the age of information?

demarcation and transformation of the bourgeois public sphere

concepts of information, Feb 12
"Stéphane Van Damme has identified at least 12,112 articles concerning the public sphere in the Eighteenth Century alone."

--Jacob Soll, *The Information Master*, 2010
"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."

synopsis

voluntas to ratio

auctoritas to veritas

formation of public opinion
to

molding of mass opinion

[EEBO hits for "public opinion"

1473-1640, 0

1640-1660, 20]

Printed in the year when men think what they speak and write what they think.
"the classical bourgeois public sphere of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was constituted around rational critical argument"

--Calhoun, "Habermas and ..."

"Before anything can be reasoned upon to conclusion, certain facts, principles, or data to reason from must be established, admitted, or denied."

--Paine, *Rights of Man*, 1794
growth of mercantile class
separation of private from public
rise of overseas trade
traffic in commodities and news
commodification of news

"indissoluble link between the institutions and practices of mass public communication and the institutions and practices of democratic politics" --Nicholas Garnham
1603  -  Stuart Monarchy (James I)
1641  -  end of Star Chamber
1642  -  Parliamentary revolt
1649  -  Execution of the king (Charles I)
1660  -  Restoration (Charles II)

Hobbes

1668  -  Glorious Revolution (William & Mary)

Locke

1694  -  lapse of licensing
creation of Bank of England
cabinet government

1710  -  copyright

1720 - 89 Enlightenment

1776  -  American Revolution

Paine

1789  -  French Revolution

Hobbes, 1588-1679
Locke, 1632-1704
Addison, 1672-1719
Berkeley, 1685-1753
Voltaire, 1694-1778
Hartley, 1705-1757
Reid, 1710-1796
Hume, 1711-1776
Rousseau, 1712-1778
Ferguson, 1723-1816
Smith, 1723-1790
Kant, 1724-1804
Paine, 1737-1809
Priestley, 1733-1804
Knox, 1752-1821
Godwin, 1756-1836
"[P]ostal services and the press institutionalized regular contacts and regular communication. [Earlier, merchant networks of news had no] stake in information that was public... there existed a press in the strict sense only once the regular supply of news became public ... at the end of the seventeenth century. Until then the traditional domain of communication in which publicity of representation held sway was not fundamentally threatened by the new domain of the public sphere whose decisive mark was the published word."
"[T]he traffic in news developed not only in connection with the needs of commerce; the news itself became a commodity. Commercial news reporting was therefore subject to the laws of the same market to whose rise it owed its existence ... it was therefore natural to increase the profits by selling to more people."
getting the news

conceptions of new(s)
from adjective to substantive
new account to news
from particularistic to general
"these news" to "the news" (cp "these informations")
from spoken or written to printed
"the news" to "the newspaper"
institutionalized
"BBC can report ..."
"what's on the 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
personal accounts

... 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 prophecyed"

--Epistle of Peter, *Bible* [Coverdale] 1535
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 ... 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
political character

with *fals* antecedents ...

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

Statutes of Edward III, [1327], 1534
Edward VI, 1551

A proclamacion, set furth by the Kynges Maiestie, with the advise 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.
"ye Lord Marques, Gouernor, sent Don Diego de Almagro to the new citie of S. Mighel, & there to take information of certaine newes which was certified vnto him, which was, how Don Pedro de Aluarado, Gouernour of Guatimalla, had taken shipping to come into Peru.

-- Zarate, Discoveries and Conquest of Peru, 1581

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

Brady, Continuation ... History of England, 1700
new news (and old info)

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 & Tryal*, 1689
China  *tipao* [Han Dynasty, 202 bce]
Rome  *Acta Diurna* [131 bce]

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**newspaper**

Venice: *Notizie Scritte* [bought for a "gazetto"] 1556

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

Leipzig: *Einkommendeg Zeitung*, daily 1650

Spain, *Gaceta Nueva*, monthly, daily 1661
(earlier, incidental 16c *relaciones*, several produced for Americas)

British America: *Publick Occurrences*, 1690

Russia: *Vedomosti*, 35 x per year, 1702
distinguishing "news"

truth
fact
speculation
comment
opinion
rumour
gossip
hoax
misinformation (1575)
falsehood

news & information & data
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
The Continuation of our Newes, from the 4. to the 19. of this instant:

Containing amongst other things, these particulars.

A great overthrow given to the King of Persia by the Turkes.

A Letter written by the King of Sweden, being a second manifastation of his proceeding, & the reasons thereof, with several passages concerning Germany, and of the Administrators of Hall, his preparation and successe in, and more Magdenburg.

The valour and courage of the Protestants in Bohemia, in resisting the tyranny of the Imperialists over their conscience.

Some late passages of the King of Denmarke, and those of Hamborough, and of his good successe against the Hamburgers, and others.

LONDON,
Printed for Nathaniell Butter, and Nicholas Bourne. 1630.
"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"
The Flying Post

The Western Informer.

Containing the latest Newes from, and successful proceedings of his Excellency, Sir Thomas Fairfax, his Arme.

And in particular (besides many other things) that Prince Charles, with many other Gentlemen, took shipping for France at Falmouth, March 1st.

From a faithful hand.

Published according to Order, and printed for Thomas Underhill.

March 7th, 1645.

A New News-Book: Or, Occurrences Forreign and Domestick, Impartially Related.

Saturday, April 19th, 1645.

It is reported, it must needs upon the general distress of a Pop. that a great number of the people in London and other parts of England, living in the receipt of several hundred pounds a year, were in danger of being starved. The King has directed the Lord Chief Justice to inquire into the matter, and to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent the same.
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.
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
"to publish some [matters] which / may tend to the Information of Mankind ..." [#24]

"the true End of Argument, which is Information" [#197]

" I invite all Persons who have anything to say for the profitable Information of the Publick, to take their Turns in my Paper" [#428:

Spectator
seeking an audience

**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*
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
Put an advertisement in the Courant "by that Means, you'll have the Assistance of the most able Men in the Kingdom."

-Susanne Centilivre, Love's Contrivance, 1703
sanctioned news

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
coming of news

1618-48, Corantos, etc

1621 Butter & Bourne Newsbook

1637 weekly public post newsletters, diurnals, etc

1665 Oxford Gazette

1695 Flying Post

1696 Post-Boy, Post Man, Mercury
1701, New Observer (Anne Baldwin)
1702, Observer (Tutchin)
1703, Daily Courant (Elizabeth Mallett)
1704, Review (Daniel Defoe)
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
seventeenth century 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 Kingdome's 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, 1961
Domestick Intelligence, English Intelligencer, True Domestic Intelligence [#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]
eighteenth century

"[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, *English Newspapers*, 1887
"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." [London pop < 700,000]

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

Harris, *London Newspapers in the Age of Walpole*, 1987
"workmen habitually begin the day by going to coffee-rooms in order to read the latest news"

--César de Saussure, 1726
"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
"We had no such things as printed newspapers to spread rumours and reports of things, and to improve them by the invention of men, as I have lived to see practiced since."

Defoe, *Journal of the Plague Years*, 1722
"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 ... where the principles of rebellion are instilled into them."

--Leslie, The Rehearsal, 1750
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 notify 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.
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.
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;
"All the public papers now on foot depend on advertisements."

-- Defoe, Review, 1705
"Mr. SPECTATOR.
Several of my Friends were this Morning got together over a Dish of Tea in very good Health, though we had celebrated Yesterday with more Glasses than we could have dispensed with, had we not been beholden to Brooke and Hellier. In Gratitude therefore to those good Citizens, I am in the Name of the Company, to accuse you of great Negligence in overlooking their Merit who have imported true and generous Wine, and taken Care that it should not be adulterated by the Retailers before it comes to the Tables of private Families or the Clubs of honest Fellows. I cannot imagine how a SPECTATOR can be supposed to do his Duty, without frequent Resumption to such Subjects as concern our Health"

Spectator, Friday April 25, 1711
This Day is Publish'd,

The true State of the Case between the Government and the Creditors of the Navy, &c. As it relates to the South-Sea Trade; and the Injustice of the Transactions on either Side. Impartially enquir'd into. Pr. 2d. 

Just Publish'd, an Essay on the South-Sea Trade, by the Author of the Review. Pr. 6d. High-Church Apherisms by those Twins-Brothers in Scandal, the Examiner and modest Abel. Pr. 6d. Printed for J. Baker in Pater-Nooster-Row.

THIS is to give Notice, That Messieurs Broke and Heller of London, Merchants, who do now give such general Satisfaction in Retailing their New Natural Portuguese Wines in the said City, being thebest that have come from Portugal for many Years past, have for the more effectual supplying the other Parts of the Kingdom, caus'd Ships to Sail directly from Portugal to the following Places, where they are Arriv'd with the Line Natural Wines, being the only New Wines that are now there, or can arrive this Season; which Wines are to be sold by the following Persons, in the respective Places, viz. By Mr. Barth, Agent in Plymouth; Messieurs James and John Arnold in Portsmouth; Messieurs James Walker, and John Negen in Tor- 

mouth; Mr. Joseph Taylor of Wisick in Lynn Regi; Mr. Crowle in Hull; Mr. John Stone in Wimborne; Mr. William Fordor in Newcastle upon Tyne: Note, the Price, viz. The Vienna Wines at 14l. per Hoghead or at 5s. 4d. per Gallon, and the Oporto Wines at 16l. per Hoghead, or 6s. per Gallon.

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

Messieurs Brooke and Hellier Merchants in a lane near Bread-Street, having experienced that their new natural Porto and Viana Wines do give such universal Satisfaction, they encouraged further to accommodate the Town, and give Notice to resolve to retail the entire Cargoes of the Sophronia and Galies just arriv'd and landing, consisting of 300 Pipes of new and white Oporto, and 20 Pipes of red and white Anadea Wine, being the only Wines of these Sorts in Merchants Hands) in several Vaults and Taverns following, viz. in Freeman's Yard in Cook under the Crown, Tavern in Bread-street, under a front House in Leisbury-Court in Fleet-street, under Mr. Rymes a Furrier against May-pole in the Strand, and at the Horn-Tavern in Palace-yard, Westminster, and there is now open'd other Vaults, viz. in the Tavern-Yard against Billingsgate, in the middle Street in Buildings, and under St. James's Market-house; also on Tuesday next at 8th Instant will be open'd the Green-Dragon Tavern in Gwy- 

Lane in Holborn. Note, The Prices of the above Said Wines, in the Vaults, the new natural red and white Oporto and white Viana 18 d. per Quart and 17 l. per Hoghead, and the new red Viana 15 d. per Quint and 13 l. per Hoghead, and in the Said Tavern the Oporto and white Viana at 20 d. and red Viana at 16 d. per Quot. Note. The new white and red Anadea Wines are at 25. and 20 l. per Hoghead, and to be had only in the aforesaid Vian York-Buildings, and under St. James's Market-House.
"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.

the presses roll on

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

Monday, February 18, 2013
the news master

cabinet papers

London Gazette

Review
Examiner

Post-Boy
Mercator

in-house journalists
Defoe
Swift ...
"For the Actions of Men proceed from the Opinions, and in the well-governing of Opinions, consisteth the well-governing of Men's Actions in order to their Peace and Concord"

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1651
to govern men

"there would be need of fewer Laws, and less force to govern Men, if their Minds were rightly inform'd, and set strait, while they were yong, and pliable."

Thomas Sprat,

*History of the Royal Society, 1667*
auctoritas or voluntas?

"NOTHING appears more surprizing to those, who consider human affairs with a philosophical eye, than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few; and the implicit submission, with which men resign their own sentiments and passions to those of their rulers. When we enquire by what means this wonder is effected, we shall find, that, as FORCE is always on the side of the governed, the governors have nothing to support them but opinion. It is therefore, on opinion only that government is founded; and this maxim extends to the most despotic and most military governments, as well as to the most free and most popular."

--Hume, "Of the First Principles of Government," 1741
"National conduct ought to be the result of national wisdom, a plan formed by mature consideration and diligent selection out of all the schemes which may be offered and all the information which can be procured."

--Samuel Johnson, *Idler* 8, 1751
"[Mr Courtney] said, that in every government of a mixed or popular form, the middle rank of people were those whose voice ought to be more especially attended to. They were the true echo of the nation. This was an observation that indeed carried an appearance of truth and plausibility, but experience proved it to be totally fallacious. The sense of the people, or great body of the nation, was, in HIS [ie CJF's] opinion, the true criterion by which Public Opinion could be fairly determined."

--Charles James Fox, House of Commons, 1781
The spirit of the people for obtaining this necessary information is evident from the incredible number of newspapers and other periodical publications --Knox

the degree of correctness with which the common papers of intelligence appear, is really wonderful, and affords a striking instance how much industry can effect, when stimulated .. by the hope of that abundant gain, which our more than Athenian love of political information [#2] constantly supplies --Knox
"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."

--Thomas Jefferson to Edward Carrington, 1787. ME 6:57
"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. He who reads nothing will still learn the great facts, and the details are all false."

--Thomas Jefferson to John Norvell, 1807. ME 11:225
which branch?

"Give [the public] fair and full information, and they will do the thing that is right"

--Vicesimus Knox

"for were the impulses of conscience clear, uniform, and irresistibly obeyed, man would need no other law giver"

--Tom Paine
"Information is an advantage to us; and we have a right to demand it. He that is bound to act in the dark cannot be said to act freely. ... Reason clearly and manfully delivered, has in itself a mighty force: but reason in the mouth of legal authority, is, I may fairly say, irresistible."

--Burke *Two Letters .. on the Proposals for Peace*, 1797