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It's SHARP Week!

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It’s SHARP week!

While we can’t promise a week of programming with deadly sharks, SHARP week is indeed here and all hands are on deck at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. This conference, named for the Society of the History of Authorship, Readership, and Publication, will take place from Thursday the 18th until Sunday the 21st. Research for Nicole and I will come to a halt as we, along with the other RBML staff, prepare to host over 200 scholars ("some text-bibbers, randy for manuscript") from around the world. SHARP is held annually at different institutions, and the theme of this year’s Penn-hosted conference is "Geographies of the Book."
geographies of the book

— “...the geography of the book enters into the very nature of the book itself.”
– Miles Ogborn and Charles W. J. Withers, Geographies of the Book

Dozens of papers, seminars, and panels are to be had, with topics ranging from books and readers in World War 1 and World War 2 to Mapmaking to the Islamic Book to English Herbals. I am excited to hear keynote addresses by Roger Chartier and Michael Suarez, to listen to a talk on Printing Narnia, to watch my co-worker Jack Wiggins chair a session and give a paper, and to see RBML regular Marissa Nicosia present in the same lightning talk as my professor Claire Bourne (who is giving a talk on "Dramatic Pilcrows").

A quick update on the research: Nicole and I have now finished transcribing John Rowe Parker’s letters from five major early Philadelphia publishers: George Willig, George E. Blake, George Bacon, Allyn Bacon, and Benjamin Carr. As we continue to work, we are looking into platforms and tools like Omeka or WordPress Premium to display our letters and transcriptions.
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