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H-40: The Printed Book in the West Since 1800  
18-23 October 2015

**Narrative Course Evaluations**

- 1) *Were the pre-course reading assignments useful? Did you do any additional preparation for your course? Are there any books or articles that you would like to see included in future years? Any that you might suggest removing?*
  1. Readings were very good, i.e. appropriate.
  2. Yes.
  3. Pre-course readings were very helpful.
  4. Highly recommend looking into the early chapters of Cave. Unique perspective on private press and spread of printing. Not very relevant to course however!
  5. Yes, good foundation.
  6. I found the readings to be very useful.
  7. Yes.
  8. Yes. No. No. No.
  9. They were very helpful, particularly Rota's *Apart From the Text*. I thought the latter components of *500 Years of Printing* could have been cut (modern era).
  10. Yes, the pre-course readings filled in a lot of gaps, as there would not be time to cover in class.
  11. Reading gave good background to the topic.
  12. Yes! As EH focuses on technology and aesthetics, the readings were useful in further contextualization of the book trade, leadership, &c. during this period.
  
- 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. Excellent course pack.
  2. Fine.
  3. Course work was very good, but of course, I'd love to have more! Excellent use of resources.
  4. {No response}
  5. Workbook is *the best* I have had. It looks like a textbook.
  6. I will keep the workbook. Some of the text is hard to read.
  7. Great study aid and useful for further reference.
  8. Yes. Yes.
  9. Useful, yes, although not particularly vital. The PowerPoint presentation was much better as a visual resource (and, obviously, physical books).
  10. As a visual learner, I found it very helpful. I will definitely continue to use it.
  11. Workbook showed technology of book production which helped with understanding.
  12. Loved the workbook and PowerPoint slides—would have appreciated handouts listing the materials we viewed.

- 3) *If you've taken previous RBS courses, how did this one compare?*
1. All have been great.
  2. Probably not the best.
  3. N/A
  4. EH is excellent at explaining mechanical processes in an understandable way.
  5. One of the best.
  6. {No response}
  7. N/A
  8. N/A
  9. N/A
  10. This course was much more lecture focused, but it was done so in an engaging manner.
  11. Very good.
  12. EH is a fine teacher of technological processes and time passes quickly due to his very natural sense of pace. I was afraid I would miss having labs but didn't.
- 4) *Which aspects of the course were most interesting and relevant for you as an individual? Did you walk away with any new insights, ideas, or project plans?*
1. I am a Special Collections reference librarian for a nineteenth- and twentieth-century collection, so this was very helpful.
  2. Instructor knowledge.
  3. Most useful was the ability to internalize experiences. In addition, the ability to see and touch books from the Grolier Club Library to represent the concepts.
  4. {No response}
  5. Items to be seen—priceless. Yes, new plans for my own career.
  6. This gave me what I wanted, which was a comprehensive overview of printing and book production.
  7. {No response}
  8. Yes.
  9. I loved everything about aesthetics and fine press. The early 1800 component was also especially good.
  10. I had very little knowledge of the technical processes of nineteenth- and twentieth-century bookmaking. This course will help me immensely in better understanding this era.
  11. The whole period of time was one I had no idea of. I will look at my nineteenth-century books differently with an appreciation of the technology that produced them.
  12. Yes, I have plans to propose and develop an exhibition of publishers' bindings inspired by the course.
- 5) *Did the instructors help you to acquire all the skills and information promised in the course description? Was anything left out or undeveloped? Did you learn what you had hoped to learn?*
1. Yes, very happy.
  2. Yes, pretty much.

3. Yes.
4. Digital typesetting was not addressed, but so many other topics were covered.
5. Yes, & more!!!
6. See Q.4 above.
7. Yes. No. Yes.
8. Yes. I don't know. Yes.
9. The class exceeded my hopes and expectations. It was very well illustrated and explained.
10. Yes, everything was covered evenly and I feel much more confident in my grasp of the subject matter.
11. Yes.
12. Would have appreciated a little more historical context on the publishing industry, trade, and leadership but was warned in advertising/description. And less presumption on familiarity with basic terms and concepts.

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

1. On the job, every day!
2. For work.
3. Advance collection.
4. {No response}
5. In my career.
6. I will appreciate my library in new ways.
7. Become a better cataloger, bibliographer, and better bibliophile.
8. Not sure yet.
9. It will be very helpful in my work as a book dealer, especially the information on fine press.
10. To set up exhibitions and create better catalog records.
11. Personal benefit in my collecting.
12. This course gave me a really strong foundation for pursuing future avenues of personal interest in print history, collecting, and decorative arts. Not sure I could have pursued them without this formal introduction.

7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*

1. Special collections librarians.
2. High. Book collectors.
3. All who are interested and curious would find the course useful.
4. {No response}
5. Beginner for foundation, experienced for overlooked or new information.
6. The course presumes some level of knowledge, although with the advance readings, an inexperienced person could still enjoy the study.
7. *All* kinds of rare book librarians, catalogers, and enthusiasts. This is a course *every* person dealing professionally or as a serious hobbyist with rare books should take.
8. Any level.
9. I found it appropriate for both novices and those with working knowledge. Probably not experts.
10. The intellectual level was right on the money. Anyone in the library or book trade

field would benefit.

11. Good intellectual level. As usual at RBS, there was an interesting mix of backgrounds and interests which benefits everyone.
  12. It's great for someone who has minimal formal training in the book as object, while also at the same time would not be redundant for one who has.
- 8) *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. {No response}
  2. Couldn't say as I'm a bit worn out right now.
  3. Pulled materials from the library.
  4. {No response}
  5. "Points to Ponder" that never would have occurred to me without instructor's input.
  6. {No response}
  7. {No response}
  8. N/A
  9. {No response}
  10. I found the plethora of physical examples allowed for some real enlightening moments.
  11. Understanding innovations in printing.
  12. I just in general like the way EH structures the course into time periods and we can go over everything at one time—helps you develop a better holistic sense, as most books focus on certain elements over a long time frame.
- 9) *How could the course have been improved?*
1. {No response}
  2. Couldn't say.
  3. {No response}
  4. {No response}
  5. N/A
  6. It would be nice to have a list of the books we examined.
  7. {No response}
  8. N/A
  9. More physical materials that we could handle/examine ourselves.
  10. More examples of twentieth-century paperbacks.
  11. Keeping to the consecutive listing of topics would be helpful.
  12. I was sad how many times we were told that there were examples in the RBS-UVA collection but not here in NYC.
- 10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*
1. Absolutely.
  2. Last day was a bit of a waste but that is because I have zero interest in digital, e-book, and "what is a book" discussions.

3. Yes.
4. {No response}
5. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. Yes.
8. Yes. Yes, if relevant to their work/interests.
9. Yes. Highly.
10. Absolutely. I look forward to taking the complementary courses.
11. Yes, and yes.
12. Yes—though I would recommend trying to take it in Charlottesville over NYC.

11) *If your course made any trips outside of the classroom, do you feel that they were time well spent?*

1. Yes, our trip to the Watson Library was wonderful.
2. Yes.
3. Excellent.
4. The Metropolitan Museum of Art field trip was well organized, interesting, and added an excellent and necessary dimension to the class material.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. The visit to the Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art was great.
8. Yes!
9. {No response}
10. Definitely. The field trip was very useful.
11. Yes. The trip to the Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see publishers' bindings was a highlight.
12. The field trip was one of my absolute favorite aspects. Wonderful hospitality, materials on view, and nice to get other perspectives and approaches to print history.

12) *If you attended any of our optional evening events, do you feel that they were a good use of your time? Were there any that were particularly important to your RBS experience? Any that you could have done without?*

1. The Leab lecture was great. The Thursday lecture...not so much.
2. No.
3. Yes.
4. {private response}
5. Both lectures interesting.
6. {No response}
7. The chance to attend two evening lectures at the Grolier Club was most appreciated.
8. Yes.
9. {No response}
10. The lectures were a helpful disengagement from the subject matter.
11. Really liked the RBS lecture.
12. They were both very finely tailored to the Grolier Club, and stressing the bibliophile/collector/donor community, but I also felt the two were too similar.

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

1. {No response}
2. No.
3. {No response}
4. {No response}
5. Be prepared to learn.
6. Do the advance reading!
7. {No response}
8. No.
9. {No response}
10. Definitely do the readings! They were immensely helpful.
11. Very interesting material applicable to almost anyone's interest in books.
12. I somewhat regretted doing it in NYC—I felt the loss of being able to meet so many people in different diverse classes, as well as the RBS collections.

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

1. I can't wait to come again for another course!
2. I love New York!
3. Don't hesitate if you want an interesting and informative week—excellent concentration of material!
4. {No response}
5. Always one of the highlights of my year.
6. This was an intense week, but one that went by very quickly.
7. Keep doing what RBS does.
8. N/A
9. A wonderfully informative and engaging week. Well worth the time!
10. All books are special/Some are a bit more special/Eye of beholder.
11. Fascinating as usual.
12. {No response}
- 13.

## **Student Data**

*Number of respondents:* 12 (of 12)

*How did you arrange for time off to attend this course?*

My institution/employer gave me professional leave time: 5 (41.67%)

My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 3 (25%)

I am self employed, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (16.67%)

I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 2 (16.67%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

I paid 100% myself: 6 (50%)  
My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)  
My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (16.67%)  
I used a scholarship/fellowship to pay/waive 100%: 3 (25%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 5 (41.67%)  
My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)  
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)  
I stayed with friends/family, or stayed in my own home and commuted: 4 (33.33%)  
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

*Who paid your RBS travel expenses?*

I paid 100% myself: 5 (41.67%)  
My institution/employer paid 100%: 1 (8.33%)  
I used a scholarship/fellowship to cover part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)  
I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 4 (33.33%)  
My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

*Which of the following **best** describes your current occupation?*

**Library disciplines:**

Archivist: 1 (8.33%)  
Cataloger/metadata librarian: 1 (8.33%)  
Public services librarian: 3 (25%)

**Student working toward a/n:**

Ph.D./D.Phil: 1 (8.33%)

**Book trades:**

Antiquarian bookseller: 2 (16.67%)

**Other occupations/vocations:**

Book collector: 2 (16.67%)  
Independent scholar: 1 (8.33%)