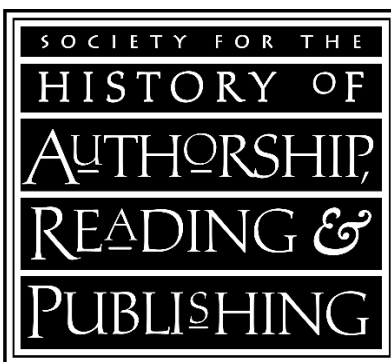




ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Danielle Fuller, SHARP President

Welcome to the 2024 AGM. I am very happy that some of us could attend this meeting in person with other members joining us online.

As always, I would 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 over the past year. 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 of elected officers, a Board of Directors (chaired by Matthew Kirschenbaum for this year and the next one), and a Nominating Committee (led by Sydney Shep). We will see the Nominating Committee in action in 2025 because it is an election year for SHARP (some EC roles and several vacancies on the Board of Directors will be up for election). 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 Book History Book Prize judges, BIPOC grant evaluators, 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. One of SHARP's strengths is its collegiality, but that also rests upon generous service by many members.

Finally, I would like to thank our two hard-working non-voting EC members: Executive Assistant, Amanda Lastoria whose excellent assistance with the Book History Book Prize process was especially crucial this year, and who has collaborated with Ellen Barth (Recording Secretary) on two welcoming events for Early Career Scholars at the Reading conference, and Anna Muenchrath, our Communications Coordinator, who has not only worked extensively on communications through various media, but whose research and creative thinking have contributed significantly to the EC's activities.

PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

It has been a busy first year. Danielle began her role full of enthusiasm and new ideas (!), but in reality has spent the bulk of her time ensuring that SHARP's core activities could be delivered through the capable hands of a relatively small EC. Both the Director of Conferences and Director of Awards had to step down in November due to work commitments; Director of Transnational Affairs is currently an empty seat, and there were two periods of parental leave to cover. Special thanks to Lisa Maruca, former Membership Secretary and current Member-at-Large extraordinaire who applied her time and skills to multiple areas of work; and grateful thanks to Sarah Werner (Electronic Resources) and Shafquat Towheed (VP) who ensured that current and future conference organizers had a direct line to the EC before Rachel Noorda became Director of Conferences in March 2024. Throughout the year Colin Ramsey's knowledge of SHARP's finances and his eye for detail has proven to be fundamental to the continued health of the organization. In addition to his role as Treasurer, Colin has acted as SHARP's liaison to the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), an affiliation that provides SHARP with useful contacts and information.

While prizes and awards, publications and conferences were priorities this year, some additional notable tasks were achieved by the EC. SHARP now has an explicit EDID statement, viewable on our website. As part of our ongoing efforts to enact the values outlined in the statement, a draft Code of Conduct for SHARP events held on- and off-line is under review by the Board of Directors. More news about that to come later in 2024.

In addition to their regular work (see Chair of Board of Director's report below), Board members joined EC members on juries for prizes and awards, and were part of two Working Groups. The Conferences Working Group, ably chaired by Beth Driscoll, has completed its phase one tasks and submitted a report

to the President on 30 May 2024 (see below for a brief summary). The recommendations will be considered, first of all, by the EC at their September 2024 meeting, and then the WG will reconvene for a second phase of work focusing on implementation and forward planning. Board member Kanupriya Dhingra chaired the other active Working Group this year, working with Danielle (President), Colin Ramsey (Treasurer) and Ellen Barth (Recording Secretary). This WG took up the job of planning for the new three-year paid post of part-time Executive Director – this was the main recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee that ran 2021-23. After consultation with the EC and the Board, an advertisement and job description for this post are now ready for circulation and a hiring process will be underway August/September 2024. We are hopeful that the incoming ED role will commence 1 January 2025.

As Vice-President Shafquat Towheed acted as a liaison to the Reading conference team and covered the Director of Awards role between November 2023 and March 2024; chaired the search committee for the Executive Assistant role; chaired the bimonthly EC meetings and was a valuable support to the President in matters large and small.

Looking ahead to our next year, the EC and Board are aware of the need to increase membership dues. SHARP dues have increased only twice in the past 17 years: once in 2010 and again in 2017. Membership dues allow SHARP to fund awards and prizes and to cover staffing costs, and our research into peer organizations shows that SHARP dues are significantly lower than the norm. The EC is actively considering how to raise dues in the most equitable way for the 2025 membership year, and we will of course notify membership of changes in advance of renewals.

president@sharpweb.org & vp@sharpweb.org

FINANCES

Treasurer Colin Ramsey reports that SHARP continues to enjoy a secure financial position. Current balances across all accounts as of this AGM report amount to \$478,744. Per the matter of FDIC Insurance limits for deposits initially raised in the Treasurer's Report at the 2023 AGM, SHARP has now completed the movement of a portion of its reserves to a different bank, ensuring both that the organization's funds remain below the current FDIC maximum insurance limits and that SHARP is earning improved interest on its deposits.

SHARP's total expenses for its fiscal (and calendar) year 2023 came in slightly lower than budgeted. SHARP's expenses for 2024 thus far are in line with its overall 2024 budget, though some expense categories have seen increased costs. While income from memberships thus far in 2024 is down modestly

compared to prior years, income from other sources is up slightly, keeping SHARP's likely overall income for 2024 more or less in line with prior years. However, the clear mandate from members for SHARP to hire an Executive Director will of course notably increase SHARP's annual expenditures, beginning in the first quarter of 2025.

treasurer@sharpweb.org

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY AND REGIONAL LIAISONS

In 2024, around two thirds of our members are based in North America. This year's conference in Reading, UK, will be a good opportunity to continue to expand our membership in the UK/ Europe and elsewhere.

Membership fees contribute to all kinds of SHARP activities: 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; several prizes, awards and fellowships, including ECR Lightning Seed Grants, Research Development Grants for BIPOC Scholars, and conference travel assistance; and the salary costs of colleagues who do essential administrative and communication work.

Members at every level contribute to these undertakings, but we are able to keep our dues low thanks to the generosity of our donors. Thank you, donors, for your contribution to and support of SHARP! More than a third of our members receive free or discounted membership. Those who donate receive a receipt that includes the portion of the Sustaining or Patron membership levels that qualifies as a donation. SHARP is a registered nonprofit in the United States (i.e., a 501(c)(3) organization), so donations may be eligible for a tax deduction.

If you would like to discuss a possible donation, please feel free to contact the Membership Secretary, Dr Lise Jaillant.

members@sharpweb.org

CONFERENCES

Rachel Noorda is newly appointed as the Director of Conferences as of March 2024. In these last few months, Rachel has liaised with University of Reading for final support with the 2024 conference and has been working with the 2025 conference host as well (stay tuned for that exciting announcement!). Conversations are ongoing with potential hosts for 2026 and beyond - Rachel encourages SHARPists

interested in the possibility of hosting (in-person or virtual), to reach out via email at conferences@sharpweb.org.

Rachel would also like to thank the Conferences Working Group—led by Beth Driscoll and including Simone Murray, Sarah Werner, and Matthew Kirschenbaum—for convening coffeehouse discussions with SHARP members about what the future of SHARP conferences should look like. (See below for a summary of their report to the membership.)

conferences@sharpweb.org

TRANSNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Currently vacant. Lightning Seed Grants remain available to help support regional conferences and events. These are currently managed by a small sub-committee of EC members. If you would like to apply, please see SHARP's website for details, and email: president@sharpweb.org.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2023-24, *Book History* published volume 26.2 containing 9 articles and volume 27.1 should be out shortly. The fall 2024 issue is also shaping up well and is on track. Beth le Roux is stepping down as editor and everyone involved with *Book History* is enormously grateful for all the work she has put in over the years. It is pleasing to report that submissions and publications representing topics beyond the European and Anglo-American world continue to increase: the coming year will feature articles from scholars based in India, China, and Chile, the geographical area of *Book History* overseen by Beth. We are in the process of recruiting a replacement.

In early 2024, *Lingua Franca* published the volume for 2023 focusing on Persian book history. Challenges with the payment of the editor, due to their geographical location, have led to the introduction of a clearer due diligence process and contractual arrangements for translators. A volume on Italian book history containing six articles is being prepared for Autumn 2024 when work on the *Lingua Franca* webpage will also be released, giving an updated look of those pages. We want to put on record our thanks to the Executive Council members for their support in resolving the challenges with the 2023 issue and to Sarah Warner for support on the development of the webpages.

SHARP News saw a number of changes to the editorial team in 2023-24. Leah Henrickson (Social Media Editor), Stevie Marsden (Book Reviews), Nora Slonimsky (Head Reviews Editor), and Emily Spunaugle (E-Resources) all ended their tenures in December, 2023 and we are extremely grateful for all their work

over the last three years. On account of new responsibilities at Indiana University Libraries, Rebecca Baumann also stepped down as Classroom Editor and we are also very grateful to Rebecca for their work. Jolie Braun (Ohio State University Libraries) and Madeline Zehnder (Humboldt University) are the new co-editors of Reviews and Sarah Pelletier (Carleton University) is the new Outreach Coordinator. Maureen Maryanski (Indiana University Library) is the new editor of “SHARP in the Classroom.” The editorial team are working on a range of initiatives and their work supplements that of Allie Alvis and Alex Wingate who continue to do wonderful work on the Features and Bibliographies sections. I am grateful to all the team for their work.

During the year, the Executive Council also considered a proposal from JHUP on a pilot scheme related to Open Access but decided to see the results of the pilot before joining any such scheme. Finally, I (Matthew Day) shall be stepping down as Director of Publications. I am grateful to colleagues for their support during the year and to Lisa Maruca who will be taking on the role 1 July 2024.

publications@sharpweb.org

AWARDS

Asha Rogers was appointed Director of Awards in March 2024. In the absence of a role-holder Vice President Shafquat Towheed ensured SHARP’s awards process was set in motion, with assistance from Executive Assistant Amanda Lastoria.

As incoming Director of Awards Asha oversees the SHARP Book History Book Prize, which will be awarded at the AGM held at the Reading conference in July. Many thanks to the returning jurors Kinohi Nishikawa, Susan Pickford, and Daniel Bellingradt, and to Amanda Lastoria for crucial support both prior to and following Asha’s appointment. The fourth round of the Research Development Grants for BIPOC Scholars were awarded to Natalie Hsieh (Glasgow), Xinyi Wen (Cambridge), Ruthie Block (Yale), Samantha Callanta (Delaware) and Farhana Shaikh (De Montford).

In 2024 the SHARP 25th Anniversary Fellowship will be shared by two scholars, Gloria J. Morales Osorio, a PhD candidate at University of Wisconsin-Madison, who will research twentieth century Afro-Colombian authorship and print culture prior to its “rescue” by the Colombian Ministry of Culture in the twenty-first century. The Fellowship will fund archival research at the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia, Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango and Archivo General de la Nación.

Gloria shares the Fellowship with Dr Hyei Jin Kim. The Fellowship will support Hyei Jin's research on the Traditional Market Agreement, a British publishing monopoly that divided the postwar English-speaking world into two markets. It will enable Hyei Jin to continue her research on the Agreements' origins in wartime Britain (National Archives) and its impact on publishing.

Asha will also be responsible for chairing a working committee on the future of the SHARP book prize, focusing on what forms of work are eligible for award.

awards@sharpweb.org

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Much of Sarah Werner's time as Director of Electronic Resources this year has been spent managing access to email and files as members of the Executive Council have rotated in and out of positions, as well as the other sorts of regular maintenance work of ensuring that our websites and other electronic resources are all running smoothly.

She is currently working on a long-desired update of the *Lingua Franca* website, incorporating feedback from the journal's editors and EC stakeholders. The new site, which should be easier to access on mobile and desktop devices, is expected to launch in the fall of 2024.

Finally, she continues to explore possibilities for hosting the book history resources that previously were part of SHARP's website. If you're interested in being on a committee thinking through partnerships, platform possibilities, and other creating a hub for book history resources, please email her.

electronic.resources@sharpweb.org

ARCHIVES AND RECORD KEEPING

As Recording Secretary Ellen Barth has scheduled and provided minutes for the EC meetings. She has worked on the subcommittee to appoint an Executive Director and co-organized ECR events at the SHARP 2024 annual conference in Reading. Work in 2024 also included appointing a new SHARP archivist, with whom the Recording Secretary works to ensure that the society's records are archived effectively. With the generous support of James Kelly, James Wald, Jessica Ryan, and Kirsten Kay, SHARP appointed JP Mongeau (University of Delaware) as archivist (*archivist@sharpweb.org*).

secretary@sharpweb.org

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

The Member-at-Large (Lisa Maruca) this year served as the Acting Membership Secretary while Lise Jaillant was on leave, and then helped cover the Coordinator of Communications position. I am now serving as the chair of the Book History editor search committee.

atlarge@sharpweb.org

SHARP BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT 2023–2024

Matthew Kirschenbaum (Chair, Board of Directors, 2024–2026)

Matthew Kirschenbaum was elected to a two-year term as Chair of the Board in November, 2023. The Board held its synchronous meeting on December 4, 2023. Agenda items included introductions of new Board members, a report from Danielle Fuller (SHARP President), followed by questions and discussion. At the same meeting the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024 SHARP budget. Other business has been transacted asynchronously (via email) over the course of the year, and Kirschenbaum has remained in regular contact with the President to liaise between the Board and EC.

SHARP Conferences Working Group Report

This Working Group was convened to gather information about various models of society conferences and to survey membership and stakeholders about what they look for in a SHARP conference. The group was chaired by Board member Beth Driscoll and consisted of Matthew Kirschenbaum, Anna Muenchrath, Simone Murray, Alison Newman, Rachel Noorda, and Sarah Werner. Over the course of the year, the group heard from members, past organizers, and other society officers to consider questions around meeting frequency, format, location, and other matters. Based on that fact-finding, the Working Group had a few recommendations, including that SHARP alternate in-person and virtual annual conferences, that the organization clarify and expand what type of support it can offer conference organizers, and that SHARP consider offering focused digital events as a supplement to the annual conference. The Working Group also recommends that its remit be extended for another year so that plans about how to implement the recommendations can proceed, and we are pleased that the EC has agreed to do so.

AGM AGENDA

- Welcome & brief remarks on officers' reports *Danielle Fuller*
- Welcome to the new Executive Council Officers *Danielle Fuller*
- Goodbyes and commendations *Shafquat Towheed; Lisa Maruca, incoming Director of Publications*
- Announcement of SHARP prizes *Asha Rogers*
 - Greenspan-Rose Essay
Prize Beth Le Roux, on behalf of all 3 Book History editors
- Thanks to Reading 2024 Conference Team *Danielle Fuller & Rachel Noorda*
- SHARP plans for a 2025 Conference
- Members' announcements