

# The Book History Reader

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Shakespeare and the Idea of the Book  
The Reading Nation in the Romantic Period  
The Digital Literary Sphere  
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An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory  
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the editors illustrate how book history studies have evolved into a broad approach which incorporates social and cultural considerations governing the production dissemination and reception of print and texts

the late eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries witness significant advancement in the production and crucially the consumption of culture in Italy during the long process towards and beyond Italy becoming a nation state in 1861 new modes of writing and performing the novel the self help manual theatrical improvisation develop in response to new practices and technologies of production and distribution key to the emergence of an inclusive national audience in Italy is however the audience itself a wide and varied body of consumers of culture animated by the notion of an Italian national cultural identity create in this period an increasingly complex demand for different cultural products this body is energized by the wider access to education and to the Italian language brought about by educational reforms by growing urbanization by enhanced

social mobility and by transcultural connections across european borders this book investigates this process analyzing the ways in which authors composers publishers performers journalists and editors engage with the anxieties and aspirations of their diverse audiences fourteen essays by specialists in the field exploring individual contexts and cases demonstrate how interests related to gender social class cultural background and practices of reading and spectatorship exert determining influence upon the production of culture in this period they describe how women men and children from across the social and regional strata of the emerging nation contribute incrementally but actively to the idea and the growing reality of an italian national cultural life they show that from newspapers to salon performances from letters to treatises in social science from popular novels to literary criticism from philosophical discussions to opera theaters there is evidence in italy in this period of unprecedented participation crossing academic and popular cultures in the formation of a national audience in italy this cultural transformation later produces the mass culture in italy which underpins the major movements of the twentieth century and which undergoes new challenges and reformulations in the italy we know today

the book both material and metaphoric is strewn throughout shakespeare s plays it is held by hamlet as he turns through revenge to madness buried deep in the mudded ooze by prospero when he has shaken out his art like music and violence it is forced by richard ii to withstand the mortality of deposition fetishised by lovers tormented by pedagogues lost by kings written by the alienated and hung about war with the blood of lost voices the book begins and ends shakespeare s dramatic career as change itself standing the distance between violence and hope between holding and losing shakespeare and the idea of the book is about the book in shakespeare s plays focusing on seven plays not only for the chronology and range they present but also for their particular relationship to the book whether it is political or humanist cognitive or illusory satirical or sexual spiritual or secular social or subjective scott argues that the book on stage its literal and semantic presence offers one of the most articulate and developed hermeneutic tools available for the study of early modern english culture

#### **publisher description**

how has the internet changed literary culture 2nd place n katherine hayles award for criticism of electronic literature by the electronic literature organization reports of the book s death have been greatly exaggerated books are flourishing in the internet era widely discussed and reviewed in online readers forums and publicized through book trailers and author blog tours but over the past twenty five years digital media platforms have undeniably transformed book culture since amazon s founding in 1994 the whole way in which books are created marketed publicized sold reviewed showcased consumed and commented upon has changed dramatically the digital literary sphere is no mere appendage to the world of print it is where literary reputations are made movements are born and readers passionately engage with their favorite works and authors in the digital literary sphere simone murray considers the contemporary book world from multiple viewpoints by examining reader engagement with the online personas of margaret atwood john green gary shteyngart david foster wallace karl ove knausgaard and even jonathan franzen among others murray reveals the dynamic interrelationship of print and digital technologies drawing on approaches from literary studies media and cultural

studies book history cultural policy and the digital humanities this book asks what is the significance of authors communicating directly to readers via social media how does digital media reframe the live author reader encounter and does the growing army of reader reviewers signal an overdue democratizing of literary culture or the atomizing of cultural authority in exploring these questions the digital literary sphere takes stock of epochal changes in the book industry while probing books and digital media's complex contemporary coexistence

this is the first comprehensive study of early modern texts readings and readers of shakespeare's poems in print and manuscript reading shakespeare's poems in early modern england makes a compelling contribution both to shakespeare studies and the history of the book examining gendered readerships and the use of erotic works reading practises and manuscript culture textual forms and transmission literary taste and the canonisation of shakespeare this book argues that historicist criticism can no longer ignore histories of reading

what did reading mean to the victorians this question is the key point of departure for reading and the victorians an examination of the era when reading underwent a swifter and more radical transformation than at any other moment in history with book production handed over to the machines and mass education boosting literacy to unprecedented levels the norms of modern reading were being established essays examine the impact of tallow candles on victorian reading the reading practices encouraged by mudie's select library and feminist periodicals the relationship between author and reader as reflected in manuscript revisions and corrections the experience of reading women's diaries models of literacy in our mutual friend the implications of reading marks in victorian texts how computer technology has assisted the study of nineteenth century reading practices how gladstone read his personal library and what contemporary non academic readers might owe to victorian ideals of reading and community reading forms a genuine meeting place for historians literary scholars theorists librarians and historians of the book and this diverse collection examines nineteenth century reading in all its personal historical literary and material contexts while also asking fundamental questions about how we read the victorians reading in the present day

this book is the definitive study of imperial chinese local gazetteers one of the most important sources for premodern chinese studies methodologically innovative it represents a major contribution to the history of books publishing reading and society by examining how gazetteers were read joseph r dennis illustrates their significance in local societies and national discourses his analysis of how gazetteers were initiated and produced reconceptualizes the geography of imperial chinese publishing whereas previous studies argued that publishing and thus cultural and intellectual power were concentrated in the southeast dennis shows that publishing and book ownership were widely dispersed throughout china and books were found even in isolated locales adding a dynamic element to our earlier understanding of the publishing industry dennis tracks the movements of manuscripts to printers and print labor to production sites by reconstructing printer business zones he demonstrates that publishers operated across long distances in trans regional markets he also creates the first substantial data set on publishing costs in early modern china a foundational breakthrough in understanding the

world of chinese books dennis s work reveals areas for future research on newly identified regional publishing centers and the economics of book production

as significant economic social political and cultural transformations swept the jewish population of tsarist russia and congress poland between 1860 and 1914 the yiddish language zhargon began to gain recognition as a central part of the jewish cultural stage yiddish transformed examines the secular reading habits of east european jews as the jewish community began shifting to a modern society author nathan cohen explores jewish reading practices alongside the rise of yiddish by delving into publishing policies of yiddish books and newspapers popular literary genres of the time the development of jewish public libraries as well as personal reflections of reading experiences

this unique student resource is specifically designed for those beginning an ma in literature providing an introduction to research techniques methodologies and information sources relevant to the study of literature at postgraduate level

this volume offers the first critical analysis of mass reading events and the contemporary meanings of reading in the uk usa and canada based on original interviews and surveys with readers and event organisers the authors interrogate the enduring attraction of an old technology for readers community organizers and government agencies exploring the social practices inspired by the sharing of books in public spaces and revealing the complex ideological investments made by readers cultural workers institutions and the mass media in the meanings of reading

many scholars have written about eighteenth century english novels but no one really knows who read them this study provides historical data on the provincial reading publics for various forms of fiction novels plays chapbooks children s books and magazines archival records of midland booksellers based in five market towns and selling printed matter to over thirty three hundred customers between 1744 and 1807 form the basis for new information about who actually bought and borrowed different kinds of fiction in eighteenth century provincial england this book thus offers the first solid demographic information about actual readership in eighteenth century provincial england not only about the class profession age and sex of readers but also about the market of available fiction from which they made their choices and some speculation about why they made the choices they did contrary to received ideas men in the provinces were the principal customers for eighteenth century novels including those written by women provincial customers preferred to buy rather than borrow fiction and women preferred plays and novels written by women women s works would have done better had women been the principal consumers that is demand for fiction written by both men and women was about equal for the first five years but afterward the demand for women s works declined both men and women preferred novels with identifiable authors to anonymous ones however and both boys and men were able to cross gender lines in their reading goody two shoes was one of the more popular children s books among rugby schoolboys and men read the lady s magazine these and other findings will alter the way scholars look at the fiction of the period the questions asked and the histories told of it

in 1957 richard altick s groundbreaking work the english common reader transformed the study of book history putting readers at the centre of literary culture altick

anticipated and helped produce fifty years of scholarly inquiry into the ways and means by which the victorians read now a return to the common reader asks what altick's concept of the common reader actually means in the wake of a half century of research digging deep into unusual and eclectic archives and hitherto overlooked sources its authors give new understanding to the masses of newly literate readers who picked up books in the victorian period they find readers in prisons in the barracks and around the world and they remind us of the power of those forgotten readers to find forbidden texts shape new markets and drive the production of new reading material across a century inspired and informed by altick's seminal work a return to the common reader is a cutting edge collection which dramatically reconfigures our understanding of the ordinary victorian readers whose efforts and choices changed our literary culture forever

this book aligns concepts and methods from book history with new literary research on a globally studied writer an innovative three part approach combining close reading the evidence of reading scrutiny of international book distribution circuits and of conrad's many fictional representations of reading illuminates his childhood maritime and later shore based reading after an overview of the empirical evidence of conrad's reading his sparsely documented twenty years reading at sea and in port is reconstructed an examination the reading practices of his famous narrator marlow then serves to link conrad's own maritime and shore based reading conrad's subsequent networked reading shared with his closest male friends and with literate multilingual women is examined within the context of edwardian reading practices his fictional representations of reading and material texts are highlighted throughout including genre trends periodical reading reading spaces and their lighting and the use of reading as therapy the book should appeal both to conrad scholars and to historians of reading

placing the reading of history in its cultural and educational context and examining the processes by which ideas about ancient rome circulated this study provides the first assessment of the significance of roman history broadly conceived in early modern england

until recently historians of reading have concentrated on book ownership and trying to map out a history of who read what the reading experience has been a subject more difficult to research as has been pointed out before egodocuments can be valuable sources in this case following this lead literacy in everyday life focuses upon four early modern dutch diaries in which readers document their daily life and in which they recount their reading in the analysis other ways in which these four readers communicated are also addressed especially speech and writing this book therefore provides an insight into the possible uses of literacy and the interaction between the printed written and spoken word in the early modern dutch republic

lively original and highly readable an introduction to literature criticism and theory is the essential guide to literary studies starting at the beginning and concluding with the end chapters range from the familiar such as character narrative and the author to the more unusual such as secrets pleasure and ghosts now in its fifth edition bennett and royle's classic textbook successfully illuminates complex ideas by engaging directly with literary works so that a reading of jane eyre opens up ways of thinking about racial difference for example while chaucer raymond chandler and monty python are all invoked in a

discussion of literature and laughter the fifth edition has been revised throughout and includes four new chapters feelings wounds body and love to incorporate exciting recent developments in literary studies in addition to further reading sections at the end of each chapter the book contains a comprehensive bibliography and a glossary of key literary terms a breath of fresh air in a field that can often seem dry and dauntingly theoretical this book will open the reader s eyes to the exhilarating possibilities of reading and studying literature

the third edition of the mla s widely used introduction to scholarship in modern languages and literatures features sixteen new essays by leading scholars designed to highlight relations among languages and forms of discourse the volume is organized into three sections understanding language provides an overview of the field of linguistics with special attention to language acquisition and the social life of languages forming texts offers tools for understanding how speakers and writers shape language it examines scholarship in the distinct but interrelated fields of rhetoric composition and poetics reading literature and culture continues the work of the first two sections by introducing major areas of critical study the nine essays in this section cover textual and historical scholarship interpretation comparative cultural and translation studies and the interdisciplinary topics of gender sexuality race and migrations among others as in previous volumes an epilogue examines the role of the scholar in contemporary society each essay discusses the significance underlying assumptions and limits of an important field of inquiry traces the historical development of its subject introduces key terms outlines modes of research now being pursued postulates future developments and provides a list of suggestions for further reading this book will interest any member of the academic community seeking a review of recent scholarship while it provides an indispensable resource for undergraduate and graduate students of modern languages and literatures

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