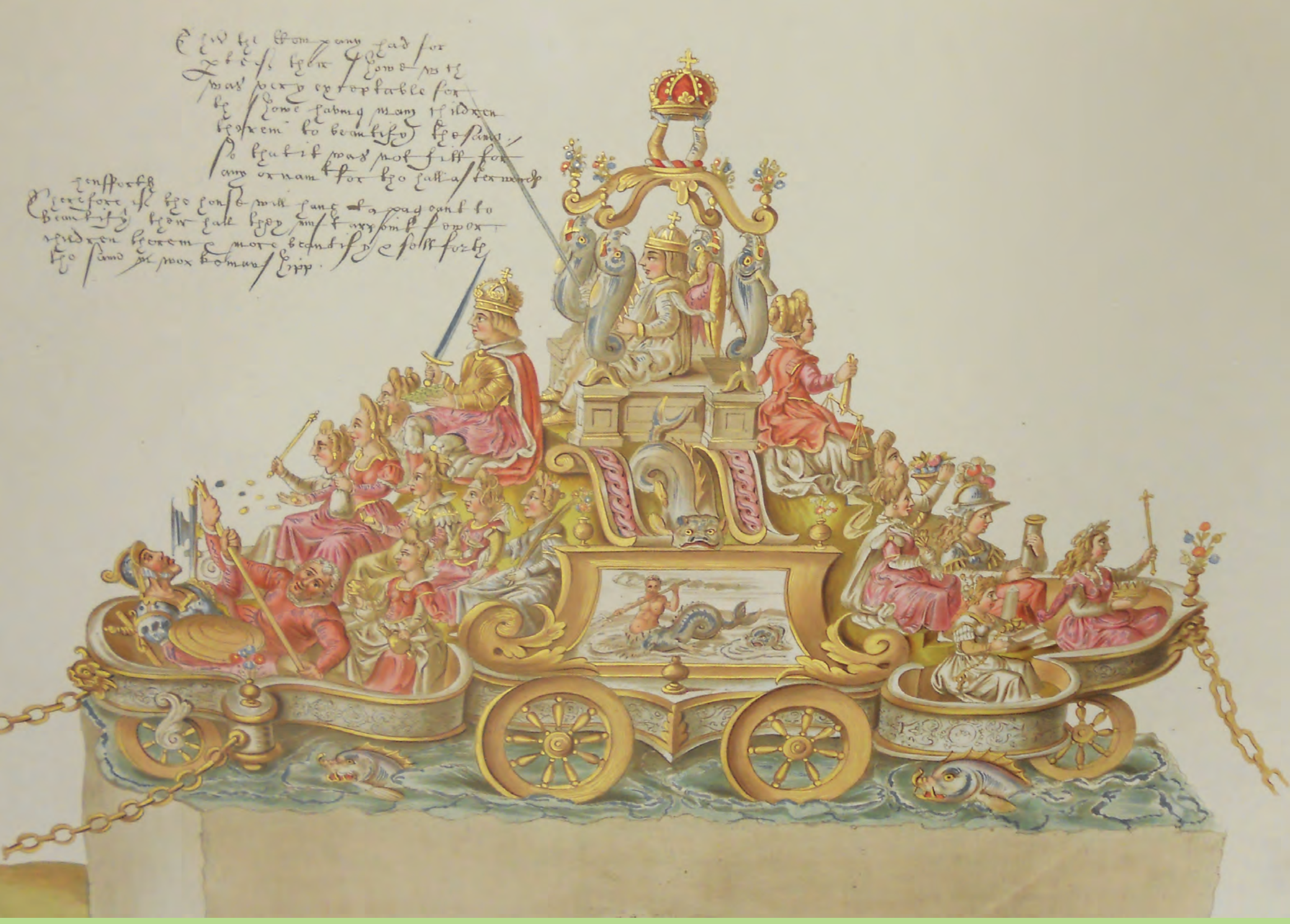

Performing the Book

Multi-Media Histories of Early Modern Britain

February 11, 2011 Rutgers University, Alexander Library, 4th floor 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ

Recent scholarship in media theory, digital culture, and the history of the material text has opened up new ways of thinking about intersections of pen, print, sound, and performance in the early modern period. The categories of "new" and "multi" media, in particular, gather special relevance in the multifarious literary and performative terrain of sixteenth-, seventeenth-, and eighteenth-century Britain. This conference offers an opportunity for scholars in disciplines including English, Music, History, and Performance Studies to address the following questions:

How can scholarship on acoustic and performative multi-media in early modern Britain contribute to or intervene in methodologies associated with the history of the book? How can we theorize the categories of "book" and "text" in relation to the circulation and performance of sound? How can studies of the early modern acoustic world nuance the received wisdom about bibliographic and literary cultures and traditions? What media technologies and protocols were understood as new during this period, and how were they associated with literary, musical, or theatrical collectives? What does early modern aural performance tell us, or ask us to reconsider, about the hybridity of media from Gutenberg to Google?

9:00	**Registration**
9:30	**Alastair Bellany** (Director, Rutgers British Studies Center), Welcoming Remarks
9:45–11:00	**Christopher Marsh** (Queen's University, Belfast), "Balladry as a Multi-Media Matrix: Best-Selling Songs and Their Significance in Seventeenth-Century England"
11:15–12:45	**Multi-Media Adaptation**
	Juliet Fleming (New York University), "The Pre-Historic Renaissance"
	Scott Trudell (Rutgers University), "'Drown'd in noyse': Multi-Mediation in the Lord Mayor's Show"
	Michael Plunkett (City University of New York), "A Queen's Masque in Chaucer's House"
	Panel chair: Allison Deutermann (City University of New York)
12:45–2:00	Catered lunch
2:00–3:15	**Bruce R. Smith** (University of Southern California), "Within, Without, Withinwards: The Circulation of Sound in Shakespeare's Theater"
3:45–5:00	**Acoustic Circulation**
	Thomas Ward (University of Pennsylvania), "Properti and Proper Voisez in Sikstiņþ Senturi Speling Reform"
	Leslie C. Dunn (Vassar College), "Catches and Snatches: Tuning in to the Early Modern Song Network"
	Tessie Prakas (Yale University), "Musical Passports: The Circulation of Liturgical Sound in the Seventeenth Century"
	Panel chair: Carter Mathes (Rutgers University)
5:15–6:30	**Response and Discussion**
	R. Malcolm Smuts (University of Massachusetts, Boston)
	Gary Tomlinson (University of Pennsylvania)
	Moderator: Meredith McGill (Rutgers University)
6:30	Reception

This event is free and open to the public. To register, or if you are interested in attending via live webcast, please email Scott Trudell (trudell@eden.rutgers.edu) by February 7, 2011.

Rutgers British Studies Center

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