the Civil War and Commonwealth eras, after which it was restored to Sir Robert's heirs.

The author has diligently searched the Cotton family correspondence, as well as library catalogues of other early collectors, in search of evidence of the provenance of Cotton's many acquisitions. Acknowledgements of Cotton's generous assistance with sources and research, as well as citations from works in his collection, appear in a number of books written by his friends and contemporaries, and Tite has traced and recorded many of these, a task facilitated by the names of borrowers and dates in the lists of loans. Cotton signed many of his books and dated some, but these are too few and temporally ambiguous to establish any dates or patterns in the rate by which the collection grew. One must, however, assume that his acquisitions spiked when Cotton's service on government commissions and parliamentary committees gave him access to state papers, and when the deaths of other collectors threw their collections on the marketplace. And, as Cotton was generous with loans and sometimes gifts to others – Tite records a number of manuscripts that went missing from Cotton's library – so, too, was he given books by friends and colleagues, such as in 1626 when Cotton and Symonds D'Ewes, another enthusiastic collector, staged a large, mutual exchange of manuscripts.

The author's painstaking and time-consuming labours have unearthed and duly recorded a wealth of bibliographical and biographical data, conveniently indexed and cross-referenced, that serve to illuminate not merely the history of a celebrated library, but also the dynamics of an influential personal network in the scholarly, intellectual, and political life of England in the late Tudor and early Stuart eras.

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Robin Myers, Michael Harris, and Giles Mandelbrote, eds. *The London Book Trade: Topographies of Print in the Metropolis from the Sixteenth Century*. New Castle, Del. and London: Oak Knoll Press and The British Library, 2003. xvi, 185 pp.; US \$39.95 / UK £25.00. ISBN 1584561327 (US); 0712348328 (UK).

The towers and spires of London have, since Caxton set up shop in the Tudor period, looked down on an increasing complexity of

trades related to printing. The city grew through the centuries to become a crucial financial, production, and distribution centre. This fascinating collection of essays about the London trade is arranged chronologically across four centuries, and offers new thinking drawn from secondary sources, as well as groundbreaking research such as James Raven's work on book-trade business locations in Paternoster Row. Several of the essays illustrate the great benefits of the judicious creation and use of specialized databases, all of which can support additional research and analysis. Some of these datasets are collaboratively funded international projects such as the English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC), and others are developed by single or small groups of scholars such as Raven and Hall's work on the London book trades. The contributors to this volume share knowledge of their own areas of expertise in varying and interesting ways, and the editors' introduction is enlightening in providing a succinct intellectual context. Strangely, the introduction does not explain clearly that most of the papers were presented at the twenty-fourth book-trade history conference held in London in 2002. These conferences are usually two-day affairs, and typically provide wide analysis and interpretation on the chosen theme. The conferences tend to bring together scholars and amateur enthusiasts, both groups often vastly knowledgeable and articulate.

Location (and the scholarly study of it) is increasingly recognized as having value in many aspects of history, including book history. The essays here take various perspectives on location, and indeed point to the variability of the impact of location in various centuries. Some authors use the London theme simply to set convenient boundaries on their work. Others introduce a variety of variables and methodologies to explain the very fact of location for businesses, and location's impact on trade and community. It is these latter essays which contribute to a greater understanding of the spatial component in book history.

It is of special interest to have essays by Peter Blayney and James Raven in the same volume, for this permits the "impact factor" to be clear to readers, as Raven cites Blayney and builds on the work of the former in stimulating ways. Blayney's wonderfully alliterative "The Site of the Sign of the Sun" indicates his excellent depth of research and painstaking analysis concerning Wynkyn de Worde's and his successors' business location in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Blayney analysed an array of sources (including deeds and plans) to establish the location of the building at the Sign of the Sun, which held printing businesses for 61 years. Blayney's

scholarship is a delight, and he explains clearly the reasoning that led to his various conclusions, several of which indicate mistakes made by earlier researchers. This work builds on the methodology he pioneered for *The Bookshops in Paul's Cross Churchyard* (London: The Bibliographical Society, 1990). James Raven informs readers that the funded work he began regarding the mapping of eighteenth-century London's printing trades is now carried on by Nigel Hall. The latter contributed to the essay, which is dense with detail, "Location, Size and Succession: The Bookshops of Paternoster Row Before 1800." Two maps, a plan, and a 12-page appendix showing occupancy by date, name, and occupation of numbers 1–50 Paternoster Row, all provide evidence of the material in the database of Raven and Hall. Much of the information has been painstakingly gathered from land-tax assessments and, if the database itself is ever made available to other scholars, it is likely to find broad use by a number of business, social, and economic historians. The essay shows a fine awareness of the idiosyncrasies of cartographic publications, just as in textual publications. Raven draws on Peter Blayney's work and experience, and both text and notes offer evidence of geographic accuracy through the judicious comparison of maps (*see*, for example, note 47, p.113). Raven offers his own analysis and interpretation of his findings concerning the 50 premises, while the appendix provides raw material for other scholars to build on.

Giles Mandelbrote investigates "Workplaces and Living Spaces: London Book Trade Inventories of the Late Seventeenth Century," making rich use of source materials such as inventories, imprints, and tax records, to tell the story of bookshops immediately following London's Great Fire of 1666. Location, in this essay, embraces both street and region, as well as details of the insides of some of the businesses. A rich picture is thus presented, and the illustrations and charts all contribute to the understanding of Mandelbrote's central theme. The line chart "Number of Titles (from ESTC) with Imprints Mentioning St Paul's Churchyard, 1660–1678" is immediately revealing of the devastation caused by the fire. Relative locations and distances between places are additional welcome factors addressed here, particularly in relation to book trade alliances and the division of print-runs. The effect of location on distribution networks leads into a consideration of wholesaling – tying "topography" with business history. This essay emphasizes the local communities of various businesses and the collaborative aspect of the printing trade. In a different way, community is a theme in Michael Harris's "Print in

Neighbourhood Commerce: The Case of Carter Lane,” which places print, especially the printing of news, firmly in the context of its local society and business environment in the early eighteenth century. We perhaps tend to decontextualize print culture and to discuss it within our own circles. This paper would have been welcomed at one of the international Business History Conferences, where book history is almost unknown. Harris cites Edmund Burke on the “Law of Neighbourhood” and discusses the “geographical logic” of printing as a commercial process.

The trade in pictorial prints “made and sold as independent artefacts” (p.71) is detailed in one of the shorter essays in the volume and one drawing carefully from secondary rather than primary sources. Sheila O’Connell’s description of this trade in the mid eighteenth century provides a detailed microcosm of this aspect of print culture, with much of her essay arranged around particular neighbourhoods in London (though the lack of a map makes it difficult for readers to gauge the relationship between and among these regions). This essay is, rightly, the most densely illustrated of the collection, and includes examples of etchings and mezzotints. Another essay with numerous helpful illustrations is David Chambers’ “Private Printing in London in the Nineteenth Century,” though some input from the editors might have usefully reduced some of this text with no diminution of value. Sometimes less is more (even in bibliography). Additional analysis, emphasizing patterns and general trends, would be a helpful complement to the descriptions of pre-Kelmscott presses in suburban areas. Furthermore, the brief references provided by this owner of the Cuckoo Hill Press and co-editor of *The Private Library* omit more recent scholarship on private presses. The illustrations are lively and varied: title-pages, prefaces, periodical covers, and a variety of the content of privately-published items, such as the title-page of an edition of twelve copies of “A Ryghte Goodlie Lyttle Booke of Frisket Fancies Set Forth for Bibliomaniacs! ... Set up and Imprinted in Leisure-time by Edwin Roffe.”

The essay requiring the greatest work by the reader is David Shaw’s “French Émigrés in the London Book Trade to 1850,” which discusses emigrant printers and booksellers, the nature of the material they produced and distributed, and the location of their businesses (though there is no map). The essay leaves one interested in the material but longing for some additional analysis and interpretation. The paper draws on a variety of bibliographic databases, notably the ESTC and the Hand Press Book database developed by members of the

Consortium of European Research Libraries. Shaw arranges his essay around selected businesses and relatively undigested lists of selected imprints, though some of the bibliographic entries are classified by subject or have brief annotations. A difficulty arises with two figures, mislabelled “tables” accompanying this essay, critical qualifiers for which are spread within the text and in a note (note 35). The figures offer yearly data by language and by subject for one company’s output for a five-year period. This is one place where greater authorial and editorial care might have aided clarity. The figures require further interpretation, such as whether or not the patterns they indicate were typical of other printers (French or otherwise) in London, or elsewhere, in the same time period.

This is a book about aspects of business and print culture history in London, and the volume has “topography” in its title. Sadly (as maps can be such an enhancement), there are only eight maps in the entire volume, and even these are not highlighted in a list of illustrations, which is entirely lacking. Three of the seven essays have no maps at all. The editors seem to be assuming a knowledge of London among their readers; it would have been helpful if the introduction had pointed to an authoritative historical atlas of the city. The reader longs for a map or maps at the beginning, or possibly as endpapers, indicating the areas covered. In addition, the index is limited primarily to personal/business names, which seems a particular pity in a volume devoted to aspects of place. In spite of these caveats, this is a volume that expands our knowledge of several important aspects of the book trade in a major metropolis. Just one of the larger questions which might accrue from this collection involves the development of spatial patterns in the printing trades in cities other than London. The online book trade indexes currently under development in several countries will provide the groundwork for such research.

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Donald C. Dickinson. *John Carter: The Taste & Technique of a Bookman*. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, 2004. 416 pp.; US \$49.95. ISBN 1-58456137B.

Donald C. Dickinson’s biography of John Carter is a welcome addition to the burgeoning number of publications on all aspects of the history