



information, the public, and the news

Concepts of Information

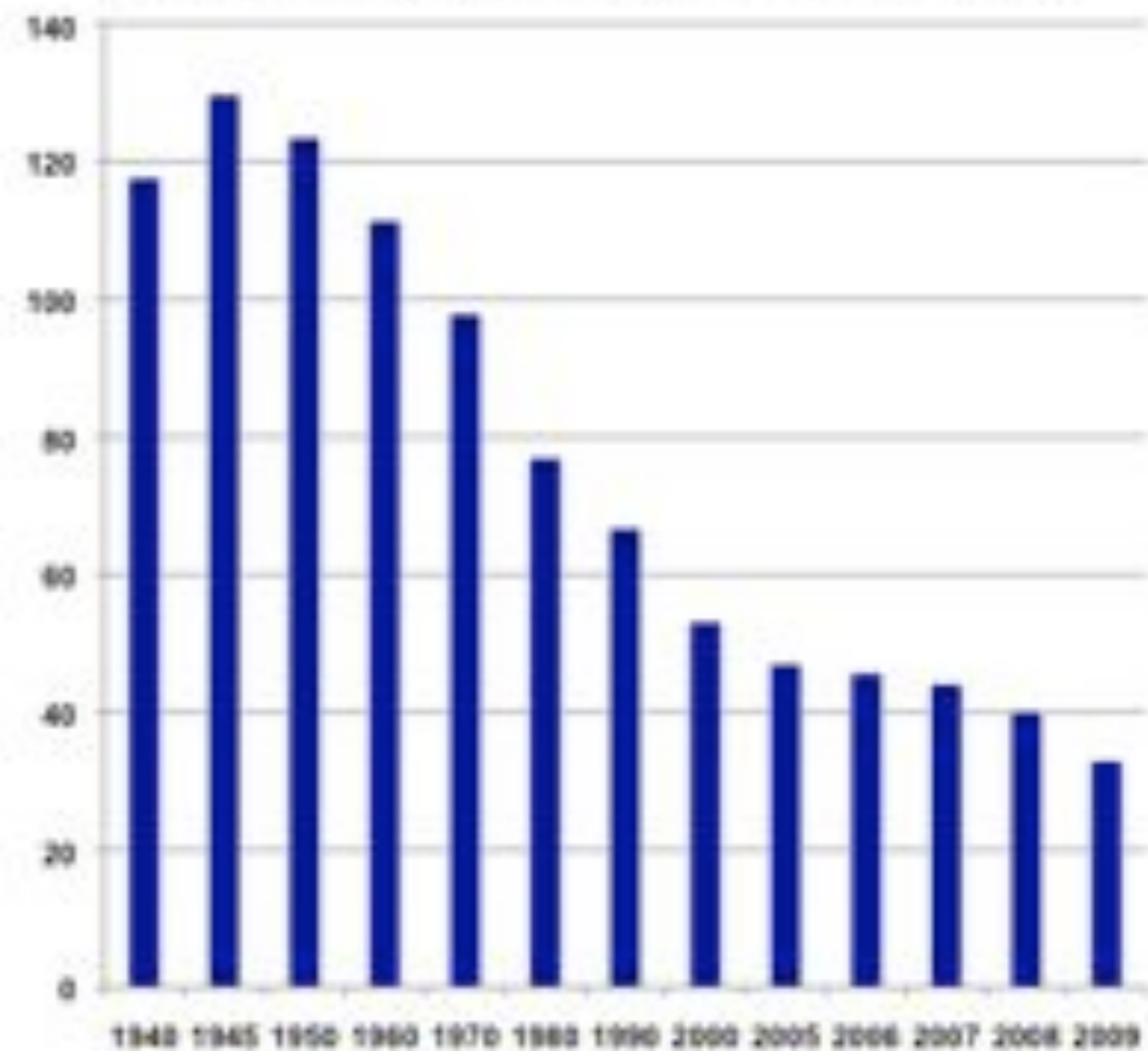
Feb 9, 2008



end of an era?

Weak circulation

Newspaper penetration per 100 households



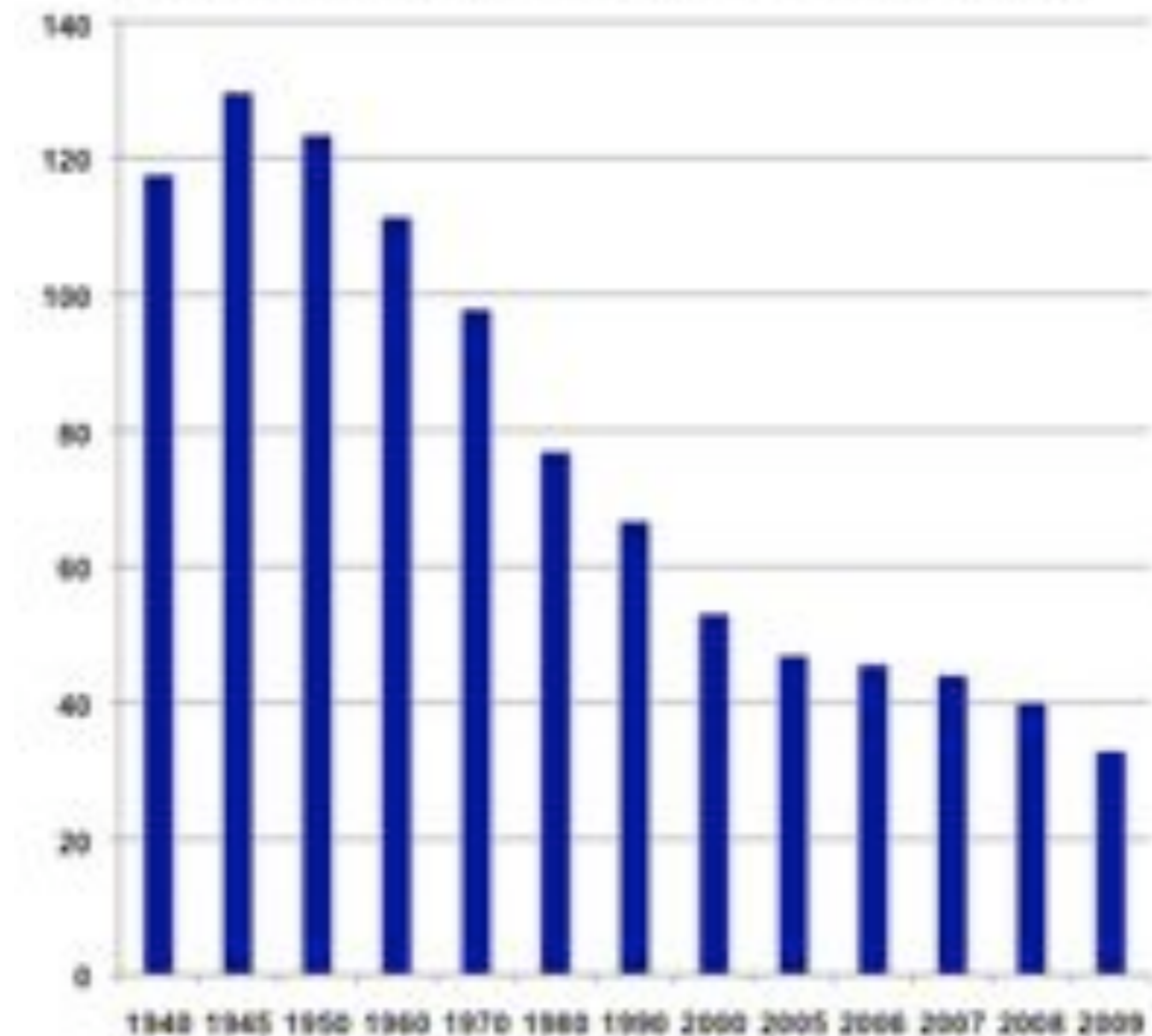


According to the Audit Bureau of Circulations, newsstand sales for magazines dropped 9.1 percent last year, with overall subscriptions down 2.23 percent. Popular individual titles fell anywhere from 41 percent (/W/ magazine) to 30 percent (/Good Housekeeping). /Folio/ <http://www.foliomag.com/2010/paid-consumer-circ-continues-decline>: Of ABC's 25 best-selling newsstand magazines, only six saw an increase during the second half of 2009. /NYP/ http://www.nypost.com/p/news/business/for_mags_less_is_less_sfbqCq6YSVCyo2PV4TfLAI: While both /Time/ and /Newsweek/ each recorded sharp declines, it was the latter that suffered the most, booking a 41.3 percent plunge in newsstand sales to slightly more than 62,000.

end of an era?

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Demand Media now tests headlines for reader salience and cranks out thousands of articles and videos daily that it pays about \$20 apiece for....Various media labs are now testing algorithms that assemble facts into narratives that deliver information, no writers required. The results would not be mistaken for literary journalism, but on the Web, pretty good – or even not terrible – is often good enough.

"Fall & Rise of Media"

New York Times 2009

The screenshot shows the Demand Media website homepage. At the top is the logo "demand MEDIA" with "demand" in blue and "MEDIA" in orange. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: HOME, STUDIO, BRANDS, PRODUCTS, ABOUT US, NEWS & PRESS, and CAREERS. The main content area features a large banner with the text "demand MEDIA MAKES IT POSSIBLE" in the center. Above this text are several phrases: "REACH AN AUDIENCE OF MILLIONS", "SHARE A SENSE OF HUMOR", "TURN A PASSION INTO A CAREER", and "ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS". Below the banner is a large group of diverse people standing together. Underneath the banner is a paragraph: "Every day Demand Media makes it possible for people to create and publish valuable content, for millions of Internet users to engage around passionate communities, and for thousands of websites to grow with social media features their audiences want." Below this are three columns: "DEMAND STUDIOS" with an image of a computer monitor and papers, "DEMAND BRANDS" with an image of a website interface, and "DEMAND PRODUCTS" with a collage of logos including sky, USA TODAY, AutoWeek, real, Scotts, WHOLE FOODS, COWBOYS, Discovery, and npr. Each column has a short paragraph of text below it.



The New York Times

just another
corporation

"I found it fascinating that the people who were editorializing against it were The New York Times Company and The Washington Post Company," Thomas said at Stetson, according to a report in The New York Times. "These are corporations."



Minerva's owl?

It didn't take much vision to figure out that unlimited perfect copyability, with global reach and at zero marginal cost, was slowly transforming the printing press into a latter-day steam engine. And once that became obvious, we said so, over and over again, all the time. We said it in public, we said it in private. We said it when newspapers hired us as designers, we said it when we were brought in as consultants, we said it for free. We were some tiresome motherfuckers with all our talk about the end of news on paper. And you know what? The people who made their living from printing the news listened, and then decided not to believe us.

Clay Shirky, boingboing, Dec 2008



meanwhile, on the net

Celebrity Juice, Not from Concentrate

Carrie Underwood On *Pants On The Ground*

Filed under: [Zportz](#) > [Queen Latifah](#) > [Carrie Underwood](#)



LOL!
Watch **Carrie Underwood** take a question at a Super Bowl press conference about Larry Flynt's now infamous *Pants on the Ground*.

Queen Latifah chimes in at the end and it's pretty HIGHlyrious!

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**the new medium for
the public sphere**

Forbes Leadership Thought Leaders

In Pictures: The Web Celeb 25

No. 1. Perez Hilton (Mario Lavandeira) [OPEN](#)

ENTERTAINMENT PHOTOS: Anne Hathaway Strips, Talks Angelina Jolie's Kissing



[Quick Read](#) | [Comments \(207\)](#) | [Photo Galleries](#)

Teenage Spanish Matador Faces 6 Bulls In Risky Move



[Quick Read](#) | [Comments \(12\)](#)

ENTERTAINMENT Kendra Wilkinson Excited For Super Bowl Trip With Baby



meanwhile, on the net

the new medium for the public sphere





"news on paper"

development of "news"

an illustrative career:
from adjective to substantive

new account **to** news

from particular to a category

"these news" **to** "the news"

institutionalized

"BBC can report ..."

"technologized"

medium or content?: "what's on the news?/in the
paper"

a causal character?



newspaper for everyman

"The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them."



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"The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary, to keep the waters pure."



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"The man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them, inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer to truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors."



back to the beginning

public and private

the public sphere

establishing the news/papers

counterblasts

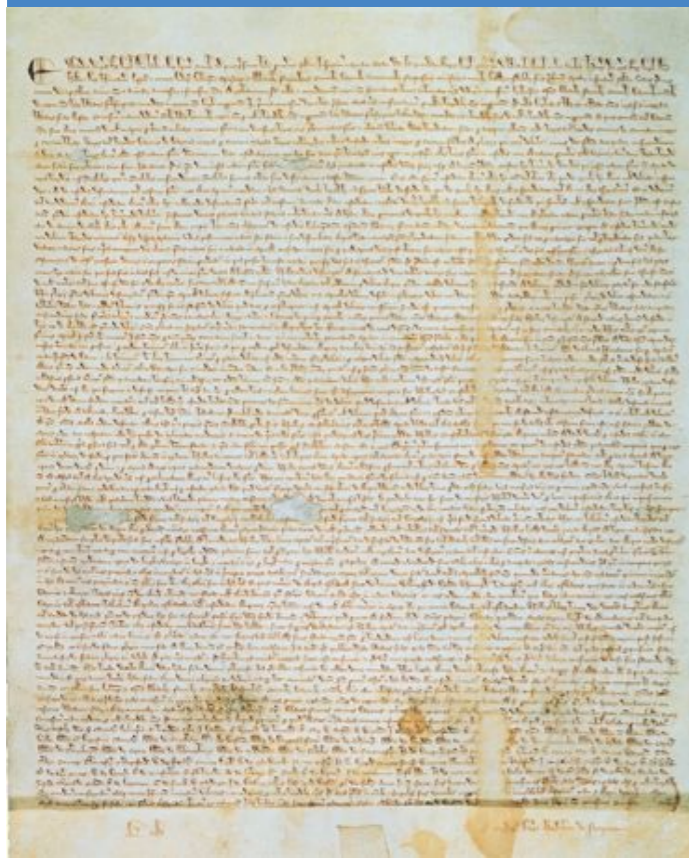
restrictions and freedom

stabilizing the form

endemic problems



dividing the state



the king *and* the nobles

the king *vs* the nobles

Magna Carta 1215

the king *vs* parliament

"There is nothing [that] can more obstruct the long hoped for peace of this Nation, than the illegal proceedings of them that presume from servants to become masters and labour to bring in democracy."

-- Charles I, 1649



revolutions



the bill of rights 1689
the king and parliament

the bill of rights 1789
congress and the people

... as well as spiritual and
temporal and common assembled at Westminster
lawfully fully and freely representing all the Estates
of the Kingdom of Great Brittain did upon the thirteenth
day of February in the year of our Lord one
thousand six hundred eighty eight present unto
their Majesties then seated and known by the
Names and Style of William and Mary Prince
and Princess of Orange being present in their
proper persons certain Declaration in
Writing made by the said Lords and Commons
in the words following vizt Whereas the
late King James the second by the assistance
of diverse evil Counsellors Judges and Ministers
employed by him did endeavour to subvert and
extirpate the Protestant Religion and the Lawes
and Liberties of this Kingdom By assuming
and exercising a power of dispensing with
and suspending of Lawes and the Execution of
Lawes without consent of Parliament By
committing and prosecuting diverse wrongs



developments

Habermas:

"the german word *privat* ... 'not holding public office' ... The authorities were contrasted with the subjects excluded from them; the former served, so it was said, the public welfare, while the latter pursued their private interests ..."



connections

Habermas :

"The great trade cities became at the same time centers for the traffic in news; the organization of this traffic on a *continuous* basis became imperative to the degree to which the exchange of commodities and of securities became continuous. **Almost simultaneously with the origin of stock markets, postal services and the press institutionalized regular contacts and regular communications.**"



reasoned debate

"Civility: of conversing in quiet one with another, without being ingag'd in the passions, and madness of that dismal Age. And from the Institution of that Assembly, it had been enough, if no other advantage had come, but this: That by this means there was a race of yong Men provided, against the next Age, whose minds receiving from them, their first Impressions of sober and generous knowledge, were invincibly arm'd against all the enchantments of Enthusiasm."

Sprat, History of the Royal Society, 1667



connections

Habermas:

"there existed a press in the strict sense only once **the regular supply of news became public** ... accessible to the general public ... [contributing to] a public sphere whose decisive mark was the published word"



conceptual decline?

"Habermas's *Öffentlichkeit* is one of those German words that can be both sociological (meaning the public as a group of persons) or philosophical (meaning making something public—the airing of an idea). When Chartier ran into it in translation, however, it had become spatial ... as *Öffentlichkeit* hardened into "space" or "sphere," the metaphor lost its suppleness. It became reified and lost much of the meaning that Habermas had infused in it."

Robert Darnton on Chartier's *Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*, 1991



schema of social realms

Private Realm	Sphere of Public Authority	
Civil society (realm of commodity exchange and social labor)	Public sphere in the political realm Public sphere in the world of letters (clubs, press)	State (realm of the "police")
Conjugal family's internal space (bourgeois intellectuals)	(market of culture products) "Town"	Court (courtly-noble society)



antecedents

Rome *Acta Diurna*

China, *tipao* [Han Dynasty, 202 bce]

town crier

merchants' letters



modern news

Europe, 16-17c

Venice: *Notizie Scritte* [bought for a "gazetto"]

Netherlands: *Nieuwe Tydinghe*, 1605

(weekly from 1617 and thrice weekly from 1621)

Frankfurt: *Frankfurter Postzeitung*, 1615

England: *Coranto or Weekly Newes*, 1622

France: *Gazette de France* 1631

Turin: *Successi del mondo*, 1645

[prior to that, untitled news sheets]

Leipzig: *Einkommendeg Zeitung*, daily 1650

Spain: *Gaceta Nueva*, monthly, daily 1661

(earlier, incidental 16c *relaciones*, much produced for Americas)

British America: *Publick Occurrences*, 1690

Russia: *Vedomosti*, 35 x per year, 1702

Cofl News - 19



Image from the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society.



"news"

new to news

Brant, Nevve fassions and disguised garments, 1509

[new editions, new additions, new plays, ..
also new laws, rules, treaties, recipes]

Hevy newes of an horryble earthquake, 1542



the vogue of newness

"Newes / newes / newes / have ye ony newes
Myn eeres ake / to here you call and crye
Ben bokes made with whystelynge and whewes
Ben there not yet ynow to your fantasye
In fayth nay I trow and yet haue ye dayly
Of maters sadde / and eke of apes and oules
But yet for your pleasure / thusmoche do wyll I
As to lette you here the parlament of foules."

Introduction by Roberte Coplande

"boke printer to new fanglers" to Chaucer,

Assemblie of Foules, 1530



news

A coppe of
 a letter contayning cer-
 tayne newes, and the Articles of
 requestes of the Deuonshyre
 and Cornyshe rebelles.

*A Copy of a letter Contayning certayne news & the ...
 Deuonshure & Cornish Rebelles, 1549*

Since my laste let-
 ters sent vnto you,
 of the newes in
 these parties (Be-
 cause I will here
 by first promise, for enterchaun-
 ge of letters) I haue chaun-
 ced matter worthy aduertisment. &
 in the leasure to aduertise the sa-
 me so that I could not with ho-
 nestie, but satisfie your desire,
 to knowe our newes, as I may
 see I am verie desirouse of yours.
 By my former letters you un-
 der-
 stand
 J.H. Dec

News From Rome concerning the blasphemous sacrifice, 1550

*A proclamacion, set furth by the Kynges Maiestie ... for the
 reformation of vagabondes, tellers of newes, sowers of
 sedicious rumours, 1551*

*The strange and marueilous newes lately come from the great
 kingdome of Chyna, 1577*



news

A Letter written to a noble personage of the Citie of Venice, by a Gentleman of credit, who sawe this monster executed.

Right honourable and my especial good friend, I have not at this time any newes wherewith to acquaint you, but only this strange and admirable occasion which lately happened: the truth whereof I trust my credit is sufficient with your honour to confirme, and the rather, for that I not only heard the murderers examination, but was also an eye witness of his death. And albeit it may seeme incredible, yet thus much I can assure you, that I saw the scroffe which was found in the murderers Caud, wherein he had written the names of all those that he had murdered, and I heard him also asseure it with his owne mouth. The discourse thereof followeth, which I commit to your judgement, and so I commend your honour to the heavenly protection.

A.ii.



Newes out of Germanie ... a cruell murderer, who had kylled in his life tyme, nine hundred, threescore and odde persons among which six of them were his owne children begotten on a young woman which he forceable kept in a caue seuen yeeres, with the manner how he was taken, and the aboundaunce of wealth that was found in the said caue: executed at Berkessell on the 14, 1584

Straunge newes out of Calabria prognosticated in the yere 1586, 1587

A confutation of the ... prognosticated... from the country of Calabria, to happen in ... 1587 1587



news

personal

... some news of you ...

...what newes they hath brought of her...

... of newes hastely he doeth enquire ...

La Sale, 15 Joyes of maryage,

<Wynkyn de Worde> 1509



good news



religious

News out of heaven, 1541

[? first book with *news* in title?]

the need for novelty?

"Salvation in Christ is no newes,
but a thyng prophecied"

Epistle of Peter, Bible [Coverdale] 1535



aside

did information have to be new?

"these Gentlemen talk of being surprized, and that this is the first time they have heard of this Information, but have we told any news in this Information? Was not all that is contained in it, notoriously enough known before?
--Sancroft, *Proceedings and Tryal*, 1689

a question that lingers:

"Dacier observes that this is added by Homer not for our information, for we already know it," --Pope:
Oddyssey



news and information

"The King scarce believing the News at first,
upon better Information, ..."

Robert Brady, *Continuation of the Complete
History of England...1700*



political character

" ... news of the takyng of the kynge ...

" ... news of the countrey ...

" ... news out of straunge places ...

" ... upon these news the king ..."

Froissart, *Chronicles*, 1525



news as cause?

[though see, eg,
Locke, Moxon]

"news ... at which

"Upon the news hereof, the Emperor desisted ...

"Upon the news whereof , the king sends ...

"Upon news of ... Queen Elizabeth forsaketh the

Tower

"This news being brought ... caused king Henry

to...

"Certain news came ... Whereupon, the Queens Army

was dismissed ...

"News was brought him ... with which he was so

moved, that he swore ...

Richard Baker, *Chronicle*, 1643



which helps explain

Edward VI, 1551

A proclamacion, set furth by the Kynges
 Maiestie, with the aduise of His Highnes
 moste honorable counsail, for the
 reformation of vagabondes, **tellers of newes,**
 sowers of sedicious rumours, players, and
 printers without license & diuers other
 disordred persons, the xxviii. day of April
 in the v. yere of His Highnes most
 prosperous reigne,
 [London?] : Richardus Grafton, tpyographus
 Regius excudebat, M.D. LI.





political character

with *fals* antecedents ...

Tellers of fals newes and fals messagys

Statues ... 1527

it is comaunded that from hensforth none be so
hardy to tell or publyshe any false news or
[tales?] whereby discord or sklauder may []
betwen the kyng and his people

Statutes of Edward III, [1327] in
Boke of Magna Carta with divers other statutes,
1534



news books

Corante, or weekly newes from Italy, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Bohemia, France and the Low Countreys.

From Vienne the 4 of September 1621.
From Vienna the 4 of September 1621.
From Vienna the 4 of September 1621.
From Vienna the 4 of September 1621.
From Vienna the 4 of September 1621.

Corante, or weekly
newes from Italy,
Germany, Hungary,
Poland, Bohemia,
France, and the Low
Countreys
N.B. 1621

1621-1641 John Butter & Nicholas Bourne
(Thomas Gainsford, ed.)

30 Years War

Between 1621 and 1632 news books
appeared for the most part weekly in
sequentially numbered series, printed
in quartos of four to forty pages, and
generally sold for 2d. each.



news book

first use

"I went with him to his house, where I propos'd these several following Questions to him: Whether it was true, the Book reported of him, concerning the Hair? ... He answer'd me distinctly to all these, and told me he understood the Newsbook reported his Hair to become a dark brown again, but that is false."

Wanley, *The Wonders of the Little World*, 1673

"d'ye think I'll stay any longer, to have a Rogue, because he knows my name, pluck me aside, and whisper a Newsbook-secret to me, with a stinking breath?"

Wycherley, *The Plain Dealer* 1677



publishing news

350 titles of news publications of all kinds
appearing in the period from 1641-1659 alone

--Dooley, *Politics of Information*

EEBO titles containing *newes* OR news

1473-1500: 0

1501-1550: 7

1551-1600: 65

1601-1650: 824

1651-1700: 586



news-paper

first use [?]

"On the Third of January last past, The
Loyall Protestant- News-Paper had this
following Passage in it ..."

Roger L'Estrange, *The Shamer Shamed*, 1681



spreading news



Daniel Defoe
1659?-1731

"We had no such thing as printed newspapers, in those days, to spread rumours and reports of things; and to improve them by the invention of men, as I have lived to see practised since. But such things as those were gathered from letters of merchants, and others, who corresponded abroad, and from them was handed about by word of mouth only; so that things did not spread instantly over the whole nation as they do now. But it seems that the Government had a true account of it, and several councils were held, about ways to prevent its coming over; but all was kept very private."

--Daniel Defoe, *Journal of the Plague Years*



to newspaper

1665: Oxford (then) London Gazette

This day the first of the Oxford Gazettes come out, which is very pretty, full of news, and no folly in it, wrote by Williamson

Samuel Pepys, Sept 4, 1663

in vogue

The Parliament being grown to that height of contempt, as to be gazetted among runaway servants, lost dogs, strayed horses, and highway robbers.

Andrew Marvell, Growth of Popery 1678



circulation, c. 6,000

Payne

[London population c. 500,000]



establishing the news

Tensions?

"Almost
simultaneously
with the origin of
origin of stock
markets, postal
services ..."

Habermas

truth

fact

news

speculation

comment

opinion

rumour

gossip

hoax

misinformation

falsehood



establishing the news

seriality

periodicity

periodical, journal, daily, weekly, monthly,
annual...

currency

courant, post

voice, independence

intelligence(r), informer,
observer, spectator, guardian

source

Lloyd's News, Defoe's Review ...

completeness

full, complete, entire



November 18. Numb. 17.
The Continuation of
 our News, from the 4. to the 29.
 of this Instant.

Containing many remarkable particulars.

**A great overthrow given to the King of
 Persia by the Turks.**

**A Letter written by the King of Sweden, being a
 second manifestation of his proceeding, & the realia
 thereof, with several passages concerning Germany, and of the
 Antiquities of that, his preparation and success in,
 and some beginning.**

**The valour and courage of the Protestants in
 Bohemia, in resisting the tyranny of the Imperialists
 and their soldiers.**

**Some late passages of the King of Denmark, and those
 of Hambrough, and of his good success against the
 Swedes, and others.**



LONDON,
 Printed for Nathaniel Senor, and Nicholas
 Bourn, 1642.

serials

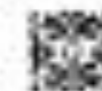
**continuity of the
 story and the teller**

A ²⁴
CONTINUVATION
 OF THE
 DIVRNL OCCVRRENCES
 And proceedings of the Eng-
 lish Army against the Rebels in
IRELAND,

From the first of April, to this
 present. 1642.

Certified by severall Letters from Dub-
 lin, Drogheda, Carrickfergus, and Carrickmacree, April the 21.
 and certified by Lieutenant Rowland, a Commander
 there, and sent unto a worthy Gentleman in
 Highshires.

With some joyfull news from Ireland, printed
 by order of the House of Commons
 Nov: 21. 1642. J. P. C. D. C.



London, Printed for J. T. 1642.



"irregularly published reports ... were not comparable to the routine production of news" -- Habermas

and periodicals

"there existed a press in the strict sense only once the regular supply of news became public"





I will say no more, but let the Letters answer for themselves: onely by way of Caution let me intreat you, neither to expect an order from Priortie of date, nor any such exactnesse, as men are tyed to in a continued Story: For in plaine tearmes for any thing I see, they that are writ these Letters had them by snatches, and the whole business resembles a Bill of accounts, divided into severall Items, whose Summa totalis is the newes of the last July, and to the tenth of August 1623

B&B, More Newes from Europe, 1623

I think it not unfit to resolve a question which was lately made unto mee, viz. wherefore I Would publish any tidings which were only rumoured without any certainty: I will answer that I doe it to shew both my love and diligence to the unpartiall Reader. And that I rather will write true tidings only to be rumoured, when I am not fully sure of them, than to write false tidings to bee true, which will afterwards prove otherwise

B&B, Late Newes of a True Relation ..., 1624]



***Tatler*/Bickerstaff(1709)**

I shall from time to time report and consider all matters of what kind soever that shall occur to me, and publish such my advices and reflections every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the week, for the convenience of the post. I resolve to have something which may be of entertainment to the fair sex, in honour of whom, I have invented the title of this paper.



***Spectator* (1710)**

I HAVE observed, that a reader seldom peruses a book with pleasure, till he knows whether the writer of it be a black or a fair man, of a mild or choleric disposition, married or a bachelor, with other particulars of the like nature, that conduce very much to the right understanding of an author. To gratify this curiosity, which is so natural to a reader, I design this paper and my next as prefatory discourses to my following writings, and shall give some account in them of the several persons that are engaged in this work. As the chief trouble of compiling, digesting, and correcting will fall to my share, I must do myself the justice to open the work with my own history.

I was born to a small hereditary estate, which, according to the tradition of the village where it lies, was bounded by the same hedges and ditches in William the Conqueror's time that it is at present,



***Spectator* (1710)**

... Thus I live in the world rather as a Spectator of mankind than as one of the species; by which means I have made myself a speculative statesman, soldier, merchant, and artisan, without ever meddling with any practical part in life. I am very well versed in the theory of a husband or a father, and can discern the errors in the economy, business, and diversion of others, better than those who are engaged in them; as standers-by discover plots, which are apt to escape those who are in the game. I never espoused any part with violence, and am resolved to observe an exact neutrality between the Whigs and Tories, unless I shall be forced to declare myself by the hostilities of either side. In short I have acted in all the parts of my life **as a looker-on**, which is the character I intend to preserve in this paper.



***Guardian* (1713)**

... I should not have assumed the title of Guardian, had I not maturely considered, that the qualities necessary for doing the duties of that character, proceed from the integrity of the mind more than the excellence of the understanding. to be faithful, to be honest, to be just, is what you will demand in the choice of your Guardian ... the main purpose of the work shall be, to protect the modest, the industrious; to celebrate the wise, the valiant; to encourage the good, the pious; to confront the impudent, the idle; to contemn the vain, the cowardly; and to disappoint the wicked and profane. I shall publish in respective papers whatever I think may conduce to the advancement of the conversation of gentlemen, the improvement of ladies, the wealth of traders, and the encouragement of artificers



Rambler (1749)

THE difficulty of the first address on any new occasion, is felt by every man in his transactions with the world, and confessed by the settled and regular forms of salutation which necessity has introduced into all languages. Judgment was wearied with the perplexity of being forced upon choice, where there was no motive to preference; and it was found convenient that some easy method of introduction should be established, which, if it wanted the allurements of novelty, might enjoy the security of prescription.

Perhaps few authors have presented themselves before the publick, without wishing that such ceremonial modes of entrance had been anciently established, as might have freed them from those dangers which the desire of pleasing is certain to produce, and precluded the vain expedients of softening censure by apologies, or rousing attention by abruptness. The epick writers have found the proemial part of the poem such an addition to their undertaking, that they have almost unanimously adopted the first lines of Homer, and the reader needs only be informed of the subject, to know in what manner the poem will begin.

But this solemn repetition is hitherto the peculiar distinction of heroick poetry; it has never been legally extended to the lower orders of literature, but seems to be considered as an hereditary privilege, to be enjoyed only by those who claim it from their alliance to the genius of Homer.



Idler (1758)

Something the Idler's character may be supposed to promise. ...the Idler is always inquisitive and seldom retentive. ... naturally censorious; those who attempt nothing themselves, think every thing easily performed, and consider the unsuccessful always as criminal. ... I make no contract, nor incur any obligation. If those who depend on the Idler for intelligence and entertainment, should suffer the disappointment which commonly follows ill-placed expectations, they are to lay the blame only on themselves.

Yet hope is not wholly to be cast away. The Idler, though sluggish, is yet alive, and may sometimes be stimulated to vigour and activity. He may descend into profoundness, or tower into sublimity; for the diligence of an Idler is rapid and impetuous, as ponderous bodies forced into velocity move with violence proportionate to their weight.

But these vehement exertions of intellect cannot be frequent, and he will therefore gladly receive help from any correspondent, who shall enable him to please without his own labour. He excludes no style, he prohibits no subject; only let him that writes to the Idler remember, that his letters must not be long; no words are to be squandered in declarations of esteem, or confessions of inability; conscious dulness has little right to be prolix, and praise is not so welcome to the Idler as quiet.



counterblasts



"residual elements"
--Habermas

Prince Harry Snubs Paris Hilton?

by Celebuzz on Feb. 8, 2009 08:47 AM



"royal sex life
provided prime
material for
gossip"
--Darnton

from ballad to gazetti

Cleo: Nay, 'tis most certain, Iras: saucy lictors
Will catch at us like strumpets, and scald rhymers

Ballad us out o'tune: the quick comedians

Extemporally will stage us, and present

Our Alexandrian revels; Antony

Shall be brought drunken forth, and I shall see

Some squeaking Cleopatra boy my greatness

I' the posture of a whore

Sir Pol: O, I shall be the fable of all feasts

The freight of the Gazetti ...



making news

Printer: I'll give any thing for a good copy now, be't true or False,
so it be Newes

....

Printer: See mens divers opinions! It is the Printing of 'hem makes
'hem news to a great many, who will indeed beleeve nothing but
what's in Print. For those I doe keepe my Presses, and so many
Pens going to bring forth wholsome relations, which once in halfe
a score yeares (as the age growes forgetfull) I Print over againe
with a new date, and they are of excellent use


Jonson, *News from the New World* 1620



gossip

Prologue: Come Gossip, be not asham'd. The
Play is the Staple of Newes, and you
are the Mistresse, and Lady of
Tattle, let's ha' your opinion of it:
Do you heare Gentleman? what are
you? Gentleman-vsher to the Play?
pray you helpe vs to some stooles
here.

Jonson, *A Staple of the News*, 1626



A corranto-coiner is a state newsmonger; and his own genius is his intelligencer. His mint goes weekly, and he coins money by it. Howsoever, the more intelligent merchants do jeer him, the vulgar do admire him, holding his novels oracular; and these are usually sent for tokens or intermissive courtesies betwixt city and country. He holds most constantly one form or method of discourse. He retains some military words of art, which he shoots at random; no matter where they hit, they cannot wound any. He ever leaves some passages doubtful, as if they were some more intimate secrecies of state, closing his sentence abruptly with--hereafter you shall hear more. Which words, I conceive, he only useth as baits You shall many times find in his gazettas, pasquils, and corrantos miserable distractions: here a city taken by force long before it be besieged; there a country laid waste before ever the enemy entered. He many times tortures his readers with impertinencies, yet are these the tolerablest passages throughout all his discourse. He is the very landscape of our age. He is all air; his ear always open to all reports, which, how incredible soever, must pass for current and find vent, purposely to get him current money and delude the vulgar. Yet our best comfort is, his chimeras live not long; a week is the longest in the city, and after their arrival, little longer in the country, which past they melt like butter, or match a pipe, and so burn.



monopolizing



1662: Licensing Act

L'Estrange

Up betimes, and an hour at my viall, and
then abroad by water to White Hall and
Westminster Hall, and there bought the
first newes-books [*Observateur*] of
L'Estrange's writing; he beginning this
week; and makes, methinks, but a simple
beginning.

Samuel Pepys, *Diary*, Sept 4, 1663



competition

"Any Londoner who wanted to read his newspaper in English had a dozen to choose from. On Monday he could select *A perfect Diurnall, Certaine Informations, or Aulicus* ... Tuesday he had *The Kingdomes Weekly Intelligencer*; Wednesday, *The Weekly Account* or the newly revived *A Continuation* ... and Thursday a choice between *Britanicus* and *Civicus*. Friday brought forth three papers ... On Saturday the reader either acquired *The True Informer* or went newspaperless.

On Sunday he rested."

Frank, *Beginnings of the English Newspaper*



title wars

1679, collapse of licensing

Domestick Intelligence, English Intelligencer

True Domestic Intelligence [first issue, #16],

Currant Intelligence



This Intelligence, having gained reputation as well by its truth as honesty, some persons have maliciously printed another with the very same title, which can be done with no other design than either to discredit ours by their falsities, or else in hopes to vend them under our Title; Therefore we think fit to give notice, that the Counterfeit Currant Intelligence is printed for Allen Banks in Fetter Lane; but the true one for John Smith in great Queen Street, which for the future, to prevent mistakes, shall be called Smith's Currant Intelligence, etc. [April 26, 1681]



tailored news



1688 Dyer's newsletter from coffee house to country

"Dyer ... conducted his News-letter on a rather ingenious principle. The copies, instead of being written quite alike, were varied according to the tastes of the persons they were meant for. Previous to sending to a fresh Coffee House, he used to inquire what sort of people frequented it, and, on getting an answer, "would send such news as would fit them."
--Wright, *Life of Daniel Defoe*



Printed at London for Francis Coster,

Monday the 5. of September.

W. London.



The Lord Speaker, and the Lord Faulkland came to the Houses, and presented them with a Message from his Majesty, in reply to the Houses last Message, the effect whereof was: That the Parliament will appoint a certaine day to recall their Votes and Declarations against such Persons that are declared Traytors or otherwise in affinitie to his Majesty, he also will upon the same day see it all

his Proclamations and Declarations, and take downe his Standard, so that the Treaty may goe out, as was formerly propounded.

After the Reading of this Message in the House of Commons, and some Consideration concerning it, it was divided into severall branches and Voted by the Commons; the effect of which Votes were:

1 That his Majesty had declared the Parliament Traytors, for decla-

form

the front page

form



1691, *Athenian Mercury*

1693, *Ladies Mercury*

1695, *Flying Post*

1696, *Post Man*

before the year 1715 a newly founded newspaper [excluding Dailies] ... would be printed in the format and style originated by Robert Baldwin for

The Post Man of 1696.

Morison

form



1691, *Athenian Mercury*

1693, *Ladies Mercury*



1695, *Flying Post*

1696, *Post Man*

BIG NEWS: Haiti Earthquake | Labor | Barack Obama | GOP | Sustainability | More...

THE HUFFINGTON POST

THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

Log In | Sig



before the year 1715 a newly founded newspaper [excluding Dailies] ... would be printed in the format and style originated by Robert Baldwin for

The Post Man of 1696.

Morison



an open press



John Dunton 1669-1732

*Athenian Gazette; or, Casuistical Mercury,
resolving all the most nice and curious questions
proposed by the ingenious of either sex*

1691-1696

a dialogue between readers and experts
"informing" and "correcting"

in league with the penny post

the "athenian society"
cp. Defoe's 'scandal club'
Steele's Bickerstaffe
Addison's Spectators



too well-informed?

"Lackeys, stable lads, odd-job men, gardeners and porters sit together and chatter about the news in the public prints... So they often think themselves better than the town mayor because they think they know a lot more than he does about every matter of state"

Steiler, The Pleasure and Utility of Newspapers, 1695



news & commentary

"[in 1709] there were six distinct publications to read .. on Monday, twelve on Tuesday, six on Wednesday, twelve on Thursday, six on Friday, and thirteen on Saturday."

Fox Bourne



1701, *New Observator* (Anne Baldwin)

1702, *Observator* (Tutchin)

1703, ***Daily Courant*** (Elizabeth Mallett)

1704, *Review* (Daniel Defoe)

the greatest part of the people do not read books, most of them cannot read at all. But they will gather together about one that can read, and listen to an *Obervator* or *Review* --Leslie, *The Rehearsal*

1705, *Post Boy* (Abel Boyer; circulation about 3,000)

1708, *British Apollo*

1709, *Tatler* (Richard Steele; circulation about 3,000)

1710, *Examiner* (Henry St. John, Jonathan Swift)

1711, *Spectator* (Joseph Addison & Richard Steele)

1713, *Guardian*, *Mercator*, *British Merchant*



a popular press

On Saturdays during 1746 at least 45,000 papers were sold Allowing for the moderate estimate of ten readers per page ... a de facto readership of not far short of half-a-million.

[the population of London was under
700,000]

In 1780, estimated that 25,000 papers were produced each day.

Harris, *London Newspapers
in the Age of Walpole*, 1987
Cofl News - 62



faction

"It must be granted that many of our Public Miseries and Dissensions may be ascribed to the abuse of the daily Vehicles of Intelligence, which are too often employed in the service of Faction ... But these inconveniences should not lead the Lovers of the Country to condemn the Liberty of the Press, but to guard against the perversion of this inestimable blessing"

'The Examiner', *Morning Post*, 1780



perversion vs regulation



cabinet papers

London Gazette

Review

Examiner

Post-Boy

Mercator



in-house journalists

Defoe

Swift ...





Num. 894

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Thursday June 17. to Monday June 23. 1664.

Thursday, June 17.

Our Letters from the Duke of the 17. instant tell us, That some of the Deputies of Cologne had let the Dyce, which is still unblockt there, and were departed on their way home, leaving a Proclamation behind them against the proceedings of the Dyce, the occasion of which is said to be, That they could not obtain some points as he intended in the Peace Convention, which they desired concerning the supplying the Kings Household. However that, the Dyce without having any regard to their Proclamation, concluded the Peace Convention; and that the King had given to them with the said Indemnity, in 21. 1644. Church at Warlow. The Kings Convention is supposed to be the 13. of the next month, except the publick computation of affairs do hinder, in which case it will be deferred till after the Campaign; the King has not as yet disposed of several of the present employments in the Kingdom, vacant by his coming to the Crown. The Queens Demerit has a yearly Revenue of 200.000. Golders assigned her, with liberty to reside in any place within the Publick Territories, except Cranes, or some other fortified place on the borders of the Sea.

France, June 17. This day arrived here the Duke of Beaufort, and to morrow his Troops, consisting in three thousand Horse and one thousand Foot will follow, and pass the Rhine here over our Bridge. The last night they had their Quarters at Kildare, two Leagues distant from this place, and when passed the Rhine, will direct their march towards Cadix. Next on the next, in order to their joining with the rest of the confederate Troops in the Palatinate.

Germany, June 14. Our Letters from Strasbourg inform us, That the confederate Troops under the Command of the old Duke of Lorraine and the Count de Capua, not having been able to persuade the Magistrates of that place to permit them to pass the Rhine over their Bridge, were decamped, and marched along the Rhine on the other side of it towards the Palatinate, as soon there, as well with the Troops of the Elector Palatine, as that of the Duke of Beaufort, with his own, that Monsieur de Turenne was the 10. instant still in his Quarters at Haguenau, saw 8000. men from Strasbourg, having behind them a Remains of his Troops, which amounted to 4000. Horse and 5000. Foot; that there were arrived in his Camp several Waggons laden with Ammunition, and his Field Pieces sent to him by the Governor of Belfort, and that thereupon he was preparing to march towards Lorraine. The Margrave of Baden will remain in the mean time with his Troops at Haguenau, which place he continues to fortify, as likewise Sarrewe. We hear that the French have restored the Count of Nassau Fort to his Officers.

Germany, June 17. Yesterday arrived at Guldach, 60.

Leagues from hence, 14 Troops of Horse, and 500. Dragoons, who were formerly in the service of our Elector, but the Treaty being concluded between the Emperor and his Electoral Highness, their Officers marched with them to Magdeburg, with intention to enter into the French service, where the Soldiers marched, and having very cruelly increased their Officers, are marching this way to take service, as they give out, in the Imperial Army, which, as we are said, will depart this day; and march towards the Mosse; the General Fessler observes a most cruel Disposition, having caused several Officers to be punished with death, for that they had kept back their Soldiers pay. Our Elector is sending three Regiments to the Imperial Army, one of Horse, Commanded by Colonel Mollinger, 2000. men in the Diocese of Ratisbon, and two of Foot, whereof Monsieur de Siles and Monsieur Vitasse are Colonels; the first is now in Garrison at Keyser-wart, and the other at Alshausen.

At a Church Council. Yesterday morning early, the Imperial Army, which hath been some time encamped near Daxere, broke up from thence, and came and lodged within three Leagues of this place, their farthest Quarters being distant from each other two Leagues and a half; this day the Auxiliary and Regiments of Foot; this day likewise the Murther Troops are to pass with the Army, they lay last night within a League of it, and the Prince of Saxe is sent by the General Fessler to recruit them. The Army will continue in its Quarters this day to refresh themselves, and to morrow they will march again: In the mean time we are hearing our them have great quantity of Ammunition sent.

W-g-r. Year 18. We daily expect from Monsieur Elzevir, one of the late Ambassadors for the Crown of Sweden at Cologne, it is thought he communicates some further circumstances touching the General Peace; The States-General have issued another Proclamation, by which they Command all their Officers and Subjects, on pain of death, to give passage, and to sit kindly, such French as shall desire the territories Crown, and retire from thence into the Territories of this State. The Prince of Orange has given the Command of the Infantry, to the Count de Solms, and the Regiment of the said Count Commanded before. It is yet to be seen to the Regiment of Foot Guards, Monsieur de Raimond is gone to receive the Prince's final Orders about the employing the Flying Army, which is to be brought together near Nimwegen. The Council of State is framing a Pension for a Million of Guilders more, to defray the extraordinary charges of this year. People here seem somewhat dissatisfied that they hear not in yet of any action of the Confederates Armies.

England, Year 20. By Letters from the Hague of the 17. instant we are told, That a Treaty hath been concluded with the King of Denmark, by which his Majesty is obliged to send 6000. Men towards the 10. June with the Prince of Orange's Army, or to be otherwise employed.

public service

London Gazette 1666

June 18

An Advertisement.

Being daily prest to the Publication of Books, Medicines, and other things, not properly the business of a paper of Intelligence. This is to notifie once and for all, that we will not charge the Gazette with Advertisements, unless they be matter of State; but that a Paper of Advertisements will be forthwith Printed apart, and recommended to the Publick by another hand.



matters of state

London Gazette 1666

An Advertisement. The Commissioners Request may be put into the *Gazette*, That upon the Third day of *July* next, there will be sold at *Grocers-hall*, of Prize-goods, Wines, Brandies, Tobaccoes, and other Goods; and a considerable quantity of Spanish Salt; to be delivered at Dover.



beyond the state

London Gazette 1668

Mr Whites house at the Cock and Bottle,
Aldersgate-street, Egbertus Will, of the
City of Utrecht, having, by the blessing of
God, and his long experience therin,
arrived to a great knowledge in curing many
defects of Body; doth hereby give notice,
that he is ready to undertake the said
Cures of deformed Bodies, crooked Legs and
Feet, wry Necks, and whatever of this
Nature hath been formerly practiced by one
Mr. Scot ;



support

ADVERTISEMENTS

R. Stoughton, Apothecary, in Southwark, having some Time since, by order of a Merchant, sent 50 Dozen of his Cordial Elixir to Sweden, has lately receiv'd Advice that Numbers of People finding it a great Preserver of Health, drink it every Morning: And further to assure it is so, hath a Certificate from thence, That (to the Person's best Knowledge and Observation) was one who took it hath had the Disease, and many are of Opinion it hath been of great Use in stopping the Progress of it. He hath also a Certificate from on Board a Ship at Jamaica, That after 6 or 7 of the Men died in 24 Hours of a Malignant Distemper, the Captain himself (fearing he should lose all his Men) gave the rest, who were seiz'd, plentifully of this Elixir (which for many Years he took with him) and by God's Blessing on it, sav'd every Man after. He is not only willing, but desirous this may be publish'd for the Good of others. Few now will go to Sea or travel without it. The Certificates themselves any Gentlemen may see if they please.

Several Boxes are just now sent again into Sweden, and I hear the King's Physicians have order'd it into the Army. It will some Merchants would send it into Denmark, it might do much good there, and large Profit to the Sender. Just Publish'd (many Thousands of the former Editions having sold in a little time.)

M. R. Martin's Seventh Edition of his Book and Second Edition of his Appendix, concerning Secret Diseases, both compriz'd in One Volume, with Amendments, and many hundred Additions: It being the last he will ever write; and it is presumed, contains as much as can write on that Subject, for the Benefit of Patients; all the Degrees and Symptoms, Ways of Contracting, certain Signs discovering, Nature, and Cure, being shewn as also the Use and Abuse of Mercury; Mischief by Quacks, Effects of ill Cures, Seminal Weakness, and all other Secret Infirmities in

both Sexes relating to that Infection, &c. are from Reason and long Experience explicated and detested; necessary for the Perusal of all that have, or ever had the least Injury that Way, and value the Health and Welfare of themselves and Posterity; that Distemper, if not toally eradicated, proving dangerous as well as odious. The whole interspers'd with Prescriptions, Observations, Histories, Letters, and Proofs of many remarkable Cases and Cures. By John Marten, Surgeon. Sold at his House in Hatton-Garden; also by N. Crouch in the Pooling, A. Herlesworth on London-Bridge, P. Varriens at Seneca's Head in the Strand, C. King in Westminster-Hall, M. Atkins in St. Paul's Church-Yard, Bookellers, and D. Leach in the Little Old Baily. Pr. Bound 7 s. 6 d.

QUACKERY Unmask'd in 2 Parts, containing, 1. Reflections on the 7th Edition of Mr. Martin's Treatise of the Venereal Disease. 2. An Examination of the Charitable Surgeon, The Generous Surgeon, The Tomb of Venus, and a pretended new Method of curing this Disease. 3. A brief Enquiry into the Ancient and present State of the Practices of Physick and Surgery; a full Account of Quacks; then (in a concise Method) is shewn the Cause, Nature, Signs, and Dangerous Effects of this Disease, various ways of Receiving, Symptoms first Discovering, and only Method of preventing its Infection; together with the best, most cheap, safe, speedy, easie and private Methods of Cure. As also the Cause and Cure of Old G... in Men, and Weaknesses in Women. The Second Edition Enlarg'd. Sold by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan, at the Golden Ball in Cornhill, and B. Barker, in Westminster-Hall; and by the Author, Dr. Spinks, at his House at the Golden Ball, 3 Doors directly past the Swan-Tavern, in Milk-street Market, Cheap-side. Price 2 s.

Printed for and sold by John Baker at the Black-Boy Passer-Nasser Row, 1711.

"All the public papers now on foot depend on advertisements."
-- Defoe, Review, 1705



the ads roll in

"Some regard is likewise to be paid to posterity. There are men of diligence and curiosity who treasure up the Papers of the Day merely because others neglect them, and in time they will be scarce. When these collections shall be read in another century, how will numberless contradictions be reconciled, and how shall Fame be possibly distributed among the Tailors and Bodice-makers of the present age.

"The trade of advertising is now so near perfection that it is not easy to propose any improvement.

"Advertisements are now so numerous that they are very negligently perused, and it is therefore become necessary to gain attention by magnificence of promises and by eloquence sometimes sublime and sometimes pathetic
Samuel Johnson, *The Idler*, 1759



the presses roll on

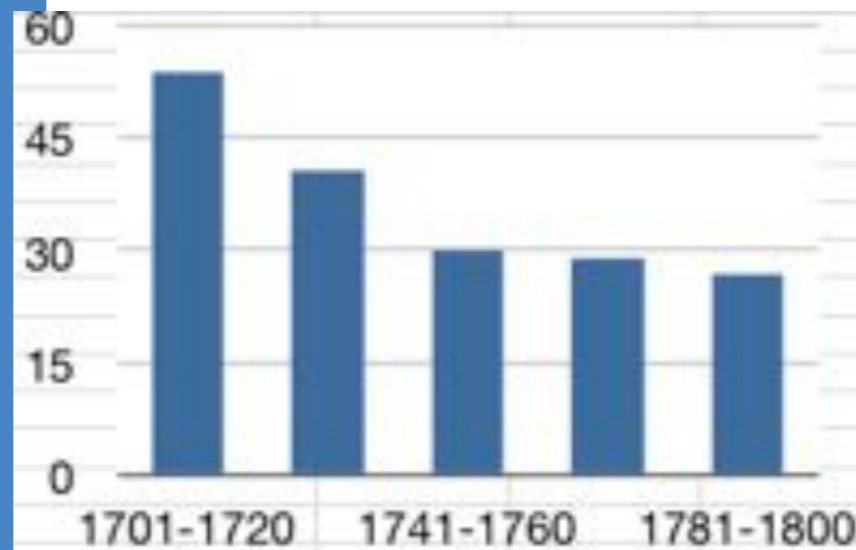
"1754, the [Daily Advertiser] appeared in the format which was to be the standard for the English newspaper until *The Times* added a fifth column in 1808. Hence the *Daily Advertiser* may fairly be regarded as the first modern newspaper --Morison

- 1731: *Daily Advertiser*
- 1737: *London Daily Post*
- 1744: *General Advertiser*
- 1751: *London Advertiser*
- 1752: *Publick Advertiser (Junius)*
- 1756: *The Test*
London Chronicle
- 1758: *Universal Chronicle*
- 1762: *North Briton (Wilkes)*
- 1769: *Morning Chronicle*
- 1772: *Morning Post & Daily Advertiser*
- 1785: *Daily Universal Register*



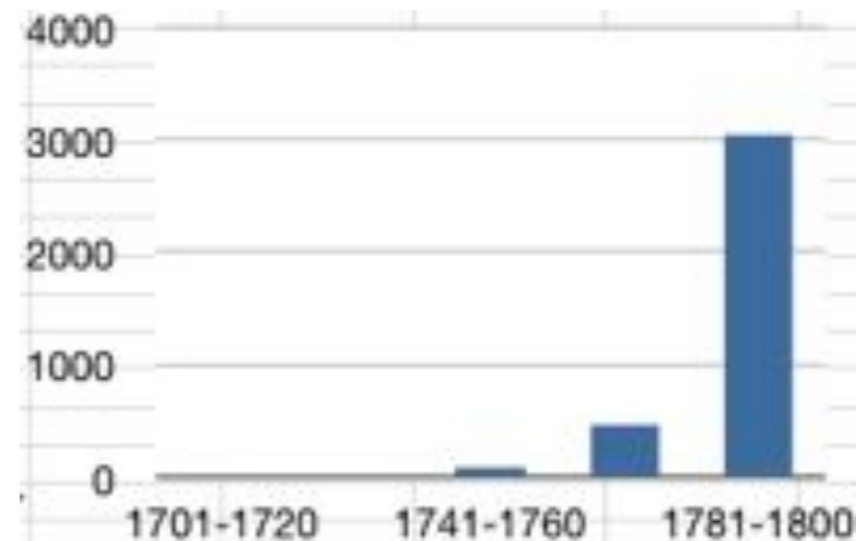


becoming an institution?



18c books with "news" in title

18c books with "newspaper" in text



"news" w10 "newspaper"
47, all after 1780