Hist 1318, Fall 2017 Ann Blair and Alicia de Maio

**Houghton session 1: studying the material book**

**Fri Sept 8**

**Rules on handling rare books and manuscripts**: use pencil for notes and put the pencil down before touching the book; use snakes to hold the page open at an angle at which the spine is not put under pressure; read the book in its cradle, without picking it up; only one person to handle a book at a time.

ROOM 1

fMS Typ 555 Bible historiale, French ca. 1350

Inc 4623 (A) Cicero, De officiis (1484)

MS Lat 177 Cicero, De officiis (1490)

pInc 8531.5 Universis presentes (formerly \*91-251): indulgences still uncut

\*fGC5.Ap34.540a Petrus Apianus, Astronomicum Caesareum (1540)

Ang 47.46 Pierre Belon, De aquatilibus libri 2 (1553)

\*FC5.A100.B565v sammelband of schooltexts, including Vergil, Bucolica, Aeneid I, Horace, Carmina (1561)

Ms Typ 33 Jean Guérard, “Les commencemens de l'hidrographie,” ca. 1630

Gay 354.747 [Marchamont Nedham] *Mercurius Pragmaticus* [1649]

\*FC7.V8893.Ek740u Voltaire, Historia de Carlos XII Rey de Suecia (Madrid, 1741

ROOM 2

MS Hyde 31 Savage, Richard. *Sir Thomas Overbury: A tragedy, written by Richard Savage, son of the late Earl Rivers.* (manuscript, ca. 1723)

\*2003J-SJ51 Johnson, Samuel. *An account of the life of Mr. Richard Savage : son of the Earl Rivers.* (London, 1744)

SG 3652.165\* Edmond Hoyle, *Mr. Hoyle’s Games* (13th ed. London, ca. 1745)

\*EC8.H3708.Zz829a *The Literary Souvenir* (1829-34)

Br 3638.40.15\* *Bradshaw's railway companion* (1840)

B5940.10\* Abbott, Jacob. *The Harper establishment : or, How the story books are made.*

(New York, ca. 1855)

\*EC85.D5551.865ob Dickens, Charles, *Our mutual friend. By Charles Dickens. With illustrations* (New York: Harper & brothers, publishers, Franklin square, 1865). 2 pts.

MS Hyde 76 (1.3) v. 1, part 3 *Boswell's Life of Johnson : including Boswell's Journal of a tour to the Hebrides and Johnson's Diary of a journey into North Wales*, edited by George Birkbeck Hill (1887); extra-illustrated. 31 vols.

**Some terms in material bibliography (to acquire over time in the course)**:

incunabulum, incipit, explicit, colophon, rubrication, printer's mark

edition, state, issue; facsimile, reprint

printer, corrector, engraver, illustrator

page, folio (foliation), signature, quire

woodblock, copper engraving, intaglio, hand painting

marginalia, ex-libris, interleaved pages

binding: vellum, leather (stamped), clasps

portfolio, folio, quarto, octavo, duodecimo

broadside, broadsheet, pamphlet

**A few distinctions**: an **edition** comprises "all the copies of a book printed at any time from substantially the same setting of type.” Early modern printers could make corrections during printing (stop-press corrections), or substitute a new page or quire (the new page or sheet is called a **cancel**); since the uncorrected versions were usually not thrown out to avoid waste, these changes resulted in different **states** of the edition going into circulation. A second **issue** occurs when sheets from the same printing are sold separately: e.g. by another publisher who shared in the venture; or with a cancel for the title page to market as a second edition those copies which did not sell.