

Assignment 2: Your book's author(s)  
due Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 pm (email as an attachment to swerner@folger.edu)  
worth 10% of your final grade

In this second part of the "book's makers" assignment, you're going to focus on your book's authors, researching who they were and how their authorship (or the absence of authorship) shapes the book's making and reception.

Some questions to help you focus your exploration of your book's author(s):

1. How does your book identify its author? Is there a name on the title page? As part of any prefatory material? As part of the main text?
2. Is the author anonymous? Pseudonymous? If the author is not identified as part of the book itself, is that information provided elsewhere, such as in the ESTC catalog?
3. Is the author presented as a selling point or enticement to the buyer/reader? How is that signaled?
4. What biographical information about the author might help us understand this book? How might the author's identity shape a reader's reception of the book?
5. If the author of your book is not readily apparent, what might that signal to us about the book's use or value to its original audience?
6. Is the author-figure someone other than the person responsible for writing the words? The publisher? The translator? The illustrator? Perhaps even the subject of the book?

In order to fully answer the questions about your book's author(s), you will need to read the entirety of your book. For this purpose, it is acceptable—indeed, it is easiest—to work from the pdf on EEBO. In most cases, the copy filmed for EEBO will not be the Folger's copy, so it will not have the copy-specific information that you will need for other assignments. But it will give you a good way of reading the text and thinking about how it constructs its author, and if you download it or print it, it will give you a copy that you can mark up with your notes. (See more on EEBO below.)

You will also need to do some biographical research to find out about your author(s). I've provided some resources below, but you could also draw on biographical databases provided by your library

As always, provide full citations for all the sources you used in your paper (those sources should in most cases be limited to the text itself, catalogs, and various biographies). Citations for the text should rely on signature marks, as with your previous papers (books printed in the last decades of the seventeenth century might be reliably paginated or foliated and may be cited by those numbers instead); citations of the Hamnet catalog should provide the permanent url for that listing as well as the call number (and copy number, where relevant) for your book. **Do not forget to include a citation for your book itself, including the call number.**

Resources:

*Biographies:* The DNB (see the last assignment sheet) is the place to start. The DLB might also have entries (see the last assignment sheet; the British Literary Book Trade is one volume in a series of literary biographies, the full set of which should be searchable through the Gale Literature Resource Center).

*Modern editions:* Modern editions of your work, or of other works by your author, if known, can be rich sources for biographical and contextual information.

*ESTC:* ESTC will provide what catalogers assume to be the most recent identification of an author. Especially for works that are anonymous, pseudonymous, or have contested authorship, there might be works listed in the “cited in” field that could lead you to further information. Information that is in square brackets in a catalog is information that is supplied by the cataloger, either based in current scholarship or taken from elsewhere in the book. (The easiest way to find your book in the ESTC is to search for it by its ESTC number or, if you don’t know that, by its STC or Wing number; to do the latter, use the advanced search option and search by citation note for the number.)

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