

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

AGM to be held by Zoom and in-person:

<https://uva-live.zoom.us/j/84142533670> or in room D.O.08 at Amsterdam University

Shef Rogers, SHARP President



Welcome to the 2022 AGM. An especially warm welcome to those of you lucky enough to be enjoying the annual conference in Amsterdam in person. Officially this might constitute our first hybrid AGM, though we have had some remote involvement at SHARP 2018 in Sydney and no doubt on some earlier occasions.

As always, I'd particularly like to acknowledge those of you for whom this is your first SHARP AGM. To help with the AGM's proceedings and to provide you with a copy of the agenda, we produce this annual report to summarise the Society's activities since our last annual conference. We hope this will help you identify the various officers of the Society, and if you are interested in more information about anything we do, any member of the EC will be happy to answer your questions; just email them at the address that follows each report.

THE SOCIETY'S STRUCTURE & CONSTITUTION

SHARP is governed by an Executive Council (EC) of elected officers, a Board of Directors (chaired by Matt Kirschenbaum for the past year), and a Nominating Committee. SHARP's activities are made possible through the further efforts of numerous appointees (most obviously the editors of *Book History*, *SHARP News*, *Lingua Franca*, but also the various review editors, the moderators of SHARP-L, the DeLong Book Prize judges, and the archivist), as well as, of course, the membership as a whole. As always, we are very grateful to all those members who volunteer their time to support the Society. A wide range of members contribute in some specific volunteer role to enable SHARP to carry out its activities. If you would like to be more involved in SHARP, please contact any of the EC officers. I'd especially like to urge all of you to consider standing for election when we go to the polls in March 2023. The process actually starts with nominations from very early in the new year, so do keep in mind that important opportunity to help shape SHARP's future.

Finally, I would like to thank our two hard-working consultants: Executive Assistant, Ellen Barth, for her significant attention to the website, her assistance with the DeLong Prize process, and the many other research tasks she undertakes to help the EC make informed decisions, and Anna Muenchrath, our Coordinator of Communications who is undertaking a variety of less visible tasks, particularly in relation to redesign of our website, as well as overseeing our increasingly active Twitter feeds.

PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

As of this meeting, Shef Rogers and Will Slauter have completed the first half of their second terms. Will has been very active representing SHARP in the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), from whom we gain a great deal of information and the opportunity to join other scholarly societies in shared initiatives, such as the Mellon-funded "Intention Foundry" that brings together emerging scholars, university administrators, and leaders of scholarly societies to envision ways to advance equity and inclusion in humanistic education and research.

Shef has served on the Finance subcommittee responsible for the report being for this AGM, along with Colin Ramsey, Lisa Maruca and Sarah Warner, and Danielle Fuller from the Board, who has chaired us so effectively. He is also switching gears slightly to convene the 2023 SHARP annual conference, which will be entirely online. SHARP membership is holding up despite not having been able to hold in-person conferences in 2020 and 2021 and our finances are in good order. We are always eager to hear from members about anything you think we should be doing that we are not, or that we could do better.

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FINANCES

Colin Ramsey reports that SHARP's balance sheet is in good shape, and the Society will not exceed its budget for 2022, though it did set a deficit budget to accommodate the new position of Coordinator of Communications. The main activity of the past year has been the regular meetings of the joint Board–EC Finance subcommittee that has issued the report being presented to this AGM. He encourages all members to consider the report carefully and to feel free to contact any EC members to discuss initiatives, questions or concerns. It is very much intended as a discussion document intended to elicit direction from the full membership.

treasurer@sharpweb.org

MEMBERSHIP and SOCIETY AND REGIONAL LIAISONS

If you are reading this, you are likely a member of SHARP. Thank you for your support. This annual report is full of the activities we can sustain because our members fund us: the annual conference; our publications, including *Book History*, *Lingua Franca*, and *SHARP News*; our communication platforms and technologies, such as the SHARP-L listserv, the [website](#), and the searchable membership directory; and several [prizes, awards and fellowships](#), including [ECR Lightning Seed Grants](#), [BIPOC Scholar Research Development Grants](#), and conference travel assistance.

Members at every level contribute to these undertakings, but we are able to keep our dues low thanks to the generosity of our donors. This calendar year marked the first that we opened a new level of **Patron Membership**. We wish to express special gratitude to those giving at this level: Danielle Fuller, Lisa Maruca, Michelle Warren, Sarah Werner, and Peter Wiley.

We also appreciate our **Sustaining Members**: Suzan Alteri, Dee E. Andrews, Greg Barnhisel, Ann Blair, Roy M. Carlisle, Anne Coldiron, Sondra Miley Cooney, Marija Dalbello, James Fowler, Joan M. Friedman, Ian Gadd, Alan Galey, Lisa Gitelman, Jacqueline Goldsby, Barbara Hochman, Elizabeth F. M. Hoiem, Leslie Howsam, Noreen Humble, Tamara L. Hunt, Wallace Kirsop, Beth Lander, Matthew J. Lavin, Marianne Martens, Siobhan McElduff, Douglas P. McElrath, Elizabeth McHenry, Simone Murray, Margaret F. Nichols, David Nord, Jeremy M. Norman, Matthew Parfitt, Robert Patten, Ellen Pozzi, Joshua Reid, Beverly Rogers, Theresa Saliba, Alice Schreyer, Sydney J. Shep, Eleanor F. Shevlin, Noam Sienna, Michael F. Suarez, Larry E. Sullivan, Josée Vincent, Li Yu, and Elaine J. Zinkhan.

Finally, thank you to all our **donors** who made contributions outside of membership levels: Janika Bischof, Raymond Black, Kathleen M. Comerford, John Culver, Christopher C. Dahl, Beth Rigel Daugherty, Paul Eggert, David Finkelstein, Jocelyn Elizabeth Hargrave, Evi Heinz, Anne D. Kahn, Matthew Kirschenbaum, Rachel Leket-Mor, Corinna Norrick-Ruhl, George L. Parker, Christine Pawley, Karen Reeds, Shef Rogers, Theresa Saliba, Scott Slawinski, Maria Snyder, Nada Topić, Steven Van Impe, Germaine Warkentin, and Penny Welbourne.

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MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Following the 2021 election, this position was left vacant and will remain so until the 2023 election. If anyone feels there is a particular aspect of SHARP's activities that warrants a stronger voice on the EC, or even more significantly an activity that we are not currently managing, but should be, all the members of the EC would welcome suggestions for this role.

CONFERENCES

Alison Newman has been busy this year negotiating with potential organisers for future conferences and reviewing our conference manual and procedures to achieve seamless coordination between the Society and the local organising committees. She has provided some assistance to the Amsterdam organisers, to whom she is incredibly grateful for their persistence and commitment to holding a conference despite the many challenges of current conditions. As the future becomes clearer, she will be coordinating plans for the 2023–2026 conferences.

Alison will also be a central participant in the joint Board–EC subcommittee that will begin its work in September this year and likely report to the 2023 AGM on ideas for how the Society might manage future meetings.

conferences@sharpweb.org

TRANSNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SHARP is grateful to its numerous liaisons around the globe that help promote our activities and keep us informed of local events. We have offered several small grants this year to facilitate activities in New York, Greece, the UK and Belgium. If you have an idea for an event that a small grant of support would make more successful or visible, please feel free to contact me (Jan Hillgärtner).

One exciting international collaboration this year took the form of a special issue of the online journal *Knygotyra*. Papers that were originally intended for presentation at SHARP panels of the CISH Congress to have been held in Poland in 2020 were edited by Martyn Lyons following SHARP's decision to withdraw from CISH. These papers were fortunately 'rescued' by the journal thanks to the intervention of Aušra Navickienė and the other journal editors. Do check out the papers on digital publishing and bestsellers: <https://www.journals.vu.lt/knygotyra/issue/view/2067>.

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PUBLICATIONS

After 2020/21 saw a flurry of changes in personnel and format surrounding our publications, 2021/22 offered consolidation and continuity - and cause for celebration! The journal *Book History* (eds. Greg Barnhisel, Yuri Cowan & Beth le Roux) is now in its 25th year, and three paperback issues have been published (24.1, 24.2, 25.1). We have received a lot of positive feedback on the transition to two paperback issues per year, and we are delighted to be able to share more content with you in this way. *SHARP News* (ed. Andie Silva, with a team of other contributors and editors) is fully open access and continues to explore new ways to engage with our membership and the book history community. *Lingua Franca's* new editorial team (Cynthia Gabbay, Mariana de Moreas Silveira & Susan Pickford) is putting the final touches on their first issue together. As Director of Publications, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the editors of SHARP's publications, as well as to JHUP for their involvement in publishing and distributing *Book History* to our membership and well beyond! Despite the ongoing pandemic and dire paper shortages in the publishing industry, our publications have continued to appear (almost) on schedule. We sincerely hope the SHARP community enjoys what *Book History*, *Lingua Franca* and *SHARP News* have to offer. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me (Corinna Norrick-Rühl) with feedback or ideas.

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AWARDS

Melanie Ramdarshan Bold oversees the DeLong Book Prize and the *Book History* editors' prize for the best essay submitted to the journal by a graduate student: these will both be awarded at the AGM. Melanie extends her sincere thanks to the judges of the book prize, Kinohi Nishikawa, Susan Pickford, Jennifer Richards, and Daniel Bellingradt. This year saw the fourth award of the SHARP 25th Anniversary Fellowship to Chiara Betti (a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD candidate between the Institute of English Studies/School of Advanced Study [UoL] and the Bodleian Libraries). This fellowship will support Chiara's research on the manufacture and use of 17–18th-century printing plates and the production of books during that time. In 2021 we also awarded the second round of research development grants for BIPOC scholars. The recipients were: DeLisa D. Hawkes (University of Tennessee); Amber Khan (University of Glasgow); Swati Moitra (Gurudas College, University of Calcutta); Cindy Nguyen (University of California); Sara Elizabeth Danielle Celeste Penn (Simon Fraser University).

awards@sharpweb.org

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Sarah Werner has been busy in 2022 moving SHARP's server from its former provider to a much more affordable server company and in the process, through consultation with EC members, redrafting the many pages of content toward a revised web presence that should go live before the end of 2022. She has also worked closely with the new Coordinator of Communications as they define this new role and work out systems for managing the numerous media channels to achieve a consistent set of aims and tone for SHARP.

webmaster@sharpweb.org

ARCHIVES AND RECORD-KEEPING

Vincent Trott has scheduled and minuted EC and Board meetings throughout the year and has generally kept the organization functioning smoothly. He has worked with SHARP's archivist, Jessica Ryan, to ensure that the society's records are archived effectively, and he is currently updating and expanding SHARP's policy manual. With former President Ian Gadd, Vincent is also responsible for managing and overseeing the moderation of society's listserv, SHARP-L.

secretary@sharpweb.org

SHARP BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT 2021–2022

Matthew Kirschenbaum (Chair, Board of Directors, 2021–2023)

Matthew Kirschenbaum (Professor of English, University of Maryland, United States) assumed the role of Chair of the Board of Directors from Marija Dalbello in October of 2021. The Board has since met once, December 7, 2021. The two primary items on the agenda were approval of the organisation's 2022 budget and discussion of a draft paper on public engagement submitted by board members Simone Murray and Shafquat Towheed. Additional business, including approval of the Finance Subcommittee Report, has been conducted by group email as needed on an ongoing basis. Professor Kirschenbaum has remained in regular contact with the President of SHARP, and the Board and the EC continue to coordinate and work together on all organisational matters.

AGM Agenda

- Welcome & brief remarks on officers' reports *Shef Rogers*
- Introduction of the Finance Subcommittee Report *Danielle Fuller*
- Acknowledgment of organizers of SHARP 2022 Conference *Shef Rogers*
- Announcement of SHARP Prizes
 - George A. and Jean S. DeLong SHARP Book History Prize
Melanie Ramdarshan Bold
 - Presentation of the Greenspan–Rose Essay Prize
Greg Barnhisel, Beth Le Roux, Yuri Cowan
 - Presentation of SHARP Special Prize
- SHARP plans for 2023 Conference *Shef Rogers*
- Members' announcements
- Any other business