(if the number of catalogue entries is an appropriate indication) was Scottish philosopher Henry Home Kames’s *Elements of Criticism* (1762), which circulated in numerous editions over the decades.

Schimmelman’s modest hope is that the bibliography will be useful to students of American culture “in determining those concepts that helped to mold the artistic taste of early American society” (7). Its impact should be greater, however, on two counts. For those with a specialized interest in bibliography and library collections, this will be an essential reference for detailed knowledge of the breadth and focus of interest in fine art literature, publication patterns, and the public and commercial collection and circulation of such books among colonial American readers. For art and book historians, the exemplary primary research that structures *Books on Art in Early America* should contribute substantially to analyses of patterns of distribution of books and ideas to better conceive the historical context of visual and textual literacy and the currency of ideas exchanged among artists, authors, booksellers, librarians, and the political and economic elites that shaped America in the decades bracketing revolution and independence.

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Before codes and forensics became fashionable in popular media, bibliophiles were tracking historical bibliographic evidence. The complex journeys that books can go on have been suggestively recounted by seven authors in *Books on the Move: Tracking Copies through Collections and the Book Trade*. These investigations demonstrate the often perilous displacement of books and the ways in which they survive to become part of new collections. The authors, from various professional backgrounds (librarians, historians, and curators), have a common goal – to demonstrate how books are constantly in motion – and the result is an interesting collection of essays on the acquisition and diffusion of specific libraries in Europe from the sixteenth century to the twentieth.
The essays proceed from papers originally presented at the twenty-seventh Annual Conference on Book Trade History held at London in December 2006, supported by the Antiquarian Bookseller’s Association and the Bibliographical Society. These conferences have run the gamut of the book trade – music, maps and medicine, the production and design of books, distribution, printing, and auctions have all been major themes. The interaction between library and collector has emerged several times in the twenty-nine year history of the conference (in 1991, 1999, and 2000).

The bibliographic research underlying the essays is impressive, and out of the mass of details rise fascinating accounts of the threats that libraries and their books have been exposed to. Indeed, it is a wonder that books from earlier centuries have survived at all: shipwreck, theft, fire, flood, and political and religious suppression have all taken their toll. Given such external pressures on libraries, tracking provenance becomes an immense challenge. It involves looking for clues – a process that transforms books into archival evidence. What are the principal kinds of clues used here? The authors are able to trace provenance with painstaking reference to ownership markings, book plates, and most importantly catalogue lists. It is doubtful that those early cataloguers realized how precious a tool of research they were bequeathing to future scholars when, for immediate reasons of their own, they listed the books in their own or another’s possession. In fact, they created archival evidence that has proven invaluable centuries later. Fortunately, many of these early catalogues are now being published, making their unique information more accessible.

Why study book history? In the final essay, Pierre Delsaerdt explains that “to investigate the way in which books have moved from one collection to another … helps us to understand the quality of the source material preserved in special collections of our libraries” (133). This succinct explanation puts the entire book into perspective and for that reason it might have been the better choice to begin the book. After all, the purpose of the conference and thus the book was to lead to an understanding of “the shifting interactions over time between libraries, collectors and the book trade” (jacket).

Provenance history is central to these essays, but they are by no means limited to it. The topics they touch in their suitably interdisciplinary approach are manifold. For example, pursuing the provenance history of private libraries opens onto the political and social climates of different times. Whom did certain private libraries attract? What social status was attached to the use or possession of
certain books? Determining provenance can tell us much about such things. One of the most important lessons materializes as one reads about the shift from private to public libraries: university and state libraries not only acquire and disseminate knowledge but also preserve it. This is a too-often forgotten function of the library. This volume of essays reminds us of it, and of the prestige and attraction to future scholars that even a simple collection will grow to have.

*Books on the Move* is not an easy read. Although archivists and bibliographers will appreciate the intricately researched articles, the detail at times is overwhelming and the larger point sometimes difficult to ascertain. But for the specialist audience with a firm grasp of the terminology, these essays will not fail to please, assembling as they do cutting-edge discoveries from a recent conference. The proceedings of the Annual Conference on Book Trade History have been published since 1981 by Harris and Myers, joined by Mandelbrote in 2000. The books are co-published by Oak Knoll Press and the British Library, and those interested in more information on provenance history should consult the publishers’ web sites. *Books on the Move* is an important volume for those wishing to learn more about the history of books and the study of provenance.

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*Reading Gladstone* raises interesting questions about books, intellectuals, politics and power. With fully certified intellectuals now occupying the White House and Stornoway, the Ottawa residence of the leader of the opposition, and one of the United States’ least intellectual presidents busying himself with his memorial library, the case of William E. Gladstone has a certain contemporary resonance.

Although the term “intellectual” had not yet entered the English language, Gladstone was an unapologetic intellectual who served four terms as Britain’s prime minister, her greatest prime minister during the century of Britain’s greatest power, before finally retiring from that office at age eighty-four. He devoted his last years to building