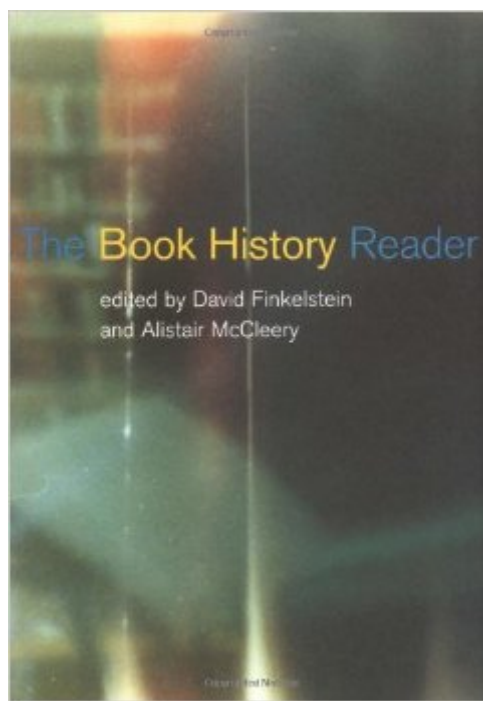


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The Book History Reader



Synopsis

The Book History Reader brings together a rich variety of writings examining different aspects of the history of books and print culture, much of which is otherwise inaccessible. It looks at the development of the book, the move from spoken word to written texts, the commodification of books and authors, the power and profile of readers, and the future of the book in the electronic age. The Reader is arranged in thematic sections and features a general introduction as well as an introduction to each section. This pioneering book is a valuable resource for all those involved in book publishing studies and book history as well as students of English literature, cultural studies, sociology and history. Essays by: Thomas Adams and Nicholas Barker, Richard Altick, Roland Barthes, C.A. Bayly, Pierre Bourdieu, John Brewer, Michel de Certeau, Roger Chartier, Robert Darnton, Elizabeth Eisenstein, Lucien Febvre and Henri-Jean Martin, N.N. Feltes, Kate Flint, Stanley Fish, Michel Foucault, Wolfgang Iser, Adrian Johns, Jerome McGann, Don McKenzie, Jennifer E. Monaghan, Jan Dirk Muller, Walter Ong, Robert Patten, Janice Radway, Jonathan Rose, Mark Rose, John Sutherland, Jane Tompkins, James L.W. West III

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The editors have attempted to cram half a century of various scholarly musings on the written word, the uses of reading and literacy, the materiality and production of books, the reception and interpretation of meaning in books by readers and consumers, and the evolution of print culture into a couple hundred pages of really teeny tiny print. This has required creative editing and the use of

FAR too many ellipses -- a number of important pieces are so gutted here that they're rendered almost meaningless, which is worse than frustrating. However, there is no other book available that provides the same kind of overview of the basic relevant literature on these subjects -- and the motivated reader, I hope, will search out the unabridged versions of those articles she finds interesting.

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