

44th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ON BOOK TRADE HISTORY



SCANDAL AND GOSSIP IN THE BOOK TRADE

FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE PRESENT DAY

19–20 November 2023

Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4M 7DD

*Organised by Giles Mandelbrote, Julian Pooley and Laura Cleaver
in association with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association Educational Trust*

INTRODUCTION

As with many businesses, success in the book trade has always relied heavily on reputation and credit. Yet the relatively small and densely connected networks of the book trade have helped gossip about its members to flourish. In addition, the trade has seen its share of public scandals and activities that whilst kept quiet at the time have since come to light. This conference explores the place of scandal and gossip in the reputation of the book trade and also as a distinctive genre among its products. With topics ranging from the Middle Ages to the twenty-first century, the speakers will explore why scandal and gossip is not merely titillation for the history of the making and trade of books.

THE SPEAKERS

Sara Barker is Associate Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Leeds. Her research focuses on the history of printing, books and news and the material culture of books in early modern France.

Oliver Darkshire is a rare book seller. 'Once Upon a Tome', his account of his time at Sotheran's, was published in 2022.

Christoph Egger is "Universitätsassistent" (Reader) in Medieval History at the Austrian Institute for Historical Research (University of Vienna). He teaches and conducts research in Latin palaeography, codicology, papal diplomatics and library history.

Christine Ferdinand is Emeritus Fellow Librarian, Magdalen College Oxford. Most of her research is on the eighteenth-century book and newspaper trade—particularly the personnel—and her current big project is a biography of James Rivington.

Mirjam Foot, former Director of Collections and Preservation at the British Library, is Emeritus Professor of Library and Archive Studies at University College, London. She has published extensively on the history of bookbinding.

Katharina Kaska is head of the department of manuscripts and rare books at the Austrian National Library in Vienna. She is currently working on palaeography, codicology, medieval library history and the fate of books from Austrian monasteries.

Fauve Vandenberghe is a PhD candidate in English Literature at the Department of Literary Studies at Ghent University. Her research project 'Hyenas in Petticoats: British Female-Authoring Satire of the Eighteenth Century, 1670-1760', funded by the Flemish Research Council, is the first dedicated study of female-authored satire in Britain during an era often hailed as the Golden Age of Satire (ca. 1670-1760).

Björn Weiler is a professor of medieval history at Aberystwyth University. His research focuses on power, historical writing and historical culture in the Middle Ages. He is currently working on the writing of history in the High Middle Ages.

PROGRAMME

Sunday 19 November

10.00-10.30 Registration and coffee

10.30-11.45 **Björn Weiler**: 'Rumour into history in high medieval Europe'

11.45-12.15 Coffee

12.15-13.30 **Christine Ferdinand**: 'Why Did the Cobbler's Wife Break his "Elbone"? Gossip, Scandal, and True Tales about James Rivington'

13.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-15.45 **Sara Barker**: 'Pocket-sized power: pamphlets, scandal and crisis in France, c. 1560–1660'

15.45-16.15 Tea

16.15-17.30 **Oliver Darkshire**: Once Upon A Tome

17.30-19.00 Book launch and commemoration of the conference founders, **Michael Harris** and **Robin Myers**. Reception sponsored by Bernard Quaritch Ltd

Monday 20 November

10.00-10.30 Coffee

10.30-11.45 **Fauve Vandenberghe**: 'Women's Satirical Print Culture in the Eighteenth Century'

11.45-12.15 Coffee

12.15-13.30 **Mirjam Foot**: 'Drunk and disorderly, cheating and lying among bookbinders: truth or slander?'

13.30-15.00 Lunch

15.00-16.15 **Katharina Kaska** & **Christoph Egger**: 'Foolish, Careless, Planless, Greedy. Rival interests in the trade in manuscripts and old books in Austria in the interwar period'

16.15-16.45 Closing discussion



NOTES

The conference is organised by Giles Mandelbrote, Julian Pooley and Laura Cleaver, in association with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association Educational Trust.

The proceedings of previous conferences and a selection of antiquarian books will be available for purchase during the conference.

FEES

The conference fee includes coffee/tea, a sandwich lunch on both days and a wine reception.

Registered students may apply for a limited number of reduced-rate places, sponsored by the Bibliographical Society.

Conference fee: £110
Student conference fee: £70*
Single-day fee: £70*
Student single-day fee: £35*

Early booking is recommended and places will be offered in order of receipt.

BOOKING

Scan QR code to access booking form:



<https://forms.gle/WAW7pcoeVCcWXji7>

If you would prefer a paper booking form, or for more information, please contact:

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association

Tel: +44 (0)20 8004 9512

Email: secretary@aba.org.uk

CANCELLATION POLICY

A 50% refund will be made for cancellations received in writing at the ABA Office by 1 November 2023. No refund will be given for any cancellation received after that date.