British book market between 1600 and 1800. There are 26 chapters dedicated to print or printing in the West, but only 13 on manuscripts and books everywhere else (and everywhere else includes Eastern Europe and Australia). Like many such collections, it is occasionally uneven and lacking in cohesiveness. This edition of the Companion also suffers somewhat in comparison to similar endeavors that have been published more recently: Cambridge’s Companion to the History of the Book and Broadview’s Introduction to the History of the Book, for example, are more concise and cohesive, while Oxford’s Companion to the Book and Global History of the Book remains more comprehensive and manageable. A Companion to the History of the Book is, nevertheless, a valuable reference work. It makes evident, even if it does not fully elucidate, the extent to which books and their history are entangled in and dependent on contemporary literature, language, politics, and economics, as well as the enormous range of subjects and disciplines that book history encompasses. Everything from technology and law to bibliography, textual criticism, palaeography, linguistics, art, and economics inform and are informed by the book’s history, and A Companion to the History of the Book encompasses them all.—Jessie Sherwood, University of California School of Law


In The Securitization of Memorial Space: Rhetoric and Public Memory, Nicholas S. Paliewicz and Marouf Hasian Jr. train a darkly analytical lens on New York City’s Ground Zero in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, and the debate around how to memorialize the events of that day. The authors explore how various objects at Ground Zero were infused with political meaning and deployed like weapons by myriad actors in both the smaller battle for control of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum and the larger Global War on Terror. Hasian and Paliewicz are writing from backgrounds in rhetorical and critical security studies, and at times their writing can be a little opaque to those not fluent in the vocabulary of those fields. The authors also describe their approach as “object oriented,” a methodology that should sound familiar to anyone working in special collections today (23).

Here, the objects Paliewicz and Hasian are interested in are those that were left behind at and around the site of the former World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan, from huge pieces of twisted structural metal, to a damaged New York Fire Department truck; the toxic dust that covered much of Lower Manhattan for weeks; flowers and stuffed animals left as makeshift memorials took root. The reader is encouraged to think about the ways in which objects simultaneously “incite remembrance and encourage forgetfulness” (23).
While Paliewicz and Hasian spend a lot of time discussing the politics surrounding what they term the resecuritization of Ground Zero, their discussion of the use of objects to tell a story raises important questions for those of us working with objects in library and museum contexts. When a tragedy on the scale of September 11 strikes, who gets to decide how we remember, and why? Which objects are salvaged and memorialized in the service of that remembrance, and which objects are left out? The authors argue, persuasively, that the initial impromptu memorials that sprang up around Lower Manhattan were made up of objects that were deemed dangerous because they weren’t being deployed in service of the correct, hegemonic memory, as agreed upon by politicians and government officials. Too many stories were being told, too many ways of remembering were being represented. It wasn’t until these objects were removed and represented in the context of the Memorial Museum that they were deemed safe, “securitized,” having taken on a new political meaning in service of the singular official narrative of what happened, and why, on September 11, 2001. In the new, securitized memorial space, mourning had been weaponized. Ultimately, the authors argue, the entire World Trade Center master site was deliberately manipulated away from being a site of multidirectional memory and healing and toward being a site of hegemonic memory meant to bolster public support for a war.

The stakes around storytelling at the National September 11 Memorial Museum are particularly high, but the questions raised by Paliewicz and Hasian’s case study are worth considering beyond the walls of that singular institution. The authors spend a good amount of time considering the various local communities affected by the events of September 11—World Trade Center employees and their families, New York City first responders, residents of Lower Manhattan—and how their voices were, or weren’t, heard during the memorialization process. Indeed, some of those most affected were not sold on the merits of a permanent memorial, let alone an attendant museum. Perhaps most saliently, Paliewicz and Hasian ask, “Who is going to help residents mourn and bring closure to this trauma in situations where the institutional authorities may not want to see that closure?”

This serves as an important reminder of the connection between the objects on display and the people behind the story those objects were arranged to tell, between the institution that stewards those objects and the communities that those objects come from. As curators and caretakers of objects, telling stories with our collections is a huge part of what we do. Finding and honoring the human element of those stories should never be far from the front of our minds.—Lena Newman, Columbia University

The archival community continues to expand its reliance on digital tools to yield dynamic user engagement and increased access to collections. Editors Edward Benoit, III and Alexandra Eveleigh posit that the advancement of web technology during the last two decades increased the scope and impact of participatory archives. Benoit, currently a professor at the School of Library & Information Science at Louisiana State University, is the founder of the Virtual Footlocker Project, focusing on digital tools for soldiers to document their military experience. Eveleigh, Collections Information Manager at the Wellcome Collection, focuses her research on digital humanities and the impact of user participation.

In their introduction, the editors briefly describe analog participatory archives such as mobilizing groups of transcribers or indexers, and the transformation to virtual access by reference to the Polar Bear Expedition Finding Aid. Web-based intellectual and physical access modifies public services functionalities by “facilitating asynchronous interactions between archivists and users” (1). The editors discuss a range of participatory archives projects, including engagement with digital surrogates, crowd-sourced transcription or metadata creation for digital content, and developing relationships with communities in collaborative collection development. These activities are unified under the concept of participatory heritage, which is both applicable to traditional definitions as being of the past, but also to contemporary movements associated with a community. The terms *participatory archives* and *community archives* are used interchangeably throughout the book.

The book’s structure is a compilation of 18 essays grouped around four concepts: social tagging and commenting; transcription; crowdfunding and research; and alternative, activist communities. The first two concepts represent engagement with the records, the third represents engagement with stakeholders, while the last represents engagement with the creators of the records. Each section is presented as a capsule with a literature review, theoretical analysis, and case studies. This capsule structure offers the reader the ability to consult the book to learn about a specific type of user engagement. Case studies of interest include: community engagement for photograph identification between Library and Archives Canada and indigenous communities (chapter 4); crowdsourcing description to increase discoverability of audiovisual materials at the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (chapter 8); and contemporary acquisition of materials related to the 2015 Baltimore protests (chapter 16). The book’s 24 scholarly contribu-

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2. For digital materials relating to the Polar Bear Expedition, see https://bentley.umich.edu/research/catalogs-databases/polar-bear/.