

# AARON T. PRATT

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## CURRENT APPOINTMENT

University of Texas at Austin, 2017 to present  
Carl & Lily Pforzheimer Curator of Early Books & Manuscripts, Harry Ransom Center  
Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of English

## PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT

Trinity University, 2015–2017  
Assistant Professor, Department of English

## EDUCATION

Yale University, 2010–2016  
Doctor of Philosophy, English Literature  
Dissertation: “**The Status of Printed Playbooks in Early Modern England**”  
Committee: David Scott Kastan (Director, English), Lawrence Manley (English), & Keith Wrightson (History)

The Ohio State University, 2008–2010  
Master of Arts, English Literature

The Ohio State University, 2001–2005  
Bachelor of Arts, English & Philosophy  
Minor in Women's Studies

## PUBLICATIONS

“**The Trouble with Translation: Paratexts & England’s Bestselling New Testament.**” In *The Bible on the Shakespearean Stage: Cultures of Interpretation in Reformation England*, edited by Thomas Fulton & Kristen Poole, 33–48. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

“**Printed Playbooks, Performance, & the 1580s Lag.**” *Shakespeare Studies* 45 (2017): 51–59.

“**Horror & Exploitation on VHS: The History of Home Video Comes to Yale.**” *Journal of Visual Culture* 14.3 (2015): 332–335.

“**Stab-Stitching & the Status of Early English Playbooks as Literature.**” *The Library*, 7<sup>th</sup> ser., 16.3 (2015): 304–328.

Coauthor w/ David Scott Kastan. “**Printers, Publishers, & the *Chronicles* as Artefact.**” In *The Oxford Handbook to Holinshed’s Chronicles*, edited by Paulina Kewes, Ian W. Archer, & Felicity Heal, 21–42. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

“**Latimer, Hugh.**” In *Encyclopedia of English Renaissance Literature*, edited by Garrett A. Sullivan, Jr. & Alan Stewart, 582–583. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

UPDATED JANUARY 18, 2023

Coauthor w/ John N. King. “**Bibles as Books: The Materiality of English Printed Bibles from the Tyndale New Testament to the King James Bible.**” In *The King James Bible after 400 Years: Literary, Linguistic & Cultural Influences*, edited by Hannibal Hamlin & Norman W. Jones, 61–99. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

## EXHIBITION-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Coauthor w/ Kathryn James. *Collated & Perfect*. New Haven, CT & Austin, TX: Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library & Harry Ransom Center, 2019.

## PUBLIC WRITING

“**Charting a Path.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. Forthcoming October, 2022.

“**A Rare Gift: First-edition *Principia* Highlights Extraordinary Collection.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. December 6, 2021. Accessed May 19, 2022.

“**Paper Pitfalls.**” *Quires & Clasps* (personal website). May 30, 2021. Accessed May 31, 2021.

“**Primary Source: An Elizabethan Exorcist’s (very weird) Secret Press.**” *Not Even Past*. October 31, 2020. Accessed December 5, 2020.

“**Learning How to Read Again.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. October 14, 2020. Accessed December 5, 2020.

“**Sometimes You Want Your Blank Blank.**” *Quires & Clasps* (personal website). April 2, 2020. Accessed December 5, 2020.

“**Picturing the Plays of Shakespeare & His Contemporaries.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. March 19, 2020. Accessed April 16, 2020.

“**Revealing an English Schoolmaster’s *Piers Plowman*.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. January 15, 2020. Accessed February 16, 2020.

“**Gutenberg Misbound.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. May 24, 2019. Accessed August 24, 2019.

“**Printed Manuscripts.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. October 4, 2018. Accessed August 10, 2019.

“**In the Galleries: Interactive Design in Early Printed Books.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. January 4, 2018. Revised & republished as “Technology in Paper: Interactive Design in Early Printed Books.” *Not Even Past*. August 20, 2020. Accessed September 28, 2020.

“**A Baroness & Her Bookshelves in an English Parish Church.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. October 19, 2017. Accessed August 10, 2019.

“**Instructions for Reading Aloud in the Gutenberg Bible.**” *Ransom Center Magazine*. July 5, 2017. Republished as “The Gutenberg Bible Comes with Reading Instructions.” *Yahoo!/Time*. October 2, 2017. Accessed August 10, 2019.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *The Complete Works of Gerrard Winstanley*, ed. Thomas N. Corns, Ann Hughes, & David Loewenstein. *Prose Studies* 33.1 (2011): 79–82.

## EXHIBITIONS

“**The Books of Renaissance Women**” & “**The History of Science & Mathematics.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Spring 2022.

“**Printing the World in Premodern Europe.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Spring 2022.

“**Illustrating Early English Drama.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Spring 2020 & Fall 2021.

“**Understanding Chaucer.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Fall 2019.

“**Collated & Perfect.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Spring 2019.

“**Dying Well in Early Modern England.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Fall 2018.

“**‘I doe not lik this’: Frances Wolfreton, Collector & Critic.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Spring 2018.

“**Interactive Design in Early Printed Books.**” In *Stories to Tell* at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Fall 2017.

“**The Gutenberg Bible**” at the Harry Ransom Center. Austin, TX, Fall 2017 to present. (Opening, label, & an occasional companion object change every 3 months.)

## PRESENTATIONS

“**The Early History of European Printing (in a global context).**” Presentation at the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin, TX, October 20, 2022.

“**What to Do with the UBC First Folio.**” Presentation at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada, May 13, 2022.

“**Perfecting the Renaissance.**” Keynote lecture at Forging Ahead: Fakes, Fabrications, & Facsimiles in Cultural & Literary History—Medieval to Modern, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, The University of California, Los Angeles, CA, May 4, 2022.

“**The Blaeu World Map.**” Presentation with Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa at the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin, TX, April 28, 2022.

“**Revisiting Wise’s Sophisticated Marlowes; Or, Bibliography Old & New.**” Online lecture for donors of the Bibliographical Society of America, May 25, 2021.

“**Collection Connections: Renaissance Humanism between Islamic Covers.**” Online presentation & conversation with Andrea Knowlton for the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin, April 29, 2021.

“**It’s Not Snowing on Miami Vice; Or, Book History’s Media Literacy Problem.**” Pre-circulated paper for the Politics of Bibliography II, a seminar at the Virtual 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, April 2, 2021.

“**Collection Connections: What Did Gutenberg Invent?**” Online presentation & conversation with Devin Fitzgerald for the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin, December 10, 2020.

“**Sharing Special Collections with an Overhead Camera.**” Online presentation, June 3, 2020. Published to YouTube by The Bibliographical Society of America, June 8, 2020.

**“Why Did Elizabethans & Jacobean Read Shakespeare’s Plays?”** Presentation at the Faculty Seminar on British Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, TX, February 28, 2020.

**“Yes, Playbook Readers in Elizabethan & Jacobean England Cared About Authorship.”** Presentation at the Workshop in the History of Material Texts, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 10, 2020.

**“The Paradox of Perfection: Re-evaluating the Kemble-Devonshire Playbooks.”** Presentation at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, MO, October 19, 2019.

**“Binders in a Bind: Making Books in an Age of Print.”** Lecture at Saint Anselm College, Goffstown, NH, September 25, 2019.

**“Perfect.”** Presentation as part of Collated & Perfect, a Pforzheimer Lecture at the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin, TX, February 28, 2019.

**“Collated & Perfect.”** Roundtable moderation & discussion at the Beinecke Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT, February 5, 2019.

**“Shakespeare’s Books.”** Lecture at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX, November 6, 2018.

**“Perfect Books.”** Presentation at Books & Their Use[r]s, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, October 19, 2018.

**“Sophisticated Books.”** Keynote lecture at the Book History Workshop, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, June 4, 2018.

**“Conway’s Taste for Playbooks.”** Pre-circulated paper for Early Modern Cultures of Taste, a seminar at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, Los Angeles, CA, March 29, 2018.

**“Where Was Luther in the English Bible, 1525-1611?”** Presentation at Nailing Down the Protestant Reformation: A Symposium on the Martin Luther Quincentennial, The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, November 10, 2017.

**“Playbooks & Their Authors Before the Playhouses.”** Pre-circulated paper for Shakespearean Distortions of Early Modern Drama, a seminar at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, Atlanta, GA, April 6, 2017.

**“The Trouble with Translation.”** Presentation & roundtable discussant at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, IL, March 31, 2017.

**“Stabbed then Stab-Stitched: Marlowe’s Death & the Transmission of Dramatic Manuscripts.”** Presentation at Old Books/New Approaches, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, February 17, 2017.

**“Marlowe’s Playbooks & Manuscript Transmission.”** Presentation at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 6, 2017.

**“‘Quod Auctor’: Rethinking the History of Dramatic Authorship in Print.”** Presentation at Shakespeare, the Book, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, September 30, 2016.

**“Too Gory for the Silver Screen: Horror as Video.”** Presentation at Terror on Tape: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the History of Horror on Video, Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 7, 2016.

**“Infinite Riches in a Little ROM.”** Presentation at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association, Austin, TX, January 7, 2016.

“**Communities of the Book: Academics, Booksellers, Curators, & Collectors.**” Roundtable discussion at the Orientation & Opening Colloquium for the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in Critical Bibliography, Rare Book School, Charlottesville, VA, May 30, 2015.

“**Cheap Print, Playbooks, & the Advent of English Literature.**” Presentation at the annual meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America, New York, NY, January 23, 2015.

“**A Review of DEEP & Updating McKerrow's Dictionary.**” Pre-circulated responses for Digital Resources for the Early Modern Book Trade, a workshop at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, St. Louis, MO, April 12, 2014.

“**Reading Unmarked Bibles in Elizabethan & Jacobean England.**” Presentation at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, New York, NY, March 29, 2014.

“**Stab-Stitching & the Status of Playbooks as Literature.**” Presentation at “New Bownde”: New Scholarship in Early Modern Binding, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, August 15, 2013.

“**Buying Playbooks in Early Modern England.**” Pre-circulated paper for a seminar of the Yale Program in the History of the Book, Yale University, New Haven, CT, January 17, 2013.

“**Buying & Reading the Bible in Shakespeare's England: A Polemic.**” Pre-circulated paper for Reading Shakespeare & the Bible, a seminar at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, Boston, MA, May 5, 2012.

“**Radical Soteriology & Winstanley's Antinomian Hermeneutic.**” Pre-circulated paper for The Bible & Early Modern Radicals, a seminar at The King James Bible & its Cultural Afterlife, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, May 6, 2011.

“**The Materiality of English Bibles from the Tyndale New Testament to the King James Bible.**” Pre-circulated paper for the Seminar for the History of the Book, The Ohio State University, April 16, 2010.

“**Sorry, Bale: Revisiting Tudor Apocalypticism.**” Presentation at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Tudor Symposium, Sheffield, UK, September 15, 2009.

“**Yet is the text a light to the cronicles': Bale, Foxe, & Apocalyptic Historiography.**” Presentation at the 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8, 2009.

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

“**From eBay to UT, a Priceless Ancient Gospel of John Papyrus Fragment Ends Up in Austin.**” Interview with John-Carlos Estrada. *CBS Austin*. December 6, 2022.

“**LARGEST & smallest.**” Interview with Gabriel C. Pérez. *KUT Austin*. September 28, 2022.

“**The Texas Oil Heir Who Took On Math's Impossible Dare.**” Interview with William J. Broad. *New York Times*. January 31, 2022.

“**Aaron Pratt, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas.**” Interview with Thomas Dabbs. *Speaking of Shakespeare*. July 25, 2021.

“**Aaron Pratt on Early Books & Manuscripts at the Harry Ransom Center, Austin, Texas.**” Interview with Andy Kesson. *A Bit Lit*. July 9, 2020.

“**Bright Young Librarians: Aaron T. Pratt.**” Interview. *Fine Books & Collections Magazine*, May 20, 2020.

“**Juliet & Romeo**: Newly unearthed text suggests how Milton might have edited Shakespeare.” Interview with Hannah Natanson. *Washington Post*. September 17, 2019.

“**Frankenbooks**.” Interview with Caroline Barta & Amy Vidor. *Archival Fever*. Podcast audio. February 15, 2019.

“**How the VCR Began America’s Love of On-Demand Content**.” Interview with Alexi Horowitz-Ghazi. *All Things Considered*. August 6, 2016.

“**Yale Is Starting a VHS Archive & It’s Full of Horror Movies**.” Interview with Jeremy Hobson. *Here & Now*. March 27, 2015.

“**Yale Library Acquires Blockbuster Collection of ‘70s & ‘80s VHS Tapes**.” Interview with Ed Stannard. *New Haven Register*. March 11, 2015.

“**Yale Is Building an Incredible Collection of VHS Tapes**.” Interview with Natalie Kitroeff. *Bloomberg*. March 5, 2015.

“**U-Va’s Rare Book School: A ‘summer camp for book nerds’**.” Interview with Lee Powell. *Washington Post*. August 18, 2014.

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

**Faculty Summer Research Stipend**. Trinity University, 2016.

**Yale Graduate Student Assembly Conference Travel Fellowship**. For presentation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of The Shakespeare Association of America, 2015.

**Katharine F. Pantzer New Scholar**. Bibliographical Society of America, 2015.

**The Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in Critical Bibliography**. Rare Book School, 2014–2017.

**Folger Institute Grant-in-aid**. For participation in the seminar, *Researching the Archive*, led by Jean E. Howard & Pamela H. Smith, 2014–2015.

**James M. Osborn Fellowship in English Literature & History**. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, 2013.

**Yale Graduate Student Assembly Conference Travel Fellowship**. For presentation at “New Bownde”: New Scholarship in Early Modern Binding, 2013.

**Folger Institute Grant-in-aid**. For attendance at the conference, *An Anglo-American History of the KJV*, 2011.

**Folger Institute Grant-in-aid**. For participation in the seminar, *The History of the Stationers' Company*, led by Ian Gadd, 2011.

**Folger Institute Grant-in-aid**. For participation in the seminar, *Mastering Research at the Folger*, led by Zachary Lesser, 2009.

## TEACHING

### The University of Texas at Austin

#### Faculty

How to Read an Old Book, 1450–1830, Fall 2022 (Graduate Seminar)

The Long Lives of Early Printed Books, July 2021 (Extracurricular Intensive 3-Day Seminar)

Printing the Law in Early Modern England, Fall 2019 (Conference Course)

BEME: Bibles of Early Modern England, Fall 2018 (Conference Course)

## **Trinity University**

### *Faculty*

Revenge in Renaissance Drama, Spring 2017  
Great Books of Western Modernity, Spring 2017  
Introduction to Shakespeare, Fall 2016  
British Literature to 1800, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, & Fall 2016  
Shakespeare, Fall 2015 & Spring 2016  
Great Books of the Ancient World, Fall 2015

## **Yale University**

### *Acting Instructor*

English for Freshmen / Terror, Horror, & the Literary Imagination, Spring 2014

### *Teaching Assistant*

John Milton (John Rogers), Fall 2013  
American Literature, Colonial to Civil War (Michael Warner), Spring 2013  
Shakespeare's Histories & Tragedies (David Scott Kastan), Fall 2012

### *Teaching Associate / Tutor*

Daily Themes (Richard Deming), Spring 2012  
Daily Themes (Langdon Hammer), Spring 2011

## **The Ohio State University**

### *Acting Instructor*

First-Year Writing / The Rhetoric of Trucks: F150s, Bigfoot, & American Identity, Spring 2010  
First-Year Writing / Media Madness: Sensationalism in Our Culture, Winter 2009  
First-Year Writing / Arguing Religion & Politics: The Rhetoric of Controversy, 3 terms, 2008 & 2009

## **EDITORIAL SERVICE**

*Not Even Past*. Series Editor, Primary Source: History from the Ransom Center Stacks, 2020 to present.

*Shakespeare Newsletter*. Member, Editorial Board, 2019 to present.

*Texas Studies in Language and Literature*. Submission Referee, 2021 & 2022.

*Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*. Submission Referee, 2021.

*Script & Print: Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Australia*. Submission Referee, 2021.

*Shakespeare Quarterly*. Submission Referee, 2020.

*Shakespeare*. Submission Referee, 2017.

*The Expositor: A Journal of Undergraduate Research in the Humanities* [at Trinity University]. Coeditor, 2016–2017.

Cambridge University Press. Press Reviewer, 2016.

*Literature Compass*. Submission Referee, 2016.

*Reformation*. Submission Referee, 2015.

*The Library: Transactions of the Bibliographical Society*. Submission Referee, 2013.

*Reformation & Literature & History*. Editorial Assistant, 2009–2010.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Digital Scriptorium. *Member, Board of Directors*, 2022 to present.

Freedom & the Press Before Freedom & the Press. *Member, Advisory Board*, 2022 to present.

Harry Ransom Center. *Member, Metadata Steering Group*, 2019 to present.

Bibliographical Society of America. *Member, International Working Group*, 2018 to 2020; *Member, Publishing Committee*, 2020 to present.

Harry Ransom Center. *Organizer, Pforzheimer Lecture*, 2018 to present.

Marlowe Society of America. *Webmaster*, 2017 to present.

Harry Ransom Center. *Member, Hiring Committee*, 2020 & 2022.

Harry Ransom Center. *Member, Early Books & Manuscripts Fellowship Subcommittee*, 2020.

Harry Ransom Center. *Co-chair, Space Management Task Force*, 2019–2020.

Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography at Rare Book School. *Cofounder & Committee Member*, 2016–2020.

Harry Ransom Center. *Member, Fellowship Committee*, 2018–2019.

Shakespeare, the Book. *Organizer*, September 30–October 1, 2016.

Terror on Tape: An Interdisciplinary Symposium on the History of Horror on Video. *Co-organizer*, May 6–7, 2016.

The Futures of Historicism: A Symposium in Honor of David Scott Kastan. *Co-organizer*, October 2–3, 2015.

The Yale Program in the History of the Book. *Cofounder & Co-organizer*, 2012–2015.

Pomerium Renaissance Working Group. *Convener*, 2012–2015.

Tudor Books & Readers, 1485-1603, an NEH Summer Seminar for College & University Teachers. *Project Assistant*, 2012.

## RELEVANT NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Aaron T. Pratt Antiquarian Books. *Owner*, 2011–2016.

Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library. *Curatorial Assistant*, 2011.

Stream Right / Engauge. *Lead Systems Administrator & Development Team Leader*, 2007–2008.

MyTriggers. *Lead Systems Administrator*, 2006–2007.

Qwest Communications. *Senior Systems Engineer*, 2000–2001.



## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Bibliographical Society of America**, 2018 to present.

**Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography at Rare Book School**, 2017 to present.

**Bibliographical Society**, 2011 to present.

**Shakespeare Association of America**, 2011 to present.