

OLLSCOIL NA HÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

Second Semester Examination 2002-2003 (Summer)
 History: Third Arts and Visiting

HI314: History of the Book in the Industrial Age

Answer one question from section A
Answer two questions from section B
All questions carry equal credit

Time Allowed: TWO HOURS

Section A

1. How does Simon Eliot's quantitative work relate to Robert Darnton's theoretical model?
2. Can you make a convincing case against the argument that there was a revolution in print culture in the nineteenth century?

Section B

3. 'However notwithstanding this my mother being able to read and write a little though in some instance hardly legible yet she taught me to read at a very early age I cannot Remember learning the Alphabate but when I was four years of age or there about my Godmother presented me with a new book it was the reading made easy it had many pictures in it which I Remember I was much delighted with this takeing my attention there was nothing suited so well as my book and by this means I was sone able to read it without spelling.' (autobiography of Joseph Mayett, b.1783) How much can historians learn about working-class reading experiences from surviving memoirs, such as that of Joseph Mayett?
4. To what extent had reading habits changed between 1780 and 1860?
5. Which form of literacy was more useful to the working classes: being able to read, or being able to write?
6. 'Literature should be a profession, not a trade.' (George Henry Lewes, 'On the condition of authors in England, Germany and France', 1847) Why?
7. 'A life of literature is not all bright sky and warm sunshine; but how much of both there are... In the midst of sickness and sorrow, it may be a place of toil and trial - but it is a solace too; perhaps less a toil and more a solace than any other profession, save that which brings a man immediately into communion with his Maker.' (J.W. Kaye, 'Pendennis, or the Literary Profession', 1850). Was authorship a rewarding vocation in the nineteenth century?