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Prelim Exam Bibliography
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OBJECTS: INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO MATERIAL CULTURE

My primary goal in compiling this bibliography is to explore ways that scholars use objects to learn about people, their ideas, and their experiences. Objects are defined broadly to include things, buildings, and landscapes. Works have been chosen to represent a wide range of approaches and their disciplinary development over the last fifty years. I have organized works by academic field to emphasize cross-disciplinarity but my intention is to find commonalities between categories. With these commonalities in mind, I will ask comparative questions: What are the most successful approaches and methodologies? Why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? And finally, which approaches do I hope to employ in my future work? The section called "Issues" serves two functions. First, each question serves as a case study to highlight different ways to approach a single question. Second, these questions serve as lenses through which I will read all the works on the bibliography.

NOTE: The ways that geographers study material culture will also be considered and are listed on the accompanying "Landscape and Sense of Place" bibliography.

Important Interdisciplinary Works in Material Culture

Ames, Kenneth L. *Death in the Dining Room: And Other Tales of Victorian Culture*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992.

Bushman, Richard. *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities*. New York: Knopf, Distributed by Random House, 1992.

Deetz, James. *In Small Things Forgotten: The Archaeology of Early American Life*. New York: Anchor Press, Doubleday, 1977.

Forman, Benno L. *American Seating Furniture, 1630–1730: An Interpretive Catalogue*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1988.

Glassie, Henry. *Material Culture*. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1999.

Herman, Bernard. *The Stolen House*. Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1992.
**Cross list with borders/boundaries

_____. *Town House: Architecture and Material Life in the American City: 1780–1830*. Chapel Hill: Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

** Cross-Listed with Architecture

Hosley, William N., ed. *The Great River: Art and Society of the Connecticut River Valley, 1635–1820*. Hartford: Wadsworth Atheneum, 1985.

Martin, Ann Smart and J. Ritchie Garrison. *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field*. Winterthur, Del.: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1997.

_____. *Buying Into a World of Goods: Early Consumers in Backcountry Virginia*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008.

Pocius, Gerald. *A Place to Belong: Community Order and Everyday Space in Calvert, New Foundland*. Toronto: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000.

** Cross-listed with Landscape

Schlereth, Thomas J., ed. *Material Culture Studies in America: An Anthology*. Lanham, M.D.: AltaMira Press, 1999.

St. George, Robert Blair. *Conversing by Signs: Poetics of Implication in Colonial New England Culture*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Art History

Andrzejewski, Anna. *Building Power: Surveillance in Victorian America*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2008.

Bloemink, Barbara and Joseph Cunningham. *Design Art: Functional Objects from Donald Judd to Rachel Whiteread*. New York: The Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2004.

Casid, Jill H. *Sowing Empire: Landscape and Colonization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005.

Davis, John. "The End of the American Century: Current Scholarship on the Art of the United States." *Art Bulletin* 85, no. 3 (Sept. 2003): 544-580.

Lovell, Margaretta M. *Art in a Season of Revolution: Painters, Artists, and Patrons in Early America*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007.

Lubin, David M. *Picturing a Nation: Art and Social Change in Nineteenth-Century America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994.

Mazow, Leo G. ed. *Picturing the Banjo*. State College: The Palmer Museum of Art; Pennsylvania State University, 2005.

Miller, Angela. *Empire of the Eye: Landscape Representation and American Cultural Politics, 1825-1875*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.

** Cross-Listed with Landscape

Nemerov, Alexander. *Acting in the Night: Macbeth and the Places of the Civil War*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010.

Prown, Jules and Kenneth Haltmann. *American Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture*. Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2000.

Anthropology / Archaeology / Social Science

- Appadurai, Arjun, ed. *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Beaudry, Mary C. and Dan Hicks. *The Oxford Handbook of Material Culture Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books, 1973.
- Gottdiener, Mark. *The Social Production of Urban Space*. 2nd ed. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994.
- Hodder, Ian and Scott Huttsen. "The Problem." Chap. 1 in *Reading the Past: Current Approaches to Interpretation in Archaeology*. 2nd ed., 1–19. Cambridge: University of Cambridge Press, 1991.
- Ingold, Tim. *The Perception of the Environment: Essays on Livelihood, Dwelling, and Skill*. London: Routledge, 2000.
** Cross-Listed with Landscape
- Knappett, Carl. *Thinking Through Material Culture: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005.
- Miller, Daniel, ed. *Material Cultures: Why Some Things Matter*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.
- Tilley, Christopher Y., Webb Keane, Susanne Kuchler, Mike Rowlands, and Patricia Spyer, eds. *Handbook of Material Culture*. London: Sage, 2006.
** good state of the field
- Tilley, Christopher, ed. *Reading Material Culture: Structuralism, Hermeneutics, and Post-Structuralism*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 1990.
** covers the big theorists
- Yamin, Rebecca and Karen Bescherer Metheny. *Landscape Archaeology: Reading and Interpreting the American Historical Landscape*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1996.

History

- Crowley, John E. *The Invention of Comfort: Sensibilities and Design in Early Modern Britain*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
** cross list on housing
- Demos, John. *Circles and Lines: The Shape of Life in Early America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Isaac, Rhys. *The Transformation of Virginia*. New paperback ed. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Published for The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia by the University of North Carolina Press, 1999.
- Shields, David S., ed. *Material Culture in Anglo-America: Regional Identity and Urbanity in the Tidewater, Lowcountry, and Caribbean*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2009.

Styles, John. *The Dress of the People: Everyday Fashion in Eighteenth-Century England*. Yale University Press, 2007.

** Having trouble getting my hands on this one...

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *The Age of Homespun: Objects and Stories in the Creation of an American Myth*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2001.

Vickery, Amanda. *Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.

English / Comparative Literature

Brodhead, Richard H. *Cultures of Letters: Scenes of Reading and Writing in Nineteenth-Century America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press 1993.

Brown, Bill. *A Sense of Things: The Object Matter in American Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

_____. "Thing Theory," in *Things*, 1–16. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Schaffer, Talia. "Craft, Authorial Anxiety, and 'The Cranford Papers.'" *Victorian Periodicals Review* 38, no. 2 (Summer 2005): 222-239.

Visual Culture and Cultural Theory

Beaudrillard, Jean. *Selected Writings*. Edited and Introduction by Mark Poster. 2nd ed. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2001.

**Pick one of the essays...

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984.

_____. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.

De Certeau, Michel. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Translated by Steven Rendall. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.

Evans, Jessica and Stuart Hall, ed. *Visual Culture: The Reader*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE. 1999.

Lefebvre, Henri. *The Production of Space*. Translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith. Malden, M.A.: Blackwell, 1991.

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. "Eye and Mind." In *The Primacy of Perception and Other Essays on Phenomenological Psychology, the Philosophy of Art, History, and Politics*, 159–190. Edited by James M. Edie and translated by Carleton Dallery. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1964.

Mirzoeff, Nicholas. *The Visual Culture Reader*. London: Routledge, 1998.

Susan Sontag, ed. *A Barthes Reader*. New York: Macmillan, 1983.

Design History

Generally interested in why things look the way they do rather than in reading objects as evidence. They tend to follow the long chain of negotiations with the process of producing serially or mass-produced objects – from designers and managers through specialized makers to marketer to distributor to wholesale buyer to consumer to user.

Atfield, Judy. *Wild Things: The Material Culture of Everyday Life* Oxford: Berg, 2000.

Blaczzyk, Regina Lee. *Imagining Consumers: Design and Innovation from Wedgwood to Corning*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

Fallon, Kjetil. *Design History: Understanding Theory and Method*. London, Berg, 2010.

Forty, Adrian. *Objects of Desire: Design and Society since 1750*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 2002.

Raizman, David Seth and Carma Gorman. *Objects, Audiences, and Literatures: Alternative Narratives in the History of Design*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

ISSUES

Why do things change?

Carson, Cary. “The Consumer Revolution in Colonial British America: Why Demand?” In *Of Consuming Interests: The Style of Life in the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Cary Carson, Ronald Hoffman, and Peter J. Albert. PAGES. University Press of Virginia, 1994.

Forman, Benno M. “The Origins of the Joined Chest of Drawers.” *Nederlands Kunst Historische Jaarboek* 31 (1981): 169-83.

Forman, Benno M. “The Chest of Drawers in America, 1635–1730: The Origins of the Joined Chest of Drawers,” reprinted in WP below

McKendrick, Neil, John Brewer, and John H. Plumb. *The Birth of a Consumer Society: The Commercialization of Eighteenth-Century England*. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1982.

Petroski, Henry. *Success Through Failure: The Paradox of Design*. Princeton, 2006.

_____. *The Evolution of Useful Things*. 2nd ed. New York: Vintage Books, 1994.

Price, Sally and Richard Price. “Continuity and Change: African Aesthetics and Afro-American Dynamism.” Chap. 8 in *Afro-American Arts of the Suriname Rain Forest*, PAGES. Berkeley: Museum of Cultural History, University of California, 1980.

Trent, Robert F. “The Chest of Drawers in America, 1635-1730: A Postscript.” *Winterthur Portfolio* 20, no. 1 (Spring, 1985): 31–48.

How do Style and Taste Work?

Douglas, Mary. "Bad Taste in Furnishing," in *Thought Styles: Critical Essays on Taste*, 50–76. London: Sage, 1996.

Duncan, James S. and Nancy G. Duncan. *Landscapes of Privilege: The Politics of the Aesthetics in an American Suburb*. London: Routledge, 2004.

** Cross-listed with Architecture and Landscape

Gans, Herbert J. *Popular Culture and High Culture: An Analysis and Evaluation of Taste*. New York: Basic Books, 1999.

Hebdige, Dick. *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*. New York: Methuen 1979.

Lapansky, Emma Jones and Anne A. Verplanck, eds. *Quaker Aesthetics: Reflections on a Quaker Aesthetic in American Design and Consumption*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003.

**Cross-listed with Architecture

McInness, Maurie. *The Politics of Taste in Antebellum Charleston*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Mercer, Kobena. "Black Hair/Style Politics." In *Welcome to the Jungle: New Positions in Black Cultural Studies*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Schapiro, Meyer. "Style." In *Anthropology Today: An Encyclopedic Inventory*, edited by A. L. Kroeber, 287-312. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1953.

Sparke, Penny. *As Long As It's Pink: The Gender Politics of Taste*. London: HarperCollins 1995.

Upton, Dell. *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia*. Paperback edition. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997.

How Do We Understand Creativity?

Adamson, Glenn. *Thinking Through Craft*. London: Berg 2007.

Cooke, Jr., Edward S. *Making Furniture in Preindustrial America: The Social Economy of Newtown and Woodbury, Connecticut*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1996.

Hallam, Elizabeth and Tim Ingold, eds. *Creativity and Cultural Improvisation*. London: Berg, 2007.

Kardon, Janet, ed. *The Ideal Home, 1900–1920: The History of Twentieth-Century American Craft*. New York: H. N. Abrams in association with The American Craft Museum, 1993.

Kardon, Janet and Ralph T. Coe. *Revivals!: Diverse Traditions, 1920–45: The History of Twentieth-Century American Craft*. New York: H. N. Abrams in association with The American Craft Museum, 1994.

Kardon, Janet and Rosemarie Haag Bletter, eds. *Craft in the Machine Age, 1920–45: The History of Twentieth-Century Craft*. New York: H. N. Abrams in association with The American Craft Museum, 1995.

Shales, Ezra. *Made in Newark: Cultivating Industrial Arts and Civic Identity in the Progressive Era*. Piscataway: Rutgers University Press, 2010.

Interdisciplinary studies are increasingly widely recognised as being among the most fruitful approaches to generating original perspectives on the medieval past. The main focus is on material culture, but also includes insights into the compositional techniques of Bede and the Beowulf-poet, and the strategies adopted by anonymous scribes to record information in unfamiliar languages. Contributors offer fresh insights into some of the most iconic survivals from the period, from the wooden doors of Sta Sabina in Rome to the Ruthwell Cross, and from St Cuthbert's coffin to the design of its final resting place, the Romanesque cathedral at Durham.