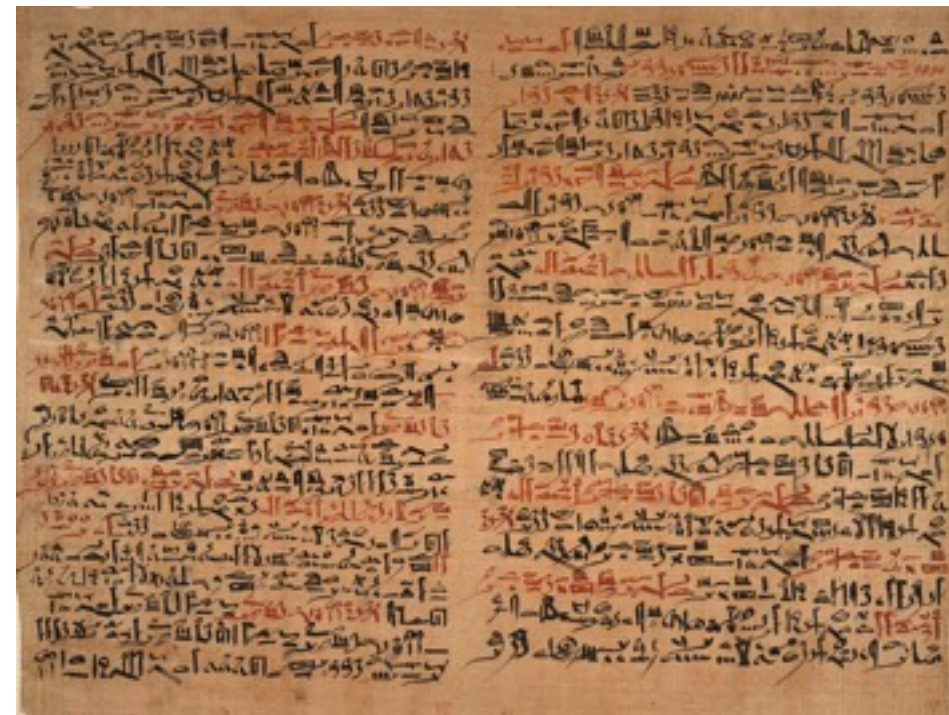


manuscript culture



back to the books

history of information
February 3, 2011





aob



THIRD BIENNIAL CODEX INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR



& SYMPOSIUM: BORDERS AND COLLABORATIONS FEBRUARY 6-9, 2011

2011 Codex Bookfair at the Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley Campus

2011 BOOKFAIR PUBLIC HOURS

Sunday, Feb. 6	12:00 - 4:00
Monday, Feb. 7	12:30 - 6:30
Tuesday, Feb. 8	12:30 - 6:30
Wednesday, Feb. 9	12:30 - 4:30

<http://codexfoundation.org/>

New! Shop at the Google eBookstore

Go to the Google eBookstore for over 3 million eBooks to read on the Web, Android, iPhone, iPad, Sony and Nook.

[Go to the Google eBookstore now »](#)

coming up:
the future of publications

"the end of the book"

The New York Times

Business Day
Technology

An Apple E-Book Rule Tightens

By CLAIRE CAIN MILLER
Published: February 1, 2011

When you see people flipping through e-books on iPads or iPhones, there is a good chance they bought the books through [Amazon.com](#), not [Apple](#).

Now, Apple wants to change that.

Apple confirmed Tuesday that it would require app developers that sell e-books outside of their [iPad](#) and [iPhone](#) apps — through a Web site, for example — to also sell the books inside those apps. And purchases that originate in the app must be made through Apple, which keeps a 30 percent cut.

Apple said it was newly enforcing an existing rule, one that will force Amazon, [Sony](#), [Google](#) and other e-book sellers to change the way their apps work.

"We are now requiring that if an app offers customers the ability to purchase books outside of the app, that the same option is also available to customers from within the app," Trudy Muller, an Apple spokeswoman, said in a statement.

Hofl 11 -- Manuscript Culture 3

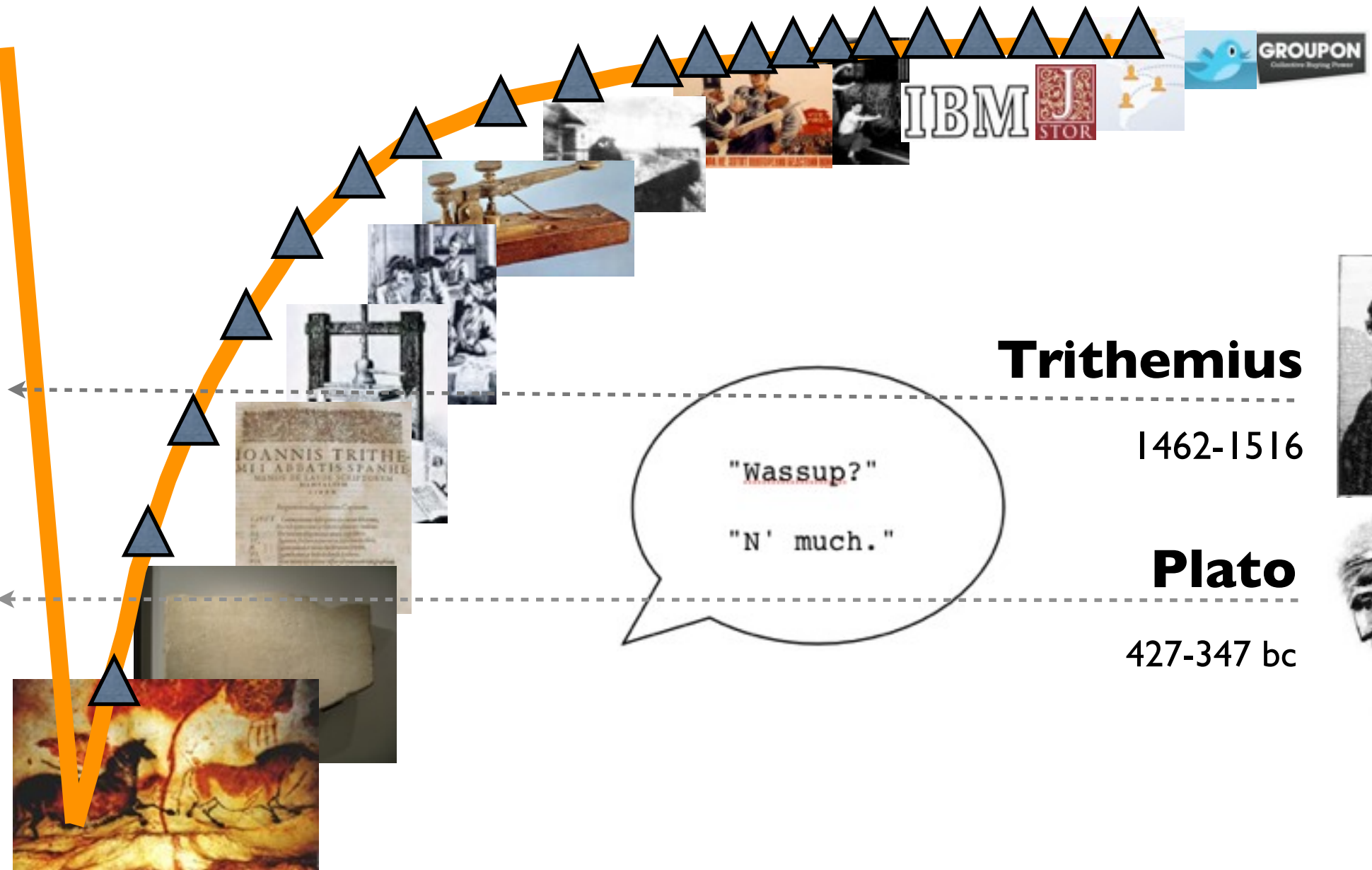
bookends?

year

2011
1980
1950
1900
1800
1700
1600
1200
600
400
0
500
3000
5000
30,000
50,000

week

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 week



Trithemius

1462-1516

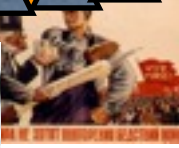


Plato

427-347 bc



"Wassup?"
"N' much."



overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about?

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

unintended consequences



how determined?



necessary vs sufficient

"Is industrial technology the necessary and sufficient condition for capitalism?"

-- Heilbroner

going soft?

- the handmill* produces feudalism?
- couldn't have feudalism without handmill?
- with handmill superseded, feudalism was in trouble?

[* try writing/alphabet/book/print/telegraph]

Hofl 11 -- Manuscript Culture 6



determining questions

what happened?

"simple" to "complex"

what did (or didn't) come before?

oral

what did (or didn't) follow?

rise of "society," end of oral culture

what contributed?

writing, alphabets

what happened elsewhere?

what's underestimated?

Hofl II -- Manuscript Culture 7

overview

on determinism

eyewitnesses

what were they talking about

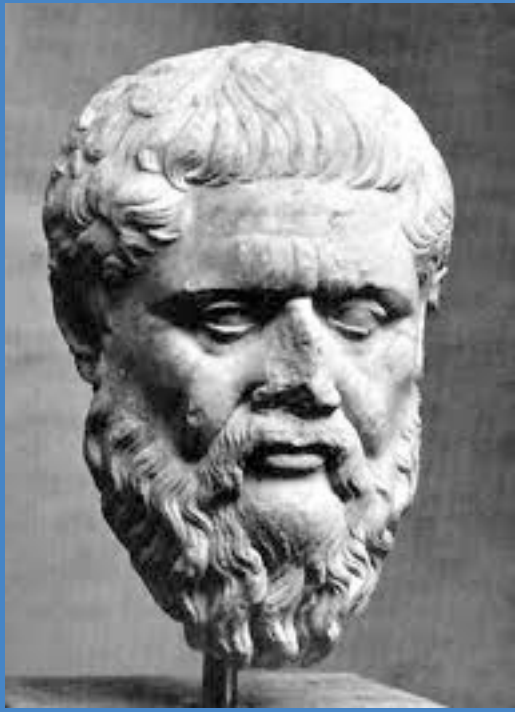
technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

unintended consequences

eyewitnesses



Plato,
Phaedrus, ?360bc



Johannes Trithemius,
In Praise of Scribes, 1492

an old idea

"Those who acquire [writing] will cease to exercise their memory and become forgetful; they will rely on writing to bring things to their remembrance by external signs instead of on their own internal resources."

Plato, *Phaedrus*, c. 370 bc

coming up:
manuscript culture

3 Feb: Manuscript Culture

Required reading:

NOTE: we are now going back to "primary texts," texts that discuss the changes we are interested in as they happened. As you read these texts, one almost 2500 years old, the other more than 500 years old, ask yourself whether these have anything to tell us about information in the modern world. Be prepared to discuss your reactions in class. (The Trithemius is a "parallel text" with Latin facing English. Only those fluent in Latin need read the Latin pages.)

eyewitnesses

standard view

Socrates didn't like books

Trithemius didn't like print

your thoughts?

overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about?

Socrates

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?
Socrates



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?

Socrates
Phaedrus



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?

Socrates
Phaedrus
Lysias



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?

Socrates
Phaedrus
Lysias

The Egyptian story?



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?

Socrates
Phaedrus
Lysias

The Egyptian story?

Thamus



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?

Socrates
Phaedrus
Lysias

The Egyptian story?

Thamus
Thebes



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

eyewitness to history

Phaedrus
what's the setup?

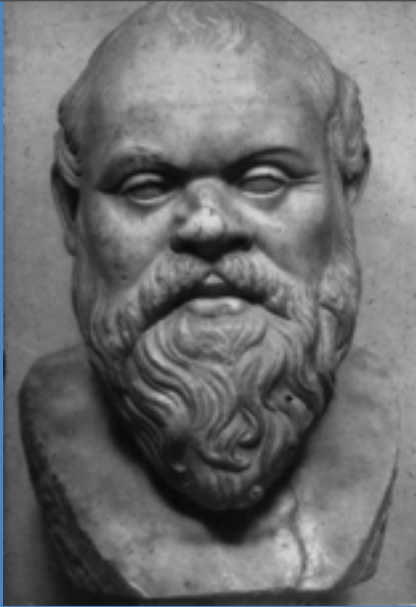
Socrates
Phaedrus
Lysias

The Egyptian story?

Thamus
Thebes
Theuth



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"



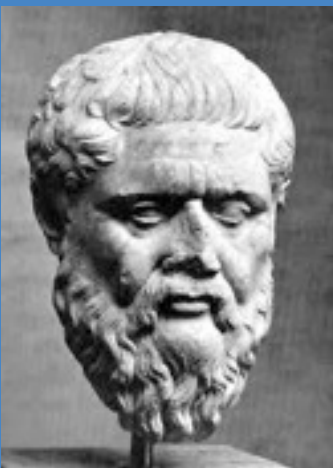
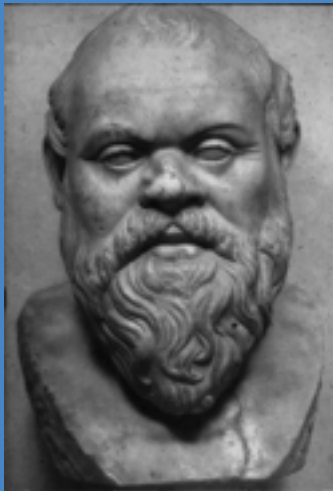
memory and forgetfulness

"Those who acquire [writing] will cease to exercise their memory and become forgetful; they will rely on writing to bring things to their remembrance by external signs instead of on their own internal resources."

Socrates didn't like books

Trithemius didn't like print

the standard view?



"I am a lover of learning ... Men lead hungry animals by waving a branch or some vegetables before their noses, and it looks as if you will lead me all over Attica and anywhere else you please ... by waving the leaves of a speech in front of me"

--Socrates

"Plato ...had such a love of books that he bought three books ... at the price of 10,000 *denarii*. Aristotle ... acquired a few books for three Attic talents which amounts to 72,000 *nummi*."

-- ... *Celebrated Libraries*

Hofl II -- Manuscript Culture 14

the issues?

Phaedrus

the issues?

Phaedrus
speeches

the issues?

Phaedrus

speeches

reciting

the issues?

Phaedrus

speeches

reciting

writing

the issues?

Phaedrus

speeches

reciting

writing

truth

the issues?

Phaedrus

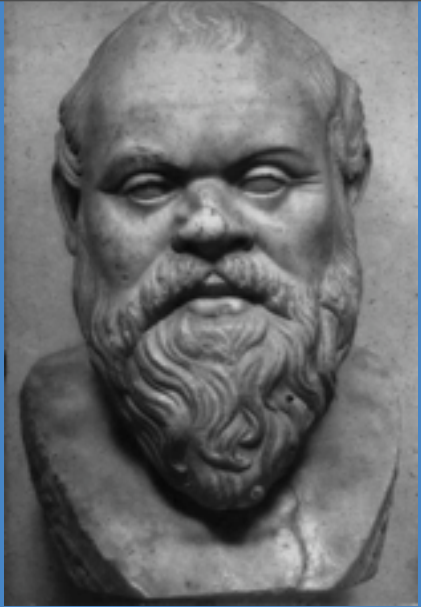
speeches

reciting

writing

truth

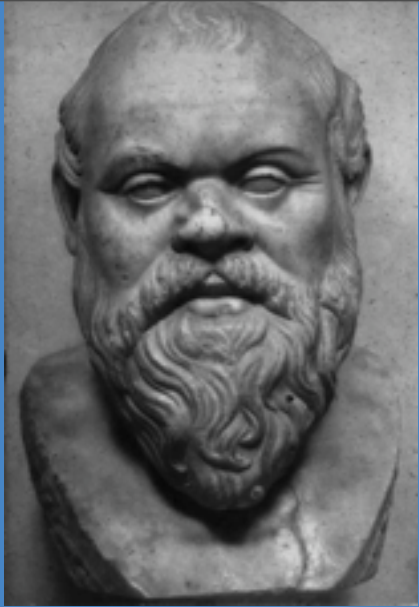
dialectic



truth

"for wisdom, your pupils will have the reputation for it without the reality; they will receive a quantity of information without proper instruction, and in consequence be thought very knowledgeable when they are for the most part quite ignorant."

"Writing circulates equally among those who understand the subject and those who have no business with it."



truth

"for wisdom, your pupils will have the reputation for it without the reality; they will receive a quantity of information without proper instruction, and in consequence be thought very knowledgeable when they are for the most part quite ignorant."

"Writing circulates equally among those who understand the subject and those who have no business with it."

coming up:
science



remember?

"But though books are easily procured, yet, even in **this age of information**, there are thousands in the lower classes that cannot read. Besides, it is a well-known truth, that the same precepts inculcated by a living instructor, adorned by a proper oratory, enforced by a serious and authoritative manner, produce a powerful effect, not to be experienced in solitary retirement."

Vicesimus Knox, *Essays Moral and Literary*, 1778



living instructor?

"The people's University of the Air will have a greater student body than all of our universities put together." --RCA, 1932



The Khan Academy is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) with the mission of providing a world-class education to anyone, anywhere.

We are complementing Salman's ever-growing library with user-paced exercises—developed as an [open source project](#)—allowing the Khan Academy to become the free classroom for the World.

coming up:
social implications

overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about?

Trithemius

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book



Socrates didn't like books
Trithemius didn't like print

enduring

"The written word on parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last? The most you can expect of a book of paper to survive is two hundred years. Only time will tell."

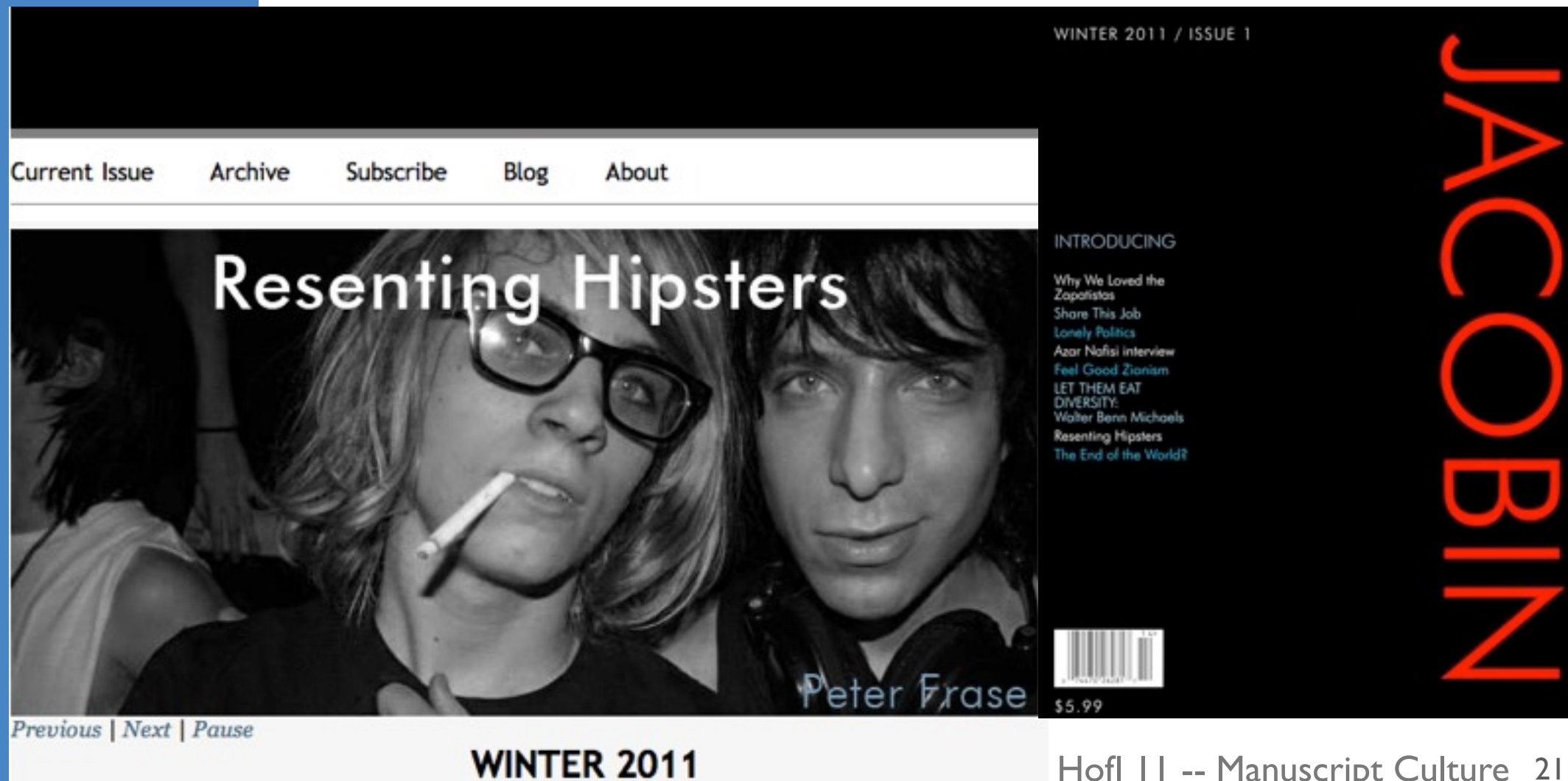
enduring concerns?

Behind the News with Doug Henwood - January 29, 2011 at 10:00am

Bhaskar Sunkara

Email this page Share:      

Behind the News with Doug Henwood, for January 29, 2011 - 10:00am



WINTER 2011 / ISSUE 1

Current Issue Archive Subscribe Blog About

Resenting Hipsters

Peter Frase

INTRODUCING

- Why We Loved the Zapatistas
- Share This Job
- Lonely Politics
- Azar Nafisi interview
- Feel Good Zionism

LET THEM EAT DIVERSITY:

- Walter Benn Michaels
- Resenting Hipsters
- The End of the World?

\$5.99

Previous | Next | Pause

WINTER 2011

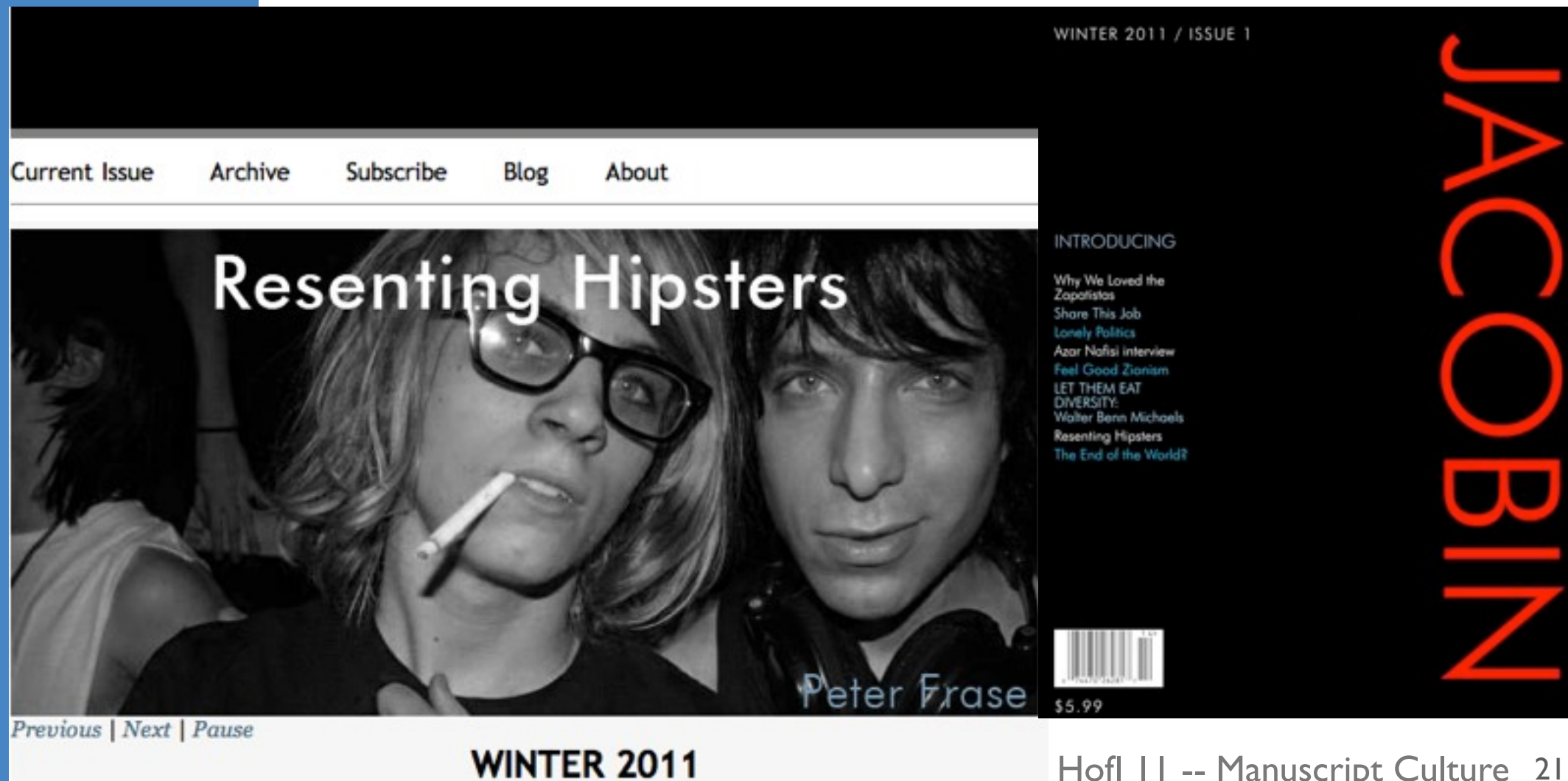
enduring concerns?

Behind the News with Doug Henwood - January 29, 2011 at 10:00am

Bhaskar Sunkara

Email this page Share:      

Behind the News with Doug Henwood, for January 29, 2011 - 10:00am



WINTER 2011 / ISSUE 1

Current Issue Archive Subscribe Blog About

Resenting Hipsters

INTRODUCING

- Why We Loved the Zapatistas
- Share This Job
- Lonely Politics
- Azar Nafisi interview
- Feel Good Zionism

LET THEM EAT DIVERSITY:
Walter Benn Michaels
Resenting Hipsters
The End of the World?

Peter Frase

\$5.99

Previous | Next | Pause

WINTER 2011

Socrates didn't like books

Trithemius didn't like print

bibliomane



Trithemius

Abbot of St Martin's, Sponheim, 1483-1505

1483: 48 books in the library

1505: 2,000 books

"It is my greatest pleasure to own and to know all books I ever saw or which I knew to have appeared in print ... To my regret ... money was always lacking ... for the satisfaction of my passion for book." --Trithemius

IOANNIS TRITHEMII ABBATIS SPANHEMENSIS DE LAVDE SCRIPTORVM MANVALIVM LISER.

- Argumenta singulorum Capitum.
- CAPIT. Commendatur descriptores sacrorum librorum,
 - II. Sacra scriptura vni et veteris testamenti laudatur.
 - III. De veterum diligentia et amore erga libros.
 - IV. Quantum studiū posuerint in describendis libris.
 - V. Quam cōstitat in omni librorum scriptio.
 - VI. Quam bonum et utile visum sit scribere.
 - VII. Non debere descriptores cessare ab inuentam typographiam.
 - VIII. De orthographia et modo scribendi.
 - IX. Quid agruam scribendi impericia.
 - X. Quales materias monachi debeant scribere.
 - XI. An diebus festis liceat transcribendis libris vacare?
 - XII. De discrimine scripturarum et epistoliarum uarietate.
 - XIII. De institutis scripturarum et utro uideantur.
 - XIV. Pater sit commendabilis scripturarum multitudine?
 - XV. De custodia et uarietate librorum habenda.
 - XVI. Exhortatio ad studium et amorem scribendorum librorum.

IOHANNIS TRITHEMII ABBATIS SPANHEMENSIS AD DOMINVM GERLACVM ABBATEM TVITIENSIS CANONII.

VENERABILI ET AMABILISSIMO PATRI DOMINO GERLACO DE TROBACH ABBATI TVITIENSIS ORDINIS SANCITI BENEDECTI, FRATRI IOHANNI DE TRITHEMIO, SACRATORUM ABBATI IN SPANHEM, SIMILIBUS ORDINIS SACRAM ET CARITATEM. CUM NUPER DE ANNO CAPITOLESIAE FERIAS CELEBRARE FUISSET REVERTENS DE MANU ALIQUORUM SCRIPTURARUM VARIAS INIURIAS COLLATIS: ET PER EORUM SPERDITAM NEGLIGENTIAM QUONDAM GLORIOSAM SUISSA DICERENT: PERISTI ET ME NUNQUAM TANTO INFERIUS, UT TIBI ALIQUID SCRIBEREM: PRAE TANTO AD...

Trithemius & the press

De Laude Scriptorum

Trithemius "proved particularly deft at exploiting the printing press. ... He had his book... published in Mainz by Peter von Friedberg, his favourite printer, and ... set the work not in Gothic type normally used in Germany, but in an innovative and attractive Roman font".

Grafton & Williams, *Christianity and the Transformation of the Book*, 2006.

Fo. II.

COMMENDATIS SIMI VIRI, REVERENDIQUE IN CHRISTO PATRIS, DOMINI IOHANNIS DE TRITHEMIO ABBATIS SPANHEMENSIS, LIBER DE ECCLESIASTICIS SCRIPTORIBUS FELICITER INCIPIIT.

Lemens sanctae Romanae ecclesiae quartus a beato Petro (ut quibusdam placet) ordinatus episcopus, natione Romanus, vir sanctus et deo dilectus, morum quoque decore ornatus, cuius vita et passio in scripturis ecclesiasticis habentur, sed in pontificatu novem annis et decem diebus, in exilium profunde Christi relegatus animo constanti. Obiit anno Traiani Caesaris tertio, domini autem centesimo tertio. Hic beatissimus martyr nonnullas fide et eruditione plenas sermo in persona Romanae ecclesiae scripsisse epistolas, de quibus extant praecipuae.

Ad ecclesiam Corinthiorum	Epistola una.
Ad Iacobum quoque apostolum	Epistola una, Clemens, Iacobo dno.
Præterea itinerarii vitae suae	libri decem. Cum in urbe Roma.
Item disputationis Petri	liber unus.

Hæc autem duo volumina inter apocrypha computantur, ut patet, et dist. Sæcra Romana. Ferunt eius et alia epistola, sed apocrypha.

Dionysius Ariopagita Atheniensis, philosophus insignis, per beatum Paulum apostolum conuersus ad fidem, primus (ut quibusdam placet) Atheniensis episcopus ordinatus est, vir eximie sanctitatis et incomparabilis doctrinae. Hunc post decessum apostolorum, beatus Clemens Romanae urbis episcopus cum Rustico presbytero et Eleutherio diacono ad predicandum uerbum dei misit in Fræciam, alio in eius locum ordinatum episcopo. Scripsit autem graeco sermone multa praeciosa opuscula, de quibus apud Latinos tantum inueni subiecta.

De ecclesiastica hierarchia	lib. unū. Omne datum optimum &
De ecclesiastica hierarchia.	lib. i. Sacerdotij quidem nra.
De diuinis nominibus	lib. i. Nunc iam uir dei post.
De mystica theologia	lib. i. Trinitas superhabitant.

2 1 Defym



reading between the lines

internal battles

contemplation, manual labor, preaching

VS

scribal practice

"The dedicated and sincere scribe ... will
not receive less than the preacher"

book collecting

"There are some who reproach lovers of books
for having ... too many"

Monks "are so detested that it is considered bad luck if one crosses your path"

Erasmus,
In Praise of Folly,
1511



"brothers, concentrate now all your fervor on the sacred books, for the salvation of your souls and **the order**"

external battles

humanism & the university

"In the 700 years between the Fall of Rome and the 12th century, it was the monasteries which enjoyed an almost complete monopoly of book production and so of book culture. . . . from the end of the 12th century a profound transformation took place . . . reflected in the founding of the universities and the development of learning".

Febvre & Martin, *The Coming of the Book*, 1984

survival

LASERMONKS.COM
COMMERCE WITH COMPASSION



LaserMonks.com
We don't just sell black powder.

We offer
Ink & Toner
& that
Changes Lives

The advertisement features a monk in a library setting. The monk is smiling and has his hands clasped in front of him. He is wearing a black and white habit. Behind him is a bookshelf filled with books. To his left is an open book with musical notation. In front of him on the desk are several ink and toner cartridges. The text 'LaserMonks.com' is overlaid in a large, serif font at the top of the image. Below it, the tagline 'We don't just sell black powder.' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. On the right side of the image, the text 'We offer Ink & Toner & that Changes Lives' is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with the ampersand being particularly large and stylized.

Hofl 11 -- Manuscript Culture

survival

LASERMONKS.COM
COMMERCE WITH COMPASSION



LaserMonks.com
We don't just sell black powder.

We offer
Ink & Toner
& that
Changes Lives

The advertisement features a monk in a library setting. He is wearing a black and white habit and has his hands clasped on a desk. Behind him are bookshelves filled with books. On the desk, there is an open manuscript with musical notation and a printer with ink and toner cartridges. The text is overlaid on the image, with the company name and slogan at the top, and the product and mission statement on the right.

overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

unintended consequences



technologies



stone

clay

wood

wax

parchment/vellum

papyrus

paper

palm

silk

ink

pens

thread

He who saw the deep ...
...set all his labours on a tablet of stone

See the tablet-box of cedar,
Release its clasp of bronze
Lift the lid of its secret,
Pick up the tablet of lapis lazuli and read out
The travails of *Gilgamesh* ...

"Homerus ...
Vergilius ...
Cicero ... Titus
Livy ... in
membranus...quam
brevis immensum
cepit membrana"

--Martial
(c38-103)
Epigrams

missing revolution?

rolled to flat

"the revolution between the second and fourth centuries that changed the very structure of the book by substituting the **codex** for the roll"

--Roger Chartier, *Forms and Meaning*, 1995

"Gutenberg did not so much start an information revolution as introduce a second technology for the creation of the familiar **codex**."

--Jessica Brantley,

"The Prehistory of the Book," 2007

evolutionary force?

"The **need** for readily available information, which had been steadily rising, was accelerated by the advent of Christianity ..."

"The **need to find information** more rapidly than is possible in a papyrus-roll-form book initiated the development of the Greco-Roman codex in the second century ..."

Frederick Kilgour,
*The **Evolution** of the Book*, 1998



supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

two-sided

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes

supersession?

Pompeii, c 79 ce



random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes



underestimated?



Edwin Smith Papyrus

c. 1600 bce

NY Academy of Medicine

**handy
pages
collection
divisions**

(incipits, explicits, colophons, sillyboi)

**pages?
doesn't crack?**



material changes

geographical determinism?

parchment at Pergamum

papyrus at Alexandria

palm in India
(*pattachitra*)

silk in China

"the parchment alone in a fine Bible,
even allowing for the shorthand
script of the day, represented a flock
of perhaps three hundred sheep"

John North, *God's Clockmaker*, 2005

Hofl II -- Manuscript Culture 33

evolutionary doubts

"No evidence whatever to indicate whether the change of material influenced the change of form, or vice versa.. . papyrus roll, the papyrus codex, the parchment roll, and the parchment codex... all perfectly adequate and acceptable forms of book."

--Colin Roberts & T.C. Skeat,
The Birth of the Codex, 1983

material changes



Ts'ai Lun
62-121

papyrus/parchment to paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century

India, 5th century

Japan, early 7th century

Islam, 8th century

Jews, 10th century

Byzantium, 9th century

Western Europe, 11 century

formal changes

scroll to codex

Christians, 2d century

Islam, 8-9th century

Jews, 8-9th century

China, 13th century, (thread binding)

Korea, ?12th century (sutra binding)

Japan 18th century

formal changes

parchment to paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century

India, 5th century

Japan, early 7th century

Islam, 8th century

Jews, 10th century

Byzantium, 9th century

Western Europe, 11 century

scroll to codex

Christians, 2d century

Islam, 8-9th century

Jews, 8-9th century

China, 13th century, (thread binding)

Korea, ?12th century (sutra binding)

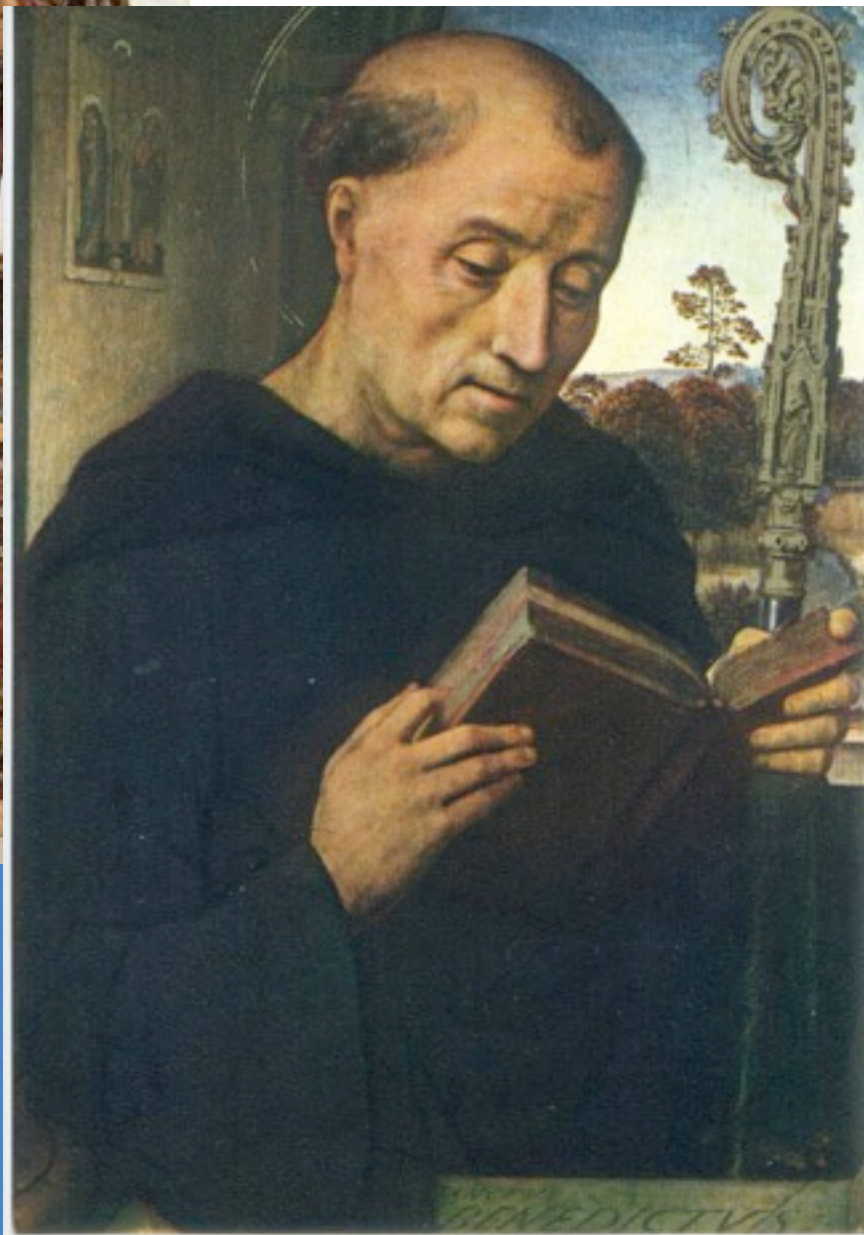
Japan 18th century

technological triumph?

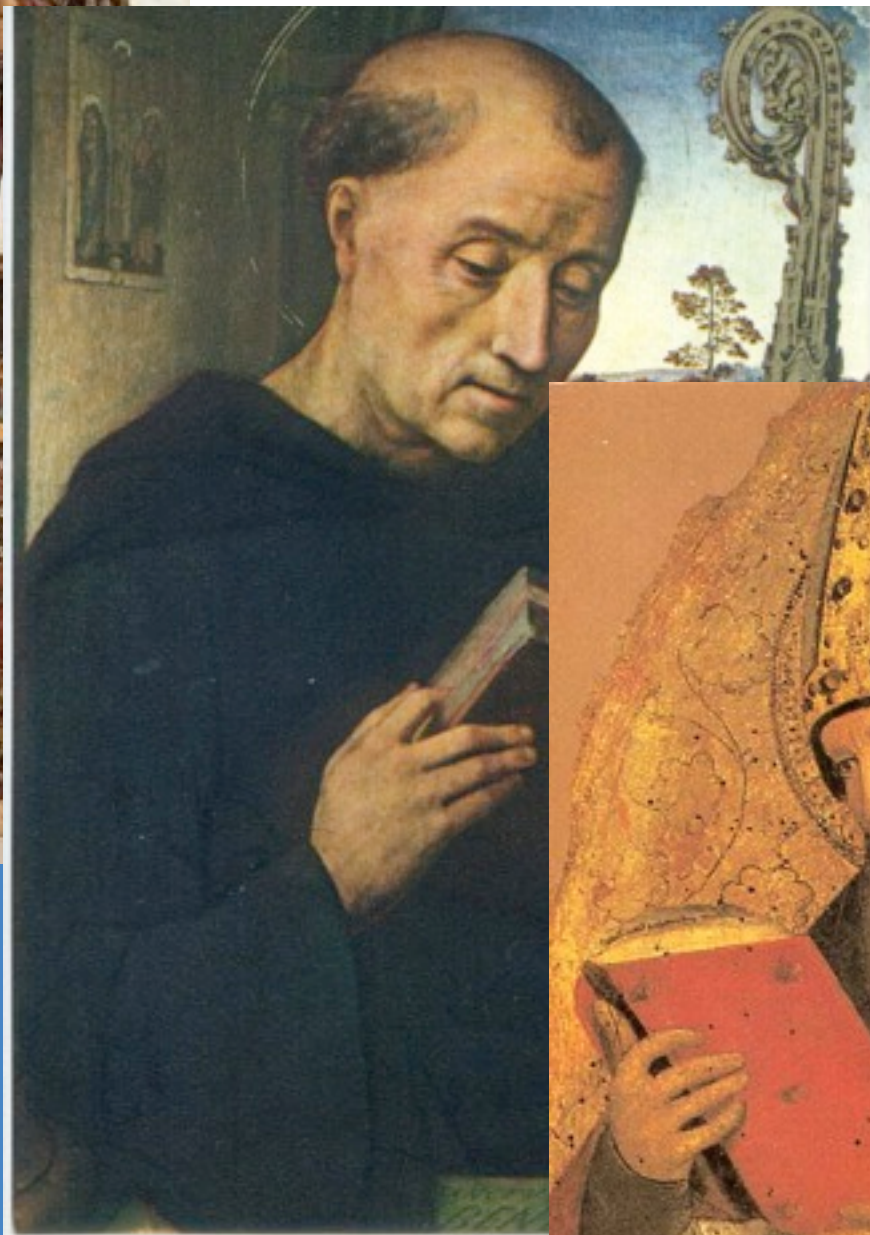


technological triumph?

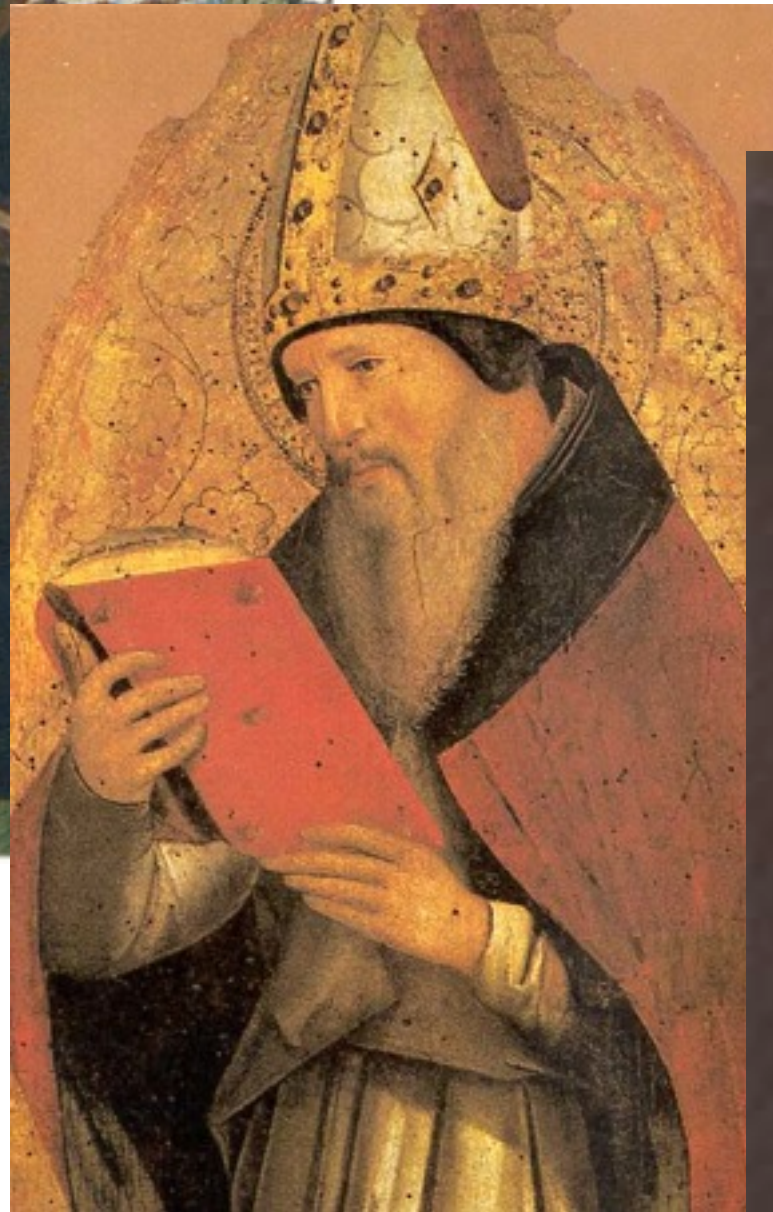
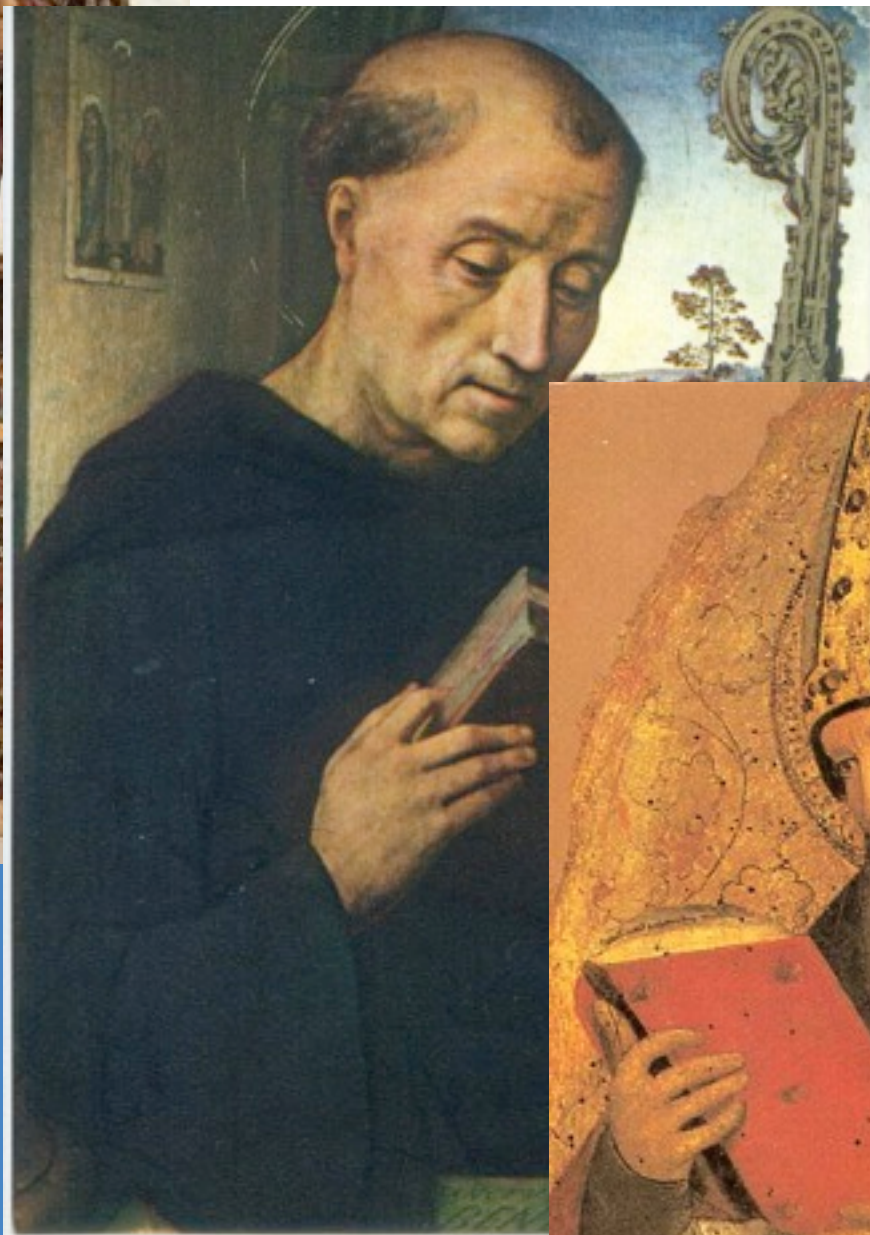
technological triumph?



technological triumph?



technological triumph?





caveat lector

"In late antiquity, all authority was founded on Scripture...and the highest authority, the authority of the church, was represented by the codex."

--Cavallo, "Du Volumen au Codex," 1997

"[P]agans ... continued to regard it as a culturally inferior form. In contrast, the great majority of Christian texts were already in the form of codices."

--Peter Stallybrass, "Books and Scrolls," 2002

"the ordinary believer could easily stumble in this thicket of discordant editions"

--Resnick, "Codex in Early Jewish and Christian Communities,"

Hofl 09 -- 38

wassup?

changing readership

"The late medieval book differs more from its early medieval predecessors than it does from the printed book. . . .

"The expectation of readers was changed, and this was reflected in changes in the physical appearance of books. A writer organized his work for publication, and if he did not . . . then a scribe would . . . The production of books became more sophisticated"

--Parkes, "Influence of the Concepts " 1976

Hofl II -- Manuscript Culture 39



pre-prints

still with the manuscript

gloss

running heads

subdivisions: books, chapters

analytical tables of contents

chapter headings

cross references

alphabetical order

page numbers

indexes

overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

unintended consequences

down to business

"The oldest writings to survive to our time were inscribed five thousand years ago by temple **bureaucrats recording economic transactions ... crops, animals, manufactured goods**"

-- Lerner, *The Story of Libraries*, 1998

"In the twelfth century... magnates used documents occasionally ... In the thirteenth .. laymen began to **convey property** to each other by charter; in the latter half ... this practice extended below the gentry class to some peasants.

-- Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993

Hofl II -- Manuscript Culture 42

an information age?



preparing the ground

Domesday

cadastras

dates

names

spelling

written evidence

centralization

overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

unintended consequences

a linear model?

reversible trends

"Up to the eleventh century, western Europe could have returned to an essentially oral civilization. But by 1100 the die was cast."

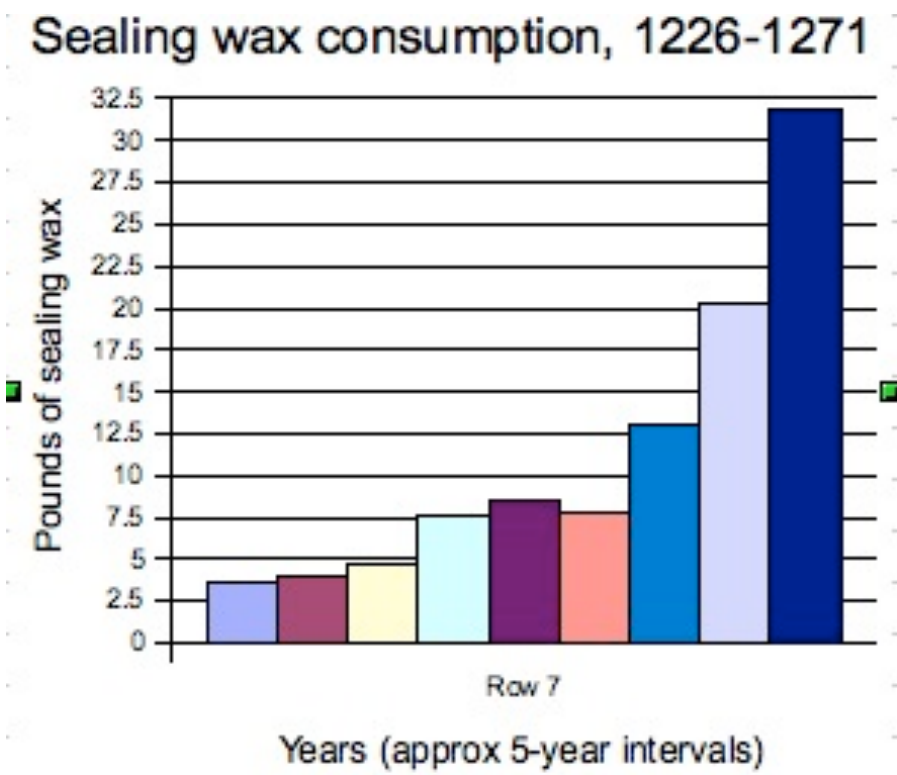
--Stock, *Implications of Literacy*, 1983

the return of the roll

"the reason why medieval England ... kept its records predominantly in rolls remains a mystery."

--Clanchy
45

material backing



"If you ask
[documents] what
they mean ...
they simply
return the same
answer over and
over again ..."

Socrates

trouble looming

"[B]y the mark of a single impress the
mouths of the pontiffs may be opened."

-- Theobald of Canterbury

"We don't accept the evidence of monks
against bishops, why should we accept that
of a sheepskin?"

overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

unintended consequences



unintended consequences

quo warrento

"No document coming from such centres of proved fabrication as Westminster, Evesham, Winchester cathedral, Chertsey and Malmesbury should be accepted at its face value without close examination.

"Ancient monasteries like Chertsey had traditionally forged charters. Now that the king was keeping copies ... abbots ensured that their forged documents were reinforced by inspection in the Chancery and enrollment among the royal records. The Chancery rolls, which were intended to prevent fraud, thus became a means of making forgeries official."

--Clancy, *From Memory to Written Record*



science of diplomatics

Jean Mabillon (1632-1707)
De Re Diplomatica, 1681

"the Reformation era ... bringing to light thousands of documents .. hitherto inaccessible and unknown. ... France pioneered in this new historical research ... Mabillon Montfaucon."

-- James Thompson,
"The Age of Mabillon," 1942





science of diplomatics

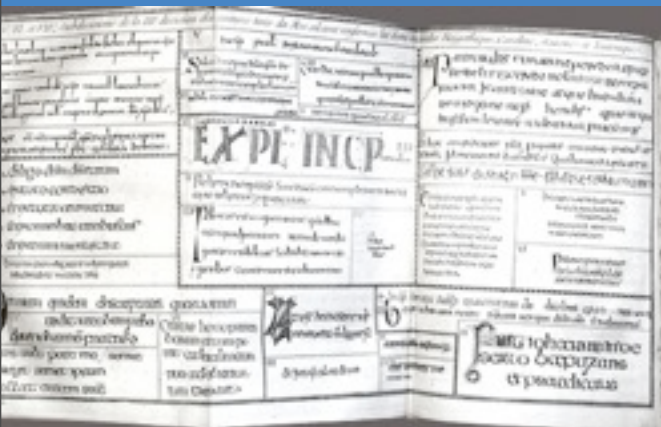
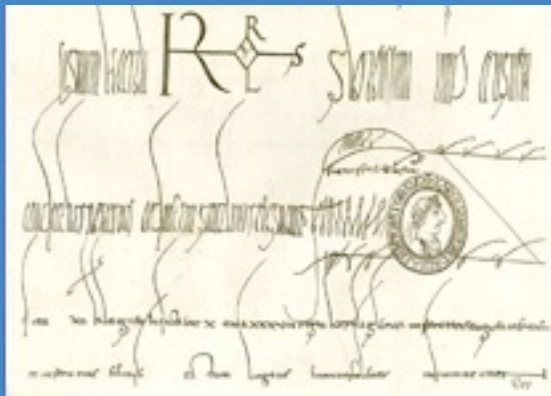
Jean Mabillon (1632-1707)
De Re Diplomatica, 1681

"the Reformation era ... bringing to light thousands of documents .. hitherto inaccessible and unknown. ... France pioneered in this new historical research ... Mabillon Montfaucon."

-- James Thompson,
"The Age of Mabillon," 1942



beyond the page



"Mabillon frankly admitted that the authenticity of a charter could not be proved by any metaphysical or *a priori* argument; a decision could be reached only after the expert had examined a whole series of different indications -- the material used, the seal, the signature, the grammar and orthography, the modes of address, the plausibility of the dating, the intrinsic consistency of the whole document."

David Knowles, "Jean Mabillon," 1963

Hofl II -- Manuscript Culture 51

a guide to forgery

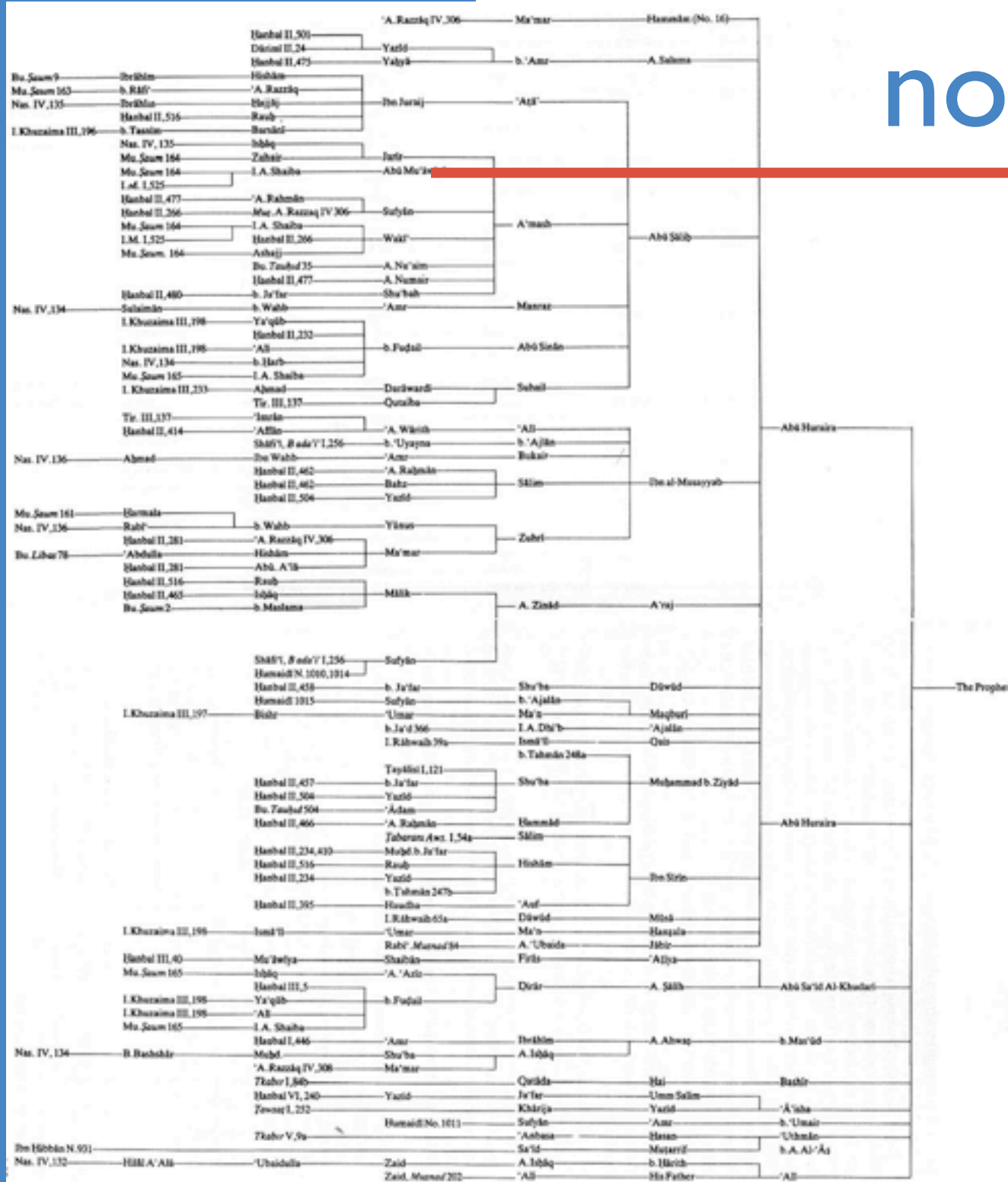
Mabillon "had exposed the fabricated charters of the Carmelite Father Andrew, in a model memorandum which later fell into the forger's hand, and was taken by him to heart with such good effect that he was able with a subsequent fabrication to have his revenge by planting one of his forgeries ... on Mabillon himself"

--David Knowles

not by books alone

the chain of custody

isnad or chain of transmission





"some of the advantages which manuscript publication gave over print in other periods--immediate appearance, relative freedom from censorship"

--Henry Woudhuysen, *Sir Philip Sydney*, 1966

"this will kill that"?



manuscript after print

single documents

accounting

scribal publishing

note taking

personal communication

music

"subversive forms" (Love)





"some of the advantages which manuscript publication gave over print in other periods--immediate appearance, relative freedom from censorship"

--Henry Woudhuysen, *Sir Philip Sydney*, 1966

"this will kill that"?



manuscript after print

single documents

accounting

scribal publishing

note taking

personal communication

music

"subversive forms" (Love)



overview

on determinism (again)

eyewitnesses (and reading)

what were they talking about

technologies of the book

manuscript culture

the authority of the book

unintended consequences

print beyond manuscript

Week 4

8 Feb: Print culture

Required reading:

- Elizabeth Eisenstein, 'The Emergence of Print Culture in the West,' *Journal of Communication*, Winter(1980): 99-106.
- [SPCK], *The History of Printing*, London: SPCK, 1855, read pp 3-43

Additional material:

- Watch: Fry, Stephen. 2008. *Stephen Fry and the Gutenberg Press* from the series *The Machine that Made Us*. BBC
- Watch: Burke, James. 1985. *A Matter of Fact: Printing Transforms Knowledge*. From the series *The Day the Universe Changed*. BBC

and so to Gutenberg

assignment

Eisenstein argues that “The impact of printing, experienced first by literate groups in early modern Europe, changed the character of the Italian Renaissance and ought to be considered among the causes of both the Protestant Reformation and the rise of modern science.”

- Does Eisenstein strike you here as a technological determinist?
- Are you convinced by Eisenstein’s argument?
- What evidence does she give to support her argument?
- Does anything in *The History of Printing* challenge it?
- How does what you learned at the Bancroft support or challenge Eisenstein’s argument?