

MATERIAL READINGS OF EARLY MODERN CULTURE

Texts and Social Practices, 1580–1730

Edited by James Daybell and Peter Hinds

The Contents of y^e Sermons in y^e volume
of y^e Sermons
1st Sermon p^{er} A. B. Stillingfleet on Amos 9. 11.
I have overthrowne some of you as God overthrowed Sodom
because it was as a Firebrand pluckt out of the
burning, & we are not returned unto me with
the Lord.
2^d Sermon p^{er} Samuel 12. 24. 25.
I will only fear & love, & serve him in truth
with all your heart, for consider how great thine
mercy hath been for you.
But if we shall still do wickedly, ye shall be
consumed with ye & your King.
3^d Sermon p^{er} Hezekiah on 1. Cor. 12. 4.
Now there are Diversities of Gifts, but the
same Spirit.
4th Sermon p^{er} Job on Psalm 14. 7.
When the Lord bringeth back y^e Captivity of
Jacob, Jacob shall rejoice, & Israel shall be
glad.
5th Sermon p^{er} St. Scott on Eccles. 7. 1.
It is y^e Day of Death, than the Day of ones
Life.
6th Sermon p^{er} Job on Psalm 60. 14.
Offer unto God Thanksgiving, & pay thy Vows
unto y^e most high.
7th Sermon p^{er} B. Fleetwood on 2. Sam. 10. 12.
Be of good Courage, & it us play the Men for a
people, & for y^e Souldiers of our God, & y^e Lord do that
cometh him good.

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A
SERMON
Preached before the
Honourable House
OF
COMMONS,
At S^t. MARGARETS WESTMINSTER
Octob. 10. being the Fast-day appointed for
the late dreadfull Fire in the City of
LONDON.

By Edward Stillingfleet, B. D. Rector of S^t. Andrews
Hill, and one of his Majesties Chaplains in Ordinary.

Published by Order of the said House.

The Third Edition.

LONDON,
Printed by Robert White, for Henry Mortlock, and
are to be sold at his Shop at the Sign of the White
Hart in Westminster Hall. 1666.

EARLY MODERN LITERATURE IN HISTORY
General Editors: Cedric C. Brown and Andrew Hadfield



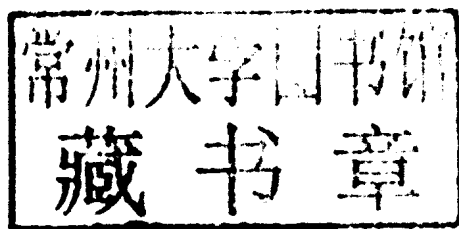
Material Readings of Early Modern Culture

Texts and Social Practices, 1580–1730

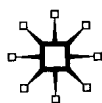
Edited by

James Daybell

Peter Hinds



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List of Abbreviations

All places of publication are assumed to be London, unless otherwise stated. Original spelling has been retained throughout in quotations from manuscripts. Dates are given in Old Style, but the year is taken to begin on 1 January.

Add.	Additional
Beinecke	Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Yale University
BL	British Library, London
BM	British Museum, London
Bodl. Lib.	Bodleian Library
CSP	<i>Calendar of State Papers</i>
CUL	Cambridge University Library
ELR	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
EMS	<i>English Manuscript Studies</i>
Folger	The Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.
HJ	<i>Historical Journal</i>
HLQ	<i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i>
HMC	Historical Manuscripts Commission
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery office
LPL	Lambeth Palace Library, London
Lansd.	Lansdowne
MS	Manuscript
NLS	National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
NLW	National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
NPG	National Portrait Gallery, London
N&Q	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
ODNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
P&P	<i>Past and Present</i>
RES	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
SP	State Papers
TLS	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
V&A	Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Notes on Contributors

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Acknowledgements

This collection of essays developed out of a conversation between friends on a 'research away day' enjoyed along the banks of the Yealm at Noss Mayo in the spring of 2007. It is the collaborative product of two scholars (an early modern historian with expertise in manuscript letters and a seventeenth-century print specialist) with shared interdisciplinary interests, who serendipitously both found themselves at the University of Plymouth. Over the course of our discussions we decided that 'material readings' had a genuine coherence as a way of interpreting early modern texts, and that while such an approach was by no means new, there was no book that drew together in one place the various methodologies of manuscript and print studies. The upshot was a plan for the present volume, running alongside a conference organised at the University of Plymouth in April 2008, entitled 'Material Readings of Early Modern Culture, 1550–1700', which acted as a barometer of the current state of research, and from which many of the essays in this volume at least partly derive. In the months after this event, many participants developed and enhanced their papers, in the light of discussion at the conference, and further new contributions were sought in order to broaden and strengthen the scope of the volume, which produced the present essays by Jonathan Gibson and Andrew Gordon. While individual essays express their own acknowledgements, as editors we would like to thank the various contributors for their commitment to and enthusiasm for this project from the outset.

We would like to register our gratitude to the following, for their help, insight and input at different times and in different ways in the transformation from conference to book: Maureen Bell, Danielle Clarke, Elizabeth Clarke, Julia and Kate Francesca Daybell, Michelle DiMeo, Johanna Harris, Gabriel Heaton, Tracey Hill, Mary Jacobs, Lynne Magnusson, Dafydd Moore, Adam Mosley, Ian Rayment, Adam Smyth, Alan Stewart, Joel Swan, Alison Wiggins, Graham Williams and Henry Woudhuysen. At Palgrave we would like to thank Benjamin Doyle, Paula Kennedy and Catherine Mitchell for all their kind help and assistance. Special thanks also go to the indispensable Sue Matheron and Sarah Carne (née Measures), without whom very little is ever possible. For generous funding towards the organisation of the conference, we would like to thank The British Academy, The Royal

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J. R. T. D and P. H
Drake Circus

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1

Introduction: Material Matters

James Daybell and Peter Hinds

This book explores the significance of the physicality of manuscripts and printed texts in the early modern period. By comprehensively focusing on the material aspects and surrounding social practices of texts as a new and valuable way of reading and decoding meaning that complements and augments analyses of content, it aims to provide a thorough reassessment of the intrinsic natures of and developing relationships between cultures of manuscript and print from the late-sixteenth through to the start of the eighteenth century. The book takes an interdisciplinary approach, and its central purpose is to foster vigorous dialogues between print and manuscript studies, critical bibliography, codicology and history of the book, palaeography and diplomatics, and social and cultural history. As the first book of this nature to bring together material readings of manuscript, print and orality in early modern culture it sheds significant light on the ways in which we situate, read and interpret texts. Taken as a whole, the volume examines a broad range of texts from a material perspective. These texts (canonical and non-traditional, print and manuscript) include letters, poetry, printed books and pamphlets, a range of visual texts (such as engraved satirical prints and playing cards), commonplace books and miscellanies, notebooks and manuscript books, as well as sermons, religious writings and arithmetic manuals. Individual chapters explore a range of important themes that encompass the materials, practices and processes of literacy as well as the technologies and tools of writing. The essays interpret the uses of paper, quills, ink, desks and presses; they examine the significance of watermarks, bindings, seals and handwriting, as well as the spacial features and design of texts. They analyse the layout of the manuscript and printed page, consider script and white space, interpret the significance of type and typography and demonstrate the importance

of paratextual apparatus. They also consider the social context, space and location of writing together with the social signs, codes and cues inscribed within texts. Furthermore, women's writing and the gendering of material forms are also taken account of here, as is the distribution and dissemination of texts, the environments of reading and reception, as well as marginalia and practices of reading. Broadly defined, then, materiality relates not only to the significance of physical forms, but also to the social materiality (or 'sociology') of texts: that is, the social and cultural practices of manuscript and print and the contexts in which they were produced, disseminated and consumed. Material matters are thus central to a full understanding of a writer's words as they appear in handwritten and printed form.

Over the past twenty years or so, scholars have increasingly stressed the importance of studying the material nature of texts as a crucial means to gauging their full significance. Indeed, D. F. McKenzie has argued that 'bibliographers should be concerned to show that forms effect meaning', that 'the material forms of books, the non-verbal elements of the typographic notations within them, the very disposition of the space itself, have an expressive function in conveying meaning'; and following his lead Roger Chartier has noted that 'form produces meaning'.¹ There has been a steadily growing recognition that all interpreters of texts – not only bibliographers – need to take full account of material forms. Attention to the physical characteristics of texts has been especially pronounced in the related (but at times remarkably insular) fields of manuscript studies and history of the book. This volume naturally builds on the work of pioneering scholarship in the fields of manuscript and print studies (some of the authors of which are represented by chapters here).² While other studies have necessarily stressed to some degree the significance of attending to material forms, the importance of the present study is threefold: first, its clear focus on the importance of materiality as a critical mode of reading *all* early modern texts; secondly, the interdisciplinary dialogue that it encourages between scholars of differing methodologies and approaches; and, finally, in the important groundwork that it lays in starting to think about conceptualising what one means by 'material' readings, in the sense of the physicality of texts as well as the materiality of the socio-cultural contexts in which they were produced, transmitted and consumed. Moreover, it is clear from emerging work in what is an exciting and vibrant field that material concerns are far from being matters of marginal inquiry, but instead represent a crucial way of properly understanding early modern texts. The benefits of this form of material reading further highlight the complexities of textual, social and cultural practice.