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I-40: The Illustrated Scientific Book to 1800
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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 readings were very helpful. However, I almost wish we were asked to read some of them after the classes. For example, I know very little about scientific illustrated books and how they were made. I did the pre-class readings, but did not really understand the context of the content. After the class every night, I re-read the materials and then they made sense because we had spent the whole day talking about the content.
2. Yes, the pre-course reading assignments were useful. I particularly enjoyed “Picturing the Book of Nature” and found it very accessible (especially for a non-scientist!).
3. I found the optional reading “The Story of Western Science from the Writings of Aristotle to the Big Bang” a great read for filling in my gaps on particular scientific developments. RG’s own two articles on collaborations between type presses and intaglio printers was also very helpful in setting the stage for how illustration has been “second fiddle” to textual bibliography. I wish a few videos would have been included as picturing some of the press technologies was difficult.
4. I think coming in with the readings prepared helped us dive into the book production processes faster as a class. I would prioritize RG’s articles and Sarah Neville’s introduction—they were particularly helpful to me.
5. They were useful. It was hard to track down the Sachiko Kususkawa book to buy. I read part of it years ago so I didn’t get it for class. I was glad there was some free digital material (the more recent herbal book).
6. Absolutely! The readings are high-quality and valuable, and I appreciate having the list for the future. I actually shared the list with a student from my home institution who is working on a related project. The list itself is a resource.
7. Yes, though I did not bother to reread [Philip] Gaskell’s *Des Bib* (“A New Introduction to Bibliography”) and was fine. RG’s two articles on the print shop and engravers were especially useful, as was the intro to early modern English herbals.
8. They were excellent.
9. Yes, but a little more guidance would have been helpful—perhaps a ranking. There were many options and it was hard for me to prioritize.
10. Very useful.
11. Yes, very much! I think they provided a good grounding for the class sessions, and I think they were crucial for class success.

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. The course workbook was appropriate and useful. I wish there were more slides from our instructor’s PowerPoints on there, or I wish we had access to their PowerPoints because there was wonderful information about the images juxtaposed

with textual explanations. I took a lot of notes in my course workbook and will continue to use it after the class has ended.

2. The course workbook was very much appreciated as a “working tool” during the sessions where we examined each book. I am also looking forward to further exploring the bibliography and continuing to learn more about this subject.

3. I am excited to check out the bibliography.

4. The course workbook was amazingly helpful. I appreciated that we could take notes on all the books displayed in SC in the notebook, and that there are hyperlinks to the records in the PDFs. The quotes and information were obviously very thoughtfully compiled and I will be referring to it in the future (glad there's a digital copy!).

5. Extremely helpful. I will definitely reference it in the future. The excerpts are interesting, and it will be good to have a closer look (the letter from Vesalins, production costs, &c.). It was also good to have lists of what we were looking at in the library sessions to make notes.

6. Absolutely! I plan to keep the workbook for years to come, and I envision myself returning to it for reference in the future.

7. I would appreciate access to slides in addition to my course workbook, which overall was useful and will continue to be a reference source for me.

8. Yes the workbook was useful, but I would have loved copies of lecture slides and more information about the significance of the books—the instructors would provide that before we looked at the books in sessions but it would be nice to have that info to refer back to—it would have also saved us time and given us more time to actually look at the books—at times it felt rushed.

9. Workbook was excellent and the bibliography will be useful in the future. In addition to the excellent workbook, the slides were well done, and the course was *extremely* well-organized.

10. I will keep the workbook as a reference and for the excellent bibliography.

11. Great! I think it will be incredibly useful after the course—specifically the bibliography at the end and many of the other things—can already think of way this will be useful in my own teaching.

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. Honestly, the entire course was intriguing and relevant for me as an individual. I feel very fortunate to have had been taught by experts such as RG and CDM. I felt that the course was tailor-made for my job, so I am walking away 100% more enriched, with incredibly more knowledge about illustrated scientific books, and exponentially more prepared to talk about the rare books collections at my library.

2. I very much appreciated the emphasis RG placed on including the bibliographic “formula” within the book's catalog record. I have come to see this as the “scaffolding” upon which the description can be built. I am considering going back to the records for our older books and remediating them to include this information.

3. I really hadn't thought about the development of how we read and understand the images that have become second nature to us, such as diagrams. I also hadn't really thought about how the typesetting of the book would often be ongoing after illustrations had already been made, so the book can change in accordance with how

the images turned out or as new knowledge is acquired in the months during that typesetting and printing process.

4. The printing practicum was particularly helpful in giving me a hands-on understand of the practicing of including an intaglio image in a hand press printed book. The visit at Oak Spring Garden Foundation was also inspiring and is very much tempting me to pivot my own research into botanical illustration, production and reception. Summing up the visit on Thursday and Friday was helpful in thinking of new directions of research.

5. The wealth of information from the instructors and my classmates was incredible. I learned so much from the many side conversations while looking at materials in class. The course provided a wonderful structure to build from with additional exchanges of ideas. I have many new plans for exhibits, programs as work, as well as personal research.

6. The topic of the course is very relevant in my day-to-day work. I am certain I will use information I learned here in every class I teach this upcoming academic year. The highlight was the printing and sewing hands-on experience. This has done so much to enhance my understanding of the book trade and of the true work of art that is each book from this period. I leave the course with renewed enthusiasm and excitement for my work in libraries.

7. The subject matter will be useful in my bibliographical scholarship, class visit teaching, and cataloging. The bibliographical discussions, case studies, and extrapolations, and hands-on printing were all great.

8. I would have liked more content on animals and insects. I loved learning about the history of printing through a scientific lens.

9. It was a bit of a muddle until Thursday morning when it all seemed to come together.

10. The field trip to Oak Spring was fantastic. Well worth the time. Their collections are first rate.

11. The practical printing—gave me a better understanding of printing processes and will help me explain more to others—very excited to talk with students about the production of scientific images, and the work behind them.

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. RG and CDM exceeded my expectations with the knowledge they imparted upon the class.

2. Yes. I definitely have a better working knowledge of the difference between a woodcut, an engraving, and an etching and I am sure I will be more confident in identifying the images in books we put on display.

3. I did, but I wish it were longer!

4. I think they mostly covered the skills and information in the course description. Astronomical illustrations weren't covered at all, which was a little disappointing given the focus of my institutional collection, and also surprised me. Galileo is mentioned in the course description, but didn't really come up in class? Otherwise, I learned what I hoped!

5. Yes, I believe so. I wish we spent a little more time on some of the scientific framework.

6. I learned all that I hoped to and honestly more. The instructors were so knowledgeable and generous with their time. I feel honored to have learned from them both.
7. Mostly. There is a lot unknown about scientific image production and it's very case-by-case, so I'm not leaving with a clear answer on "how scientific illustrations were made overall."
8. Yes, I learned more about printing than I anticipated—very in-depth and I appreciated the practical aspects of the course.
9. I think I got everything I hoped for and more. I will look at looks differently now. I think I will ask different questions—How did economics influence the book production? Did technical aspects influence the author's message?
10. Yes.
11. Yes, even more than I expected! I got more out of this than I ever imagined.

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

1. I will directly and immediately apply the skills and knowledge acquired during this course to be able to teach others about the scientific illustrated books in my library's collection.
2. 1) Remediate catalog records for our older books to include the bibliographic "formula" 2) Count the number of plates in these books and identify the type of illustration in the catalog record
3. I want to suggest some alterations to our descriptive cataloging processes, and I hope I can do something with some of the anatomical posters we have that are undescribed.
4. Teaching and outreach
5. I am going to continue my personal research as well as incorporate a lot of what I learned with public programming and exhibits at work.
6. Teaching undergraduate and graduate students. Exhibition planning and outreach. Potential publications and presentations. To live a fuller and richer life.
7. Class teaching, research, scholarship, and descriptive cataloging.
8. Doing more printing and conducting further research.
9. I think I will probably look at and describe my collection differently. I collect anatomy and I will wonder or explore the relationship between the author's message and how the information is conveyed and how technique influences this.
10. For exhibitions and classes visiting out reading room, and perhaps research.
11. In teaching to undergrads about scientific books and images.

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

1. I would recommend this course to my archivist and librarian friends who are working in institutions or positions that are medically or scientifically focused.
2. Anyone with a significant collection of illustrated books—scientific, obviously—but I was glad to see that the instructors included architectural materials. I think this knowledge could also be applied to other genres, such as those on costume and dress, which also have a lot of illustrations.
3. Special collections librarians with strong science, illustrative, or printing history collections.

4. Librarians who curate book collections with science and medicinal books; public services librarians who works with those collections; catalogers of those collections; collectors with an interest in the scientific book
 5. Anyone who works with scientific collections—librarians, teachers, researchers.
 6. I feel the demographics of the course make sense: primarily librarians, archivists, scholars. I also think this course could be valuable for printmakers and art historians.
 7. Anyone studying the history of scientific imagery or who work with illustrated scientific/technical books in their jobs.
 8. Science librarians/archivists. I actually think artists would find this course fascinating.
 9. I think curators of medical or scientific books or dealers in this field would benefit.
 10. {no response}
 11. Librarians who teach with scientific rare books, library instructors would really benefit.
- 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. Listening to RG and CDM for a week as they showered us with knowledge was outstanding. Their experience, knowledge, mentorship, and advice was consistently delivered throughout the week.
 2. I really enjoyed the segment on formal analysis and visual strategy—looking more closely at the images will better enable me to explain their significance to an audience.
 3. Looking at all the Strickland proofs was eye-opening. I know it was an “overkill” example, but it was very elucidating. Especially on how the two female illustrators did not WANT to be named. I had always thought of the anonymous nature of women's work as a snub.
 4. {no response}
 5. I loved that we were able to do letterpress printing *and* intaglio. It really helped me understand the process better.
 6. Absolutely using the rolling press!
 7. Seeing the drafts and manuscripts corrections both on the slideshows and at Oak Spring answered most of my questions about the back-and-forth/control in illustration processes.
 8. Learning to look at etchings and engravings and properly identify them. Learning how copperplates are used in printing considering and factoring in layouts for printing.
 9. It was good for me to see a variety of illustrated scientific books because I spend so much time looking at medical books.
 10. The visit to Oak Spring was a highlight. The process of printing the plates and the letterpress sheets helped reinforce the processes from the readings.
 11. The Strickland Sisters series of of proofs and annotations and corrections at Oak Spring—incredible insight into the process of creating botanical images.
- 8) *Are there any other ways in which the course could have been improved?*
1. Just what I had mentioned before—more access to the PowerPoint slides the instructors used so that we could go over the images they discussed.

2. I really appreciated the way in which the instructors brought women into the course—the botanical illustrators, the portrait of Madame de Pompadour with the volume of the *Encyclopédie*, and the mention of how critical women's work was in the printing trade. I wish we had had an opportunity to view Elizabeth Blackwell's herbal—that would have brought it all together for me.
3. Our field trip day did get a little overwhelming as we really ONLY looked at materials. Everything did seem to meld together after a while.
4. {no response}
5. The timing of things was a bit off at times. Sometimes we would only have a very short time to look at a set of books, whereas others we would spend a long time with them—especially when it was something we already covered extensively in class. The project was hard to complete with very little free time. I wish we got a period of class to work on the project.
6. My only note is about the assignment. The instructions were a bit unclear, and most of the us were anxious about that. More time to work with the books during the day would have been helpful.
7. I did all the readings, so I felt like some class time was redundant/review. With such limited time, I'd prefer to enter the class with the assumption that everyone understood woodcut vs. intaglio, for example.
8. I think time management was an issue in sessions where we were looking at books and our time with them was rushed. It would have been nice to have at least 5 minutes with each book. I would also like to have learned more about manuscript scientific illustration--> print.
9. It is probably not practical on a single course, but perhaps extending the time period from 1800 to the present. Perhaps there could be a second course.
10. I think it might be useful to replace one of the show-and-tell sessions with a guest speaker on a specific aspect of the topic.
11. Maybe a bathroom break on the way to and from Oak Spring, also that van was cramped!

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. 9
3. 9
4. 10
5. 10
6. 10
7. 8
8. 9
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. Yes, the trip to Oak Spring was great.
2. I really appreciated our visit to the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. It was absolutely amazing to visit that space, where not only the book collection was so coherent, but also the art complemented the texts.
3. Absolutely. The garden library had such an amazing collection of botanical items that comparing them altogether was amazing.
4. Yes, I think the Oak Spring collection was very helpful in understanding botanical illustrations. It was almost a bit overwhelming and too rich of a collection to fit in one day. Selecting fewer books might have been beneficial, so we could go more in depth.
5. Yes! Oak Spring was wonderful. I wish there was a (short) tour of the grounds.
6. 100% the trip to Oak Springs was a highlight and a privilege.
7. Yes!
8. Yes, Oak Spring was wonderful and seeing the collections was fantastic.
9. The field trip was great. We saw the best copies of some amazing books. It is hard to imagine any other institutions that would have pulled together so many books of this type.
10. The Oak Spring field trip was very memorable.
11. Yes the Oak Spring trip was incredible and the materials shown really enhanced my understanding of botanical books.

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

1. If you are working with scientific or medical rare books, this course is a must.
2. {no response}
3. You don't have to be a science expert to understand the content!
4. {no response}
5. {no response}
6. {no response}
7. I really recommend it. Do the required reading and treat the optional reading as a list for future reference if anything is especially interesting.
8. Highly recommended!
9. I plan to recommend it to a couple of curators that I know.
10. Make sure you do the pre-reading, but not too far in advance.
11. Do the readings! And RG and CDM are nice and approachable—so don't be intimidated.

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

1. RBS is probably the greatest thing about Charlottesville.
2. Be open to everything and willing to get your hands dirty! I so enjoyed the print-making experience—seeing the text come to life in front of my eyes changed the way I look at books and enriched my appreciation.
3. Book nerds unite!

4. Wonderful
5. Tremendous!
6. I am grateful. / I am more informed. / I am more passionate.
7. Brilliant and exhausting.
8. A week jam-packed with knowledge and skill building alongside wonderful, like-minded people!
9. I only wish I had done it sooner...
10. I was very pleasantly surprised by the professionalism of the organization, and how many of the staff are subject matter experts.
11. Motivating and inspiring! Almost excited to go back to work and put to use the things I learned here! Thanks!