History 1318, Spring 2003

Review for the midterm

I. Censorship
   • censura prae via: pre-publication censorship; generally established by mid-16th in most states (Prot and Catholic); but always loopholes (Galileo)
   • ineffective against books published elsewhere and which travel despite searches at entry points therefore:
   • post-publication censorship: prohibitio (index of forbidden books) or expurgatio
   • main topics are religious and political—but these categories can extend widely into philosophy and natural philosophy.

II. Material bibliography
   • Almost all early mod books are folio, quarto, octavo or duodecimo
   • Signature can comprise more than one sheet (called quiring—up to 2 or 3 sheets; more frequent for the larger sizes); patterns of quiring change over time
   • The case of the Compost et kalendrier des bergers (1493)

III. Historiography
   • Eisenstein thesis: dissemination, standardization and fixity (as per Johns)
     But also: uniformity of nature vs multiformity of scripture
     Concerned with the “shaping of the modern mind”; more collaboration among specialists, esp more interest among “humanists” for technology
   • Adrian Johns: social construction of print culture. No automatic fixity established by print: degradation of editions, piracy, fake attributions of authorship etc. Print culture lies in civility as much as it does in technology
   • Strengths and weaknesses of both; arguments and counterarguments.
     Stress nuance, complexity, attention to specific contexts and addressing countevidence.