

HABITS OF **R**EADING

IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

A SUMMER HUMANITIES INSTITUTE FOR COLLEGE TEACHERS

DIRECTED BY STEVEN N. ZWICKER ♦ 16 JUNE-25 JULY 1997

Sponsored by the Folger Institute Center for Shakespeare Studies

Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

The Folger Institute
The Folger Shakespeare Library
201 East Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003-1094

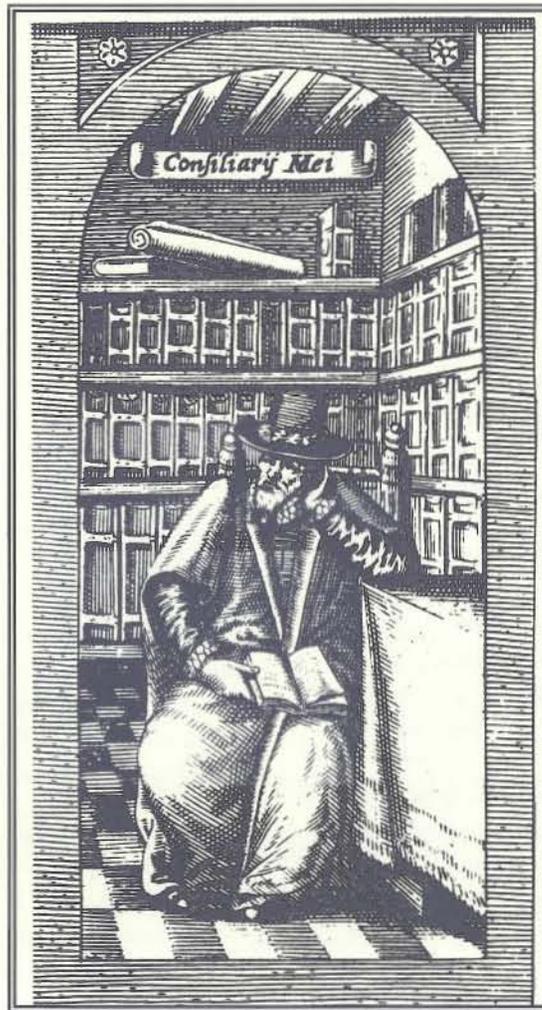
COVER ILLUSTRATION: Detail from the title page of *Catechismus Parvus Primum Latine Qui Ediscatur* by Alexander Nowell (1573). INSIDE FOLD: Detail from the title page of *The Workes of Iohn Boys* (1622). INSIDE: Plate 56 from *The Cryes of the City of London* (1711); Printer's device of fist or index is derived from a manuscript practice of attending to the word.

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THE FOLGER

Founded in 1970, the Folger Institute is a center for advanced study and research in the humanities that is sponsored by the Folger Shakespeare Library and a consortium of thirty three universities. With generous support from such agencies and individuals as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, the Exxon Education Foundation, the Hillsdale Fund, Emory University, and John Dulin Folger, the Institute offers a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural program of seminars, workshops, symposia, colloquia, and lectures.

The Folger Institute Center for Shakespeare Studies was established in 1986 with an NEH grant. The programs of the Center have been expansively defined to reinvigorate college teaching through the exchange of a rich variety of ideas and approaches to the literature and history of the early modern period. The work of the Center is available to a wider scholarly community through publication of confer-



INSTITUTE

ence proceedings, distribution of slides and photocopied images of materials from the Folger collections, and on-line access to pedagogical workbooks.

The Folger Shakespeare Library, located two blocks from the nation's Capitol and across the street from the Library of Congress, is an independent research facility with about 256,000 volumes on British and European literary, cultural, political, religious, and social history from the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries. The manuscript collection, which numbers 55,000, is especially strong in early correspondence and commonplace books. Such microfilm holdings as the state papers domestic from Edward VI through Charles I and the Cecil, Loseley, Harleian, and Lansdowne papers further extend the collections.

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HABITS OF **R**EADING IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND



THE INSTITUTE

“Habits of Reading in Early Modern England” will make reading in all its facets the subject of intensive study and exploration. Working with the rich Folger collections and surveying the now substantial body of scholarship on the subject, the institute will consider the full range of intellectual and affective transactions between readers and their books. We will address the ways that the printing and distribution of books shaped texts, the relations between the practices of reading and the formation of collections and libraries, the inflection of politics by print, and the aesthetic and intellectual consequences of censorship, regulation, clientage, and patronage. We will, in other words, be concerned with all the ways we can trace Renaissance readers and their experience and, in turn, with the conclusions we might then draw about early modern authors and their embrace of those readers.

The relations between politics and reading will be a particular focus of this institute. The world of pamphlet culture and print warfare, of contest and animadversion, will be especially important to our study. Texts such as Marvell's *Horatian Ode*, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel* will be read as factional, polemical, and fully engaged in the issues of their own political moments. By recreating those moments, the institute will cast the poems of early



DIRECTOR

Steven N. Zwicker, Professor of English at Washington University, is the author most recently of *Lines of Authority: Politics and English Literary Culture, 1649-1689* (1993). With Kevin Sharpe, he coedited *Politics of Discourse: The Literature and History of Seventeenth-Century England* (1987). *Refiguring Revolutions: British Politics and Aesthetics, 1642-1789*, also coedited with Kevin Sharpe, is forthcoming, as is *The Cambridge Companion to English Literature: From Andrew Marvell to Alexander Pope*. Professor Zwicker has worked extensively on manuscript annotation and marginalia in the rare-book collections of the Clark Library and Huntington Library and has studied the approximately 12,000 titles in the Folger's collection of catalogued English books, 1641-1700, for evidence of the dialogue between texts and their readers.



FACULTY

Peter W.M. Blayney, Distinguished Resident Fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library, is the author of *The Texts of 'King Lear' and Their Origins*, vol. 1: *Nicholas Okes and the First Quartos* (1982). *The Booklets in Paul's Cross Churchward*

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The handwritten annotations in the margins of the Folger's rare books will be used as vital evidence in our study of the ways sixteenth- and seventeenth-century men and women read and responded to texts. By historicizing the reader—studying the contemporary representations and reimagining the social and physical sites and circumstances of reading—we will work to recreate the acts of attention and arts of interpretation that define the world of the early modern reader. Taking advantage of the institute's own setting in a library that is itself an important case study in the archiving of the period, we will examine a wide range of primary materials. These will include Renaissance texts on aesthetic theory and hermeneutics, as well as the metatexts of Renaissance books: their printed prefaces, dedications, illustrations, tables, and indexes.

In the course of the institute, participants will expand their knowledge of the book as a physical object with a session in the Folger's conservation laboratory. They will develop their facility in reading the hands of annotations with a paleography practicum. They will examine search strategies for evidence of readers' responses to texts with an introduction to on-line resources. Finally, they will supplement field trips to the National Gallery of Art with an introduction to the Gallery's archive of prints and library of slides.

Throughout, the institute will make available strategies for college faculty to understand, and more importantly to teach, how texts spoke to the passions of early modern politics and spirituality, to class circumstance and to gender, to party allegiance and to political ideology. To that pedagogical end, participants will collectively assemble a packet of illustrative materials to be reproduced for incorporation into their own coursework with students.



ELIGIBILITY

Enrollment in "Habits of Reading" is largely limited to those eligible to receive NEH support to attend (see below). Applications are welcome from full-time fac-

dialogue between texts and their readers.



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Margaret J.M. Ezell, Professor of English at Texas A&M University, has published *The Patriarch's Wife: Literary Evidence and the History of the Family* (1987) and *Writing Women's Literary History* (1993). She is completing a study of *Publishing and Perishing in the Restoration: Essays Towards a History of the Material Culture of Authorship in Early Modern Britain*.

Margaret W. Ferguson is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. Her publications include *Trials of Desire: Renaissance Defenses of Poetry* (1983), *Rewriting the Renaissance: The Discourses of Sexual Difference in Early Modern Europe*, coedited with Maureen Quilligan and Nancy Vickers (1986), and, with Barry Weller, a critical edition of Elizabeth Cary's *The Tragedie of Mariam* and *The Lady Falkland: Her Life* (1994).

Anthony Grafton is Professor of History at Princeton University. *From Humanism to the Humanities*, coauthored with Lisa Jardine (1986), *The Transmission of Culture in Early Modern Europe*, coedited with A. Blair (1990), and *Defenders of the Text: The Traditions of Humanism in an Age of Science, 1450-1800* (1991) are among his publications. *Commerce with the Classics: The Disciplines of Reading in Renaissance Europe* is forthcoming.

Richard Helgerson is Professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His many published works include *Self-Crowned Laureates: Spenser, Jonson, Milton and the Literary System* (1983). His *Forms of Nationhood: The Elizabethan Writing of England* (1992) won the British Council Prize in the Humanities and the James Russell Lowell Prize of the Modern Language Association.

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Sixteen participants will be selected to receive support that will include (1) a stipend of \$1,500, (2) an allowance for travel to and lodging in Washington, and (3) a contribution to food expenses. The following persons are ineligible for NEH support: graduate students, secondary-school teachers, unaffiliated scholars, and teachers in institutions outside the United States (although non-citizens with permanent teaching appointments in U.S. institutions of higher learning are eligible). Anyone who has taken part in an NEH humanities institute or summer seminar in the last two years will be given lower priority in consideration. Those applicants who are eligible for NEH support will automatically be considered for it.



APPLICATION

1 March 1997. For application forms, write Kathleen Lynch, Acting Executive Director, The Folger Institute, The Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. Or telephone (202) 675-0333, or e-mail <institute@folger.edu>.

THE FOLGER INSTITUTE

Anthony Gratton is Professor of History at Princeton University. *From Humanism to the Humanities*, coauthored with Lisa Jardine (1986), *The Transmission of Culture in Early Modern Europe*, coedited with A. Blair (1990), and *Defenders of the Text: The Traditions of Humanism in an Age of Science, 1450-1800* (1991) are among his publications. *Commerce with the Classics: The Disciplines of Reading in Renaissance Europe* is forthcoming.

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Kevin Sharpe is Professor of History at the University of Southampton. In addition to numerous articles, he has authored *The Personal Rule of Charles I* (1992), coedited two volumes of essays with Steven Zwicker, and coedited *Culture and Politics in Early Stuart England* with Peter Lake (1994).

William Sherman, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Maryland at College Park, is the author of *John Dee: The Politics of Reading and Writing in the English Renaissance* (1995). With Lisa Jardine, he has contributed "Pragmatic Readers: Knowledge Transactions and Scholarly Services in Late Elizabethan England" to the collection *Religion, Culture, and Society in Early Modern Britain: Essays in Honour of Patrick Collinson* (1994).

Evelyn Tribble is Associate Professor of English at Temple University. She has published *Margins and Marginality: The Printed Page in Early Modern England* (1993). She has contributed "Like a Looking-Glass in the Frame: From Marginal Glosses to Footnotes" to the collection *The Margins of the Text* (1995). Her "Gender, Social Class, and Literacies in John Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*" is forthcoming in *Popular Literacies*.

Laetitia Yeandle is Curator of Manuscripts at the Folger Shakespeare Library. She is coauthor of two paleography manuals, including *Handwriting in England: 1400-1650* with Jean F. Preston (1992). She has edited the text of Hooker's *Tractates* (1990). *The Journal of John Winthrop, 1630-1649*, coedited with Richard Dunn, is forthcoming.