

of the most useful content is composed of real-life examples of laws or situations affecting museums. The author has successfully updated the examples to include recent court cases and case studies. Some topics in this section—for example, information on forgeries—have been expanded; other sections include material primarily repeated from previous editions. The appendix does offer relevant examples of forms that may be of use for administrators on topics covered in this section.

The final section of the work, “Heritage,” details specific laws and regulations related to natural heritage protection, laws in the United States that protect cultural heritage, and international cultural heritage protection. As in previous sections, Phelan provides definitions of the laws and includes real-life examples to illustrate how the laws are enacted in a practical situation. This section includes most of the same material found in other editions but is better organized for topical themes. Its greatest value is its ability to synthesize in an easy-to-read manner national and international laws that affect museum collections and personnel.

This edition ultimately covers many of the same topics found in previous editions. The primary difference is its more concise organization, updated examples of relevant case studies, and expansion on topics of current interest. The decrease in forms from previous editions is disappointing, but overall this edition continues to provide valuable and relevant information required by museum administrators. The author was successful in ascertaining which topics in the field have become more relevant and in need of further clarification. The intended audience continues to be those who are studying to enter the museum profession or museum professionals who need a quick reference guide for relevant terms or examples of complex administrative situations they may be facing.—*Libby Hertenstein, Bowling Green State University*

Yuming He. *Home and the World: Editing the “Glorious Ming” in Woodblock-Printed Books of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries.* Cambridge, Mass.; London: Harvard University Asia Center, 2013. xi, 343 p. ISBN 978-0674066809. \$35.96

Home and the World: Editing the “Glorious Ming” in Woodblock-Printed Books of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries is both a history of Ming book culture and a thoughtful meditation on the practice of book history. Its prose style is scholarly, but enjoying *Home and the World* does not require prior knowledge of a specialized discipline. Yuming He offers an engaging introduction to the book as an artifact of culture and reveals the reception and use of texts given different social and personal contexts.

The late Ming was a fascinating period in the growth of book consumption. Expanded population, urbanity, and commercialism gave rise to new book types and

uses. Demand for multiples fueled the appearance of woodblock print publications. He examines the effects of increased circulation and the use of reproduction techniques on textual (in)accuracy and transmission. He explicates the ways books might be used in both the public and domestic sectors. During this period, resources designed for the nonscholar, such as encyclopedias, anthologies, miscellanies, and texts to accompany party games, entered the product landscape. He shows books to be manifestations of and influences on contemporary fashions. As both a tool of the intelligentsia and a view to the outside world, the book featured identities of cosmopolitanism and modernity. The dissemination of knowledge about the other is discussed in relation to understanding of the self.

He's methodology uses books—both Ming books and commentary on Ming books—as evidence. He looks closely at semantics in the texts themselves to understand reader engagement. Individual books become case studies to uncover the meaning and relevance of different genres to consumers. Thus, He paints an evocative vision of late Ming reader response to book objects and book culture. Printing histories lend assumptions about popularity and allow He to trace the evolution of book consumption. When dissected with value judgments aside, subsequent commentary on Ming books supplies information on the social forces behind Ming book culture.

One of He's driving arguments for reconceptualizing Ming books is that Qing dynasty biases dismissed Ming books for their textual inaccuracy, leaving Ming books subject to neglect and misunderstanding. He illustrates how Ming books pandered to a rhetorically playful and subversive audience. Some book categories were not intended to be textually faithful; rather they were meant to inspire intellectual games and reflection through the remixing, comparing, and contrasting of canonical works. The interactive design of Ming book layout compels us to reconsider the functionality of the book object and the organization of texts during the dynasty.

As a special collections library resource, *Home and the World* is at once a document of Ming book history and a demonstration of book history's place in contemporary scholarship. It offers an overview of Ming books through their technological, recreational, and learning attributes. In so doing, this work presents thoughtful and eloquent insights into the circumstantial factors of book production and reception. It serves as an excellent demonstration of the cross-disciplinary nature of book history and the multifaceted applications of examining material culture. He's insightful approach is of value not only to book historians and bibliographers but to anyone interested in the arts and humanities. He looks at reader response as a dynamic, ever-evolving creature that constantly reimagines the book and its employment. The introduction to this work could stand alone as a primer on the

methods of book history and on appreciating the book as a product of its makers and their society.—Allison Jai O'Dell, *University of Miami Libraries*

Jeffrey T. Schnapp and Matthew Battles. *The Library Beyond the Book*. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2014. 176 p. ISBN 978-0674725034. \$17.97

Schnapp and Battles' *The Library Beyond the Book* is a visually and intellectually playful look at what libraries can become and what they can do as humanity traverses the threshold of the information age. The authors wink at how the online information bomb of modernity intersects with the physical space of a library. Schnapp and Battles are clearly critical of the post-book visioning and "excessive exuberance of techno-utopians" (56), and those who dwell in the "constraints of bibliophilia and bookish nostalgia" (18). Rather than blowing book stacks to bits as one might envisage from the title, the authors instead focus on a compelling middle-of-the-road suggestion: libraries just need to be realigned.

This notion of realignment, Schnapp and Battles state, comes from a practical look at how societies adjust to media revolutions. Rather than providing a proscriptive direction for how to do this (a refreshing change from Walt Crawford and Michael Gorman's 1995 book, *Future Libraries: Dreams, Madness, & Reality*), the authors build a pattern book—component parts of libraries called "windows" and various instantiations of libraries called "scenarios"—to uncover what people want most from libraries; those fundamental qualities of libraries past and present that can be reimaged for the future.

The authors' disassembly of librarieness, an act they relate to steampunk, is the true pleasure of this book. A book carrel is cast as a "microcosm of retreat and enclosure within the macrocosm of the library," (45) which hints at the authors' idea of the library as both "cemetery and livebrary: a place of intensified, deeper sociality and commune, a place of mummification that equals a place of worship and constant renewal, reactivation, and conversation across the centuries" (29). It is also in the "windows" section where the visual acrobatics of the book design enliven and enhance the text. Each library component warrants a delicious two-page peach-colored spread with multiple illustrations.

Additional treats are the "provocations," which run down the right side of odd-numbered pages. The entry for "Reading Taverns" envisions that "the library's basement is transformed into a nocturnal reading room which hosts book-related social activities as well as performances, readings, and poetry slams. The Reading Tavern is the home for local literacy clubs whose job it is to curate its nooks, crannies, tables, and benches" (57). Some of the provocations are repellant, such as