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C-90: Provenance: Tracing Owners and Collections  
6–11 January 2019

**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. Pre-course readings were useful but not essential.
2. N/A
3. The list was very comprehensive—the titles that I chose to read were very helpful.
4. The instructor's upcoming book will be a useful addition to the pre-reading.
5. Yes, very helpful.
6. Very useful and enjoyable. I look forward to the new edition of DP's book. I bought a few I had initially borrowed from the library.
7. I read most of the suggested books, and I found them useful. Students who don't have time to do extensive readings in advance would not be at a big disadvantage.
8. The reading assignments were useful but not essential, as lectures covered much of the central materials. I'd recommend prioritizing the reading list.
9. Yes, they were useful. Looking forward to the new edition of DP's book in the spring. Might be good to review and re-read these books post-class.
10. The pre-course assignments were helpful to serve as a foundation for RBS, but not unduly time-consuming as preparation.
11. The readings were more obscure than I had anticipated. While not necessary, the readings were interesting. However, it may benefit you more to read them after the course is over.
12. All of the readings were generally useful, though the book by DP on the subject was by far the most useful. I had looked at numerous examples of provenance in books from my institution's collections beforehand, which was useful.

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 workbook is very useful as a source of information and the bibliography will be helpful as I continue to learn more about armorials and heraldry.
2. Seriously great handbook—I'll be referring back to it in the future.
3. The workbook provided was very thoughtfully prepared, and will serve as a useful reference in the future.
4. The workbook will continue to be useful.
5. Workbook is a TREASURE.
6. Very useful, especially for paleography and heraldry. The bibliography is great. I liked having the outline as a way to organize notes. I will refer back to it.
7. The workbook, and the color-printed handouts provided by DP were very useful, and I think they will serve me well in the future as references.
8. Excellent—very helpful to have the lecture outlines, full bibliography, and visual

examples for reference now and later.

9. Very well organized. Appreciated having the workbook notes so I didn't have to constantly be writing notes, but could listen instead. The bibliography will be very valuable.
10. I'll keep this workbook as a "bible" for provenance work when I get back home! The examples are extremely helpful and the bibliography of resources will be invaluable!
11. Lovely materials/worksheet exercises in class—more of them please.
12. Yes, I think it will be very useful.

3) *If you've taken previous RBS courses, how did this one compare?*

1. RBS is RBS—a marathon of information overload. This course is no different. Come prepared.
2. I can't! They were both amazing in different ways.
3. This was at the top quartile.
4. {no response}
5. Among the best! Probably tied with best along with "G-45: Analytical Bibliography."
6. As excellent, but I probably laughed the most in this one. Great group of classmates (convivial and smart).
7. This was the most fun and the most relaxing RBS course I've taken. DP is an exceptional instructor. He is warm, generous, humble, and welcoming.
8. Equally strong in content, livelier and better organized in execution.
9. Excellent.
10. This was my eighth RBS course. Like each one before, I've had fun and learned a lot.
11. {no response}
12. N/A

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. Armorial and heraldry. This course provides a very good foundation for learning how to "read" an armorial and how to describe them as well. I look forward to using this information to identify bookplates in my cataloging work.
2. Letter forms evolved over time! Who knew?
3. I took the course based on the pleasure that I derive from tracking down a book's previous owners. The course provided me with many new tools to broaden my descriptions of provenance.
4. I changed the topic of a future paper as a result of this class.
5. Each module was extremely relevant. I feel capable of tackling complex research that would have intimidated me before.
6. 1) Learned new skill (heraldry). 2) All we learned, put together, filled in many gaps and gave me new ideas of how to approach my research. 3) I will now write in books.
7. I have a much better idea of the best reference sources for provenance research. Good overview of British paleography pre-1800 (new subject for me). Heraldry and analysis and identification of armorials (completely new to me).

8. I appreciated the provenance-eye view of topics from binding to paleography to heraldry—a great sampler platter of book historical topics. Many new insights and plans to return to my earlier work.
9. The paleography and styles of armorial bookplates were helpful and interesting. Generated lots of ideas and enthusiasm for future projects.
10. Working through examples of “reading provenance history” and seeing what can be learned through various evidence will be extremely helpful as I go back to my library. Summer project list begun!
11. Really liked the skills I developed in this course, especially with the modules on various types of provenance evidence.
12. Viewing real examples was very interesting. Some of the discussions with the whole class were very insightful.

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. DP is fantastic! He explained the course material in an understandable fashion, and his in-class exercises are tremendously helpful.
2. DP is a treasure. Learned all that was promised and more.
3. I learned more than I expected. The instructor gave us every chance to question throughout each session.
4. {no response}
5. Yes, it was all excellent. I would have liked slightly more on tracing owners. Perhaps some more practical examples?
6. Yes.
7. Yes. Even though DP stated that his focus would be on the U.K., he still provided many examples from continental Europe and America.
8. Yes, absolutely—with bonus material added according to our own questions and interests. No. Yes!
9. Yes, he did, and yes, I did.
10. More than promised or expected. I learned even more than I had hoped.
11. Maybe a bit more on binding/less on paleography on day two would be nice. I really liked the binding skins tangent.
12. Yes.

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

1. Please see Q4.
2. My cataloging records have improved tremendously.
3. I will apply the analytical pearls and will seek the bibliographical references in cataloging books.
4. Use it towards a future paper.
5. In my job as curator and for teaching.
6. Personal research (history, 18thc); collecting.
7. It will help with my work as a library professional.
8. In continued research on, teaching about, and presentations concerning items in the collection on which my work centers.
9. Help my institution.

10. I'll be pulling books from our special collections and now feel that I'll be able to add information about our copies that was unintelligible to me before.
  11. Will share with researchers I meet and go back through my own research and add to it from a more knowledgeable background/keener eye.
  12. I will use these skills and knowledge to examine more of the material in my institution's collections and hopefully increase our understanding of these collections.
- 7) *Please briefly describe the intellectual level of the course. What sort of person might benefit the most from taking it?*
1. As with a typical RBS course, the intellectual level is rigorous. A variety of people could benefit: catalogers, archivists, and bibliographers come to mind.
  2. Someone with more than basic knowledge of rare books. Need to know about bindings. Not for novices.
  3. The course is directed to sophisticated bibliophiles, and would be best for students with significant formal or informal exposure to books.
  4. Useful for people with varying levels of experience.
  5. Very high. I would say you'll get the most if you have handled a lot of books before, but it was very comprehensive, so no need to be an expert.
  6. Very high—great group of people who really engaged. Historians, librarians, and collectors.
  7. Some bibliographical and book historical knowledge useful, but the course is not incredibly advanced. A good intro for individuals of all learning levels.
  8. Friendly, welcoming, very clear, and concerned with accuracy and completeness of understanding. Absolutely anyone with an interest.
  9. Intellectual level was not too hard or too easy. DP made it very approachable. He is well-grounded, practical—and his memory is amazing.
  10. Some background in book history could help but is not necessary.
  11. I can imagine all types of people benefitting from this course because provenance research is so widely applicable.
  12. Rare book librarians, catalogers, and grad students.
- 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. Again, I came here primarily to learn about armorials, crests, &c., and this was accomplished this past week.
  2. There was something new every day.
  3. The most memorable "aha" moment was DP's conviction that all owners of books should mark them as theirs—becoming part of the provenance.
  4. The in-class and the take-home exercises were helpful.
  5. Really wonderful to see how much you can know about someone who survives only as a signature on a flyleaf.
  6. No one "aha" moment, but an aggregate of many little moments. I thought about everything when I went home.
  7. Paleography and armorials identification and transcription exercises were very helpful.

8. DP's utter generosity in sharing his expert knowledge make the entire week a joy. He also tolerated our very lively spirits with great good humor.
9. {no response}
10. On Friday morning, DP asked if some homework we had done Thursday night seemed easy. My answer was that then it was easy, but that on Monday it would have been impossible. That's how much I had learned!
11. Day one's point about provenance as a way to see historical interactions with text and as a way to get to voices silenced in history.
12. {no response}

9) *How could the course have been improved?*

1. DP knows what he is doing; let him continue on!
2. More space to spread out. MORE HOMEWORK! Specifically paleography.
3. Can't think of anything.
4. {no response}
5. No suggestions—very strong already. A second week?
6. I really enjoyed the two informal, short presentations and one transcription exercise by classmates. I think the optional inclusion of this would be great—present our research or a question or problem.
7. Perhaps schedule some activities after lunch because during that time it can be hard to fully focus on more lecture-based content. Otherwise, an excellent mix of activities.
8. No suggestions. As is, the course beautifully balances planned content and opportunities for meaningful digression.
9. Maybe a little less about motives of book ownership (preaching to the choir) and less about sales catalogs?
10. {no response}
11. More interaction with students (by means of more hands-on exercises or more questions sampling the room).
12. {no response}

10) *Do you feel that you got your money's worth? Would you recommend the course to others?*

1. As always, yes.
2. Absolutely to both questions.
3. Absolutely x2.
4. Yes.
5. Yes—I wish everyone at my library would take this course twice!
6. Yes, definitely.
7. I would definitely recommend the course.
8. Yes, and yes. I would recommend DP to anyone.
9. Yes, and yes.
10. Absolutely—and then some! Yes, yes, yes!
11. Yes.
12. Yes, and yes.

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

*time well spent?*

1. Once to UVA SC. Yes, it was time well-spent.
  2. Yes! The trip to SC was great!
  3. SC is a great resource.
  4. Yes.
  5. N/A
  6. Yes, being able to look at materials at SC was very useful.
  7. The trip to SC was useful and a nice change of pace/locale.
  8. N/A
  9. Yes.
  10. We made a trip to SC to see examples that RBS did not have. Time well-spent.
  11. SC trip was okay but not mind-blowing.
  12. Yes, though the trip to SC could have been better had we been able to have more contact with the material.
- 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. N/A
  2. N/A. I'm an introvert so I went directly back home.
  3. N/A
  4. {no response}
  5. N/A
  6. {no response}
  7. I was too tired to attend evening events during the week. The final reception on Friday is always fun.
  8. N/A (Ice cream at 6:30 p.m. in winter = hmm.) I did attend one of the "museum" sessions—too much detail at the end of a long day.
  9. N/A
  10. Took Ruth-Ellen St. Onge's tour of the comics exhibition in the Rotunda. Well done tour and exhibit.
  11. {no response}
  12. {no response}
- 13) *Do you have any additional thoughts or advice for anyone considering taking this course in a future year?*
1. Do at least some of the readings prior to coming to RBS.
  2. {no response}
  3. Review DP's book on provenance.
  4. {no response}
  5. Very useful—extremely practical!
  6. It's a great mixture of practical and intellectual. You will learn from your classmates.
  7. {no response}
  8. No.
  9. {no response}

10. I'd recommend this course highly!
11. Do it.
12. This is a very good course to gain a practical understanding of the subject and the teacher was very good.

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

1. A week at RBS is always time well-spent.
2. Always a wonderful learning experience.
3. Many revelations and smiles.
4. {no response}
5. Invigorating.
6. Always stimulating, always a pleasure.
7. Lovely.
8. We came, we learned, we laughed (a lot!).
9. Intense but memorable.
10. Learned a lot, met a lot of great people, and had heaps of fun!
11. Not dinky.
12. {no response}

### **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: 7 (58.33%)  
 My institution/employer did not give me professional leave; I used paid or vacation days: 1 (8.33%)  
 I am a student or non-year-round employee, with a more flexible summer schedule: 2 (16.67%)  
 I am retired, and can arrange my own schedule: 1 (8.33%)  
 My situation does not fit any of the options above: 1 (8.33%)

*Who paid your RBS tuition costs?*

- I paid 100% myself: 4 (33.33%)  
 My institution/employer paid 100%: 6 (50%)  
 My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 2 (16.67%)

*Who paid your RBS housing expenses?*

- I paid 100% myself: 3 (25%)  
 My institution/employer paid 100%: 3 (25%)  
 My institution/employer paid 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%: 3 (25%)

My institution/employer paid part; I paid the rest: 1 (8.33%)

I live locally, and had no travel expenses: 3 (25%)

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

**Library disciplines:**

Cataloger/metadata librarian: 2 (16.67%)

Curator: 2 (16.67%)

Library assistant/clerk: 1 (8.33%)

Special collections librarian: 2 (16.67%)

**Student working toward a/n:**

B.A./B.S.: 1 (8.33%)

M.A./M.S.: 1 (8.33%)

**Professional educator:**

Full professor: 2 (16.67%)

**Other occupations/vocations:**

Other: 1 (8.33%)