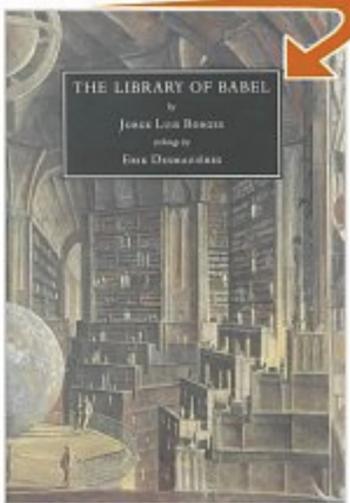


SEARCH INSIDE!™



The Library of Babel (Pocket Paragon) (Hardcover)

by [Jorge Luis Borges](#) (Author), [Erik Desmazieres](#) (Author), [Andrew Hurley](#) (Translator),
of an indefinite, perhaps infinite

★★★★★ (8 customer reviews)

Availability: CURRENTLY

I return again to bookmarking Borges. Except now I have made my bookmarks public. Why do I believe in you, reading these notes. 6 April 1:10 am



Keep connected to what's happening in the world of books by signing up for Amazon.com new releases in your favorite categories, popular pre-orders and bestsellers, exclusive

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3   <head>
4     <meta charset="UTF-8">
5     <title>Title goes here</title>
6   </head>
7   <body>
8
9   </body>
10 </html>
```

BOOKS!!

ECL 596: Professor Jessica Pressman
Fall 2025

Day 7/8: Amaranth Borsuk, *The Book*, ch. 1
— Book as Object

ADMIN

- **BLOGS**— some of you only have 2!
- **More Extra credit: stacks experience & Living Writers series**
- **REMINDER: no class on Tuesday**
- **Office hours.... Email me to set up additional times.**



— ∞ —

ECL STUDENT SURVEY

Help ECL plan events for you!

RESPONSES DUE SEP. 19

BE SURE TO SIGN INTO YOUR STUDENT GMAIL BEFORE SCANNING!

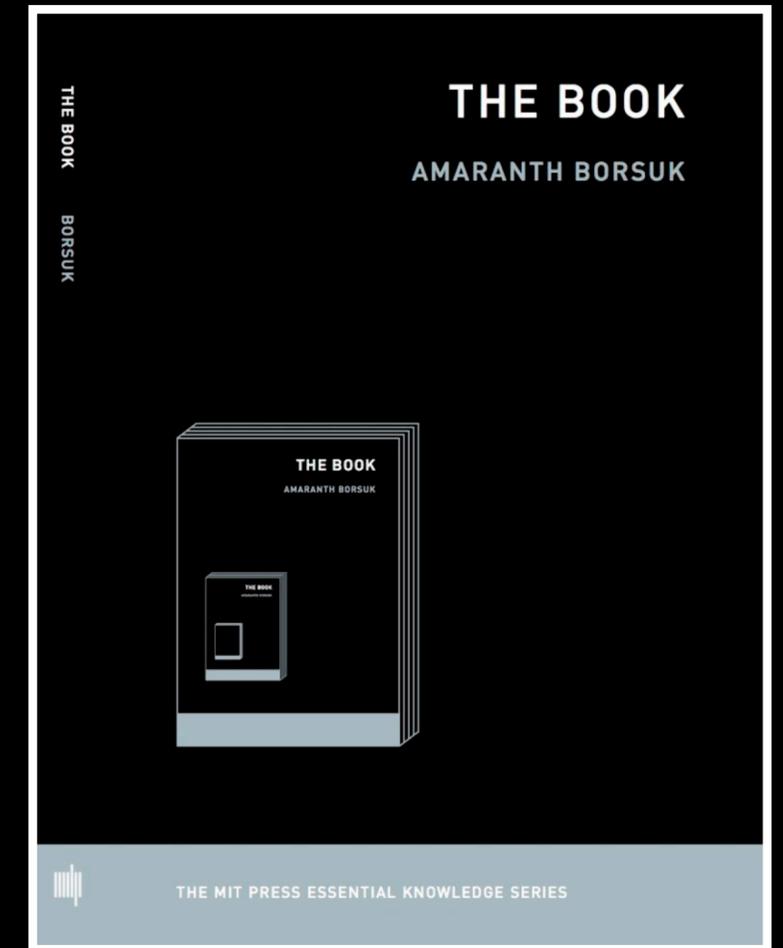
The image shows a promotional flyer for an ECL Student Survey. At the top, there is a decorative horizontal line with a central infinity symbol. Below this, the title 'ECL STUDENT SURVEY' is written in a large, bold, serif font. Underneath the title, the text 'Help ECL plan events for you!' is written in a smaller, handwritten-style font. Below that, the deadline 'RESPONSES DUE SEP. 19' is printed in a small, all-caps, sans-serif font. The central focus of the flyer is a large QR code, which is framed by a white border with pinkish-red corner brackets. At the bottom of the flyer, a note in all-caps, sans-serif font reads 'BE SURE TO SIGN INTO YOUR STUDENT GMAIL BEFORE SCANNING!'. The background of the flyer is white, with a light pinkish-red curved shape at the bottom.

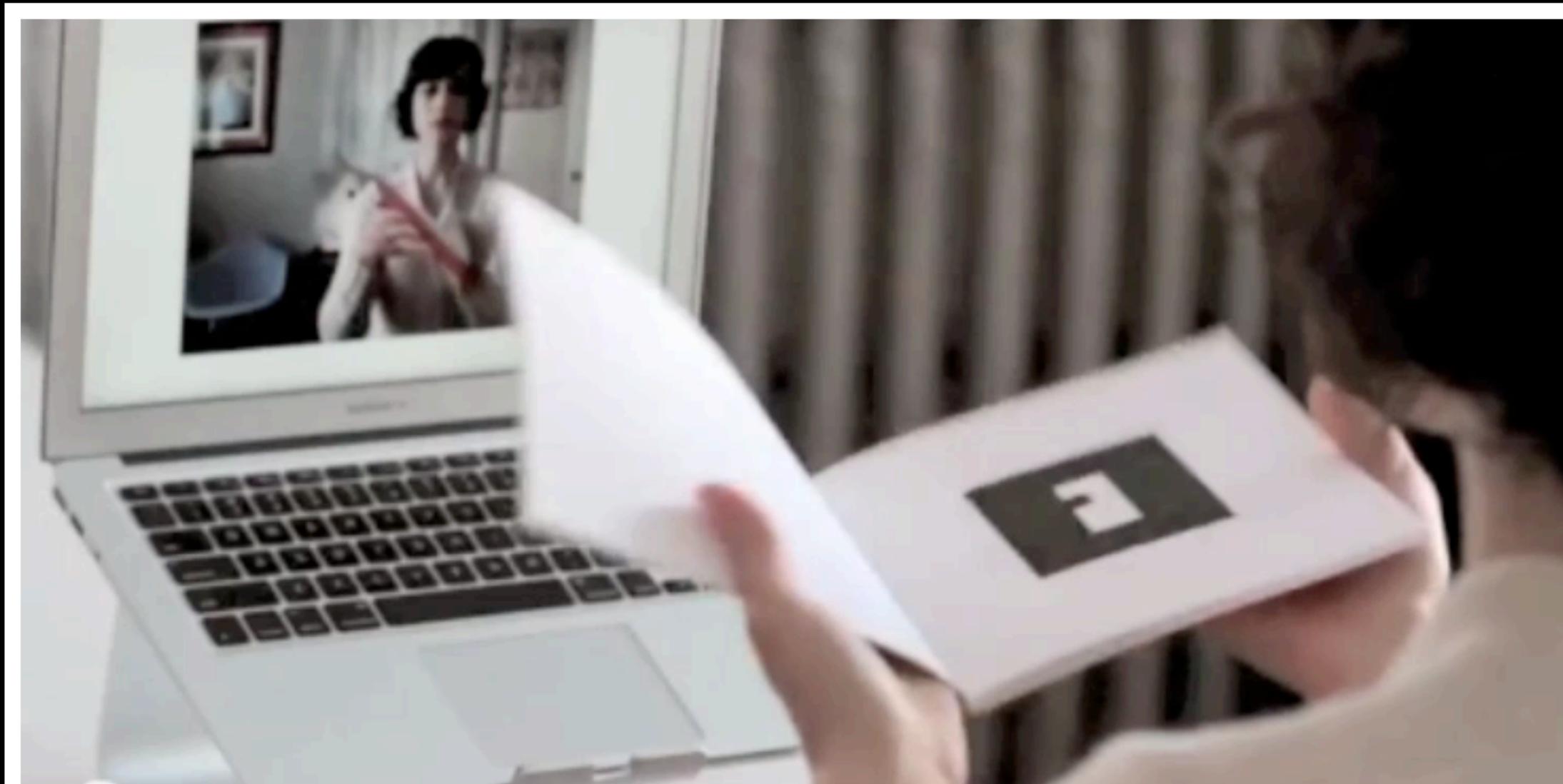
Take-aways/Questions from Special Collections visit?

Amaranth Borsuk

- Poet
- Scholar
- Electronic literature/book history

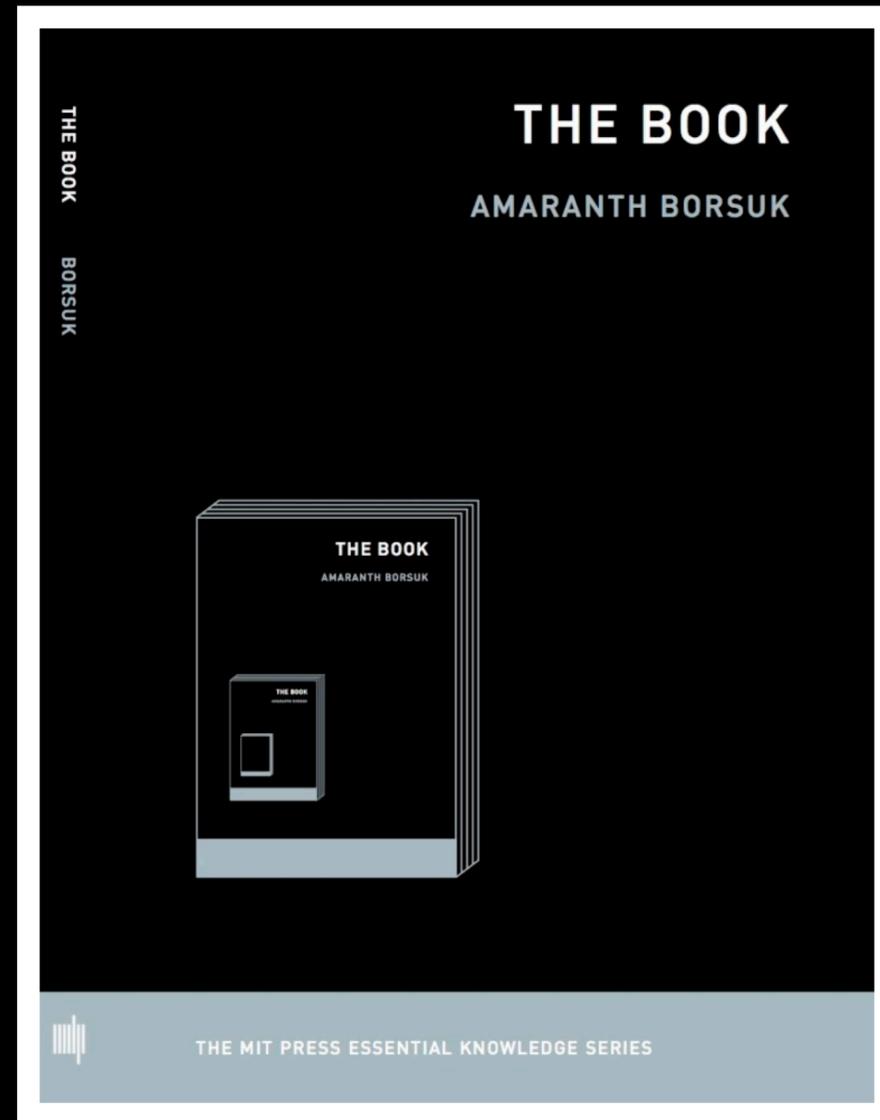
- **she's coming to campus in MARCH!





Amaranth Borsuk and Brad Bouse,
Between Page and Screen (2012)

Places to start in the reading?



From your blogs— organic material

- RAINE: “The reeds, the animals, and the trees which compose common book media interact with eventual readers as de-autonomized bodies – traces of once-life and the conditions which created their death. The plant or animal’s body is remediated from living to dead. This exploitation interrelates with the ecological violence of capitalism, imperialism, colonialism, and their social permutations....Borsuk’s materiality study has made me more aware of the ecocritical, ethical, and thanatological implications of the human-animal-technology circuit in disseminating information and encoding meanings through trans-species interactions with book media.

From your blogs— change

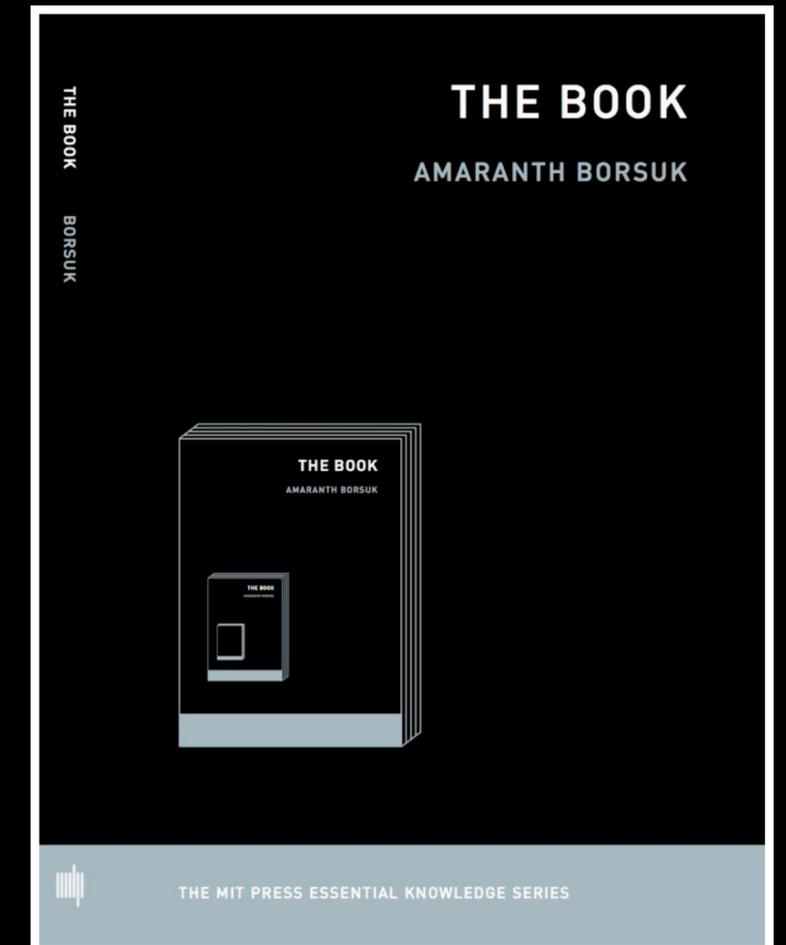
- *EVERY*: The book has never been a static object and is continuously recreated by humans to cater to the shifting needs of time and various societal climates.

book history *as* history

- “paper did not reach the west until 751. Its arrival was fortuitous, circuitous, and linked to the spread of the Islamic Empire.” (30)
- “It was ultimately through Islamic Spain that Europe would receive paper in the twelfth century, at which point the codex had become the dominant book structure” (31)

First mobile device

“The book, after all, is a portable data storage and distribution method, and it arises as a byproduct of the shift from oral to literate culture, a process that takes centuries and is informed through cultural exchange, both peaceful and forcible.” (1)



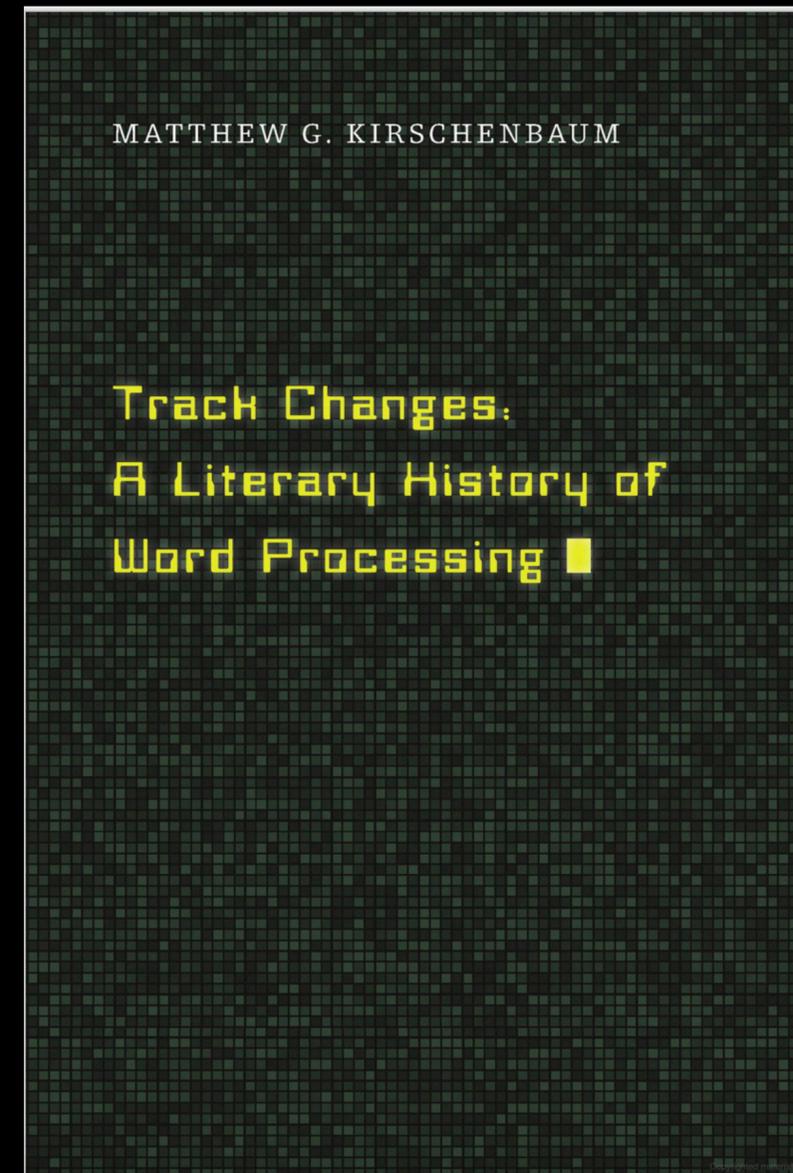
From your blogs— feedback loop of writing and media

- ALLEA: I had never considered that writing developed alongside the birth of book forms. For some reason, I just assumed writing simply developed from language and someone trying to visualize that language, as is the case in the creation of Hangeul. I also certainly never considered how that could also shape a language. When Borsuk brought up cuneiform, I never considered that it was because of the resources available, being the reed for a stylus, that the Sumerians' written language, composed of lines and triangles, was a result of it. It was more similar to early pictographic languages like hieroglyphics and Chinese.

Matthew Kirschenbaum

“I accept that computers and word processing are aspects of the literary, and thus I try to help reconstruct the way in which this came to be and its significance for how we think about the material act of writing” (xii)

-word processors “ by which I mean hardware and software for facilitating the composition, revision, and formatting of free-form prose as part of an individual author’s daily workflow” (xiii)



book history *as* religious and political

- “It is through the rise of Christendom that codex book production developed in the West --in the form of monastic manuscripts” (47)

Scrolls



2600 BCE: papyrus as writing surface



Pre-Book Pages

- “The *pagina* thus emerges in the scroll as **a conceptual structure** by which information could be organized; it visually divides the long roll of writing material into shorted sections for effective transmission of ideas” (Bonnie Mak, 12)

- “pagina”= column of text



Parchment, Vellum



- ◆ papyrus → parchment/vellum (4th C)
- ◆ rag paper (13th C) → wood-pulp (19th C)

Medieval Manuscripts



Acuili simile. equi uehementi instatu.
Nam et homines uisus discipit.
si alia animal nascit q' bona con dicit.
cui taurinum capd. ac de in cepi corpus
omne tñ iula equina.
Cornua a ita multiplic
flexu in se recētia ut si
quis meo effundat nō ul
tiet. s' quicquid p'udū inō
itū illi frons negat. aliuū iufficit. Nam cū
in fugam iitit plūmēcti uentris
egerit p' longitudine tum iugerum. cui
aido dēt' attiat ad uirt. ita egerit nona.



The Book of Kells (800 CE)

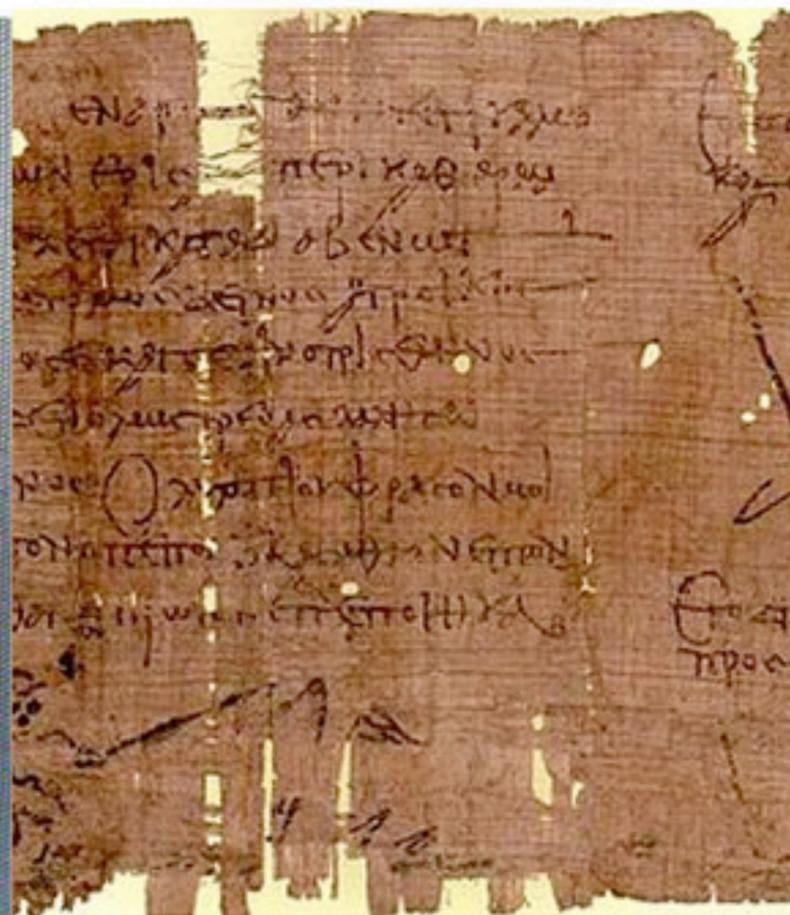


◆ See Borsuk 51

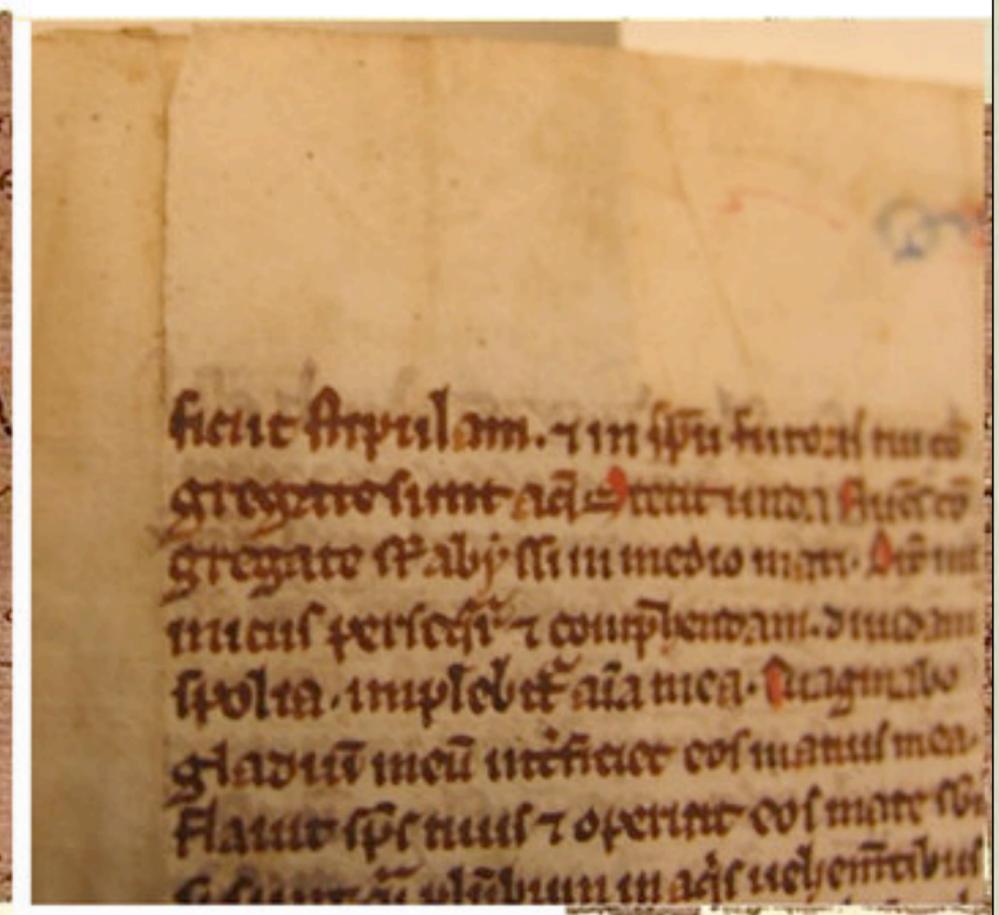
The Invention of Paper



clay

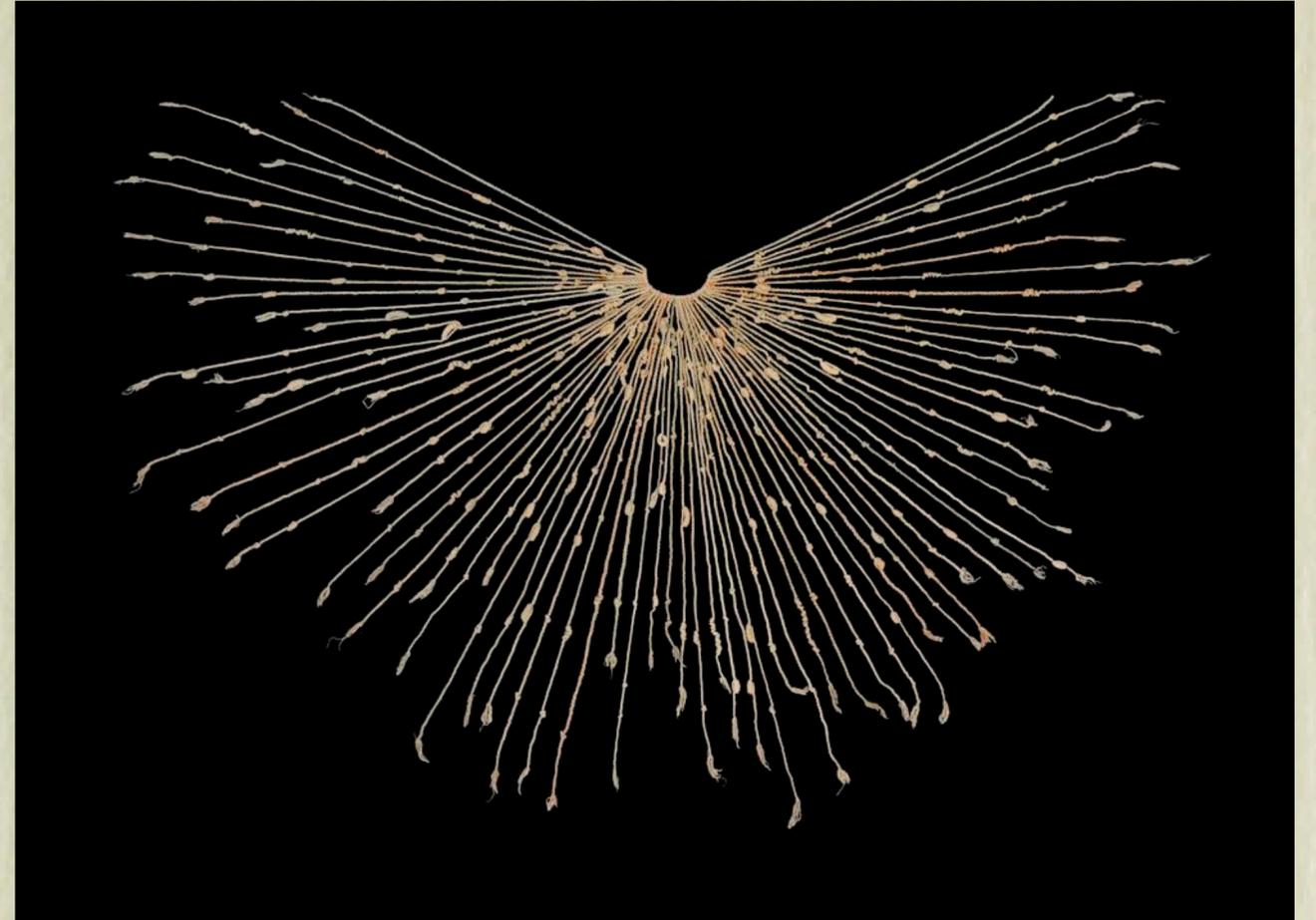


papyrus



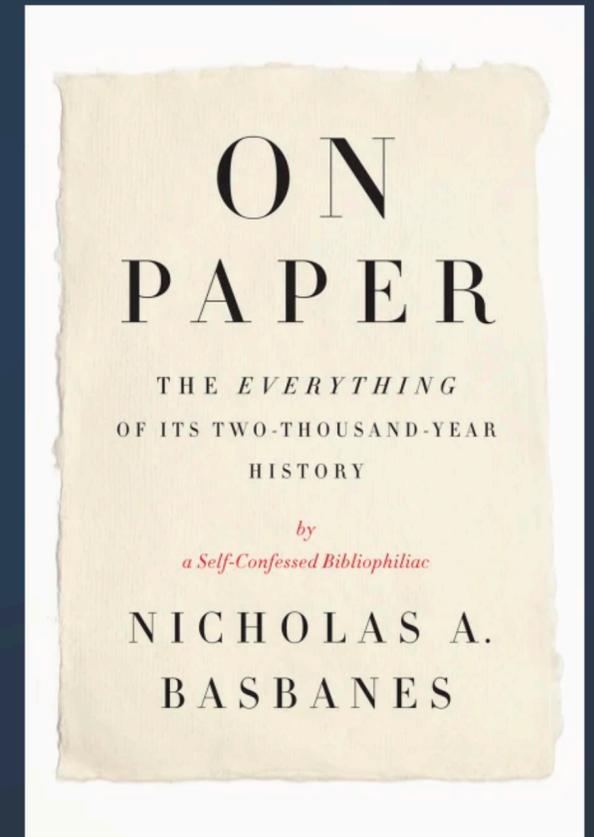
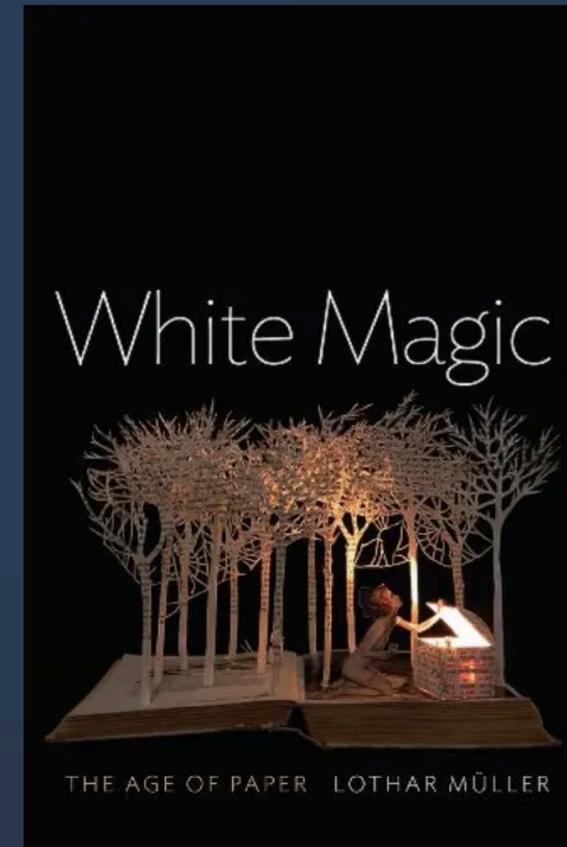
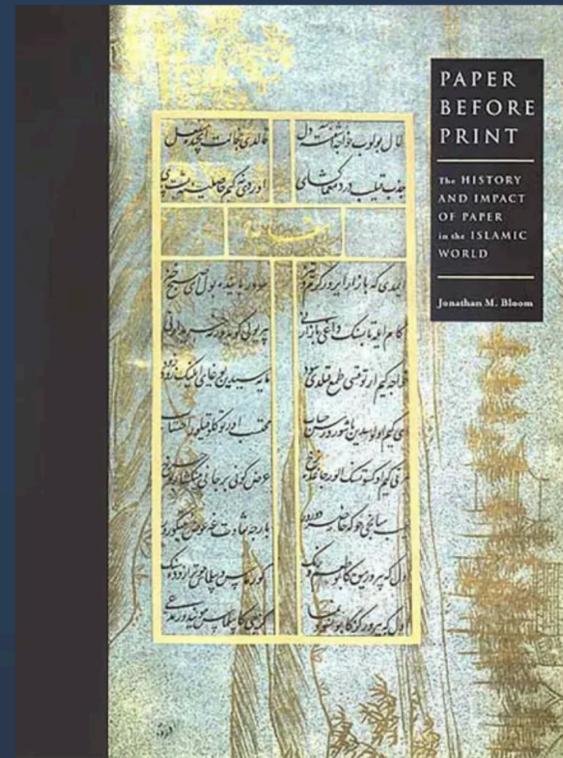
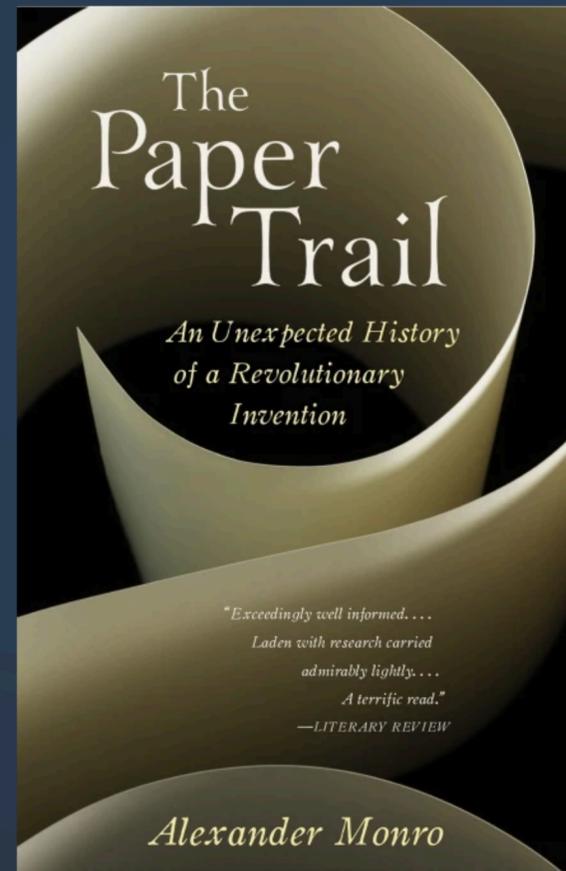
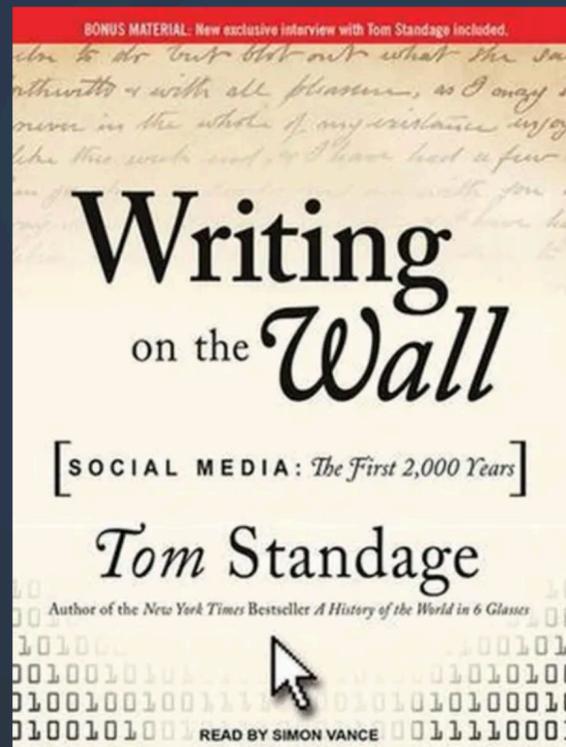
parchment

Non-Western innovations



- ***Khipu/quipu* from South America:** textile objects consisting of methodically arranged knotted and coloured cords woven in cotton and occasionally camelid fibre. The numbers, positions and colours of the cords together with the numbers, direction and sequencing of different kinds of knots were all used to encode an immense amount of information.

Paper History/Studies

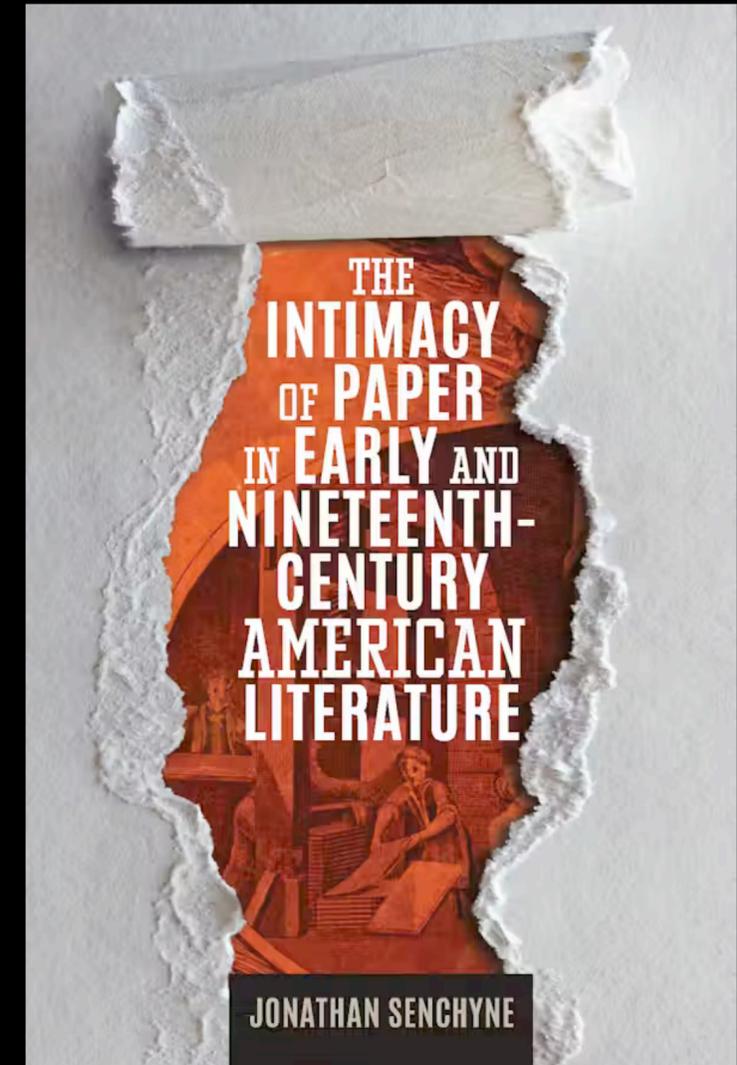


Jonathan Senchyne, *The Intimacy of Paper in Early and Nineteenth-Century American Literature* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2019)

“For readers and writers during the time, paper acted and was figured as a site of intimacy” (7)

-the materiality of paper directs attention back to the laborers who made it and to the layers of meaning inherent in rag paper” (7)

“if we pull back on the book as a material object, we find a more diverse range of actors, many of whom are women and laborers” (29)



History of Paper-making

China: 2,000 years ago, inventors in China: mulberry bark, hemp and rags with water, mashed it into pulp, pressed out the liquid and hung the thin mat to dry in the sun.

8th C, paper mills were built in Baghdad

-1690, first U.S. paper mill in Pennsylvania, used the Chinese method of shredding old rags and clothes into individual fibers to make paper

But, as the demand for paper grew, the mills changed to using fiber from trees because wood was less expensive and more abundant than cloth.

1806 Henry Fourdrinier developed the Fourdrinier machine, the first papermaking machine

1844 Canadian Charles Fenerty and German Friedrich Gottlob Keller invented the machine and associated process to make use of wood pulp in papermaking

Cotton rag paper



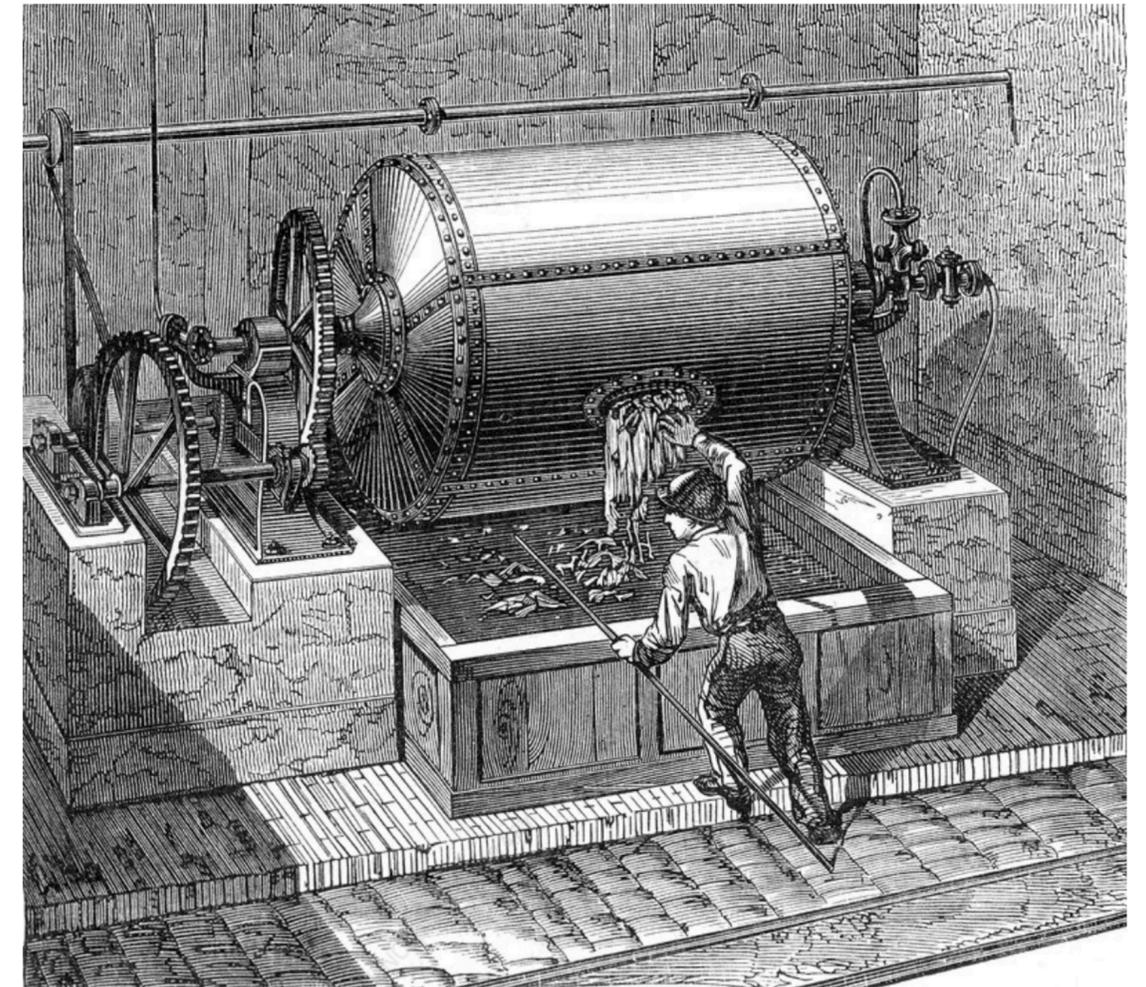
Rag Collector



Rag-and-bone man in Paris in 1899 (Photo [Eugène Atget](#))

Rags to Paper

Illustration depicting a woman sorting and cutting up rags ready for them to be cleaned and boiled and ground for making into paper. Dated 19th century. Captions are provided by our contributors.



Credit: [SCIENCE SOURCE / SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY](#)

Caption: Rotary digester to process rags by boiling caustic soda (sodium hydroxide, lye). Cotton paper is made from cotton linters or cotton from used cloths (rags) as the primary material source, hence the name rag paper. Cotton paper is superior in both strength and durability to wood pulp-based paper, which may contain high concentrations of acids. It was not until the introduction of wood pulp in 1843 that paper production was not

[See More](#)

Pa
Ce
Co3
Rig
38.8
390
33.0

Wood Pulp Paper (1843)



Production of Paper pulp

Wood-based **paper pulp** is the most common type. All sorts of trees can be the raw material while making this material. However, coniferous trees such as the fir, pine, spruce, and larch are preferred. Wood chipping is important to make **paper pulp** because it is the very material we need to start the process. Only heartwood and sapwood are useful for making paper pulp. The bark of the tree does not contain many useful fibers thus it is removed and used for other purposes in the paper mill when needed.



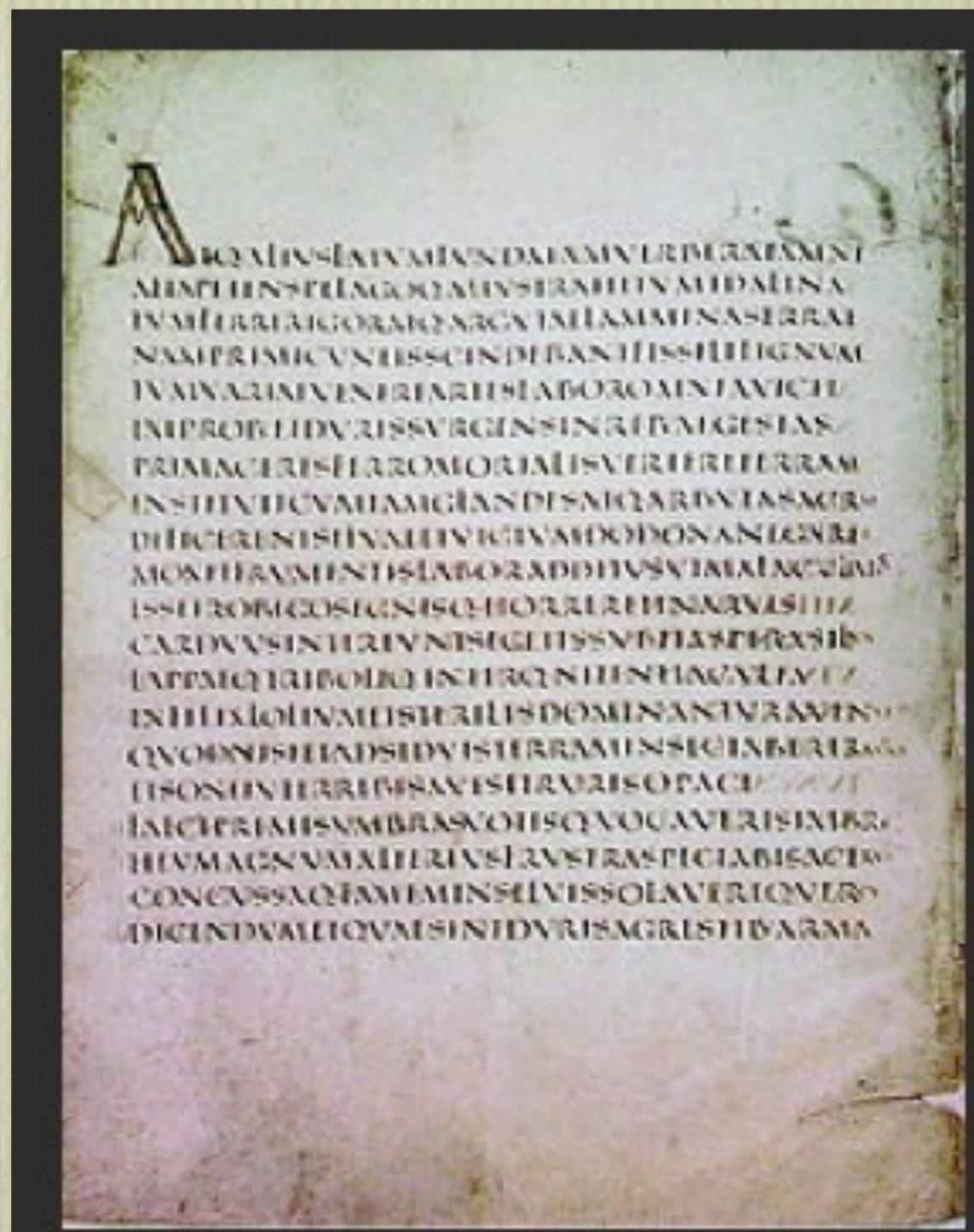
If the producer wants to use the chemical pulping method, the first step will be cooking wood chips in a pressure cooker which is also known as a "digester". Wood fibers are separated into **cellulose** fibers, lignin and other substances. This washed product is screened for further cleaning. Finally, the finished product is washed, again, and bleached to reach a standard brightness.

More Production Techniques

Mechanical pulping is another method that used in **paper pulp** making. In this method, wood chips are being ground instead of being cooked. Wood chips are heated and put into a machine that has two rotating metal discs. The chips are broken into smaller chunks and then into individual fibers. Next, they are blended with water to make a slurry and then dried.

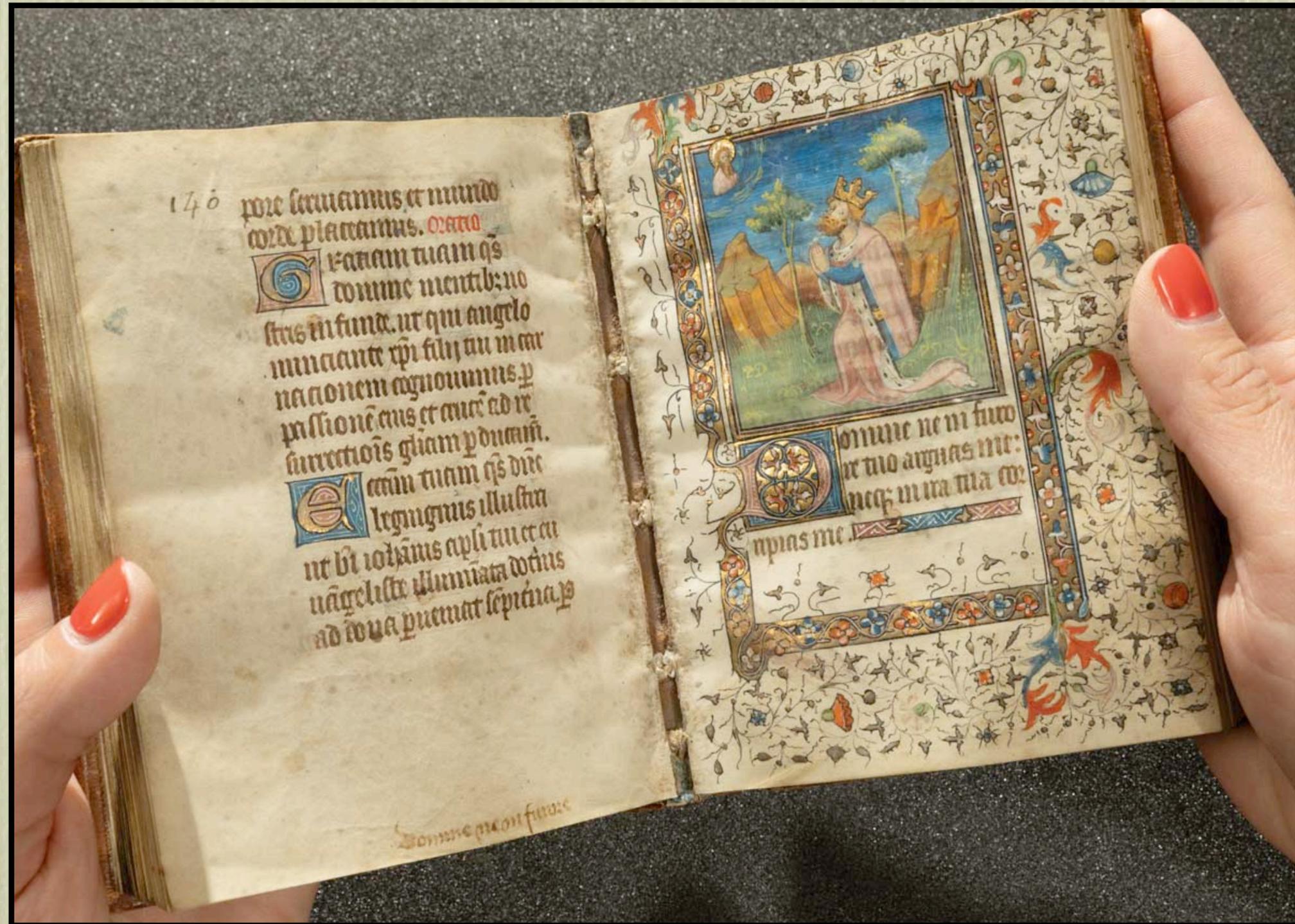


- <https://www.papertr.com/how-is-paper-pulp-made/>



scriptura continua (See
Borsuk, 54)

Books of Hours



140

more seruamus et mundo
corde placamus. *Oratio*
Gratiam tuam q̄s
domine mentib; no
stris infunde. ut qui angelo
nunciante xpi filij tui in car
nationem cognouimus. p
passione eius et tunc ad re
surrectionis gloriam pducam̄.
Ecce tuam q̄s dicit
legimus illustra
ut b̄ ioh̄annis ap̄li tui et eu
uangeliste illuminata dōctus
ad rōya pueniat septima. p

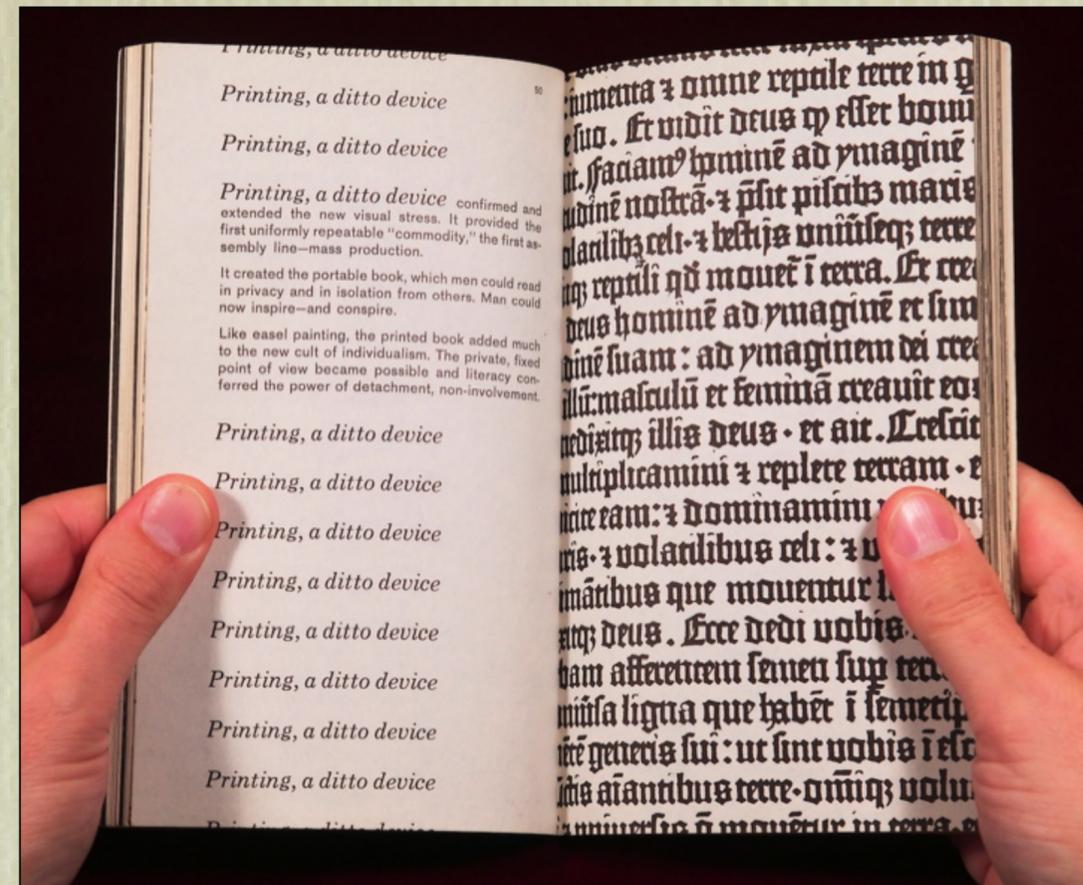


Domine ne in furo
re tuo angustas me:
neq; in ira tua cor
ripias me.

Domine me in furore

Medieval Girdle books





Take-aways/Questions?