

Research Review for Columbia University Libraries 2014-15 Fellowship

How and why did I pick Columbia University Libraries as a place to do my research?

Columbia University Libraries was one of my top five choices to visit for dissertation research, rather than later in my career when I am hopefully scouring smaller libraries that own only a handful of English histories each. Thanks to the combination of libraries available to visit under the grant—Burke and Butler RBML were my aims—I could see twenty-six printed books, two manuscript books, and three commonplace books, and be able to re-check the eight I had found during the four-week NEH seminar I attended in NYC in June/July 2013: Thomas Lanquet and Thomas Cooper, *Cooper's Chronicle* (1565); John Stow, *Abridgement of the English Chronicle* (1618); John Stow, *Summarie* (1598); two copies of John Stow, *Annales* (1615); two Plimpton manuscripts of *The Brut Chronicle*; and the three histories at Burke.¹ The NEH seminar was foundational for exposing me to a variety of resources available on the East coast, but it went by too quickly and was spread across too many locations to see much in detail. Being able to focus entirely on Columbia for a month was exactly what I needed to add many more examples to my research on reader marks within English printed chronicles from 1480-1642, with particular focus for the dissertation on reader marks on queens.

Original Application Aim—Library Materials

When I submitted my fellowship application, I had planned to look within **Burke Library** at John Stow's *Abridgement of the Chronicles* (1618) and *Annales* (1631), Thomas Lanquet and Thomas Cooper, *Cooper's Chronicle* (1565); along with three commonplace

¹ Call numbers: B909.C787; B942.St77; B942.St771; Phoenix collection P942.F and B942.St773; Plimpton 261 and 262

books.² For **Butler Library RBML**, I aimed to see *Chronicles of England* (1556), Sir Richard Baker's *Chronicle* (1653); William Camden, *Anglica* (1603); William Slatyer, *The history of Great Britanie* (1621); Johannes Sleidanus, *The key of history* (1631); Jean Froissart, *An epitome of Frossard* (1608); John Lydgate, *Troy book* (1555); André Favyn, *The theater of honour and knighthood* (1623); *A mirour for magistrates* (1610); Florence of Worcester, *Chronicon ex chronicis* (1592); Richard Rainolde, *A chronicle of...emperours of the Romaines* (1571); Appianus of Alexandria, *Chronicle of the Romanes warres, both ciuile and foren* (1578); Hartmann Schedel, *Liber chronicarum* (Nuremburg, 1493, 1496); and Jacobus Philippus de Bergamo, *Supplementum chronicarum* (Venice, 1490, 1492/93).³

Original Application Aim—Research Topic

I am still researching reader marks within English printed chronicles from 1480-1642, with particular focus for the dissertation on reader marks on queens. Since the application I provided in spring 2014, I have honed the dissertation further, to exclude certain books, and the theme of monstrosity. While I am still cataloguing all reader notations I find, it is too much to cover all women and all 'monstrous and marvellous' events in the dissertation. I have focused on queens given reader emphasis upon them, and my specialization in gender studies. However, some queens are called 'monsters' by authors and readers, so 'the monstrous' will still be included some in my final dissertation narrative.

² Call numbers: 1565 C77; 1618 H86; 1631 S89

[Commonplace-book]: [manuscript]. Burke [UTS] Manuscripts (Non-Circulating) >> 31

Commonplace book. Burke [UTS] Manuscripts (Non-Circulating) >> 90

Commonplace book: and notes for 150 sermons. Burke [UTS] Manuscripts (Non-Circulating) >> 104

³ Call numbers: B942.C46; B942.B171; B942.C14; DA130.S63; B930.SL22; B940.4. F923; BOOKART 017.En1 M35 1555L; CR3503.F3; B823.M67; B942.F6622; LODGE 1571 R33; LODGE 1578 Ap49; Goff S307; Goff S310; Goff J211; Goff J212

My work will also be showing how frequent reader annotation and marks—especially from the early modern era—are in early books, a reality still not accepted by some scholars. It will also be finally providing a view of what a variety of readers (rather than just a few famous early modern people) of English history thought was important from their past and within these books.

What did I look at during my 2015 visit?

From my original aim for the Butler RBML, I had to skip John Lydgate, *Troy book* (1555), *A mirour for magistrates* (1610), Richard Rainolde's chronicle, and Appianus of Alexandria's history. These were too far away from my aim of *English* history (as they were Roman or Trojan history), or, in the case of the *Mirror for Magistrates*, more of a poem than a narrative history, but one which may be useful to look at later. I added instead three that were of much more use for the dissertation: *A Breuyat Chronicle* (1556), and Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland* (1557, 1587).⁴

I was also able to complete looking at the two Plimpton manuscripts and Stow's *Annales* (1615) at the Bulter, and Stow's *Abridgement* (1618) at the Burke. I had not been able to finish every reader mark when I looked at them in 2013 during the NEH seminar. Manuscript histories from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries are useful for seeing how readers used manuscripts after printed copies arose. The two Plimpton *Brut*'s were full of sixteenth century annotations, which was very helpful. In all, at the Butler, I looked at or re-examined twenty-five books and manuscripts.

⁴ B942.C46; DA130.H73; B942.H71 FLAT

While not a history focused on England, I am also examining copies of the *Nuremburg Chronicle* given its place as one of the earliest printed histories in Europe, and one that influenced Robert Fabyan's English history. I also suspect that it laid the groundwork for reader expectations of what large printed folio histories had to look like—extensive woodcut family trees and illustrations, and every era of world and Biblical history covered—hence I am comparing it to Holinshed's work too. The Columbia catalogue showed one copy of Hartmann Schedel's *Liber chronicarum* (Nuremburg, 1493), but I found there to be four copies, a very welcome surprise.

Finally, I examined all six items in the Burke Library that I had aimed to see during my visit. I saw the three commonplace books, which was a new opportunity for me, as I am looking at commonplace books in the hope of finding reader notes from histories within them. I know the Folger Shakespeare Library and British Library have commonplace books with catalogue entries noting that the author jotted down items from English histories. Given the brevity of the catalogue entries for the Burke commonplace books, I wasn't sure what they contained. Once I got to see them, however, I found out they did not have any historical notes, but were very interesting items nonetheless (one was notes on sermons, the other entries by central European monks). Stoddard's commonplace book (vol 1) listed his library, which was interesting and useful for someone studying readers.

How much did I find during my 2015 visit?

For my research on reader marks, Columbia was as good as I hoped it would be, given what I had seen in 2013. There was a high rate of occurrence for reader marks in *Cooper's Chronicle* at the Burke, and in the *Chronicon ex Chronicis* (1592) at the Butler. There was a

moderate amount of reader marks in the Burke Library copies of Stow's *Annales* (1631) and Stow's *Abridgment* (1618). In Butler Library, Camden's *Anglica, Normannica, Hibernica, Cambrica, a veteribus scripta* (1603); Stow's *Annales* (1615);⁵ *Cooper's Chronicle* (1565); and Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1577, 1587) had a moderate amount. There was a low amount of reader marks in the Butler Library copies of Stow's *Summarie* (1598); *A Breuyat Chronicle* (1556); Godwin's *Annales of England* (1630); *Liber Chronicarum* (1496); Stow's *Abridgment* (1618); and Stow's *Annales* (1615). Of all that I looked at, only William Slatyer, *The history of Great Britanie* (1621); Johannes Sleidanus, *The key of history* (1631); Jean Froissart, *An epitome of Frossard* (1608); and Sir Richard Baker, *A chronicle of the kings of England* (1653) did not contain any reader marks.

In particular, I was able to find more instances of queens being noted, which is of great importance for finishing the dissertation. But I also collected hundreds of instances beyond reader notes on queens that I can catalogue in my Excel file, enabling me to calculate various rates of occurrence for reader marks: what readers note and how, the date of reader based upon handwriting, which books get noted in the most, etc. That is very helpful for putting the reader notes on queens into context. I also found more instances of readers using particular types of marks, or noting specific events that matched exactly to reader marks I have found in other libraries. That is very helpful too, as it can start showing which historical moments were most important to a variety of readers, and also a widespread cultural understanding readers had on how to note items (i.e. similar symbols and methods).

⁵ The Phoenix Collection copy