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H-80v: The Stationers' Company to 1775
28 July–1 August, 2025, Online

1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Are there any readings that you would like to see added or removed in future years?*

1. The pre-course syllabus was very useful. I only was able to dip into a few of the sources, but they helped give me a broad introduction to the concepts that the course would cover. Now I look forward to returning to the list.
2. Yes, they provided a great overview of what was to follow in class. Moreover, they will continue to be helpful in my work.
3. They were. Since I'm limited in what I can access, it would have been nice to have the instructor-provided PDFs a little bit earlier so I could have better prepared.
4. Blagden was a tough slog to get through and, as it turns out, not critical to have read. Perhaps a priority list of articles (many are in the "secondary" list already).
5. Yes, very useful. No suggestions for adding or excluding.
6. It was a little difficult to find the optional materials for this course prior to getting the shared folder (which was provided very close to the start of classes), but the required reading was attainable and very helpful.
7. I'm glad that we only had one required reading and that the other assignments were optional. Reading the overview first helped me get my bearings before the course began. I then was able to follow along with the lectures.
8. Yes, very much so. I plan to reread them now that I have a better understanding.
9. {no response}
10. They were helpful, especially the Blayney catalogue on the Stationers' Company before the Charter. I did find Blagdon a difficult read and was feeling intimidated at the beginning of the week because I had so many questions. I think returning now to Blagdon (either the book or his articles) I will feel much more confident knowing the terminology and overall history.
11. The reading assignments were useful, as always.

2) *What are your thoughts on the course workbook and/or other teaching materials distributed during class? Was the content appropriate and useful? Will it continue to be useful for you after the course?*

1. IG's workbook is a treasure. I look forward to digging deeper into it now that the course is over.
2. Being introduced to the Adam Matthew database was a great resource. Yes, the content was appropriate, and the articles/books will be helpful in understanding specific aspects of the Company.
3. Yes. I will continue to consult it.
4. Course workbooks are always useful. This one was packed with a range of valuable primary materials that might be difficult to pull together otherwise.
5. The workbook is fantastic, I will continue to refer to it and use it in future.

6. The workbook and teaching materials were extremely helpful, as is the fact that IG gave us access to his slides! The materials are great and will help me remember how to go about research using Stationers' materials.
7. The course workbook is fantastic. I will refer to it often as a reference.
8. The course workbook was really useful, and I appreciated following along with the lectures in the actual text of the workbook. I definitely think I will refer to it after the course is over.
9. {no response}
10. Absolutely stellar content in the workbook and slides. I am so appreciative to IG for sharing these materials with us. They will continue to be useful to me long after the course is over.
11. The workbook was very helpful and well organized with appropriate and useful information. I will continue to use the workbook in the coming months and years.

3) *Which aspects of the course were most intriguing and relevant for you as an individual? Did you walk away with any new insights, ideas, or project plans?*

1. I am leaving this course with a range of new research project ideas. IG did a great job showing not only why the Stationers' Company is valuable as an archival source, but as a framework for approaching a range of subjects relating to early modern history, book history, political history, and legal history.
2. Yes. Currently, I'm investigating colonial printing, and it would be interesting to see what information I could uncover about printing in New England.
3. I liked the ability to "handle" (virtually) the archive.
4. IG pointed out a couple of underserved areas of scholarship during the course. Lots of mention of other Company scholars and adjacent areas of scholarship (apprenticeships, &c). This is clearly just the tip of the iceberg, but a very thorough overview.
5. I came into the course knowing that I had very little knowledge in this area, and am so happy that I leave it feeling very confident about the subject area. I will be able to directly apply this to my work supporting students and researchers, and to my own research. The content was actually not what I was expecting; it was extremely interesting and has opened up some areas of research that I will pursue.
6. I really knew NOTHING about the Stationers' Company prior to taking this course. I had only seen the name on title page imprints and had no understanding of what it meant. I've learned a ton and feel like I can access documents and contact the Stationers' archivist to help me with research. In addition, my entire understanding of the English book trade is enhanced by understanding the importance of this company.
7. I enjoyed the "show-and-tell" portion of the course. It spurred me to familiarize myself with the Stationers' Company archives. Because I am attending this course during my annual leave, I did not access the supplementary materials IG suggested (e.g., the English Short-Title Catalog), which may be available via my institution. However, I now know how to supplement primary research with secondary research.

8. I definitely have a lot of follow-up questions and ideas that I want to look into now that I know more and have a better understanding. The early history of the Stationers' Company was really interesting as was the English Stock.
9. {no response}
10. I most enjoyed learning the history of the Company, especially the myths, people, and place themes. I am interested in pursuing what I learned and developing it further into a research project.
11. The Literary database will be most useful in the future. The presentation of the history of the Company brings to light many intersecting aspects of English history: economic, business, and cultural.

4) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*

1. I feel like I received a wonderful introduction to a complex subject which will set me on a good path forward.
2. Yes, IG was a terrific instructor! His breadth of knowledge about the Company is amazing! Yes, I did get answers to my questions.
3. Yes.
4. Definitely.
5. Yes, absolutely. I leave feeling confident about the subject area.
6. IG's great. I would take a course from him again.
7. I wasn't sure what to expect, since this was my first course, but I now have a grounding in book history that I can apply to further endeavors.
8. I definitely learned a lot about how to use the records of the Stationers' Company to do more research. I feel more confident in that regard.
9. {no response}
10. Absolutely! IG is amazing—simply one of the best professors I have had at RBS. I left the class with knowledge but also more research questions and am excited to dig further into the online archive.
11. The course and instructor delivered 100% and much more.

5) *How do you plan to use the skills and knowledge acquired during your time here?*

1. {no response}
2. See above re: colonial printing.
3. I want to keep investigating the archive and see what happens.
4. {no response}
5. I will use this knowledge to support many history of the book classes and projects that I support as an academic librarian. I will also explore some personal research projects as part of my professional academic activity.
6. As a collector, understanding the impact of the Stationers' Company and the entire system of licensure (authority), printers' registration of books, &c. makes

each book more interesting and “make more sense” in the context of the time and place of its printing. I think this class is essential if you collect books printed in England.

7. I am especially interested in how the book trade and regulations in England prior to the American Revolution influenced U.S. copyright, trade, and content laws and regulations in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. I learned about British laws and Stationers’ Company policies established in the seventeenth century that influenced the U.S. approach. This is the beginning of new path of learning for me. I plan to begin to take history courses at Harvard University’s extension school in 2026, and eventually pursue new scholarly research into the U.S. book trade and regulations from about 1783 to 1834.
8. I plan to do more research and hopefully publish an article.
9. {no response}
10. I will use the knowledge and skills acquired in my teaching and scholarship.
11. I will use what I learned in my appraisal practice.

6) *Who might benefit the most from taking this RBS course?*

1. Anyone interested in English history, the history of London, the history of the book trade, or legal history. It’s just a fascinating subject.
2. Curators, booksellers, and anyone working with early English books or who wants to get a solid overall foundation of the English book trade.
3. Anyone interested in stationers!
4. Those looking for a more targeted introduction to the history of the English book trade, or with an interest in the origins of copyright.
5. I think that any librarian that supports an historical collection or supports students/researchers who delve into the history of the book as part of their work.
6. Librarians, students, researchers, booksellers, and collectors.
7. This course could benefit anyone interested in both British and U.S. history.
8. Anyone interested in knowing more about the Stationers’ Company.
9. {no response}
10. Anyone with an interest in the early modern book trade.
11. Myself and my appraisal clients.

7) *If applicable, what were the most original, powerful, or otherwise noteworthy educational moments in the course? Were there any "aha!" moments you'd like to share?*

1. IG did a wonderful job focusing on the complex history of the Company in the early modern period, while never losing sight of its legacy.
2. Yes, learning about the English Stock was very helpful to me and my work.
3. I really liked looking through the archive and finding exactly what I wanted. It didn't happen often, but it was great when it did.
4. {no response}

5. How to access and engage with the archives was particularly helpful, as well as the suggested material for going deeper into the subject/history, especially the important authors in this area.
6. I was particularly interested in how apprenticeships worked and how one moved through (up) the Company. How the industry (the Company), the church, and the crown each had a role and how they fit together. I feel like I've read about British history for decades without ever understanding the meaningful details. These aspects of history snapped into place for me and will change how I think of governance, class structure, and laborers in England in the early modern period.
7. My "aha" moments were: 1) learning that the current system of copyright deposits originated in 1610 and 2) learning that the Star Chamber Decree influenced the regulation of printing long after it expired.
8. Being able to talk to the archivist at the Stationers' Company and use the Adam Matthew database.
9. {no response}
10. I had an "aha" moment while researching for our "show-and-tell" at the end of the course. It was amazing to discover the person I was researching in the archive and find supporting documents.
11. Learning of the existence of and the use of the Literary database. Finding certain documents and titles listed in the Company records and Registry were singular events. Also, the visit to the Company in its London location was a highlight.

8) *Are there any other ways in which the course could have been improved?*

1. {no response}
2. {no response}
3. I'd have liked to hear more from other students earlier on.
4. {no response}
5. I really like the timing/break structure for this class. It was very balanced, more so than some of the other RBS classes I've taken, so it could be applied to improve other courses.
6. Nope!
7. I can't think of any. I appreciate that IG permitted us to ask questions during his lectures.
8. More time than 14 hours. I think it is a good course to do online, but I wanted more time.
9. {no response}
10. N/A
11. The course presentation, detailed material, and IG's very expert knowledge and phenomenal recall were all beyond expectation and could hardly be improved upon.

9) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? How likely are you to recommend this course to others? On a 1-10 scale, 1 would indicate that you disagree that you got your money's worth, 5 would indicate a neutral response, and 10 would indicate that you agree that you got your money's worth.*

1. 10
2. 10
3. 7
4. 10
5. 10
6. 10
7. 10
8. 10
9. 10
10. 10
11. 10

10) *If your course made any (virtual) field trips outside of the classroom or had guest speakers, do you feel that they enhanced the course experience?*

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Yes. I liked hearing from the archivist.
4. N/A
5. I really enjoyed the connection to the archivist; I will utilize that connection in future. It was very much appreciated.
6. Yes, having Dr. Ruth Frendo point to some interesting aspects of the archive was very helpful. Also, meeting her and realizing how warm and welcoming she was allows me to feel free to use the resources available through The Stationers' Company.
7. Yes, the guest speaker from the Stationers' Company, Dr. Ruth Frendo, greatly enhanced the experience.
8. Yes, I definitely think the guest speaker really enhanced the course experience.
9. {no response}
10. Although there were technical difficulties with the audio, it was a pleasure to hear directly from the archivist Dr. Ruth Frendo. I appreciated that she took the time to meet with us and show us a few treasures from the vault.
11. The course was greatly enhanced by the trip to the Company headquarters in London.

11) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*

1. {no response}
2. At least read the foundational materials before you get to class. IG does a great job of teaching but at least come to class with an understanding of Blaney and his work.
3. The more you can put into it yourself, the better experience you will have.
4. Skim, but don't get too hung up on, Blagden. Do explore the other recommended readings and take in what makes sense for you. IG is deeply knowledgeable and a fantastic instructor...just come prepared to take it all in!
5. Print off the workbook so you can make notes on it while the lectures are happening. I didn't do that until the second day and wished I had started sooner.
6. Do it.
7. Be sure to do the required reading ahead of time so you can keep up with the course.
8. I really enjoyed the content and the information. It was great. IG is a wonderful teacher. I know so much more now and feel like I can make better decisions and targeted searches for my research.
9. {no response}
10. I highly recommend this course with IG. He is an exemplary professor and scholar!
11. Reading what you can of the primary sources, but don't worry if you are unable to read everything suggested. The reading will be much more understandable after the course, so do read more widely after the course.

12) If you had to sum up your RBS experience with a single sentence, phrase, or haiku, what would you say?

1. Enter this course on the Register of vital Rare Book School courses. Liber A++
2. The RBS week has always been a marathon, but in the end, it is a satisfactory race.
3. Printed for T. Carnan, in St. Paul's Churchyard, who dispossessed the Stationers' Company of the exclusive privilege of printing almanacks, which they had monopolized for 170 years!
4. {no response}
5. I had colleagues that told me that IG was fantastic, and they were right; it was such a joy to take his class.
6. This is my third RBS course and I look forward to many, many more!
7. Enlightening.
8. I would highly recommend this course.
9. {no response}
10. This was the best course I have taken at RBS.
11. The best experience possible.