Zachary Lesser

Department of English University of Pennsylvania 3340 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19104 215 898–0444 (office) 215 573-2063 (fax) zlesser@english.upenn.edu www.english.upenn.edu/People/ZacharyLesser

Professional History

Edward W. Kane

Professor of English	University of Pennsylvania	2020-present
Professor	University of Pennsylvania	2015-2020
Associate Professor	University of Pennsylvania	2009-2015
Assistant Professor	University of Pennsylvania	2006-09
Assistant Professor	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	2001-06

Publications

Monographs

Ghosts, Holes, Rips and Scrapes: Shakespeare in 1619, Bibliography in the Longue Durée. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021.

reviewed in: Modern Philology (2022); Shakespeare (2021)

Hamlet after Q1: An Uncanny History of the Shakespearean Text. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. Paperback reissue, 2016.

Winner of the 2016 Elizabeth Dietz Award for best book in English Renaissance studies

reviewed in: Shakespeare International Yearbook 18 (2020); Sixteenth-Century Journal (2017); PBSA (Jun 2017); SHARP News (Feb 2017); Shakespeare Studies (2017); Renaissance Studies (Feb 2017); Shakespeare Quarterly 67.2 (2016); Costellazioni: Rivista di Lingue e Letteratura (Oct 2016); Shakespeare Survey 69 (2016); Renaissance Quarterly 69.2 (2016); SEL: Studies in English Literature 56.2 (2016); Renaissance and Reformation 39.1 (2016); CLIO (2016); Modern Philology (Feb 2016); Philological Quarterly 94 (2015); Textual Cultures (Winter 2014; pub. 2015); Upstart (Oct 2015); TLS (2 Sept 2015); The New Criterion (Sept 2015); Review of English Studies (July 2015); CHOICE (April 2015); lection https://www.uta.edu/english/tim/lection/141229.html

Renaissance Drama and the Politics of Publication: Readings in the English Book Trade. Cambridge University Press, 2004. Paperback reissue, 2007.

Winner of the 2006 Elizabeth Dietz Award for best book in English Renaissance 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;

<u>portions reprinted in:</u> Ann Hurley and Chanita Goodblatt, eds, *Women Editing/Editing Women: Early Modern Women Writers and the New Textualism* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009), 103-130; *The Jew of Malta*, Norton Critical Edition, ed. Lloyd Kermode (forthcoming).

Edited Volumes

The Book in Britain: A Historical Introduction. Edited by Zachary Lesser. Collaboratively written by Daniel Allington, David Brewer, Stephen Colclough, Siân Echard, and Zachary Lesser. Wiley Blackwell, 2019.

reviewed in: Book Collector (March 2019): 578–80; Library and Information History (June 2020): 229–30

The Book in History, The Book as History: New Intersections of the Material Text: Essays in Honor of David Scott Kastan. Ed. Heidi Brayman, Jesse M. Lander, and Zachary Lesser. Beinecke Library and Yale UP, 2016.

<u>reviewed in</u>: Canadian Review of Comparative Literature 45 (2018); SEL: Studies in English Literature 58 (2018); Renaissance and Reformation (2017); TLS (12 Apr 2017)

Textual Conversations in the Renaissance: Ethics, Authors, Technologies. Ed. Zachary Lesser and Benedict Robinson. Ashgate, 2006.

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

Textual Editing

Macbeth. The Arden Shakespeare. Contracted for publication in 2027.

General editor, *The Arden Shakespeare*. Fourth Series. Volumes to be published from 2023.

"Considering the Scholarly Edition in the Digital Age: A White Paper of the Modern Language Association's Committee on Scholarly Editions." Co-written with other members of the CSE in 2013-14. https://scholarlyeditions.commons.mla.org /2015/09/02/cse-white-paper/

The Noble Spanish Soldier, by Thomas Dekker. Globe Quartos; Nick Hern, 2006.

Digital resources

Shakespeare Census. http://shakespearecensus.org. Created with Adam Hooks. Launched in October, 2018. A census of all extant copies of editions of Shakespeare's works printed through 1700.

reviewed in: Shakespeare Survey 74 (2021); Renaissance and Reformation 43 (2020)

"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.

reviewed in: Renaissance and Reformation 42 (2019)

Articles

- "Material / Digital." With Whitney Trettien. In Shakespeare / Text. Ed. Claire Bourne. Bloomsbury, 2021. 402-23.
- "The Material Text Between General and Particular, Edition and Copy." ELR at 50, special issue of *English Literary Renaissance* 50.1 (2019): 1–10.
- "Xeroxing the Renaissance: The Material Text of Early Modern Studies." Shakespeare Quarterly 70 (2019): 3-31.
- "Conscience Doth Make Errors: The Blind Spot of Shakespearean Quotation." In Blind Spots of Knowledge in Shakespeare and His World: A Conversation. Ed. Subha Mukherji. Amsterdam University Press and Medieval Institute Publications, 2018. 185–196.
 - *In the same volume*: "Unknowing Kind: Response to Tanya Pollard." 133–135.
- "Shakespeare between Pamphlet and Book." With Peter Stallybrass. In Shakespeare and Textual Studies. Ed. M.J. Kidnie and Sonia Massai. Cambridge University Press, 2015. 105-133.
- "Teaching the Metadata: Playbook History in the Undergraduate Classroom." In *Teaching* Early Modern Literature from the Archives. Ed. Heidi Brayman Hackel and Ian Moulton. MLA Press, 2015. 75-81.
- "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 Jason Scott-Warren, Shakespeare's First Reader: The Paper Trails of Richard Stonley (U Penn P, 2019), Renaissance Quarterly, forthcoming.
- Review of Thomas L. Berger and Sonia Massai, Paratexts in English Printed Drama to 1642 (Cambridge UP, 2014), *Shakespeare Quarterly* 66 (2015): 467–70.
- Review of Stephen H. Grant, Collecting Shakespeare: The Story of Henry and Emily Folger (Johns Hopkins, 2014), Renaissance Quarterly 68 (2015): 406-8.
- 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

University Research Foundation award for conference support, for 2020 Society for Textual Scholarship conference.

The Centennial Martin Ridge Lecture in Literature to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Huntington Library, 2019.

Price Lab for Digital Humanities grant for The New Shakespeare Census. University of Pennsylvania, 2017; additional funding for upgrades, 2019.

Dorothy Ford Wiley Visiting Professorship, University of North Carolina, February, 2018.

The 2016 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.

Astor Visiting Lectureship. Oxford University, 2016.

Price Lab for Digital Humanities 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.

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.

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

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.

Invited Presentations

- "Before the First Folio: Who Was Shakespeare in 1619?" The James and Emily Douthat Distinguished Lectureship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, Lycoming College, October 2021.
- "Ghosts, holes, rips and scrapes: Rethinking the 'False Folio," Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, June, 2021.
- "Shakespeare in Collection / Collecting Shakespeare: What we can learn from 2,936 copies," West Chester University, April, 2021.
- "Ghosts, Holes, Ripes and Scrapes: Shakespeare in 1619, Bibliography in the Longue Durée," SUNY Binghamton, October, 2020.

Virtual classroom visit to Prof. Sarah Neville's class, Ohio State University, October, 2020.

- "Hamlet and Other Ghost Stories," Centennial Ridge Lecture to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Huntington Library, November, 2019.
- "Before the First Folio: Shakespeare (and Heywood)'s Collected Drama," Bernard Beckerman Memorial Lecture, Columbia University, October, 2019.
- "Before the (Padova) First Folio," lecture and seminar at Università di Padova, April, 2019.
- "Before the First Folio: Shakespeare, Authorship, and Technology (Old and New)," La Sapienza, Rome, April, 2019.
- "Every Object Tells a Story," lecture and seminar at University of Neuchatel, Switzerland, March. 2019.
- "Re-Bibliography and the Pavier Quartos: New Evidence, New Questions," The Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-upon-Avon, October, 2018.

- "Shakespeare's Ghosts: Rethinking the 'False Folio'," Dorothy Ford Wiley annual lecture, University of North Carolina, February, 2018.
- "Ghosts, Holes, and Rips: Shakespeare and the Pavier Quartos," University of Geneva, Switzerland, May, 2017.
- "Ghosts, Holes, and Rips: The Pavier Quartos Reexamined," Yale University, Beinecke Library, January, 2017.
- "Collecting Shakespeare in Folio and Quarto," University of Delaware, November, 2016.
- "First Folios, Lost Quartos, and the Meaning of Hamlet," Elizabethtown College, November, 2016.
- "Shakespeare's Ghosts: Rethinking the 'False Folio," The Astor Lecture, Oxford University, June 6, 2016.
- "XH: Xerographic Humanities and Early Modern Books," Oxford University, June 7, 2016.
- "The First Folio and the First Hamlet," Brown University, April, 2016.
- "Playbooks as Documents," Folger Library symposium on Documents of Performance, March, 2016.
- "The Pavier Quartos: New Evidence from the Material and Digital Text," Northeastern University, February, 2016.
- "XH: Xerographic Humantiies," Princeton University, November, 2015.
- "Xeroxing the STC: Early Modern Bibliography Between UMI Microfilm and EEBO." Yale University, October, 2015.
- "Being at Home in the Uncanny Shakespearean Archive," keynote address at conference at Brown University on "The Other Daemonic: Estranging the Uncanny," March, 2015.
- "The Other *Hamlet*," presentation and book signing at The Free Library of Philadelphia, December, 2014.
- "Shakespeare's Sherlock," presentation at the Chicago Humanities Forum, Chicago, IL, November, 2014.
- "Hamlet after Q1: 'To be or not to be' and the Meaning of Conscience," Columbia University, New York, NY, October, 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.

- "Enter the ghost in his night gowne': Hamlet after Q1," at CUNY Graduate Center, December, 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.
- "1594: When Plays Became Playbooks," at Mary Baldwin College and the American Shakespeare Center (Blackfriars Playhouse), Staunton, VA, March, 2010.
- "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.
- Workshop and pedagogical session on DEEP: Database of Early English Playbooks, Folger Shakespeare Library, February, 2008.
- "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.

Selected Other Presentations

Session Organizer, "The Politics of Bibliography, Book History, and Textual Editing," Shakespeare Association of America, April 2021. With Brandi Adams.

- Conference Organizer, Society for Textual Scholarship, "The Borders of the Book," Philadelphia, PA, March, 2020.
- Session Organizer, "Shakespeare, the Book, and the Longue Durée," Shakespeare Association of American, Atlanta, GA, April, 2017. With Jeffrey Todd Knight.
- "Conscience Doth Make Errors," Shakespeare Association of America, Vancouver, British Columbia, April, 2015.
- "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.
- Session Organizer, *Q1 Hamlet* seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America, Boston, MA, April, 2012.
- "Did Hamlet Mean Country Matters?", ASC Blackfriars Conference, Staunton, VA, October, 2011.
- "Structures of Popularity: Playbooks, Sermons, Dictionaries, and Medical Books," Shakespeare Association of America, Chicago, IL, April, 2010.
- "1594: When Plays Became Playbooks," selected as part of paper session on "1594" for the Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, DC, April, 2009.
- "Two Noble Inkmen: An Early Modern Publishing Shop and the Place of Shakespeare in Print," Shakespeare Association of America, Dallas, TX, March, 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. With Alan B. Farmer
- "Turning Plays into Playbooks: The Creation of a Print Market," Renaissance Society of America, Miami, FL, March, 2007.
- "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.

Teaching Experience

at Penn

Undergrad: ENGL 16: Shakespeare / Not Shakespeare; 31: Shakespeare's Rivals, Collaborators, and Contemporaries; 38: The Age of Milton; 101: Shakespeare; 200: Junior Research Seminar; 231: Topics in Renaissance Literature: Tragicomedy; 236: Hamlet; 311: The Honors Workshop

Grad: ENGL 430: Shakespeare Variations; 538: Reading the Early Modern Playbook; 574: Introduction to Bibliography from Gutenberg to Google Books: 597: Shakespeare; 597: Shakespeare and the Book; 597: Shakespeare: Script, Part, Pamphlet, Book (co-taught with Peter Stallybrass); 800: Pedagogy; Graduate **Dissertation Workshop**

at King's College London

Fall 2013: M.A. modules in Early Modern English: Text and Transmission (with British Library) and Shakespeare Studies (with Globe Theatre)

at Folger Shakespeare Library

Spring 2009: The Folger Master's Seminar

at Illinois

Undergrad: ENGL 102: Introduction to Drama; 416: Drama by Shakespeare's Contemporaries: 418: Early Shakespeare: 419: Late Shakespeare

Grad: ENGL 564: Discipline and Publish: Theories of Form and Professional Developments (co-taught with Stephanie Foote)