During the four centuries when printed paper was the only means by which texts could be carried across time and distance, everyone engaged in politics, education, religion, and literature believed that reading helped to shape the minds, opinions, attitudes, and ultimately the actions, of readers.

William St Clair investigates how the national culture can be understood through a quantitative study of the books that were actually read. Centred on the romantic period in the English-speaking world, but ranging across the whole print era, he reaches startling conclusions about the forces that determined how ideas were carried, through print, into wider society.

St Clair provides an in-depth investigation of information, made available here for the first time, on prices, print runs, intellectual property, and readerships gathered from over fifty publishing and printing archives. He offers a picture of the past very different from those presented by traditional approaches. Indispensable to all students of English literature, book history, and the history of ideas, the study’s conclusions and explanatory models are highly relevant to the issues we face in the age of the internet.

THE READING NATION IN
THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

WILLIAM ST CLAIR
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Abbreviations

Ac from the author’s collection of books, advertisements, other print not available or easily discoverable elsewhere, and manuscript commonplace books.


Altick, Writers Richard D. Altick, Writers, Readers, and Occasions (Columbus, Ohio 1989).


Arber, Transcript A Transcript of the Registers of the Worshipful Company of Stationers, 1640–1708 AD (1913).


BL British Library.

Baldick Chris Baldick, In Frankenstein’s Shadow (Oxford 1987).
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Author</th>
<th>Work Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bennett, 1558 to 1603</td>
<td>H. S. Bennett, English Books and Readers 1558 to 1603 (Cambridge 1965).</td>
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<tr>
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<td>English Books and Readers 1603 to 1640 (Cambridge 1970).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documents’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Book</td>
<td>The Black Book or Corruption Unmasked (1820).</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Blackwood)</td>
<td>Mrs Oliphant and Mrs Gerald Porter, William Blackwood and his Sons (Edinburgh 1897 and 1898).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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List of abbreviations


Bodleian Bodleian Library, Oxford.


CUL Cambridge University Library.

Cavallo and Chartier, Guglielmo Cavallo and Roger Chartier, eds., *A History of Reading in the West* (1999).

Chambers, Tim Chilcott, *A Publisher and his Circle* (1972).


Clare's Autobiographical Writings, John Clare's *Autobiographical Writings*, edited by Eric Robinson (1983).


Constable, Archibald Constable and his Literary Correspondents (Edinburgh 1873).


Cooper, The Life of Thomas Cooper Written by Himself (1872).


DNB, Dictionary of National Biography.

List of abbreviations

Darnton, Forbidden

Darnton and Roche

David, Intellectual Property

Davidson
Cathy N. Davidson, ed., Reading in America (1989).

Deloney

Dibdin

Dickson and Edmond
Robert Dickson and John Philip Edmond, Annals of Scottish Printing (1890).

Dodsley

Dorne

Dunton
The Life and Errors of John Dunton (1818 edition).

Duppa
(Richard Duppa), An Address to Parliament on the Claims of Authors to Copyright (1813).

Duval

ESTC
English Short Title Catalogue.

Elfenbein
Andrew Elfenbein, Byron and the Victorians (Cambridge 1995).

Eliot

Evans
Charles Evans, American Bibliography, A Chronological Dictionary of all the Books, Pamphlets, and Periodical Publications Printed
List of abbreviations

in the United States of America from the Genesis of Printing in 1629 down to and including the Year 1820 (Chicago 1903).

Feather, Publishing

Feather, Publishing, Piracy, and Politics

Feldman

Fell's Kelly

Finkelstein and McCleery

Floud and McCloskey

Fontaine

Ford

Forry

Fox

Frost
Thomas Frost, *Forty Years’ Recollections* (1880).

Gadd

Garside, Raven, and Schöwerling
List of abbreviations

Geduld


Gettman


Gilmont


Gilmore


Gilson


Glasgow

Glasgow University Library.

Gohdes


Gomme, *Bibliographical Notes and Literary Curiosities*


Goodhugh


Goodrich


Graham


Green


Greg, *Companion*


Greg and Boswell


Gregory

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<tr>
<td>Frederick William Hackwood</td>
<td><em>William Hone, His Life and Times</em> (1912).</td>
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<td>Thomas Hughes</td>
<td><em>Memoir of Daniel Macmillan</em> (1883).</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Rylands</td>
<td>John Rylands University Library, Manchester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knight, Old Printer</td>
<td>Charles Knight, <em>The Old Printer and the Modern Press</em> (1854).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>‘Henry Knox and the London Book-store in Boston 1771–1774, transcriptions of</td>
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correspondence by the editor’, *Proceedings of Massachusetts Historical Society*, June 1928.

Korte, Schneider, and Lethbridge

Kubler

Lackington

Leavis
Q. D. Leavis, *Fiction and the Reading Public* (1939).

Lee
(Lee, John) *Memorial for the Bible Societies in Scotland* (Edinburgh 1824).

Lehmann-Haupt

Liber A
Typed transcription of the unpublished Stationers’ Company confidential ledger known as Liber A. Pollard papers 304, Bodleian.

Linton

Linton, Memories

(Lister)

Liveling

Livingston

Lockhart

Love

Loewenstein
Joseph Loewenstein, *The Author’s Pen, Printing and the Prehistory of Copyright* (Chicago 2002).

Lowndes
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<tr>
<td>McDougall</td>
<td>Warren McDougall, ‘Smugglers, Reprinters and Hot Pursuers’ in Myers and Harris, <em>Spreading</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Shelley, <em>Letters</em></td>
<td><em>The Letters of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley</em> edited by Betty T. Bennett (Baltimore 1980–8).</td>
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</table>
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Myers and Harris, Spreading Robin Myers and Michael Harris, eds., *Spreading the Word, The Distribution Networks of Print, 1550–1850* (1990).


na information not available.

NLS National Library of Scotland.

NYPL New York Public Library.


Newberry Newberry Library, Chicago.


PMLA *Proceedings of the Modern Languages Association of America.*
List of abbreviations

Plant

Plomer, *Wills*

Pomeroy

Potter

Pottinger

Raven, *London Booksellers*

Raven, *Export*

Rees and Britton

Remer

Richardson
Brian Richardson, *Printing, Writers and Readers in Renaissance Italy* (Cambridge 1999).

Roberts

Robinson

Rogers

Rollins, *Phoenix Nest*

Rollins, *England’s Helicon*

Rose
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List of abbreviations


Select Committee Minutes of Evidence Taken before the Select Committee on the Copyright Acts (House of Commons 1818).


List of abbreviations


Smiles: Samuel Smiles, Memoir and Correspondence of the late John Murray (1891).


Southey, Life: Charles Cuthbert Southey, The Life and Correspondence of Robert Southey (1830).

Sparke: (Sparke, Michael) Scintilla, or A Light Broken into darke Warehouses (1641), reprinted by Arber iv, 35–8.


Tegg’s Select Library: A Select Library of Books . . . now offered at greatly reduced prices, By Thomas Tegg bound in a copy of Locke’s An Essay on Human
List of abbreviations

Understanding . . with notes (Twenty-fifth edition 1825), Ac.

Thin

Thomson

Thompson
Ralph Thompson, American Literary Annuals and Gift Books (New York 1936).

Tieken-Boon van Ostade
Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade, ed., Two Hundred Years of Lindley Murray (Münster 1996).

Timperley

Todd

Todd and Bowden

Townley
James Townley, Biblical Anecdotes (1813).

Typographia
T.C. Hansard, Typographia (1825).

Vincent

Vizitelly
Henry Vizitelly, Glances Back Through Seventy Years (1893).

Watt

Webb

Welsh
Charles Welsh, A Bookseller of the Last Century (1885).

Wheatley
Henry B. Wheatley, Prices of Books: An Inquiry into the Changes in the Price of Books which have occurred in England at Different Periods (1898).

White
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