

Evaluation of Grant Committee: An excellent proposal on a fascinating subject, and with credible goals. The author is a very productive junior scholar whose terrific and useful project, including digitization of texts, will interest scholars of humanism and the history of the book. This project focuses on humanism, classical tradition, and marginalia—it is a very traditional project but expertly described and with sufficient detail to be convincing. The proposal also explains how this particular investigation will contribute to a larger scholarly project.

Annotated classics in the John Rylands Library: some new discoveries

(Junior Scholar, 2014)

The Christie and Spencer collections in the John Rylands Library (Manchester, UK) are particularly rich in annotated copies of early printed books, and these collections remain seriously underused by modern scholars. Having recently undertaken a preliminary census of the incunable holdings of a single classical author (Horace), I have discovered several items of great potential significance, the most notable of which relate to Angelo Poliziano and Willibald Pirckheimer. Christie 47 i 9 is a copy of a 1490 Venice *Opera* owned and annotated by the Nuremberg humanist Willibald Pirckheimer. The annotations, which are signed and dated, relate to rhetoric courses taught at Padua by Joannes Calphurnius and Raphael Regius in 1490-2. This fact remains uncatalogued and the notes have never before, to my knowledge, been studied. The second item of great significance is Inc. 3303, a copy of the first printing of Landino's Horace commentary edition (Florence: Miscomini, 1482). Concealed by the bookplate is the handwritten note: 'Notulae marginales, et interlineares MSS. sunt manu Angaeli [sic] Politiani viri celeberrimi...'. This attribution does not appear in any catalogue and the book has never, to my knowledge, been studied. The notes in question are numerous and relate mainly to the *Sermones* and *Epistulae* (on which Poliziano taught a course at the Florentine Studio ca. 1484-5). My initial investigations, both on the basis of the handwriting and the content of the notes, suggest that there is very likely a connection to Poliziano, and although the notes are possibly not in fact in his hand, they may very well be by one of his students (many of whom imitated his handwriting: see e.g. Supino, 'La scrittura di Angelo Poliziano...').

These discoveries, along with many other items of great significance that have been catalogued but not studied (for example Casaubon's annotated Virgil; Parrhasius's annotated *Scholia* on Homer; Broukhusius's annotated Horace; and a large number of unattributed annotated editions) represent a fraction of the undiscovered riches of the Christie and Spencer collections. My current post, as Research Associate in the John Rylands Research Institute, places me in an ideal position to undertake a thorough census of annotated classics held in these collections and to disseminate the findings to other scholars. An RSA grant would enable me to work closely on the Pirckheimer and 'Poliziano' editions, providing me with high resolution digital scans of the books, and spectral imaging of concealed handwriting (e.g. in the latter, an *ex-libris* on the first flyleaf concealed by a pasted down blank leaf): my findings will be disseminated through articles which I will submit to major journals, such as the *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*. The grant would also enable me to begin to digitize and work on other items of significance that emerge from my survey. For this, it will be necessary to undertake research visits to Oxford and London to undertake comparative analysis of manuscripts and annotations in early printed editions of classical texts. (In the first instance, autograph

manuscripts and annotated editions of Poliziano at the British Library and Bodleian.)

This project will form part of a larger research project, entitled 'The Design and Use of Early Printed Commentary Editions of the Classics', for which I am preparing a large grant application to the European Research Council. My research is informed by an interest in the materiality of books and the contexts of their consumption, particularly in the domains of humanist pedagogy and scholarship. I look at reading practices in institutional and non-institutional contexts, and how these were shaped by the print presentations of texts and the commercial and cultural forces that motivated them. The project will develop the interests that informed my recent book *Jodocus Badius Ascensius: Commentary Commerce and Print in the Renaissance* (Oxford: OUP, 2013).

The award of an RSA grant would enable me to lay the groundwork for this project, as well as delivering a tangible outcome in the form of an online publication (in pdf form) of a finding list of early printed annotated classics held at the Rylands. It would also enable me to connect through my established network of contacts with other major projects (notably the 'Annotated Books Online' project run by Arnoud Visser), and to begin to make arrangements for a workshop on annotated editions at the Rylands, which I plan to organize for Autumn 2014.

Timetable: 3 months

Month 1: Accomplish preliminary census of annotated editions of classical texts in the Special Collections of the John Rylands Library; complete digitization of the 'Poliziano' and Pickheimer Horace editions, and other significant finds that emerge from the survey of holdings.

Months 2-3: Research visits to British Library and Bodleian to undertake comparative analysis of annotated editions; begin organization of workshop to disseminate findings and connect with existing research projects; online publication of finding list for annotated editions of classics at the Rylands.

Budget

High resolution digital photography of annotated editions (complete digitization of 'Poliziano's' Horace and Pirkheimer's Horace; and partial digitization of other significant finds that emerge from the survey of holdings); spectral imaging as required.

John Rylands Library (JPEG high-res images @£288.00 for 100 images, £96 per 100 thereafter (staff rate)):

$(384*2)+288=£1056 / \$1736$

Library visits (estimated expenses include in each case: train travel from and to Manchester, two nights' accommodation, subsistence)

Bodleian, Oxford

Travel: £100

Accommodation (2 nights): £150

Subsistence: £60

Subtotal: £310

British Library, London

Travel: £80

Accommodation (2 nights): £150

Subsistence: £60

Subtotal: £290

Subtotal: £600 / \$986

Total: £1656 / \$2722