Week One: The Creation and Transmission of Literary Texts in Transition
20 – 23 June 2005

Dr. Julia Boffey (Professor of Medieval Studies, Queen Mary University of London);
Dr. A. S. G. Edwards (Professor of English, University of Victoria)

Monday: The Structure of the Middle English MS—Terminology & Bibliography

Core Readings:


Suggested Readings:


Tuesday: Chaucer, Transmission of Shorter Collections

Core Readings:


Suggested Readings:


**Wednesday: Provincial/Metropolitan Book Production; Miscellanies, Anthologies, the Role of the Patron/Commissioner**

Core Readings:


Suggested Readings:


**Thursday: From manuscript to print: author collections**

Core Readings:


The Canterbury Tales / Geoffrey Chaucer. [London]: Cornmarket Reprints in Association with Magdalene College, Cambridge, 1972. PR1400 5083
[This edition is edited by William Caxton.]

The Workes of Geffray Chaucer Newly Printed. [London: Thomas Godfray, [1532]]. STC 5068 copy 1
[This edition is edited by William Thynne.]

The Workes of Geoffrey Chaucer, Newlie Printed. [London: John Kyngston,] 1561. STC 5075 copy 1
[This edition is edited by William Thynne with additions by John Stow.]

The Workes of our Antient and Lerned English Poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, Newly Printed. London: George Bishop, 1598. STC 5077
[This edition is edited by Thomas Speght.]


Suggested Readings:


BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles:


Books:


Week Two: Controversy and Contestation: Religious and Legal Manuscripts
27 – 30 June 2005

Dr. Mary Erler (Professor of English, Fordham University)
Dr. Lena Cowen Orlin (Professor of English, University of Maryland Baltimore County)

Monday: Women’s Reading and Ownership: Books of Hours

Texts under discussion:
Folger V.a.228

Folger V.b.236—Robert Mannyng, Handling of Sin [“Handelyng off Synne”]

[Book of Hours (Salisbury)]
Impresse Parisii: Pro Symone Le Vostre ..., [1498]
STC 15889

[Book of Hours (Salisbury)]
[Paris: Jean Philippi for Thielman Kerver] pro Iohanne Ricardo mercatore librario Rothomagi, [1497]
STC 15885

[Book of hours (Salisbury)]
Impressum est hoc orariu[m] Parisijs: In edibus spectabilis viri Germani Hardouyn ..., [1533?]
STC 15982
More particular sources:


Also of potential use:


Victoria County Histories


Readings:


**Tuesday: Women’s Reading and Ownership: Devotional and Secular Books**

Texts under discussion:
Walter Hilton’s Scale of Perfection (1497)

Tree and xii. frutes of the holy goost.
[London: R. Copland and M. Fawkes, 1535]
STC 13608

Gower, John, 1325?-1408.
[Confessio amantis]
London: Thomas Berthelette, [1532]
STC 12143

Higden, Ranulf, d. 1364.
 Polycronycon.
Southwark: Peter Treveris, 1527.
STC 13440

Readings:


Wednesday and Thursday: Tudor Women in the Archives

Readings:

Week Three: Verse in Miscellanies and Broadsheets
5 – 8 July 2005

Professor Henry Woudhuysen (Professor of English, University College London)
Dr. Alan Stewart (Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University)

Core readings:


Further suggested readings:

Reference works


**Handwriting**


**Manuscript poetry**


Manuscript and print


Materials and Provenance

Finlay, Michael. Western Writing Implements in the Age of the Quill Pen. Wetheral, Carlisle, Cumbria: Plains, 1990. 260422


Editorial Theory and Practice


Some MSS

Facsimiles and Editions

Poems, 1640 by Thomas Carew, together with poems from the Wyburd manuscript (1969)


John Milton: poems, reproduced in facsimile from the manuscript in Trinity College, Cambridge, with a transcript (1970).


Epistolary Theory

Texts under discussion feature extracts from:
Desiderius Erasmus, De Conscribendis Episolis (1522).


Justus Lipsius, Epistolica Institution


William Fulwood, The Enimie of Idlenesse (1568)

Abraham Fleming, A Panoplie of Epistles (1576)

Angel Day, The English Secretarie (1586, and other editions)

John Browne, The Merchants Avizo (1588)

Thomas Blount, The Academy of Eloquence (1656)

Packet Readings:


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**Week Four: Manuscripts and the Early Modern Theatre**

11 – 14 July 2005

**Dr. Susan Cerasano** (Edgar W.B. Fairchild Professor of Literature, Colgate University)

**Dr. Paul Werstine** (Professor of Modern Languages, University of Western Ontario)

**Monday and Tuesday: The Rose Playhouse, Henslowe’s Diary**


Records of Early English Drama (REED) volumes, now available for the following counties/areas: York, Chester, Coventry, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich, Cumberland/Westmorland, Gloucestershire, Devon, Cambridge, Hereford/Worcestershire, Lancashire, Shropshire, Somerset (including Bath), Bristol, Dorset/Cornwall, Sussex, Kent, Oxford, Forthcoming: Wales, Ecclesiastical London/Westminster


Wallace, Charles W. *The First London Theatre: Materials for a History*. Lincoln, NE: [University of Nebraska], 1913. **PR 2920 W19**

**Wednesday and Thursday: ‘Foul Papers’ and ‘Prompt-books’**

**Manuscripts:**

Folger MS J.b.8, Christopher Marlowe, *Massacre at Paris*. (fragment)

British Library MS Harley 7368, *The Book of Sir Thomas More*, ff. 8 r-9 r (both examples of ‘foul papers’ for Greg).


Victoria and Albert Museum MS Dyce 9, *The Honest Mans Fortune*, ff. 1r, 28v, 34v

British Library MS Additional 36758, John Fletcher, *Bonduca*, ff. 1r, 19r, 23r

Folger MS J.b. 5, Beaumont, John Fletcher, Philip Massinger, *The Beggars Bush*, ff. 158r, 174v, 175r, 175v, 176r

Folger MS J.b. 1 Arthur Wilson, *The Inconstant Lady*. ff. 3r, 18v, 19r

Bodleian Library MS Rawlinson Poet. 9, Arthur Wilson, *The Inconstant Lady*. 1st page, ff. 25, 25v, 26

Archdall MS of Middleton's *Game At Chesse*

Folger MS V.a.231, Thomas Middleton's *A Game At Chesse*. 
Transcriptions


Secondary sources


**Week Five: Contexts of Class and Gender in Seventeenth-Century Manuscripts**

18 – 21 July 2005

**Dr. Victoria Burke** (Associate Professor of English, University of Ottawa)
**Dr Adam Fox** (Professor of Economic and Social History, University of Edinburgh)

**Monday and Tuesday**

Core Readings:

Klene, Jean, ed. *The Southwell-Sibthorpe Commonplace Book: Folger MS. V.b.198*. Tempe, Ariz.: Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies, 1997: Introduction (pp. xi-xlili); fols 1r-11r (pp. 1-17 of Klene), 59r-69v (pp. 93-107), 73r-74v (pp. 113-116) [please browse]. PR2349.S49 A6 1997


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Potential questions for discussion:**

What can apparently non-literary writing tell us about literary culture of the early modern period?
What can material characteristics reveal about the audiences and functions of individual manuscripts?
Could privacy offer a space enabling to women writers?
To what extent was collaboration enacted within family groups and immediate circles, or across time and distance?
What effects do class, education, religious affiliation, political sympathies, geographical location, and other factors have on the production of manuscripts by women?

**Wednesday and Thursday**

**Locality, Orality and Textuality: Popular Engagement with the Handwritten Word in Early Modern England**

**Vernacular Culture and Oral Tradition in Early Modern English Manuscripts**

This session will begin by exploring the great variety which existed in dialect speech in the many local societies of which early modern England was comprised. It will do so by the collective reading of copies of the following manuscripts:

Folger MS V.a.308 (Poetical commonplace book, c.1690-1730; contains ‘A Lancashire Tale’; ‘A Yorkshire Tale’; and ‘Clavis’) *Film number: 147.6*

Folger MS V.a.232 (Commonplace book of Henry Newcome, begun 1669. Contains at the end of Pt II a catalogue of Lancashire words with their ‘true English’ equivalents) *Film number: 4370.2*


It will then proceed to examine some of the oral traditions, local rhymes, and popular customs as recorded in the unpublished accounts of contemporary antiquaries. Extracts from the following manuscript sources will be examined:

Folger MS W.b.483, and X.d.446 (Commonplace book containing verses, practical precepts and proverbial rules on husbandry by John Kay, before 1642)


Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle, D&C / Machell MS 1 (Thomas Machell, Description of Westmorland, 1678-98)
Suggested Reading:


Questions for Consideration:

To what extent is it possible to generalise about popular culture in modern England when, in terms of language and mentality, there could be so much variety across the country?

What does the oral repertoire of English villagers in this period, as recorded by contemporary observers, reveal about the attitudes and beliefs of the lower orders?

Why were both literacy rates and the use of written documents increasing during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?

**The Popular Use of Writing in Early Modern England**

This class will build on our investigation of developing popular literacy by moving on to examine some of the ways in which people from the lower ranks of society used their ability to read and write. We will focus upon three areas in particular.

The first is the use of written rhymes or songs as a weapon of ridicule or shame in local communities. The rather unpleasant practice of composing a scurrilous verse or ballad about a neighbour in order to mock or humiliate may not be very edifying but it does at least allow us to observe the way in which an essentially oral form was also written down in this period in order to aid its dissemination and heighten its impact. Victims of such poetic assault often prosecuted their detractors at law. Since the courts required copies of the alleged ‘libel’ to be produced in evidence, the records of their proceedings contain texts of the material in question together with
accompanying testimonies which shed invaluable light its composition, transcription and circulation. Sources to be considered include:

Wiltshire Record Office, Trowbridge, A1/100/ T 1618, 168; and A1/100/ M 1626, 149-50 (Wiltshire Quarter Sessions Great Rolls, Trinity Term 1618 and Michaelmas Term 1626)

National Archives, London, STAC8/100/18 (Proceedings in the Court of Star Chamber, Reign of James I, Cunde v Browne, 1605)

Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, D/DO B24/5; AND D/DU 65/86 (Court of King’s Bench, Tiffin v Wing)

The second case study will focus on the still unusual writing of personal memoirs by people of humble station. Diaries, autobiographies and letters written by those below the level of the gentry or the formally educated are rare from this period, either because such people did not often write such things or because they have not come down to us. The gradual expansion of this material over time, however, is testimony to the growing use and perceived utility of the written word at all social levels. Where they can be found, such documents provide precious glimpses the lives and letters of ordinary people in the seventeenth century. Examples to be examined in this context include:

Folger MS V. a.436 (A writing book of the London wood-turner, Nehemiah Wallington, 1654. Contains an extract of the passage of his life and a daily record of mercies and providences) Film number: 3074

Wigan Archives Service, Lancashire MS D/DZA58 (The diary of Roger Lowe, apprentice shopkeeper of Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, 1663-74)

Somerset Record Office, Taunton, MS DD/SAS C/1193/4 (Memoirs of John Cannon of Meare, 1684-1742)

Our third and final case study in this session will be concerned with the use of written instruments by local people in the business of parochial administration and daily business. One consequence of the expansion of the central government and the growth of the state in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England was that people of the middling sort became co-opted into position of responsibility in local government as constables, overseers of the poor and jurors. This involved them in the necessary reading and writing of the written word to a much greater extent than ever before. At the same time, their dependent neighbours found themselves needing to resort to the written word in their petitions for poor relief or their license to beg or to travel. Thus writing was coming to structure the routine and define the parameters of daily life in altogether new ways. Consideration will be given to:

Huntington Library, California, MS Ellesmere 6162, fols. 34a-36a (Swallowfield Parish Meeting, 1596)

Poor Law Petitions drawn from various English County Record Offices
Suggested Reading:


**Week Six: Manuscripts at Home and in Public in the late Seventeenth Century**

**25 – 28 July 2005**

**Margaret J.M. Ezell** (The John Paul Abbot Professor in Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University)


Some thoughts for discussion about domestic papers and multi-generational texts:

Further readings on specific manuscripts:


