
Germaine Warkentin describes the focus of the conference from which these papers were taken as 'the specific problems posed by the texts in which European expansion was recorded,' a topic which 'as well as changing our understanding of exploration texts, is also part of the current transformation of our concepts of editorial procedure, of literary genre, and of cultural appropriation.' The resulting volume is one which should be of considerable interest to scholars both of European expansion and of textual studies. The individual essays are of high quality and are accessible to non-specialists. Clearly delineating arguments in their specific subject fields, the authors also make evident the ways in which their topics and conclusions bear on broader issues.

David Henige surveys the textual evidence on Columbus's voyages and its treatment by editors since 1850: included are Las Casas's *Historia de las Indias*, Oviedo's *Historia general*, the biographical *Histoire* purportedly written by Ferdinand Columbus, the *Diario*, also in the hand of Las Casas, and the recently discovered *Libro copiador*. Anyone working with the Columbus materials needs to be aware of Henige's criticisms on the editorial history of the sources. These have undergone 'extraordinarily disparate editorial treatment,' the *diario* receiving a disproportionate share of attention from editors and translators both (more than fifty editions since 1850). Yet most of the editions Henige surveys fall short, either by failing to reproduce their text accurately or by failing to notice relevant material, such as Oviedo's authorial annotations and revisions. Manuel Alvar's 1976 edition of the *Diario* was 'the first to treat it as a text — as an object in itself of scholarly inquiry, as a philological challenge whose close study was a necessary preamble to further historical inquiry, and as an entity whose physical characteristics were interpretatively important.' The essay closes by surveying what remains to be done in documentary editing of the various texts. The editions Henige has in mind, inspired by the demands and rewards of philological approaches as well as by the close attention to language practiced by literary critics, would also satisfy the historian's need for careful evaluation of vital sources.

Luciano Formisano offers a study of the ways philological and paleographic evidence helps in sourcing manuscripts and evaluating their authority. While some other essayists note the particular external pressures on editorial projects dealing with early travel writing, Formisano stresses that the problems confronting an editor of Italian exploration texts are primarily those associated with vernacular prose texts in general, especially ones whose wide circulation produced a variety of exemplars. The cases studied here are chiefly the Italian texts attributed to Amerigo Vespucci. As Formisano shows, variations in the manuscripts are traceable not only to scribal variation but to complementary oral traditions and to authorial intervention at several points. In particular, the Iberianisms
appearing in several manuscripts Formisano argues should be treated not as mistakes but as *lectiones difficiliores*, belonging 'as such . . . to the original text.'

An essay by David Quinn and the late Alison Quinn on editing Richard Hakluyt's *Discourse of Western Planting* takes a markedly different approach, appropriately so since the manuscript — a unique presentation copy of a document in restricted circulation — presents few of the specifically textual problems associated with other materials discussed in this volume. Following a brief account of the background and contents of the text, the Quinns describe their approach to the edition: 'in an historical study of a text the context is all-important.' Departing from the practice of previous editors, who annotated the text slightly or not at all, the Quinns added to facsimile and transcription of the text a commentary which pursued the exhaustive goal of identifying, translating and finding *all* of Hakluyt's references, noting as well the author's occasional biases or factual errors. (An appendix contains some prior documents relevant to Hakluyt's work.)

Ian MacLaren's study of the mid-nineteenth century Canadian documentary painter, Paul Kane, is at forty-two pages the longest of the essays as well as the most modern in its topic. Yet scholars of earlier periods will find in it much of interest. MacLaren argues for an edition of Kane which would place in parallel his printed account of travels in the Canadian West and the text of his holograph field notes. Based on a comparison of book with field notes, which had been unavailable to earlier students of Kane, MacLaren argues that Kane's 'relation to the published narrative does not come within the bounds of what one would regard as the conventional definition of authorship.' What his editors described as minimal revision was in fact enormous, making Kane's persona both more genteel and more patronizing towards the natives he encountered. The published text was effectively a different entity, some of whose best-loved parts are apocryphal. A parallel edition would allow a clearer view of the printed book's relation to Kane's writing and better appreciation of the contours of its authority, and would place 'on view the structures and politics of cultural transfer in nineteenth-century Britain and British North America.'

The late Helen Wallis's essay on 'The Great Publication Societies' concerns itself chiefly with the British Hakluyt Society (founded 1846). Wallis surveys the Hakluyt Society's early history succinctly but with authority; her essay is cited in the Hakluyt Society's recent sesquicentennial volume, *Compassing the Vaste Globe of the Earth* [London, 1996], which readers in search of more detail will want to consult. In 1946, the Hakluyt Society began to turn its attention to parts of the world theretofore neglected, announcing that 'the moment has come for our Society to survey the whole history of travel and exploration.' Among the ensuing publications, Wallis focuses her attention on those related to James Cook and his successors in the Pacific, discussing the hands involved in composing the original narratives, contemporary and modern responses, the history and quality of editions and the kinds of new information which have emerged since the appearance of John Beaglehole's *Journals of Captain James Cook* [1955–67]. Towards the end of her essay, Wallis briefly notices more recent publication societies: the Dutch Linschoten Vereeniging [founded 1909], the Canadian Champlain Society [1905], Hudson's Bay Company Record Society [1938–1983] and Rupert's Land
James Lockhart writes on editing book twelve of the Florentine Codex. Fray Bernardino de Sahagún's encyclopaedic history of pre-conquest Nahua culture, surviving in a manuscript dated to the 1570s, is a central text for its content but also, Lockhart argues, for the opportunities it provides to study the activity of Nahua copyists who were both "amanuenses and coauthors." The parallel Spanish and Nahuatl versions of Sahagún's text have distinct editorial histories; no general edition of the whole Codex has yet offered parallel transcriptions of the Spanish and Nahuatl texts for comparison. The fully diplomatic, exact transcriptions Lockhart advocates would moreover preserve 'distinctions of great potential use to research in various kinds of cultural and linguistic history.' Commenting on the non-standard orthographies and usages of the Spanish version, often corrected by editors, Lockhart argues that 'the Nahua writer's distinct culture shows through in his "mistakes."'

All six essays in this collection stress the collaborative, multi-stage process of making texts, as a fact for critical editions to reckon with rather than ignore. 'Normal' or 'minimal' standardizing of spellings, silent polishing of diction and syntax, may effectively obscure or distort features of the text which are significant for scholars. Yet such activities are themselves a datum. Evidence of deviation or editorial intervention matters not only for an accurate view of the text at issue, but may also — in the case of exploration texts — provide insights into the processes of acculturation, cultural transfer and appropriation.

MARY C. FULLER
Massachusetts Institute of Technology


Concern and fascination with reference books are a preoccupation of many people, the author of this review among them. Reference sources are essential working tools of scholars, librarians, researchers, and information workers in virtually every field of human endeavour. In addition, reference sources constitute a fascinating field of study in their own right. Their types, functions, purposes, compilation, use, and the people who create and consume them are all part of this study. Although librarians consider themselves the unique custodians and consumers of reference sources, in fact virtually everyone is directly or indirectly dependent upon them. They are indispensable keys for unlocking knowledge and information.