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STATIONERS ASSIGNMENT

Overview

You will choose from the attached list a single early modern London stationer (a printer, a publisher, or a printer-publisher). The names in the far right column are those of your peers at University of Victoria and indicate that a stationer is "taken" (you still have plenty to choose from). I will give you a photocopy or scan of the entry for that stationer in vol. 3 of *The Short Title Catalogue*. Each entry begins with the **authority name** for that printer or publisher. Next, we have a summary of the information that we know about the person. Finally, we have a chronological list of the extant editions printed or published by that person.

Using all the print and digital resources available to you, write a bio-bibliographical entry for your person. Your entry should be about **750 to 1000 words**. More than four pages is too long for publication on [MoEML](#). Fewer than three pages suggests that you haven't done enough research.

Library resources include:

British Authors before 1800: A Biographical Dictionary (Kunitz and Haycraft, at the reference desk)

The British Literary Book Trade, 1475-1700 (will be on reserve)

Electronic resources include:

Early English Books Online, the *English Short Title Catalogue*, the *MLA International Bibliography*, *British Book Trade Index*, *Shakespeare*, *English Broadside Ballad Archive*, *A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London*, and The Folger Digital images collection, *LUNA*.

What to Include

- Images: See below for suggestions.
- Embed a map of the stationer's known addresses using the selection and downloading tools in [MoEML](#).
- Support answer with evidence from imprint lines and/or colophons.

- Include STC numbers in your parenthetical citations.

Organization of your Entry

See a very rough sample entry for Nicholas Okes.

Use these headings to organize your findings:

Biographical Information
London Locations and Shop Signs
Print Output
Networks
Scholarship
Sources
Images

What to Address

Your entry should address the following questions:

- What names did your stationer use? Use the authority name for the stationer given in the *Short Title Catalogue*. Make a list of any variant spellings and forms of the name that appear in the imprint line.
- What was the stationer's trade? Printer, publisher, and/or bookseller?
- At what London addresses did the stationer work? What was the sign of the shop? How do we know?
- If this information has survived, with whom did the stationer apprentice? When was he "freed" from apprenticeship? If applicable, whose stock and rights did he inherit or purchase? Did his stock and rights pass to someone else? (Give this information in list form. There's no need to turn it into prose.)
- With which other stationers did your stationer regularly collaborate? (E.g., if you are working on a printer, for which publishers did he regularly print texts?)
- Are there patterns in the genres, topics, and physical formats represented in your stationer's output? If yes, what are they? (E.g., Nicholas Okes rarely printed folios. He printed a number of playbooks and almost all of the mayoral shows.)
- Was your printer embroiled in any scandals? (E.g., Okes was involved in a short, acrimonious partnership with John Norton.)
- Did your stationer write any addresses to readers? Did any authors write addresses to your stationer? (E.g., Playwright Thomas Heywood dedicated *An Apology for Actors* to Nicholas Okes, praising his care and industry in printing.)
- Did your stationer hold any official position (such as Printer to the City of London)? Did he hold the rights to any "steady sellers" or do any printing for the Stationers' Company?

Images

Images enliven a web page greatly and provide ocular proof to support your claims. We cannot use images from *EEBO*. However, if your stationer is represented in the UVic collection, you are welcome to take a photograph of the title page, imprint line, or any other page/detail you want to showcase. Another great source for open-access images is the [Folger Shakespeare Library's Digital Image Collection](#) (LUNA). Follow their instructions for acknowledging the Folger's ownership of the image. (I suggest the following shortened text: Used by permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library under a [CC BY-SA 4.0 License](#).)

Sources

Cite your sources alphabetically by author's surname. Include STC number in your parenthetical citations and in your references.