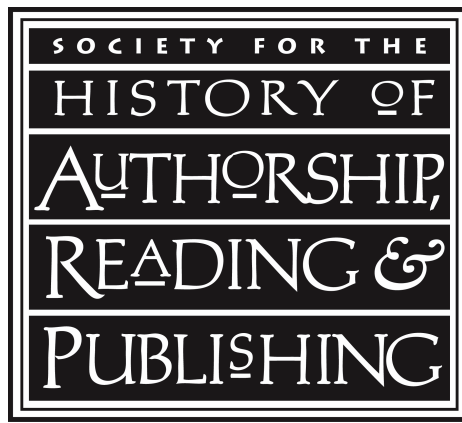




ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Danielle Fuller, SHARP President

Welcome to the 2025 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 an 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 (ably chaired by Matthew Kirschenbaum for four years ending at this AGM), and a Nominating Committee. Gratitude to the outgoing Nominating Committee: Sydney Shep (Chair), Marija Dalbello, and Abhijit Gupta. Many thanks to the interim Nominating Committee who coordinated the 2025 elections: Corinna Norrick Rühl (Chair), Alan Galey and Ian Gadd. The next election year is 2027 and the acclaimed NC are: Corinna Norrick Rühl (Chair), Elizabeth le Roux, and Simone Murray. 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, the 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 roles 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 and generation of letters of acceptance for the conference were just two of the several ways in which she has used her impressive range of skills to SHARP's benefit this year. Anna Muenchrath was known to you all as our Communications Coordinator until December 2024, and then, after a hiring process completed in October 2024, as our first ever part-time Executive Director from January 2025 to the present. Anna's report in her more recent role is below.

PRESIDENT

You may wonder what I do as SHARP President . . . the short answer is: a cross between project and stage management! I try to plan ahead for the organization and anticipate what might be needed in terms of resources and activities. When officers need to leave their roles early, I find folk to replace them. I also aim to keep all the many moving parts that constitute SHARP, well—moving—through regular communication with individual EC members, and with the Board via meetings with the Chair. Now that we have a part-time Executive Director in a paid role, some delayed “behind the scenes” work has been completed. This is work that, while not very glamorous, helps to sustain the day-to-day running of a scholarly association like ours. These items include a communications time-line; “job” descriptions for the various officer roles (you can find these on our website); and the creation and updating of various policies and documents that will ensure that transitions between officers are smooth, and well-informed. I am also tremendously appreciative of the many hours of volunteer work spent by the members of the various working groups this year, from the Conferences WG part 2, to the Book Prize WG who revised the terms of eligibility, to the Eresources WG - the names of all WG members are included in the individual officers' reports below.

Not many scholarly associations have three publications associated with their field, and run by their members. Thanks to our tremendous teams of editors of Book History, Lingua Franca and SHARP News, and welcome to Alexandra Dane who joined the Book History editorial team in 2024. Thank you to Andie Silva, the outgoing Editor-in-Chief of SHARP News. Andie has been an enthusiastic and dynamic member of the SHARPnews team for six years. The Board of Directors regularly step up to be jurors, members of working groups and evaluators of awards: thanks as always to you all for this important, and often invisible, labour. Special thanks to Board members whose terms end at the 2025 AGM: Simone Murray and Elizabeth McHenry. Grateful thanks to Matthew Kirschenbaum for his professional work as Chair of the Board of Directors (2021–25). I have especially appreciated Matt's efficiency, his thoughtfulness in our meetings together, and for facilitating the work of the Board across many time

zones.

At the Reading conference in July 2024, the EC decided that our priorities for 2024–25 would be conferences and membership. I’m happy to report that we are back on track with future conference planning thanks to Rachel Noorda’s sterling efforts (see her Director of Conferences report below). Additionally, a second working group took up the task of implementing some of the recommendations made in the report by last year’s Conferences WG. Two of the several outcomes are next year’s “SHARPIES Festival” and a very impressive toolkit for aspiring and future conference organizing teams. If you are even remotely interested in hosting an in-person or online conference, do read the materials once they are made available. I can assure you that you will feel excited, inspired and eager to gather a team and make a proposal!! On the second priority, membership, we made some initial progress, most visibly through the review and increase of fees and, more recently, via the membership survey. Although a change in Membership Secretary in November 2024 inevitably led to some initiatives being put on hold, the survey data will help to inform the ways we can increase the international scope of our membership, support members in meaningful ways, and connect usefully with folk across the globe. Thanks to Lise Jaillant for her service to SHARP and to Laura Dietz who kindly agreed to be seconded from the Board to the role of Membership Secretary for December 2024–June 2025. In addition to assisting members during the renewal cycle, Laura initiated the pilot scheme for Displaced Scholars (her report is also below).

Very special thanks to two outgoing members of the EC who have each spent six years in their roles. Colin Ramsey has been an amazing Treasurer. His eye for detail, in depth knowledge of US banking processes, and ability to explain financial issues clearly has been a boon for SHARP. Thanks to Colin’s stewardship, SHARP is in good financial shape (see his report below); the related paperwork is in excellent order, and we have him to thank for a number of processes and protocols that make our transactions legible, accountable, and responsible. Sarah Werner has been a fantastic EC member. She has given much time, creativity, and energy to two roles, most recently as Director of Electronic Resources (2021–25) after being a Member-at-Large with a focus on pedagogy (2019–21). Among Sarah’s many initiatives are: the creation of “SHARP in the Classroom”; the redesign of SHARP’s website; the EC’s move to Google workspace; the leading of the review and redesign of Lingua Franca (see her report); and the establishment of best practices for archiving the EC’s administrative work. Colin and Sarah have both contributed extensively and wisely to discussions about a wide range of issues and to the drafting of many policy documents and communications. Their good humour and professionalism has been deeply appreciated by their EC colleagues.

As of the 2025 AGM, the EC is finally at capacity with officers in every role, including the Director of Transnational Affairs, a seat that has been empty for two years. My own commitment to our society’s

values, to internationalization, and to supporting and encouraging early career scholars will continue to steer my efforts in the second half of my term of office (2025–27).

president@sharpweb.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

I have mainly been involved in three areas of SHARP work supporting the EC in the last year. The first is Chairing SHARP's regular Executive Committee meetings, which are held online. The second is providing temporary cover during any periods of interruption between outgoing and incoming appointments on the EC. The third area of my work has been in the recruitment process, as a member of search committees, either as a panel member or by chairing meetings. I contributed in this capacity to the new appointment for one of the editors of Book History and in the Executive Director hiring process. I have also been involved in helping to identify international partners to organise forthcoming SHARP co-branded focus conferences (in Croatia, Italy, and the UK), and was involved in decision-making and communications around the implementation of the new membership fee charges. As always, I am looking forward to meeting new and existing SHARP members at the annual conference in Rochester.

vp@sharpweb.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anna Muenchrath took up the role of Executive Director at the start of the calendar year. She began the year by meeting with almost all of the members of the Executive Council individually to learn about their roles and needs. This sparked the creation of several internal documents intended to help to streamline the work of the EC, including a communications schedule, guidelines for the creation of committees, and a workflow for promoting publications.

One of the primary directives of the Executive Director role was to support the work of conference planning. Anna has met regularly with the Rochester group and provided support as necessary. She has also been part of the conference's working group, which has completely updated the conference manual resources.

In response to the lack of online conference hosts, Anna wrote a proposal for an online book history festival (the SHARPIES), which was discussed and approved by the EC and by the Board of Directors. She struck a committee, which has already met and started the process of organizing the event, to be held in July 2026. Many thanks to the members of the committee—Chandni Ananth, Colleen Barrett, Jolie Braun, Lipika Das, Michelle Michel, Rachel Noorda, Asha Rogers, DeNel Rehberg Sedo—for their commitment and energy.

Anna also attended the American Council of Learned Societies's (ACLS) annual meeting in Cambridge, MA at the end of April. The meeting provided insights into ongoing threats from the US government/President towards US academic institutions, US scholarly associations, and international scholarly associations like SHARP that are registered as non-profit organizations in the USA, which were presented in a report to the EC and the board.

Other activities conducted in the last six months include creating a presence on Bluesky, developing an advertising policy for the newsletter, and creating and circulating the membership survey, the results of which will be discussed by the EC at their in-person meeting in Rochester.

executive.director@sharpweb.org

FINANCES

Treasurer Colin Ramsey reports that SHARP continues to enjoy a stable financial position. Balances across all SHARP's accounts as of the writing of this AGM report (current as of June 11, 2025) are \$480,736, rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Interest earned on SHARP's CDs will be somewhat lower for fiscal/calendar year 2025 than in fiscal/calendar 2024, reflecting overall declines in the general interest rate environment since the US interest rate peak of 2023. Given this decline in interest income, the EC voted against rolling over SHARPs CDs at their June 2025 maturity date in order to give the incoming treasurer the opportunity to explore alternative interest-bearing options for that portion of SHARP's cash, and to present those alternatives to the full EC for possible future action.

SHARP's total expenses for fiscal/calendar year 2024 came in modestly lower than budgeted, and expenses for 2025 thus far are in line with the overall 2025 budget, though current challenges for international travelers coming to the USA, and reductions in travel budgets allocated to many USA-based faculty and graduate students, may result in SHARP having somewhat larger than usual costs for the 2025 conference. Income from memberships in 2025 thus far is running slightly above the same two quarters for 2024, and, if the trend continues, this would somewhat offset any larger-than-usual conference outlays. Finally, costs for SHARP's new Executive Director are in line with amounts projected and budgeted.

As for nearly all US-based scholarly societies, the environment for higher education in relation to the US federal government, in addition to the significant changes in a number of US policies that have direct and indirect impacts on international societies like SHARP, have created significant uncertainty for the society. But SHARP's history of prudent financial management and its stable cash reserves mean that the

organization remains financially secure and that it can afford to continue its regular activities, at least in the short and medium terms.

This AGM marks the end of treasurer Colin Ramsey's third and last term as treasurer. He looks forward to having the opportunity to contribute to SHARP in other ways, and, having been in touch with incoming treasurer Jeremy Webster, he is confident SHARP's finances are in very good hands.

treasurer@sharpweb.org

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY AND REGIONAL LIAISONS

SHARP members make SHARP possible – thank you for making the choice to join us. The Society's grants and prizes, including the Book History Book Prize, 25th-Anniversary Fellowship, Greenspan-Rose Book History Essay Prize, and Lightning Grants, rely on membership fees and charitable contributions. These also support our online journal *Lingua Franca* and the work of two part time paid SHARP staffers performing essential administration and communication roles. A full 36% of our members receive free or discounted membership, including through the Displaced Scholar pilot running for the first time in 2025.

This year, we increased membership fees for the first time in six years. We are more grateful than ever for your commitment. We give particular thanks to our Patron Members, Sustaining Members, and other donors for their generous additional support. If you are interested in making a donation (which may be eligible for tax deduction), or in a Patron or Sustaining membership (for which the amount over \$100 can count as a donation) you can learn more via <https://sharpweb.org/membership/> or by contacting the incoming Membership Secretary, Millicent Weber (taking over from Laura Dietz, who was seconded from the Board as Acting Secretary from December 2024 to June 2025) at members@sharpweb.org.

2025 Patron Members are Carol Chiodo, Michelle Warren, and Sarah Werner, and our Sustaining Members are Dee Andrews, Georgia Barnhill, Janika Bischof, Fiona Black, Ann Blair, Chris Cullnane, Marija Dalbello, Joan Friedman, Gary Frost, Danielle Fuller, Ian Gadd, Alan Galey, Lisa Gitelman, John Holberg, Leslie Howsam, Noreen Humble, Tamara Hunt, Nicolas Kanellos, Emily Knox, Nancy Mace, Ellen Pozzi, Julie Rak, Sydney Shep, Derrick Spires, Michael Suarez, Shafquat Towheed, and Elaine Zinkhan. There are also many other donors who made contributions outside of membership levels: Elizabeth Bobo, Kenneth Carpenter, Beth Rigel Daugherty, Barbara Williams Ellertson, Peter Ginna, Barbara Hochman, Elizabeth Hoiem, Jennifer Hollander, Leslie Howsam, Marianne Martens, Lisa Maruca, Margaret Nichols, Dale Potts, Ellen Pozzi, Alan Rauch, Theresa Saliba, Anna Siebach-Larsen, Ruth-Ellen St. Onge, Steven Van Impe, and Georgianna Ziegler. Thank you very much for your generosity.

members@sharpweb.org

CONFERENCES

SHARP conferences would not be possible without diligent, creative, and empathetic local hosts to organize it. Therefore, a huge thank you to the wonderful team at the University of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology: Anna Siebach-Larsen, Autumn Haag, Liz Call, Jamey Keeton, and Jim Kelly. This year posed extra challenges due to the current political situation in the USA, but the team worked extra hard to accommodate and adjust what was in their control so that the book history community could gather in person.

Rachel continues to be in conversation with potential hosts for future conferences. If you're interested in hosting a SHARP conference, please be in touch with her (conferences@sharpweb.org). One of the exciting developments this year has been the proposal of the SHARPIES: an online book history festival highlighting SHARP's grant recipients and award winners. This online event responds to the Conference Working Group's 2024 report, which recommended alternating in-person with online events for reasons of access, affordability, and sustainability. The first SHARPIES will be held next year!

Rachel would like to thank the Conferences Working Group: Sarah Werner, Anna Muenchrath, Colleen Barrett, Fallon Murphey, and Matilde Bazzano. The Conference Working Group has been reviewing and revising the conference resources manual for future and potential conference hosts.

Rachel is continuing in her role as Director of Conferences and will be working with the Executive Director and Director of Awards on the SHARPIES committee for the online book history festival in 2026.

conferences@sharpweb.org

TRANSNATIONAL AFFAIRS

This position was vacant during 2023–25. Lightning Seed grants were administered by a small committee consisting of the President, the Vice President, the Director of Awards and the Treasurer. Several conferences and in-conference panels have been supported by these grants this year, including the Bibliographic Society of America Bibliography week (Jan 2025); the Queer Bibliography conference (June 2025), and an upcoming reading studies-focussed conference to be held in Croatia (September 2025). Information about how to apply for a Lightning Seed Grant can be found on the SHARP website; future enquiries should be directed to the Director of Transnational Affairs in the first instance.

transnational@sharpweb.org

PUBLICATIONS

Book History: The big news in *Book History* this year is its new editor: Alexandra Dane stepped into the role of editor on global topics in the last quarter of 2024, taking over from Beth Le Roux. While the BH staff and EC miss Beth, the transition has been, in the words of the BH editors, “seamless and cheerful.”

Over the past fall and spring, the journal published a total of 14 articles: eight in issue 27.2 and six in 28.1. The forthcoming fall issue is currently full with six articles. Submissions and publications representing topics beyond the European and Anglo-American world continue to increase as a proportion of the total, with many of these (more than in the past) authored by scholars not based in the UK or North America.

SHARP News: For *SHARP News*, the headline is staff change as well. As Andie Silva concludes her sixth year as editor-in-chief, the search for a new editor has commenced. Andie brought the News through the pandemic doldrums, emerging with a vibrant, informative, and reliable online magazine. She appointed a strong team of area editors and has developed a system that allows for a consistent stream of content updates. Standout areas include the [feature articles](#), which fill an often entertaining and always interesting public humanities niche, and [book reviews](#), which are especially useful since Book History does not publish them. Under Alex Wingate, the popular [bibliographies](#) section developed themed bibliographies and introduced collaborative projects, allowing for a broader representation of voices and publications. Alex is also stepping down after a three-year term, and the hunt for her replacement is ongoing.

Lingua Franca: *Lingua Franca* is our online, open access journal devoted to the best international research on book history, newly translated into English. It is published annually. This year *Lingua Franca* brought out its tenth issue, [Armando Petrucci and Franca Nardelli: Shedding Light on Italian Book History](#). It focuses on two influential Italian scholars, with work on topics ranging from binding and shelving to subaltern print production.

publications@sharpweb.org

AWARDS

Asha Rogers currently administers SHARP's awards. This year's SHARP Book History Book Prize will be awarded at the AGM in Rochester from among the following finalists: James M. Brophy, Beth Driscoll, Martin Paul Eve, Stephanie A. Leitch, Mark Lester, Aakriti Mandhwani, Alexander Manshel, Peter D. McDonald, Elizabeth Massa Hoiem, Priyasha Mukhopadhyay, Bryan Sinche, Geoffrey Turnovsky and Wayne A. Wiegand. Congratulations to all! Asha extends special thanks to this year's

jurors for their dedicated reading and to SHARP Executive Assistant, Amanda Lastoria for her work behind the scenes.

The SHARP 25th Anniversary Fellowship was awarded to Jodie Lea Martire of the University of Queensland for doctoral research at the intersection of minority-language publishing, community publishing, and language rights in Australia. Research development grants for BIPOC scholars were awarded to Andreas Patrick Bassett (University of Washington), Billy Kahora (University of Bristol), Guillermo Pupo Pernet (University of Arkansas/Emory University), Claire Lavarreda (Northeastern University) and Titas Bose (University of Chicago).

Thank you to all those who have given their time to SHARP by acting as jurors this year: Abhijit Gupta, Hannah Yip, Hwisang Cho, Kanupriya Dhingra, Kinohi Nishikawa, Kirsti Salmi-Niklandi, Mark Mattes, and Susan Pickford. SHARP would not be able to recognise and celebrate the very best work in the field of book history without the dedication of our jurors.

Asha would also like to thank Elizabeth McHenry, Matthew Kirschenbaum, D-M Withers, and Ellen Barth for serving on an Awards Working Group this year. The Working Group met July–December 2024 to review the public-facing guidelines of the book prize and to discuss its future in the light of changing formats of publication. Its recommendations will be submitted to the Executive Committee in 2025 and have already informed plans for the SHARPIES 2026.

awards@sharpweb.org

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

This year's work by the Director of Electronic Resources focused primarily on supporting existing work of the organization and on gathering information for the incoming Director of Electronic Resources to build on.

The anticipated launch of a new site for *Lingua Franca* was put on hold after learning that the journal was not being indexed. Addressing that change could have implications for the technological aspects of the journal's website, and so it was decided to wait to make sure any needs for indexing are incorporated into the site rather than having to relaunch a new platform just after the new design. The framework of the new design is retained in a development site and can be used as is, or adjusted, once the editors and EC are ready to move forward.

A working group was convened to do some groundwork in exploring options for replacing SHARPweb's old pages on book history resources. The group, led by Sarah Werner and consisting of Katie Blizzard,

Rachel Leket-Mor, and Allyson Mower, did an environmental scan looking for other online projects that attempt to provide book history resources and for various models of displaying such information. The group identified some key challenges in creating and maintaining such a resource, including vetting information to include, ensuring such information stays up to date, and providing reliable information about when the sources were last updated. The scan suggests that there are libraries and other institutions attempting to provide such lists (see, e.g., NYU Library's History of the Book LibGuide, the Bibliographical Society of America's BibSite), but there is an opening for a resource that helps users understand the myriad possibilities of book history for a wide range of disciplines and expertise. One possibility the group explored was creating a resource that asked book historians to describe a resource that has influenced how they approach book history, thereby generating a wide list of resources but also a broad set of explanations about what book history can do. The group recommends that the incoming Director of Electronic Resources build on the initial scan to create a new set of resources that invite potential book historians into our field in a way that is easily maintained as well as useful to readers. Thank you to the working group members for their time!

electronic.resources@sharpweb.org

ARCHIVES AND RECORD KEEPING

As Recording Secretary Ellen Barth has scheduled and provided minutes for the EC meetings. This year she was a member of the Book History Book Prize working group, and she continues to work with SHARP's archivist JP Mongeau (University of Delaware) and Kirstin Kay (UMass) on keeping the SHARP archives up-to-date. Ellen would like to thank both JP and Kirstin, and she also sends thanks to former SHARP Archivist Jim Kelly for his guidance and assistance!

A large task in 2025 was updating the SHARP Policy Manual to reflect the many changes that have taken place within SHARP over the past few years. The updated version is approved and will be made available to all incoming EC, Board, and editorial members after the conference in Rochester. The Policy Manual will continue to be updated to reflect any changes in SHARP's policies.

secretary@sharpweb.org

SHARP BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT

Matthew Kirschenbaum (Chair, Board of Directors, 2023–25)

The Board held its synchronous meeting on November 21, 2024. The primary agenda item was discussion and approval of the 2025 SHARP budget, for which Colin Ramsey (Treasurer) was on hand to present an overview and respond to questions. The budget was approved unanimously. Additional

business—procedural votes and consultation on various matters raised by the President and EC—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.

board.chair@sharpweb.org

AGM AGENDA

Welcome & brief remarks on officers' reports (Danielle Fuller, President)

Welcome to the new Executive Council officers & new Board members (Danielle Fuller, President)

Goodbyes and commendations (Danielle Fuller, President, and Lisa Maruca, Director of Publications)

Announcement of SHARP prizes (Shafquat Towheed, Vice-President, on behalf of Asha Rogers, Director of Awards)

Thanks to Rochester Team (Rachel Noorda, Director of Conferences)

Announcement of upcoming conferences (Rachel Noorda, Director of Conferences, and Anna Muenchrath, Executive Director)

Members' Questions / Announcements / Discussion (e.g. arising from the annual report)

Raffle/Door Prizes! (Ellen Barth, Recording Secretary, and Danielle Fuller, President)