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An Afternoon with the Early Books Collective

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Keywords

digital humanities, transcriptions, TEI

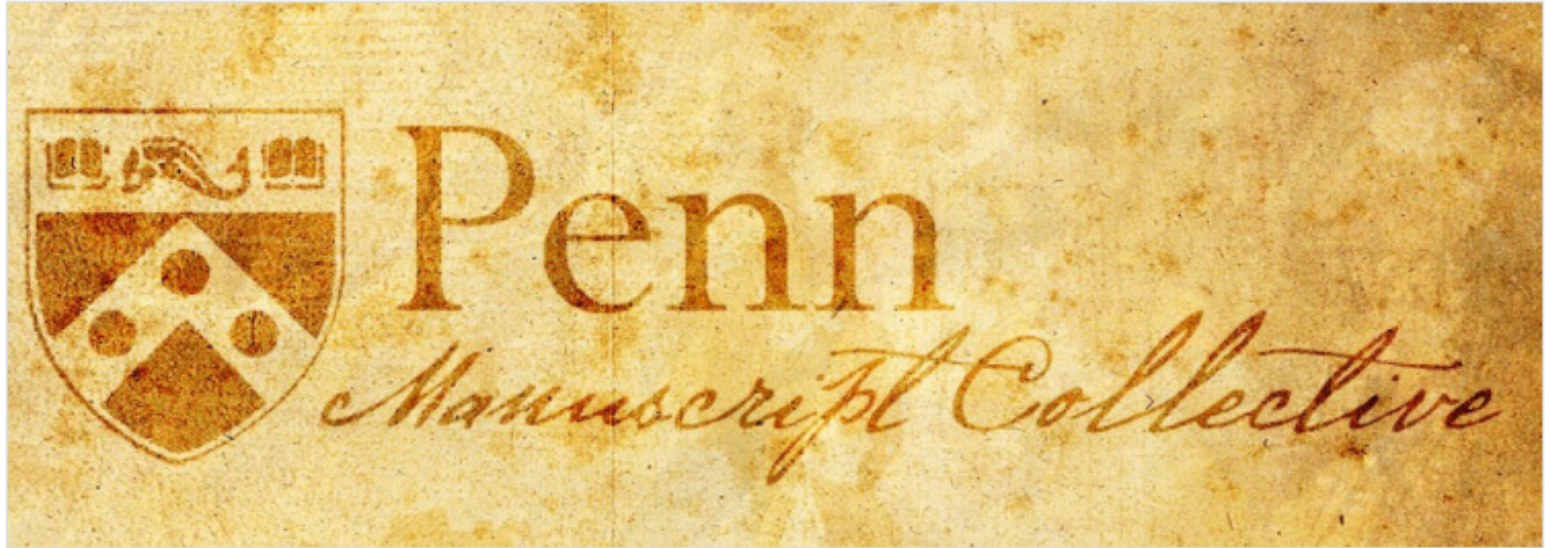
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11 Thursday Feb
2016

An Afternoon with the Early Books Collective



POSTED BY JOHN BARANIK IN UNCATEGORIZED

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On Wednesday, November 11th we spent an afternoon with some research librarians from Penn's [Early Books Collective](#). Working in partnership with the [Text Creation Partnership](#) (TCP) and the [Early English Books Online](#) (EEBO) database, this group is working on transcribing *The Booke of Pretty Conceites* using the [TEI](#) encoding language.

The main challenge in such digital transcription work, as we quickly found out, is faithfully representing the book: the typography, the section divisions, and mis-en-page can all be described by various tags. As the excerpt from some of our work below shows, the majority of this sort of transcription is occupied by tags, not text.

```
<TEXT>
<DIV1 Type="book">
<DIV2 Type="version" lang="eng">
<Front>
<DIV3 Type="title">
<P> THE Booke of pretty con|ceites, taken out of Latine French, Dutch and
English.
</P>
<P>
```

Very merry, pleasant and good, to be read of all such <HI> as doe delight in new and </HI>

merry conceites </P>

<P> Newly enlarged, corrected and amended </P>

<Figure></Figure>

<P> LONDON </P>

<P> Printed by R <HI> alph Blower </HI>, dwelling on Lambert hill neere old Fish streete. Anno Dom. 1612. </P>

</DIV3> <PB>

<DIV3 Type=letter

Some of the "very merry, pleasant and good" conceites that the title alludes to include "An easie way to procure Fire speedily," "A speedy remedy for a prick of thorn in one's foot, or elsewhere," and directions "To make that no dog shall bark at you," to name a few.

Our group did not get a chance to transcribe much more than a few pages in our short time together but we look forward to more collaborations with the Early Books Collective soon!

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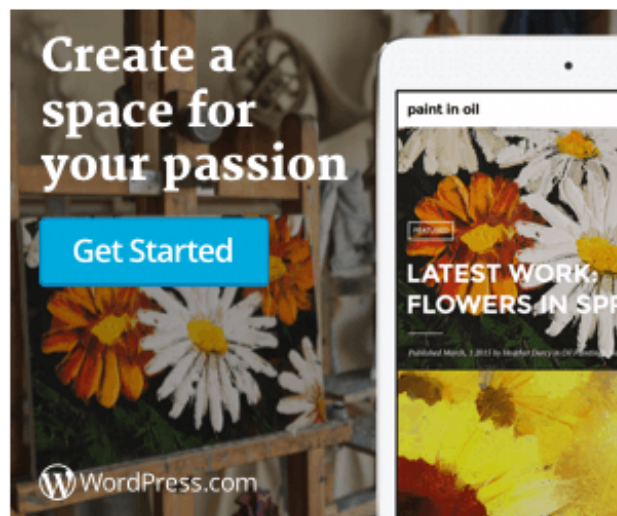
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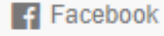
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