



THE ANDREW W. MELLON SOCIETY OF FELLOWS IN CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY
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COUNCIL:

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1 October 2025

Dear Applicants:

Thank you for your interest in joining the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography (SoFCB) at Rare Book School (RBS). As you consider becoming part of this dynamic network of scholars dedicated to the study of material texts, you may be wondering—as some of us have over the years—whether your intellectual pursuits and life experiences will be embraced by institutions with complicated legacies. Our Society is unanimously committed to generous thinkers and doers who want to build a free, safe, accessible, respectful, and pluralistic community.

We are Junior and Senior Fellows from a wide array of racial, regional, and class backgrounds working and studying at museums, libraries, and public and private universities. We have been coming to Rare Book School since 2013, originally as part of the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in Critical Bibliography, in pursuit of intellectual questions, but also to form a genuinely collaborative, plurivocal, and interdisciplinary community. For individual members whose scholarly work didn't quite "fit" in their disciplinary or institutional settings, Rare Book School and the Mellon Fellowship have offered a haven. Since the Society's formation in 2017, creativity and camaraderie have continued to deepen among the SoFCB fellows.

Fellows have cultivated collaborations across multiple disciplines, professions, and specializations. Besides achieving our original task—to revivify, deepen, and extend the field of bibliography and invigorate the humanities through the study of material texts—the fellows of the SoFCB have collectively seen our scholarly goals as reaching far beyond bibliography and into new intellectual spaces. We encourage applications from scholars whose experiences, perspectives, and work will expand and enrich the Society, the Rare Book School community, and the academic professions broadly conceived. During the Society's 2025–2026 application season, we will review applications for the purpose of inviting new colleagues into our community.

The Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography is an eclectic group of scholars working in a range of academic disciplines, humanistic institutions, and professions. We are firmly committed to advancing the scholarship of outstanding persons of every race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, nationality, and socio-economic background, and to bringing different groups and perspectives into sustained conversation and collaboration with each other. If you have questions about the application process, the Rare Book School courses, or if you would like to talk to current fellows about their experiences or the Society as a whole, we invite

you to reach out to us, and we will do our best to help. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

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The Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography at Rare Book School particularly encourages applications from all scholars interested in our vision, those committed to digital humanities and public engagement, academics working in libraries and those pursuing nontraditional career paths, faculty working at teaching-intensive and minority-serving institutions, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Rare Book School will make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with known disabilities.

Rare Book School requires that all of its faculty, staff, students, and guests abide by the University of Virginia's policy for preventing and addressing discrimination and harassment. Rare Book School's Statement of Values and Code of Conduct appears at <https://rarebookschool.org/values/>