

publications in this area, see the special issue of *Literature Compass*, edited by Dorothy Kim, *Critical Race and the Middle Ages*. Additional bibliography can be found both in the volume under review and, especially, in Jonathan Hsy and Julie Orlemanski, “Race and Medieval Studies: A Partial Bibliography.” This is an active area of research and publishing, so any recommendation is partial and fragmentary, but these will serve as useful wayfinding recommendations. A planned special issue of *Speculum* dedicated to “Race, Race-Thinking, and Identity,” edited by François-Xavier Fauvelle, Nahir Otaño Gracia, and Cord J. Whitaker, will surely have an important impact on this conversation.

Similarly, the extensive work done in medieval trans studies is essentially absent, though now we can boast several edited volumes and monographs on the subject with far more work forthcoming. The book’s added coda, entitled “This Book as a Teachable Moment,” notes the critique of the volume’s underrepresentation of scholars of color. This is an important and necessary caveat that rightfully leads readers to further resources that can more accurately capture the current state of the field.

As an instructor, I would recommend this book as a tool for unsettling student’s expectations and broadening the conversations we have in our survey courses. Together with the ongoing work of scholars of color, as well as queer and trans scholars, this book can help us to move past all the detrimental stereotypes and misconceptions of the Middle Ages and produce a radically inclusive and more historically accurate discipline.

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*Booksellers and Printers in Provincial France 1470–1600*. Malcolm Walsby.  
Library of the Written Word 87; The Handpress World 87. Leiden: Brill, 2020. x + 902 pp. €165.

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This ambitious and long-awaited project, recipient of the Roland H. Bainton Prize from the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, ought to be an indispensable resource for scholars working on the book in early modern France. Here, Walsby marshals more than twenty years of research to build the most thorough resource on the French provincial book world currently available. The problem he seeks to address is deeply familiar to researchers working on the French book trade outside of Paris and Lyon: a focus on these print centers leads to exclusion of provincial printers and booksellers, outside of scattered sources in municipal archives and articles in small, local journals. Indeed, a similar issue holds for bibliography and book history writ large, where the majority of both reference works and original scholarship focuses on the lower-hanging fruit of printers and booksellers documented on surviving imprints, and work done in

print centers. Walsby appropriately places his dictionary within the context of these existing bibliographies, to patch the gaps between Renouard, Baudrier, and more recent bibliographic projects like the BNF database begun by Jean-Dominique Mellot.

The dictionary collects 2,743 documented members of the book trade operating outside of Paris and Lyon, including 109 entries for women, with nearly six hundred additional women noted in the entries for their husbands. These provincial bookmen and women represent the breadth of professions surrounding the print industry in the early modern world, going far beyond the “booksellers and printers” of the book’s title. Walsby even goes so far as to note journeymen and apprentices. The survey also includes bookmen who moved from center to periphery or vice versa, like Macé Bonhomme, a printer and later bookseller who was one of the only printers to depart Lyon in the wake of the great strike of 1541.

Walsby’s background in digital humanities projects comes through in the structure and organization of his information, which he carefully defines at the beginning of the volume. The entries act as starting points for deeper research, including brief biographical notes, archival and print references, and a series of facets with controlled vocabularies adding, where available, further details like printer’s devices. Walsby has clearly thought about the different aspects of his data, and how they might be applied to different research ends. His introduction is a whistle-stop tour of engaging possible applications, from partnerships among peripheral booksellers to the varying ratio of booksellers to residents in different towns.

The attention paid to women in the book trade is particularly notable. Walsby has taken to heart calls from recent scholarship on this topic and adopts the approach in Jessica Farrell-Jobst’s forthcoming work excavating similar women active in the book trade in Nuremberg, buried under their husbands’ names in Reske’s landmark bibliography (Jessica Farrell-Jobst, *Women as Book Producers: The Case of Nuremberg*). The introduction includes a thoughtful discussion about recognizing women’s labor and follows through in the design of the volume’s paratext. Not only are these women noted in standalone entries, but they appear in two separate indexes, one of women who worked independently, and one of women married to bookmen.

That said, the thorough points of entry for research on women belie an unfortunate lack of other paratextual devices. As it currently stands, the volume has three indexes in addition to the two focused on women: an “index of booksellers and printers falsely indicated as being active in provincial France during the sixteenth century,” an “index of family trees,” and an *index cognominum*, occupying four pages in total. This might be satisfactory for a traditional bibliography, but these are often already focused on particular cities or families. As it currently stands, it is difficult to support the thorough study of provincial centers that Walsby promises without the addition of more indexes, especially one organized by location. There is an apparent presumption that a user will approach the dictionary by looking for a name, perhaps one that came up in the course of archival research. This limits the possible applications of the dictionary,

as users cannot readily search the volume with general queries in mind. It is unfortunate that such a rich resource should have limited points of entry, but this should not diminish Walsby's monumental achievement. Rather, it should serve as a caveat to users, and a suggested roadmap to make the resource more accessible.

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*Hernando Colón's New World of Books: Toward a Cartography of Knowledge.*  
José María Pérez Fernández and Edward Wilson-Lee.  
New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2021. viii + 334 pp. \$35.

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*Hernando Colón's New World of Books* recontextualizes the famed bibliographer and his library as a study in information organization and tools. Colón's intellectual agenda was vast: to create a universal library incorporating all human knowledge as well as multiple catalogues and registers to identify and cross-reference that knowledge. For a brief period at the beginning of the sixteenth century, such a venture would have seemed ambitious but, perhaps, possible; the expanding scale of early print, however, quickly made it impossible. Nonetheless, by the time of his death in 1539, his collection consisted of some fifteen thousand volumes, making it one of the largest libraries of its day. The five chapters that make up the bulk of this book serve to examine Colón's library through explicating his purchasing and organization practices as derived from extant records. Five appendixes of primary sources—including the *Memoria* of Colón's assistant/librarian Juan Pérez, Colón's will, and various other documents—are presented in English translation with brief notes. It is worth noting here that this book is largely designed for a popular audience, and its scholarly apparatus is accordingly abbreviated although still useful.

In the first chapter, "Life in the Library," Pérez Fernández and Wilson-Lee argue that Colón's—or rather, Hernando's, as he is called familiarly throughout—vision of a universal library was itself an exercise in colonization for the early modern European mind. This is a fascinating point that is then left alone. The next chapter, "Trade Secrets," examines sixteenth-century book trades and the blossoming of cheap print with its attendant new genres and formats in the context of Colón's purchases for his library. "Cartography" analyzes Colón's work as a cartographer against the broader landscape of maps as information organization, and how the tools of cartography translated into bibliographic cataloging. "New World Order" examines Pérez's *Memoria* and the records of Colón's library to identify how it was organized and contextualizes his model of library organization against others that were extant at the time. The final chapter, "After Hernando," traces the dismantlement of the library as the collection is ingested into other institutions after Colón's death and as various volumes are expurgated by the