Lecture 19: newspapers and periodicals

 Sources: Anthony Smith, *The newspaper: an international history* (Thames and Hudson, London, 1979)
Charles Clark, “Early American journalism” in the *History of the Book in America*, vol. 1

I. Early terms and genres
- pamphlets on single events = “relations,” avvisi, gvt decrees (from 1488)
- corantos (from 1620s); gazette: relation of public affairs; mercury: news mostly from abroad; diurnall: weekly accounts; intelligencer
- mss newsletters; nouvellistes telling news to listeners (AR Paris)
- Gazette of Theophraste Renaudot: also jobs advertisements (also in D)

II. French and continental pattern: official papers
- Gazette de F, then Mercure de F: single paper with license from king, under royal control (1630s-1789); 1777 Journal general de F also includes advertising and commercial info
- During F Rev: explosion of 100s of newspapers, most of very short duration. Most use octavo form of pamphlets; return to control after rev.

III. England
- Civil war: explosion of news; Restoration crackdown, but penny post in London 1680; 1695 licensing act lapses
- 1702 first London daily; by 1750 5 dailies, 6 thrice weeklies, 5 weeklies; total circ. 100,000. 4-page, 3-column format.
- 1709 *Tatler* and *Spectator*: for moral and social improvement
- 1712 stamp act: designed as a curb on lower-class access to newspapers; rates rise to 1836; abolished 1855

IV. Colonial America
- postmasters run mss newsletters, newspapers that imitate them (Dawk’s) and report from English newspapers (6-8 wks later): e.g. 1704 Boston Newsletter (printrun of 250); news + moral and pol essays. More American news after 1739 (local war, George Whitefield etc). # of newspapers doubles 1763-75 and again to 1790 (to 99) + pamphlets

IV. 19th
- controls: in F (caution money); in GB “taxes on knowledge” to limit to middle classes
- prices drop in GB from 1856 but mass readership from 1880s
- journalism as respectable career (birth of the critic)
- newspapers form “imagined communities”—city and national identities (Benedict Anderson, Peter Fritzsche, David Henkin)
- 20th crises: new media, consolidation, computerization