Zachary Lesser

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Professional History

Associate Professor	University of Pennsylvania	2009–present
Assistant Professor	University of Pennsylvania	2006–09
Assistant Professor	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	2001–06

Publications

Books

Hamlet after Q1: An Uncanny History of the Shakespearean Text. University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming in 2014.

Print, Plays, and Popularity in Shakespeare's England. With Alan B. Farmer. Under contract with Cambridge University Press. 12 chapters plus introduction, about 125,000 words.

The Book in Britain: A Historical Introduction. Under contract with Blackwell. The book provides a new model for an introduction to this field: rather than an anthology of short essays, this will be a collaborative, through-written narrative history that reads like a monograph. I will edit and put together the volume, which will be written by four authors, experts in their respective historical periods: Siân Echard, David Brewer, Stephen Colclough, and Daniel Allington. About 220,000 words. Expected publication in 2015.

Renaissance Drama and the Politics of Publication: Readings in the English Book Trade. Cambridge University Press, 2004. Paperback reissue, 2007.
> **Winner of the Elizabeth Dietz Award for best book of the year in Early Modern Studies**

> reviewed in: *Journal of the Printing Historical Society* n.s. 11 (2008): 94-6; *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* 21 (2008): 248–255; *Shakespeare Survey* 60 (2007): 361–369; *Shakespeare Studies* 35 (2007): 279–284; *Shakespeare Yearbook* 16 (2005; pub. 2007): 535–41; *SEL: Studies in English Literature* 46 (2006): 461–511; *Renaissance and Reformation* 28.2 (2004; pub. 2006): 133–6; *Renaissance Quarterly* 59 (2006): 272–4; *Review of English Studies* 59 (2005): 452–3; *Forum for Modern Language Studies* 41 (2005): 348–9; *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 November 2005, p. 32; *The Library* (7th ser.) 6 (2005): 640–42.

> chapter 1 reprinted in: Ann Hurley and Chanita Goodblatt, eds, *Women Editing/Editing Women: Early Modern Women Writers and the New Textualism*. Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009. 103-130.

Textual Conversations in the Renaissance: Ethics, Authors, Technologies. Essay collection edited with Benedict S. Robinson. Ashgate, 2006.

> reviewed in: *SEL: Studies in English Literature* 49 (2009): 485–543; *Renaissance Quarterly* 60 (2007): 1453–55.

Digital resources

"Two Texts, Both Alike in Dignity," Lecture Stream for the Luminary Shakespeare edition of *Romeo and Juliet*, for iPad. Launched in December, 2013.

DEEP: Database of Early English Playbooks. http://deep.sas.upenn.edu. Created with Alan B. Farmer. Launched in November, 2007. DEEP allows scholars and students to investigate the publishing, printing, and marketing of English Renaissance drama in ways not possible using any other print or electronic resource.

Textual Editing

The Noble Spanish Soldier, by Thomas Dekker. Globe Quartos; Nick Hern, 2006. Text preparation and editing, introduction, notes and glosses, textual notes.

Articles

"Shakespeare between Pamphlet and Book." With Peter Stallybrass. In *Shakespeare and Textual Studies*. Ed. Sonia Massai and M.J. Kidnie. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

"Teaching the Metadata: Playbook History in the Undergraduate Classroom." In *Approaches to Teaching Early Modern Literature from the Archives*. Ed. Heidi Brayman Hackel and Ian Moulton. MLA Press. In press.

"What Is Print Popularity? A Map of the Elizabethan Book Trade." In *The Elizabethan Top Ten: Defining Print Popularity in Early Modern England*. Ed. Andy Kesson and Emma Smith. Ashgate, 2013. 19–54.

"Shakespeare's Flop: John Waterson and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*." In *Shakespeare's Stationers*. Ed. Marta Straznicky. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013. 177–96.

"Playbooks." In *The Oxford History of Popular Print Culture, vol 1: Britain and Ireland to 1660*. Ed. Joad Raymond. Oxford University Press, 2011. 521–535.

"The First Literary *Hamlet* and the Commonplacing of Professional Plays." With Peter Stallybrass. *Shakespeare Quarterly* 59.4 (2008): 371–420.

"Early Modern Digital Scholarship and *DEEP: Database of Early English Playbooks*." With Alan B. Farmer. *Literature Compass* 5 (2008): 10.1111/j.1741-4113.2008.00577.x

"Tragical-Comical-Pastoral-Colonial: Economic Sovereignty, Globalization, and the Form of Tragicomedy." *ELH* 74.4 (2007): 881–908.

> reprinted in: "Renaissance Tragicomedy." *Literary Criticism from 1400 to 1800*. Ed. Thomas J. Schoenberg and Lawrence J. Trudeau. Vol. 169. Detroit: Gale, Cengage Learning, 2009. 173–88.

"Mystic Ciphers: Shakespeare and Intelligent Design: A Response to Nancy Glazener."
American Literary History 19.2 (2007): 350–356.

"Canons and Classics: Publishing Drama in Caroline England." With Alan B. Farmer. In
*Localizing Caroline Drama: Politics and Economics of the Early Modern English Stage,
1625–1642*. Ed. Alan B. Farmer and Adam Zucker. Palgrave Macmillan, 2006. 17–41.

"Typographic Nostalgia: Play-Reading, Popularity and the Meanings of Black Letter." In *The
Book of the Play: Playwrights, Stationers, and Readers in Early Modern England*. Ed.
Marta Straznicky. University of Massachusetts Press, 2006. 99–126.
> reprinted in: *New Ways of Looking at Old Texts, IV: Papers of the Renaissance English Text
> Society, 2002-2006*. Ed. Michael Denbo. Renaissance English Text Society, 2008. 279–294.

"Copyright." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*. Eds. David Scott Kastan, Nancy
Armstrong, Gail McMurray Gibson, Andrew Hadfield, and Jennifer Wicke. Oxford
University Press, 2006. 68–73.

"William Shakespeare: The Life." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*. Eds. David
Scott Kastan, Nancy Armstrong, Gail McMurray Gibson, Andrew Hadfield, and Jennifer
Wicke. Oxford University Press, 2006. 480–88.

"Structures of Popularity in the Early Modern Book Trade." With Alan B. Farmer.
Shakespeare Quarterly 56.2 (2005): 206–13.

"The Popularity of Playbooks Revisited." With Alan B. Farmer. *Shakespeare Quarterly* 56.1
(2005): 1–32.

"Mixed Government and Mixed Marriage in *A King and No King*: Sir Henry Neville Reads
Beaumont and Fletcher." *ELH* 69.4 (2002): 947–77.

"Vile Arts: The Marketing of English Printed Drama, 1512–1660." With Alan B. Farmer.
Research Opportunities in Renaissance Drama 39 (2000): 77–165.

"Walter Burre's *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*." *English Literary Renaissance* 29.1 (1999):
21–43.

Book reviews

Review of Lukas Erne, *Shakespeare's Modern Collaborators* (Continuum, 2008), *Modern
Philology* 109 (2012): E245–E248.

Review of Valerie Forman, *Tragicomic Redemptions: Global Economics and the Early Modern
English Stage* (Penn, 2008), *Shakespeare Studies* 39 (2011): 228–35.

Review of Gary Taylor and John Lavagnino, gen. eds., *Thomas Middleton and Early Modern
Textual Culture: A Companion to the Collected Works* (Clarendon, 2007), *SHARP News*
18.2 (2009): 14–15.

Review of Adam Max Cohen, *Shakespeare and Technology: Dramatizing Early Modern
Technological Revolutions* (Palgrave, 2006), *Review of English Studies* 58, issue 233
(2007): 97–9.

Review of Edward Gieskes, *Representing the Professions: Administration, Law, and Theater
in Early Modern England* (Delaware, 2006), *Shakespeare Quarterly* 58.1 (2007): 122–4.

Review of Andrew Murphy, *Shakespeare in Print: A History and Chronology of Shakespeare Publishing* (Cambridge, 2003), *Shakespeare Yearbook* 15 (2004): 415–20.

Review of John Barnard, Maureen Bell, and D. F. McKenzie, eds, *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, Volume IV, 1557–1695* (Cambridge, 2002), *Renaissance Quarterly* 57.2 (2004): 717–19.

Review of Linda Anderson and Janis Lull, eds, *"A Certain Text": Close Readings and Textual Studies on Shakespeare and Others in Honor of Thomas Clayton* (Delaware, 2002), *Renaissance Quarterly* 57.1 (2004): 367–8.

Review of John Jones, *Shakespeare at Work* (Clarendon, 1995), *Archiv* 236 (1999): 175–7.

Education

Ph.D.	Columbia U (defended with distinction)	2001
B.A.	Brown U (honors, Phi Beta Kappa)	1994

Awards, Honors, and Grants

Digital Humanities Forum grant for major upgrade of *DEEP*. University of Pennsylvania, 2014.

The 2006 Elizabeth Dietz Award for the best book of the year in Early Modern Studies, presented by *SEL: Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900* and Rice University.

Center for Advanced Study, Beckman Fellow. University of Illinois, 2005–06.

Ranked on Campus List of Excellent Teachers, University of Illinois, 6 of 7 semesters (based on student course evaluations); named "outstanding" for two courses (top 10% of all evaluations).

Nominated by graduate students for faculty mentor award, University of Illinois, 2005.

Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities reading group award for year-long group in "Critical British Studies: Sovereignty." 2005–06.

Campus Research Board award. Funding to begin web design of *DEEP: The Database of Early English Playbooks*. University of Illinois, 2005–06.

Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellow. University of Illinois, 2003–04.

Campus Research Board award for archival research. University of Illinois, 2003–04.

Arnold O. Beckman Research Grant for research of "special distinction, special promise, or special resource value." University of Illinois, 2002–03.

Nominated by undergraduates for campus teaching award, University of Illinois, 2002.

Peter D. Shamonsey Memorial Fellowship. Columbia University, 2000.

Folger Institute Consortium Grant, 2000.

Mellon Summer Research Fellowship. Columbia University, 1999.

Miron Cristo-Loveanu Prize for Best Master's Thesis, Columbia University, 1996.

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies. 1995.

Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University, 1993.

Lectures and Presentations (* by invitation)

"Hamlet's Contrary Matters: The Power of the Gloss and the History of an Obscenity," Shakespeare Association of America, St. Louis, MO, April, 2014.

Panel organizer, "Shakespeare's Not Bawdy," Shakespeare Association of America, St. Louis, MO, April, 2014.

* "*Hamlet* after Q1: 'To be or not to be' in book history, textual criticism, and close reading," keynote address at the Society for Textual Scholarship annual conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, March, 2014.

* "Facts and Ghosts: Historicism, Anachronism, and Empiricism in Shakespearean Textual Studies," symposium and round-table discussion on "Practicing the Future of Shakespeare Studies," Columbia University, New York, NY, March, 2014.

* "*Hamlet* after Q1: 'To be or not to be' and the meaning of conscience," The American and British Lecture, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, February, 2014.

* Invited respondent, seminar on "Patrons, Professional Drama, and Print Culture" at the Shakespeare Association of America, Toronto, March, 2013.

Session Organizer, *Q1 Hamlet* seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America, Boston, MA, April, 2012.

* "'Enter the ghost in his night gowne': *Hamlet* after Q1," at CUNY Graduate Center, December, 2011.

"Did Hamlet Mean Country Matters?", ASC Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, VA, October, 2011.

* "The Other Hamlet and the Dread—or is it hope?—of Something after Death," L'Associazione Culturale Italo Britannica, Bologna, Italy, March, 2011.

* "The Urn-*Hamlet*: Historical Accident and the Shakespearean Text," at the University of York, England, February, 2011.

* "Shakespeare's Flop: The 'Literary' and the 'Popular' in the Seventeenth-Century Book Trade," at the University of York, England, February, 2011.

* "What We Talk about When We Talk about Literary Drama," at University of Maryland, April, 2010.

"Structures of Popularity: Playbooks, Sermons, Dictionaries, and Medical Books," Shakespeare Association of America, Chicago, IL, April, 2010.

* "1594: When Plays Became Playbooks," at Mary Baldwin College and the American Shakespeare Center (Blackfriars Playhouse), Staunton, VA, March, 2010.

"1594: When Plays Became Playbooks," selected as part of paper session on "1594" for the Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, DC, April, 2009.

* "What We Talk about When We Talk about Literary Drama," at Yale University, February, 2009.

* "*Lingua* and the Popular University," in the Division on Seventeenth-Century Literature panel at the MLA, San Francisco, CA, December 2008.

* "The Bad Quarto of *Hamlet* as Literary Drama," at the Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies, Amherst, MA, October 2008.

* "Two Noble Inkmen: An Early Modern Publishing Shop and the Place of Shakespeare in Print," Thirty-Third International Shakespeare Conference, Stratford-upon-Avon, England, August, 2008.

* "Primary Sources, Digital Facsimiles, and Analytic Databases." Presentation for RLG Programs (Research Libraries Group) Annual Partners Meeting panel on "Scholars Perspectives: Impact of Digitized Collections on Learning and Teaching," Philadelphia, PA, June 2008.

* "Shakespeare's Crown and Globe (Bookshops)," at Columbia University, April, 2008.

* "Literary Drama: William Shakespeare vs. Thomas Tomkis," at Rutgers University, March, 2008.

* "Two Noble Inkmen: An Early Modern Publishing Shop and the Place of Shakespeare in Print," in seminar on *Shakespeare's Stationers*, led by Marta Straznicky, Shakespeare Association of America, Dallas, TX, March, 2008.

* Workshop and pedagogical session on *DEEP: Database of Early English Playbooks*, for professional staff at the Folger Shakespeare Library and for students enrolled in "Books and Early Modern Culture," a course taught by Sarah Werner at the Folger Shakespeare Library and George Washington University, February, 2008.

* "Digital Scholarship and *DEEP: Database of Early English Playbooks*," co-presented with Alan B. Farmer, in the Division on Literature of the English Renaissance, Excluding Shakespeare panel at the MLA, Chicago, IL, December, 2007.

Session Organizer, *Readings in Early Modern Book History* seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America, San Diego, CA, April, 2007.

"Turning Plays into Playbooks: The Creation of a Print Market," Renaissance Society of America, Miami, FL, March, 2007.

* "Economic Sovereignty and the Form of Tragicomedy in Fletcher's *The Sea Voyage*," at Columbia University, December, 2006.

* "1594: When Plays Became Playbooks," at the Huntington Library, April, 2006.

"Typographic Nostalgia: Black Letter and Popularity," in The Josephine A. Roberts Forum sponsored by the Renaissance English Texts Society, MLA, Washington, DC, December 2005.

"Economies of Tragicomic Space," Shakespeare Association of America, Southampton, Bermuda, March, 2005.

Session Organizer, *The Politics of Genre in Renaissance Drama*, MLA, Philadelphia, PA, December, 2004.

"Tragical-Comical-Pastoral-Colonial," MLA, Philadelphia, PA, December, 2004.

"Canons and Classics," Shakespeare Association of America, New Orleans, LA, April, 2004.

"The Politics of Publication and the 1633 *Jew of Malta*," Renaissance Society of America, Tempe, AZ, April, 2002.

Session Organizer, *Celluloid, Mahogany, and Moveable Type: Material Culture and Reading Publics*, MLA, New Orleans, LA, December, 2001.

"Printing and Publishing (in) the Harvey/Nashe Quarrel," MLA, New Orleans, LA, December, 2001.

"Reading Plays, Reading Publishers," Shakespeare Association of America, San Francisco, CA, April 1999.

"'This Unfortunate Child': Or, How to Make Money by Publishing an Anonymous, Unpopular Play," Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Tempe, AZ, February 1998.