. This broad definition becomes ever more chaotic in the twentieth century; the editors are still working to clarify the definition of scope for Volume 4 and asked the help of the conferees. A significant problem is how to incorporate the many matters of context that shape the history of the book.

Inasmuch as one of the primary goals of this volume is to treat the development of the book, not in isolation, but rather as an integral part of larger social and cultural networks, it will be necessary to focus not only on the twentieth-century production, distribution, and consumption of books, newspapers, and magazines, but also on cultural factors that have shaped the production and use of published reading matter: the rise of consumer culture, the history of literacy and education, the history of the electronic media, the growing influence of the professions, and the history of technology, including the development of the computer and the copy-machine. Because newspaper and magazine reading was more widespread than book reading during much of the period, those print forms will take an important place alongside the history of the book proper. The ultimate goal will be to treat books, magazines, and newspapers as objects at once economic, technological, social, and cultural, whose prominence at the center of cultural production and transmission has been gradually, yet insistently, altered during the course of the twentieth century.

In addition to urgently suggesting enough additional topics to make Volume 4 itself into a three-volume work, the conferees also contributed dozens of ideas about how to theorize, periodize, and organize the work. Naturally, not all of the ideas converged, but among the persistent commitments of the participants were the desires to focus on the tensions between consolidation and diversity; to avoid a general normative stance on either side of those tensions; and to see the history of the book both as an aspect of cultural transmission and as a topic with an important history in and of itself.

Their heads in a whirl, the co-editors thanked the conferees for two days of hard thinking and smart talking, and they went home to study their notes. Weeks later, the conference seemed even more important in moving the challenging project along in good directions.

Carl Kaestle, University of Wisconsin
Janice Radway, Duke University

Double Issue

This is a double issue of The Book, incorporating issues number 29 and 30, March and July 1993. We expect to return to the regular schedule of publication three times a year, in March, July, and November.
Bridge to Asia Seeks Gifts of Books and Journals

In cooperation with the American Council of Learned Societies, AAS is publicizing the work of 'Bridge to Asia', which seeks donations of books, journals, reference works, and newsletters for faculty, students, and professionals in developing countries in Asia. The need is immediate and profound and content takes priority over condition. Materials should be current (published in 1980 or later) and journal runs consecutive.

Subject areas include anthropology, economics, education, fine arts, geography, history, law, literature, philosophy, women's/minority studies, as well as the sciences, medicine, and engineering. Reference works include dictionaries, encyclopaedias, almanacs, atlases, glossaries, thesauruses, TOEFL/TEFL books, maps, course catalogues, and databases. Among the journals and magazines sought are American Scholar, The Atlantic, Commentary, Commonweal, Daedalus, Dissent, Economist, Foreign Affairs, Hudson Review, Ms., The Nation, National Geographic, New England Journal of Medicine, The New Yorker, Poetry, Salmagundi, Science, Utne Reader, Wilson Quarterly, and Yale Review. Other needed materials include condensed information, such as digests, manuals, and encapsulations of core information, syllabi, conference proceedings, newsletters, microform materials, software, sheet music, charts, diagrams, and audio- and videotapes.

All materials should be packed in an envelope or carton of appropriate size with a list attached on the outside to permit customs clearance. Mail donations to Bridge to Asia, Cargo Services, Pier 19, San Francisco, CA 94111 and send a copy of the donation list to Bridge to Asia, 1214 Webster Street, Suite F., Oakland, CA 94612. Although Bridge to Asia cannot reimburse the cost of postage, it can, upon request, acknowledge any donations of materials or funds which are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Bridge to Asia is a non-profit organization supported by private foundations, government agencies, and the general public, and your gift will be acknowledged, if requested.

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