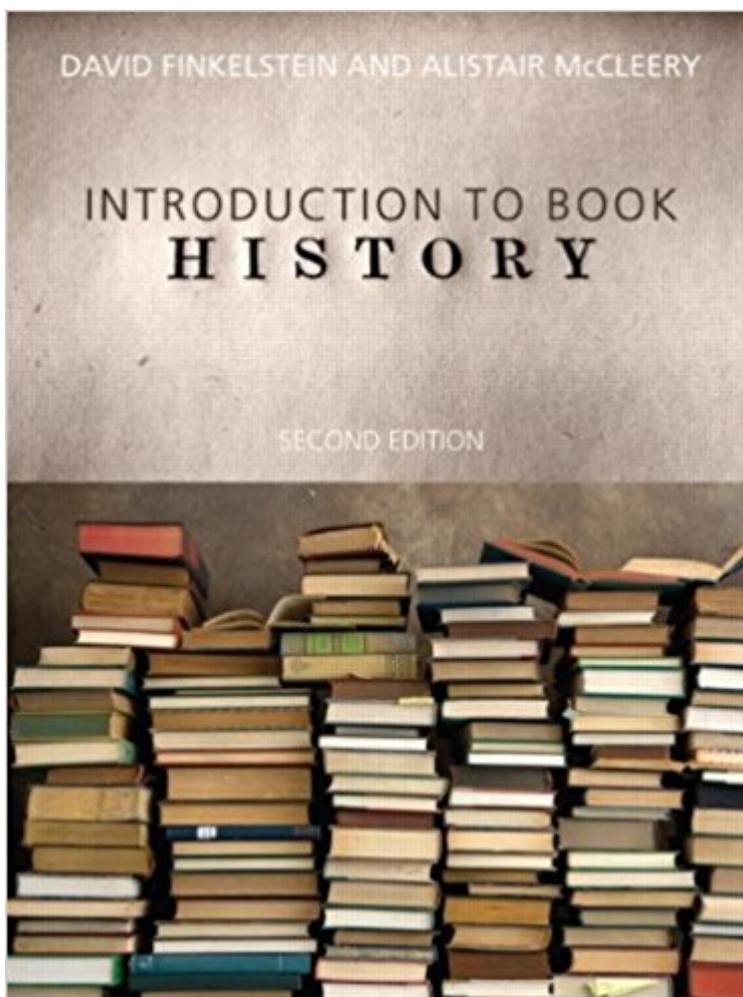


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Introduction To Book History



Synopsis

This second edition of *An Introduction to Book History* provides a comprehensive critical introduction to the development of the book and print culture. Each fully revised and updated chapter contains new material and covers recent developments in the field, including: The Postcolonial Book Censorship by states and religions Social History, and the recognition of underrepresentation of its value to book history studies Contemporary publishing Each section begins with a summary of the chapter's aims and contents, followed by a detailed discussion of the relevant issues, concluding with a summary of the chapter and points to ponder. Sections include: the history of the book orality to Literacy literacy to printing authors, authorship and authority printers, booksellers, publishers, agents readers and reading the future of the book. *An Introduction to Book History* is an ideal introduction to this exciting field of study, and is designed as a companion text to *The Book History Reader*.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 2 edition (December 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 041568806X

ISBN-13: 978-0415688062

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #774,870 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #159 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Book Industry #1069 in Books > Textbooks > Communication & Journalism > Media Studies #4555 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Communication & Media Studies

Customer Reviews

An "Introduction to Book History" is meant to be a companion text to "The Book History Reader," which is, of course, edited by Finklestein and McCleery. Knowing this before I read *An Introduction to Book History* made me a bit suspicious. The idea of "companion texts" seems to be more of a marketing scheme and of dubious value to the reader. However, I was pleasantly surprised. Finkelstein and McCleery have summarized the most important components of Book History in a readable and well-organized format. Some readers might find the format a bit pedantic, but this

format will probably be helpful for undergraduate readers being introduced to Book History for the first time or for those readers who want a general overview of the field. At the beginning of each chapter, Finkelstein and McCleery clearly state their goals for the chapter in question, "This chapter covers the main theories and general themes that have developed in the Book History studies over the past century....After a brief summary of the terminology now commonly used to describe book history at work, the chapter looks at how book historians have characterized different stages in the history of books in Western European culture...."(7). Pedantic? Absolutely, but as I mentioned earlier, this will probably be helpful to the reader making their first encounter with Book History. Readers already familiar with the ins and outs of book history will, undoubtedly, find this book dull and repetitive. But those already familiar with the subject are clearly not the intended audience of "An Introduction to Book History." Chapters address the shift from orality to literacy, the impact of print, the relationship between printers, booksellers, publishers, and agents, and the history of readers and reading.

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