

Rare Book School Receives Mellon Foundation Grant to Support Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography

Charlottesville, VA, July 10, 2017 – Rare Book School (RBS), which is based at the University of Virginia, has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography. Building on the success of the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in Critical Bibliography, which supported three cohorts from 2012 to 2017, this new scholarly organization will identify and investigate matters of new, compelling cross-disciplinary interest in the areas of bibliography and book history. The Society will especially direct its energies toward addressing the interpretation of original textual artifacts in concert with emerging techniques and technologies for the analysis and transmission of texts.

Current RBS-Mellon Fellows will be invited to join the Society as Senior Fellows, who will be responsible for the governance of the Society, for the planning of the annual meeting and additional Society-sponsored programming, and for the recruitment and selection of new members. Each year, ten Junior Fellows will be selected to join the Society through an open application process: they will receive funding to attend an orientation as part of the Society's annual meeting, to take two Rare Book School courses, and to host a public symposium at their home institution. Junior Fellows will also be invited to attend a bibliographical field school. After two years of membership in the Society, Junior Fellows in good standing will become Senior Fellows.

Early-career scholars from all fields are eligible to apply for membership in the Society of Fellows. Applications are especially encouraged from individuals from underrepresented backgrounds, individuals from under-resourced institutions, and individuals working on topics currently underrepresented in the fields of book history and bibliography.

“This generous grant from the Mellon Foundation will enable Rare Book School and our Mellon Fellows in Critical Bibliography to work together over the next decade to re-seed humanities scholarship and teaching with early career individuals with a high degree of bibliographical and book-historical knowledge,” said RBS Executive Director Michael F. Suarez, S.J. “The creativity and commitment of the core group augurs very well indeed for great things to come of this new initiative, and I am confident that all those involved will work hard to prove worthy of the trust that the Mellon Foundation has placed in us.”

Stephanie Frampton, Associate Professor of Literature at MIT, 2013–15 RBS-Mellon Fellow, and inaugural president of the Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, added that the grant “will allow this amazing group of scholars and teachers the opportunity to work together to bring a new generation into the critical conversations about historical and emerging media within the academy, and to engage broader publics in those conversations. We are all excited about continuing our collaborations in this new context.”

More information about the Society of Fellows is available on the RBS website.

About Rare Book School (RBS)

Rare Book School provides continuing-education opportunities for students from all disciplines and levels to study the history of written, printed, and born-digital materials with leading scholars and professionals in the fields of bibliography, librarianship, book history, manuscript studies, and the digital humanities. Founded in 1983, RBS moved to its present home at the University of Virginia in 1992. RBS is a not-for-profit educational organization affiliated with the University of Virginia. More information about RBS is available on its website: <http://www.rarebookschool.org>.

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