**MIGRATIONS OF THE BOOK**

**A Virtual Book History Conference**

Sponsored by Texas A&M University Libraries

21-22 October 2021

What happens to a text when it is transported from its native Spain to the colonial frontiers of Mexico? How is our consideration of a Science Fiction pulp magazine augmented when its fantastical contents become commonplace in our daily lives? What can book conservators teach us about how a book has been influenced by the tastes and biases of its prior readers? What role do material texts play in the lives of the displaced or dispossessed?

The book is a critical concept as resilient as it is amorphous, as fixed as it is fluid. It operates as a place of memory, where communication, intellectual advancement, and cultural contact may be reposed and retrieved. As often, however, books are characterized by their movement and circulation, as well as their ability to be reconstructed and reconsidered in different contexts to create new meaning.

*Migrations of the Book* will bring together academics, librarians, archivists, and antiquarian booksellers to investigate how books act both as vehicles for, and monuments of cultural exchange, and to consider what we may learn from this persistent tension between constancy and mutability that is so integral to the medium.

Topics may include, but need not be limited to:

* The migration of texts (across media, between cultures, among social strata, etc.).
* Studies in provenance and ownership.
* The migration of libraries through the rare book trade.
* Manuscript circulation and commonplacing.
* The formation and use of hybrid books.
* Cross-cultural reception studies.
* Communities that are brought together through the book.

This will be a virtual event composed of several thematically organized panels spread over two days. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to consider how they might make use of the digital medium to enhance their presentation. Formal papers, research-in-progress, and non-traditional scholarly work are all welcome. Please send abstract proposals (300 words max.) and a brief bio (100 words max., including pronouns) to Kevin M. O’Sullivan (kmosullivan@tamu.edu) by 30 April 2021 for first consideration.