Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America

Guidelines for Reviewers

Please adopt the following guidelines to assist the Book Reviews Editor in preparing your document for publication.

• Language
  o PBSA is an English-language publication. Please review the work in English, regardless of the language(s) of the work under review. PBSA employs American spelling and punctuation.

• Length
  o Our average review is 1,500 words, but longer reviews are welcome. We are also happy to consider review essays which contextualize a work or works as part of a larger discussion of a bibliographical or editorial issue: e.g. a review of an electronic publication and recent scholarly electronic editing as a field.

• Header
  o The bibliographic description of the book under review appears as a header. PBSA follows the Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition, as in:
    Happé, Peter, ed. The Tide Tarrieth No Man by George Wapull, 1576

• Signature
  o PBSA includes a brief biography of reviewers below the main review. This biography takes the form:
    Firstname Lastname is a job title at Institution. She has recently published
    Monograph Title (Publisher, date).
    e.g.
    Stephen J. McElroy is the Director of the FSU Reading Writing Center and Digital Studio. He teaches in the Editing, Writing, and Media major track and is a co-founder of the FSU Card Archive.

    Sid Huttner is Senior Librarian Emeritus, Special Collections & University Archives, The University of Iowa. He has collected copies of nearly half the 2,000 or more American editions of Owen Meredith’s narrative poem Lucile (1860) and maintains a project website at http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/lucile.
• Content
  o Reviews should include a brief description of the book’s contents, a discussion of its strengths and weaknesses, and the place of the book within bibliography or the history of book production, publication, distribution, collecting, or reading.
• Quotations
  o All quotations should be accompanied by parenthetical page references. Footnotes are not generally allowed in book reviews, and citations to other works should be kept at an absolute minimum.
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  o We request reviews be returned within four (4) months of receiving the work. Reviews will be published in the most appropriate issue after we receive them, typically in the order received.
• Submission
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