print "revolution"

history of information

February 10, 2015
on this date (almost)
on this date (almost)

Most important developments in world history:
on this date (almost)

Most important developments in world history:

discovery of America
on this date (almost)

Most important developments in world history:

- discovery of America
- technology of printing
on this date (almost)

Most important developments in world history:
- discovery of America
- technology of printing
- patent laws
theme: talking about technology

next generation

year

2015
1980
1990
1950
1900
1800
1700
1600
1200
600
400
0
500
3000
5000
30,000
50,000

Johannes Gutenberg 139?-1468
Desiderius Erasmus 1466?-1536
Aldus Manutius 1451-1515 (Teobaldo Manuzio)

7-HofI15-Print
Why TV in 1960s and 70s? “Television has now been a … service for a whole generation” — Williams

next generation

year

2015
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Desiderius Erasmus 1466?-1536
Johannes Gutenberg 139?-1468
Aldus Manutius 1451-1515 (Teobaldo Manuzio)

theme:
talking about technology
picking up threads

determined ideas

“At Facebook, we’re inspired by technologies that have revolutionized how people spread and consume information. We often talk about inventions like the printing press and the television — by simply making communication more efficient, they led to a complete transformation of many important parts of society. They gave more people a voice. They encouraged progress. They changed the way society was organized. They brought us closer together.”

Letter from Mark Zuckerberg US Securities and Exchange Commission Form S-1 REGISTRATION STATEMENT Under The Securities Act of 1933
overview

what gets overlooked

pros & cons

assessing a revolution

talking tech
overview

what gets overlooked

pros & cons

assessing a revolution

talking tech

Celeste Boureille
Yurika Jacobsson
Molly Babcock
Averell Wallach
Jonathan Allan
Justin Kwok
Terence Roe
Serena Wu
talking tech
talking techies/talking texts

Theuth
Moses
Lord Kulaba
Ts'ai Lun
Morse
Edison
Bell
Marconi

Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Tim Berners-Lee, Mark Zuckerberg ...
"Printing, gunpowder and the compass ... whence have followed innumerable changes, in so much that no empire, no sect, no star seems to have exerted greater power and influence in human affairs than these mechanical discoveries."

—Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum*, 1620

"He who first shortened the labor of copyists by device of movable types was disbanding hired armies, and cashiering most kings and senates, and creating a whole new democratic world: he had invented the art of printing."

--Thomas Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus*, 1833
succession
philosophers - emperors - printers

the result of poor proofreading?

“If things go on .. all power will in the end be concentrated ... barbarous tyranny that exists among the Turks. Everything will be subject to the whim of one man... no traces ... of civilian government ... law ... the will of the dictator”
“Printers chased profits with dolphin-like speed, unwilling to anchor their practice in man’s rightful heritage of shared truth and knowledge”

—Celeste Boureille

**succession**

philosophers - emperors - printers

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tech, techie and text!
succession
philosophers - emperors - printers

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library without walls

“popular among all those everywhere in the world to whom sound learning is either familiar or dear ... all devoted to the cult of liberal studies .. who despise the barbarous and uncouth learning of our own day and aspire to that true knowledge stemming from antiquity ... so that their supply of texts may be restored, complete and genuine and uncorrupted
“Thus, though Erasmus views printing press as an agent of transformation, it is a transformation backwards to what he views as the past golden age of knowledge.” —Averell Wallach

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“Aldus is building a library which knows no walls save those of the world itself.”
“Thus, though Erasmus views printing press as an agent of transformation, it is a transformation backwards to what he views as the past golden age of knowledge.”

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**going backwards-going global**

**library without walls**

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“Aldus is building a library which **knows no walls** world itself.”
McLuhan (1911-1980) — going galactic

*The Gutenberg Galaxy: the making of typographic man, 1962*

"Printing ... created the public ... What we have called 'nations' ... did not and could not precede the advent of Gutenberg technology ... isolation of the visual faculty from other senses ..."

"uniformity ... individualism, nationalism ..."

"of all [discoveries] recorded in civil history, is of the most important and extensive consequences"
going global (again)

tech not text

"We are witnessing simultaneously the end of ... the Mechanical, or Gutenberg Era, dominated by movable type and later mechanical forms, and the birth pangs of the new and entirely different Electric Age ... the Age of Circuitry or Information.

"Books and jobs--all are obsolete. Any phrasemaking yokel can become a world center."

—McLuhan, Life, 1966
tracing consequences

McLuhan is the message

"I ran across a copy of Marshall McLuhan's The Gutenberg Galaxy ... He pronounced ... the age of Gutenberg to be at an end ... stimulated my curiosity ... about the specific historical consequences of the fifteenth-century communications shift

"McLuhan raised a number of questions about the actual effects of the advent of printing ..."
agent of change

the three Rs

"The impact of printing, experienced first by literate groups in early modern Europe, changed the character of the Italian Renaissance and ought to be considered among the causes of both the Protestant Reformation and the rise of modern science."

--Eisenstein, "The Emergence of Print Culture in the West" 1980.
how determined?

necessary vs sufficient

Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution

- the press inevitably produces R, R, & SR?

- couldn't have R, R, & SR without the press?
overview

what gets overlooked

prose & cons

assessing a revolution

talking tech
what happened?
what/who was involved?
what did (or did not) come before?
what did (or did not) follow?
what did (or did not) contribute?
what happened elsewhere?
what's likely to be underestimated?
what was necessary, what sufficient?
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assessing

what happened

technologies
woodblock printing
moveable type
print technology

c. 1460: Roman type

1495-1595: Aldus Manutius, Venice

1539: first press in the Americas

c. 1720 - 1780: invention of stereotype

1814: steam press

1847: rotary press

1886: Mergenthaler Linotype

1887: Monotype

1892: process color printing

1902: offset lithography
“Aldus, making haste slowly, has acquired as much gold as he has reputation, and richly deserves both ... the noble, positively royal ambitions of my friend Aldus ... I can promise students a great future in the next few years”
“Aldus, making haste slowly, has acquired as much gold as he has reputation, and richly deserves both ... the noble, positively royal ambitions of my friend Aldus ... I can promise students a great future in the next few years”

how about 500? — and scholarly editions / Greek revival colophon/trademark/copyright pocket book
italic type <public static final int Italic>
punctuation;
Aldus’ influence

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how about 500? — and scholarly editions / Greek revival colophon/trademark/copyright pocket book

Italic type <public static final int Italic>
punctuation ;
back to Gutenberg:
metalworker from Mainz

1438: exile, Strasbourg
partners: Riffe, Dritzehn, Helman

1438, December: Dritzehn dies
"4 pieces to be destroyed"; carpentry work

1439: Aachen mishap; Dritzehn's heirs sue

1450: back in Mainz
creditor Johannes Fust
employee Peter Schöffer
ally Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa
complete works?

1454: Cyprus Indulgence

1455: 42-line bible

the Cardinal's connections?

1455: Fust sues, wins

new partnership:
Fust & Schöffer

1457: Mainz psalter
assessing lookalikes?
what went “viral”?  

1454: Cyprus Indulgence  
"200,000 indulgences printed between 1498 and 1500 at the behest of the Benedictines of Monserrat in Catalonia."  
--Ann Blair, Too Much to Know, 2010  

1455: 42-line bible  
? 230 copies  

1457: Mainz psalter  

1500: Adagia  
“most popular sixteenth-century book”  
—Eden, Friends Hold All Things in Common, 2001
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Social media in the 16th Century

How Luther went viral

Five centuries before Facebook and the Arab spring, social media helped bring about the Reformation

Dec 17th 2011 | From the print edition

1455: Mainz
1465: Subiaco, Italy
1476: London
1480: Budapest, Krakow, Prague, Brussels
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spread of print
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Religion in Germany Fast Facts

Links go to the ReligionFacts main page for that religion.

- Protestant 34%
- Roman Catholic 34%
- Other or unspecified 28.3%
- Muslim 3.7%
- Mormon 1.7%
scientific revolution

a question of timing?

Gutenberg, d. 1468

Copernicus, 1473-1543

Tycho Brahe, 1546-1601

Bacon, 1561-1626

Galileo, 1564-1642

Descartes, 1596-1650

Newton, 1642-1727

Royal Society, 1660

Transactions, Journal des Scavans, 1665

coming up next:

Scientific “Revolution”
whose revolution?

what happened?
what/who was involved?
what did (or did not) come before?
what did (or did not) follow?
what did (or did not) contribute?
what happened elsewhere?
what's likely to be underestimated?
what was necessary, what sufficient?

Ptolemy (2d c)

Islamic critique

Ali Qushji (15c)

Regiomontanus (15C)

Copernicus (16C)

Fig. 1. Comparison of diagrams of Regiomontanus and Qushji. (Left) J. Regiomontanus and G. Peurbach, Epytoma Joannis de monte regio In almagestum ptolmaei (Venice, 1496), n4r, and (right) `Ali Qushji, Fi anna a'lı-khārīj..., Carullah MS 2060, f. 137a. Reproductions courtesy of the History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries, and of the Suleymaniye Library, Istanbul, respectively.

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assessing

Nuremberg Chronicle
c 1493
printing in china

c. 200 BCE: the use of seals
  yin = seal and print

175 CE: printing of Confucian classics from stone carvings

868: *Diamond Sutra*
  earliest surviving, dated Chinese printing

972-83: *Tripitaka*, 5,048 volumes

*assessing*
printing in china

c. 200 BCE: the use of seals

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earliest surviving, dated Chinese printing

972-83: Tripitaka, 5,048 volumes
10th century?
playing cards, printed textiles, paper money

1041: Pi Sheng clay moveable type
"in the Northern Song in the eleventh century ... there were some thirty printing centers ... and some two hundred in the Southern Song (twelfth century)"

--Lucille Chia, *Printing for Profit* 2002
Empress Shotuku, and her charms

770: xylographic printing (? 1,000,000 copies)

Japanese "printing was for many centuries a Buddhist monopoly ... religious texts formed the bulk of material ... before 1600 ... only the monasteries ... could afford the costs of book production."

Korea

8th century: xylography

918-1392: Koryo Dynasty
three methods of publishing:
  transcription: Royal library
  xylography: Buddhist temples
  typography: civil service

1087: Tripitaka Koreana (xylography)
80,000 wood blocks, 77 years to complete
destroyed 1232 and then recarved
Korean printing

1241: Yi Munsun Chip (metal moveable type)

1377: Jikji (earliest book with metal type)

1392: Kyosugam (dept. of publishing)

1403: Jujaso (type foundry)

1446: Hangul alphabet and typography
enigmatic hints

"The first attempts at Hebrew printing may well have been made at Avignon, where on 10 March 1446 a certain Procope undertook to make for a former associate 27 square Hebrew letters engraved on iron."

-- Colette Sirat,

_Hebrew Manuscripts of the Middle Ages, 2002_
"[Theodore] De Vinne, in his book [The Invention of Printing, 1878] writes, 'The inventor of printing did not invent paper .. did not originate engraving on wood. He was not the first to print upon paper, he was not the first to make printed books, it is not certain that he made the first press, it is not probable that he was the first to think of or make movable type. What he did was to invent the type mold'.

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see also — Paul Needham and Blaise Aguera y Arcas, "What did Gutenberg Invent?"
c. 1290:
"HOW THE GREAT KAAN CAUSETH THE BARK OF TREES, MADE INTO SOMETHING LIKE PAPER, TO PASS FOR MONEY OVER ALL HIS COUNTRY
"All the grand Kaan's subjects receive this paper money without hesitation because wherever their business may call them, they can dispose of it again in the purchase of merchandise they have occasion for."

--Marco Polo
world of print

printmaking

China, 7th century
Korea, 8th century
Japan, 8th century
W. Europe, 15th century
Jews, 15th century
India, 18th century
Islam, 19th century
world of books

printing
China, 7th century
Korea, 8th century
Japan, 8th century
W. Europe, 15th century
Jews, 15th century
India, 18th century
Islam, 19th century
world of books

**parchment to paper**
- China, 200 BCE
- Korea, 3rd century
- India, 5th century
- Japan, early 7th century
- Islam, 8th century
- Jews, 10th century
- Byzantium, 9th century
- Western Europe, 11th century

**printing**
- China, 7th century
- Korea, 8th century
- Japan, 8th century
- W. Europe, 15th century
- Jews, 15th century
- India, 18th century
- Islam, 19th century
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parchment to Paper</th>
<th>Scroll to Codex</th>
<th>Printing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China, 200 BCE</td>
<td>Christians, 2D century</td>
<td>China, 7th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea, 3D century</td>
<td>Islam, 8-9th century</td>
<td>Korea, 8th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India, 5th century</td>
<td>Jews, 8-9th century</td>
<td>Japan, 8th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan, early 7th century</td>
<td>China, 9th (butterfly) 13th (thread binding)</td>
<td>W. Europe, 15th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam, 8th century</td>
<td>Korea, ?12th century (sutra binding)</td>
<td>Jews, 15th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews, 10th century</td>
<td>Japan, 18th century</td>
<td>India, 18th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byzantium, 9th century</td>
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</table>
Given the advantages of the printing press and his involvement with it, does Erasmus’s discussion of the great printer Aldus Manutius manage to dismiss the concerns of Socrates or Trithemius? Do his thoughts have any bearing on the present?
Given the advantages of the printing press and his involvement with it, does Erasmus’s discussion of the great printer Aldus Manutius manage to dismiss the concerns of Socrates or Trithemius? Do his thoughts have any bearing on the present?
your views
printing transformed

Scholarship — 66%
Religion — 15%
Politics — 15%
Science — 2%

Erasmus dis/agreed with

Socrates 50/50
Trithemius 50/50
"In terms of scholarship, Erasmus stands against the claim that the process of printing has caused any notable transformation."

—Yurika Jacobsson

"It is possible to argue that the print ‘revolution’ had effects long before it was coined with the name"

—Molly Babcock
“Transformed scholarship, ... The only issue is typo-riddled copies, which they both agree needs to be fixed.” —Jonathan Allan

“The credibility of the written word is therefore diminished, and Socrates' issue with writing remains: it cannot speak for, defend, nor comment on itself.” —Justin Kwok

“as information technology becomes more available ... there’s more room for the authority of text to become corrupted and intellectually misconstrued.” —Terence Roe
mercenary appetites

“[T]houghts of money overshadow the true value of knowledge and push quality to the side (147). With money in mind, scholastic integrity is no more. ... With every great technological revolution comes unintended consequences.” ——Serena Wu
overview

what gets overlooked

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“labour indeed worthy of Hercules .. to give back to the world something so heavenly … to dig up what is buried, to call back the dead, to repair what is mutilated, to correct what is corrupted … especially by the fault of those common printers who reckon … profit worth more than the whole realm of letters.

… any books shipped from Venice to foreign countries immediately find a readier market merely because they bear that city’s imprint .. yet .. the name of Venice is so misused by certain sordid printers

...They fill the world with pamphlets and books … foolish, ignorant, malignant, libellous, mad, impious, and subversive”
“eminent authors ... published to the world by men so ill-educated that they cannot so much as read .. rather see a good book filled with thousands of mistakes than spend a few paltry gold pieces on hiring someone to supervise the proof-correcting ... none make such grand promises on the title-page as those who are most shameless in corrupting. ... Punishment ... for the man who sells cloth dyed in England for cloth dyed in Venice ... left free to profit from mere textual corruptions ... under the label of good authors”
chapbooks and almanacs

"for three-and-a-half centuries, the Almanack has been the most popular book in the English language" [1492–1600, probably 600 published]


By 1700 "printers were producing between 350,000 and 400,000 copies in the last two months of every year."

– Louise Curth, "Medical Contents of English Almanacs, 1640-1700" 2005
the making of print culture

whom to trust
the making of print culture

whom to trust
A TREATISE 
OF 
DISEASES 
OF THE 
Head, Brain and Nerves.
WITH 
DIRECTIONS for their Cure 
several Deplorable and Sudden Indispacency, as Apoplexy, Epilepsia, &c. may be prevented, and 
many Lives saved by the Medicines here 
To which is subjunct, A 
DISCOURSE 
Of the Nature, real Cause and certain 
Melancholy in Men 
AND 
Vapours in Women.
By a Physician.

Lithotomia Dougalliana:

OR,

An Account of a New Method 
of making the High Operation, in order to extract the Stone out of the Bladder.

Which is much easier to the Patient, much sooner done by the Operator, and the Cure much more certain, than after any of the other Methods now in Use.

By which also, several of the most dismal 
Consequences of the common Operations are entirely prevented, such as Incontinence of Urine, Impotency, Fistula's, &c.

Invented and successfully perform'd

BY

JOHN DOUGLAS, Surgeon.

print culture

---
The making of print culture

A TREATISE OF DISEASES OF THE Head, Brain and Nerves
WITH DIRECTIONS for their Cure
several Deplorable and Sudden Indisplic
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Cure much more certain
of the other Methods.
By which also, several
Consequences of the
are entirely prevented
of Urine, Impotence,

Invented and success
by John Doug

TREATISE ON THE SMALL-POX AND FEVERS:
Wherein is demonstrated the salutary Effects of a MEDICINE,
Known by the Name of
SEXTON’S POWDER;
For a more certain and easy Cure of those Distempers,
than has hitherto been Known or Practised,
Humbly addressed to the PUBLICK, but in particular
to the President, Vice-Presidents, and the Rest of the
Governors of the SMALL-POX Hospital.
A TREATISE
OF DISEASES
OF THE
Head, Brain and Nerves
WITH
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Invented and success

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PRACTICAL ESSAY
ON CANCERS:
CONTAINING,
I. An Account of their Na-
ture, Causes, and different
Species.
II. A Detail of the general
Method of Practice, com-
monly called rational or
palliative.
III. A Description of the Re-
dem西省 proposed by some
as Specifiers, but found to
be either dangerous, or
ineffectual; with Remarks
on the same.
IV. It annexed the most
safe, efficacious, and only
certain Method of Cure,
found on Reason, and
confirmed by Experience.

To which is also added,
A new, more safe, and efficacious Method of
ADMINISTERING HEMLOCK;

of print culture
A TREATISE OF DISEASES OF THE Head, Brain and Nerves
WITH DIRECTIONS for their Cure several Deplorable and Sudden Indispension of them, as APEXIS, SEIZURE, &c. may be prevented, and many Lives saved by the Medicines here To which is subjoin'd, A
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Humbly addressed to the PUBLIC, but in particular to the President, Vice-Presidents, and the Rest of the Governors of the SMALL-POX Hospital.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC, ON THE EFFICACY OF CERTAIN MEDICINES IN THE CURE OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE, SCIRRUS AND CANCER, AND ULCERATED LEGS.

PRACTICAL ESSAY ON CANCERS:

Every Patient His own Doctor;
OR, THE SICK MAN's TRIUMPH over DEATH and the GRAVE.
CONTAINING, The most approved METHODS of curing every DISEASE incident to the HUMAN BODY, internal or external; whether owing to Defects of Nature, occasioned by Intemperance, contracted by Accident, or caused by Decay, WITH THE BEST REMEDIES Prescribed by the Authority of the most eminent Physicians for removing each Disorder, restoring Health, preserving it when restored; and extending Life to an honourable Old Age.

INCLUDIN
An excellent Collection of the most eminent Receipts for MAKING and PREPARING A great Number of cheap, easy, and efficacious MEDICINES.
A TREATISE OF DISEASES OF THE Head, Brain and Nerves
WITH DIRECTIONS for their Cure several Deplorable and Sudden Indispos-
ing them, as APOPEXIS, EPILEPSY, &c. may be prevented, and
many Lives saved by the Medicines here

Lithotomia Douglassiana:
OR, An Account of a New Method
of making the High Operation, in
order to extract the Stone out of the
Bladder.
Which is much easier t

TREATISE ON THE SMALL-POX AND FEVERS:
Wherein is demonstrated the salutary Effects of a
MEDICINE, Known by the Name of
SEXTON’S POWDER;
For a more certain and easy Cure of those Distemper,
than has hitherto been Known or Practised,

SHORT ACCOUNT
Of a Remedy for the Certain Cure of
CONSUMPTIONS.
Spitting of Blood, Asthmas

PRACTICAL ESSAYS ON
CANCERS:

Every Patient His own Doctor
OR, THE SICK MAN’S
TRIUMPH over DEATH and the GRAVE.
CONTAINING,
The most approved Methods of curing every DISEASE
incident to the HUMAN BODY, internal or external;
whether owing to Defects of Nature, occasioned by In-
temperance, contrated by Accident, or caused by Decay,
WITH
THE BEST REMEDIES
Prescribed by the Authority of the most eminent Physicians
for removing each Disorder, restoring Health, preserving
it when restored; and extending Life to an honourable
Old Age.

INCLUDING
An excellent Collection of the most eminent Receipts for
MAKING and PREPARING
A great Number of cheap, easy, and efficacious
MEDICINES.
"Luther's German translation of scripture was actually beaten into print by its first piracy"


**solutions**

**IP or Open Source?**

- 1486 Marcantonio Sabellico — privilegium [©]
- 1496 Aldus Manutius — patent, Greek type
- 1498 Aldus - © Demosthenes, Plutarch, Xenophon …
- 1501 Aldus Manutius — patent, Italic type
- 1507 Aldus - legal battles for control
- 1507 *Adagia* I: “Amicorum Communia Omnia”

coming up:
Information as Property
legal control

“provided by law that no man should sew a shoe .. or make a cupboard, unless he has been approved by his trade guild

Punishment ... for the man who sells cloth dyed in England from cloth dyed in Venice .. left free to profit from mere textual corruptions .. under the label of good authors”
control or censorship?

1487: State control: Court of Star Chamber

1557: Guild control: Stationer’s Company

1571: Religious control: Index Expurgatorius “Opera omnia Erasmi cautè legenda: tam multa enim insunt correctione digna, ut vix omnia expergari possint”

1710: Statute of Anne

18c: Stamp Acts

1798: Alien and Sedition Acts
solutions

public subsidy

“I must suggest a remedy ... grants from either princes or from bishops and abbots or from the public treasury ... ... if only the princes on our side of the Alps encouraged liberal studies”

or private philanthropy?

“I will not put on record here how many ways our magnates have of wasting money, how much is absorbed by gaming, wenching, drinking, needless travel, pageants, wars .. ambition, favourites, players, or fools”
where are the philanthropists?

“The merchants are the biggest fool of all. They carry on the most sordid business and by the most corrupt methods. Whenever it is necessary, they will lie, perjure themselves, steal, cheat, and mislead the public. Nevertheless, they are highly respected because of their money. There is no lack of flattering friars to kowtow to them, and call them Right Honorable in public. The motive of the friars is clear: they are after some of the loot”

— Erasmus, *Encomium Moriae*
How HBO’s John Oliver Helped Move The Needle on Net Neutrality

By GAUTHAM NAGESH

GIZMODO

Republicans Call Foul Play Over New Net Neutrality Proposal

The biggest news on the internet last week was about the internet itself, specifically FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's announcement that he will be proposing that broadband be treated like Title II, allowing everyone equal, unbiased access to the internet. In response, a group of Republicans called on the FCC to support net neutrality by exercising the authority that was given to them by Congress. The Republican approach is one of the more newsworthy things that happened last week.

Street Journal, Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who is chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, contacted Wheeler on Friday asking for all documents related to the new proposal and also the visitor logs between the FCC and The White House. Chaffetz is suspicious of Wheeler's change in policy.
in sum

talking about information and revolutions requires talking about a lot more than “technology”

we need to distinguish tech, techies, and text

we need to consider the political economy of tech

we need to understand the mechanisms of authority and authenticity
12 Feb: Scientific "Revolution"

**Required Reading**


*Read: pp. pp 60-79*

*Source: bcourses [hyperlink to follow]*

Sprat divides his history into three parts. The first gives the background of the group which formed the Royal Society. The second describes what they did that earned them the title "Royal Society" (in 1662). And the third describes what they did between 1662 and the publication of Sprat's book in 1667. You are asked to read from the second part:

**Start** at page 60 with the paragraph that begins, "I come now to the Second Period of my Narration..." and read to p. 79, "The Royal Society will become Immortal."

**Note:** The Royal Society was founded in England in 1660. It still exists today-2010 was its 350th anniversary and claims to be the world's oldest scientific society. This year is the 350th anniversary of its still-published journal *Transactions of the Royal Society*. Thomas Sprat (1635-1713), the author of the work you have to read, joined the Society in 1663 and was asked to write the Society's history. In this book, then, we have a contemporary, insider's account of the founding of a very influential society, one that people argue was at the center of the "scientific revolution." Because it was written in the seventeenth century, however, the text is a challenge. But it is manageable and even rewarding with patience. Take it slowly. The section you have to read, pages 60-79, is not very long. If you keep going, what is at first confusing may become clear (or irrelevant). Mark up passages that don't make sense (as well as those that interest you) to discuss in class, but keep on reading. As you read, ask yourself how much this does or does not resemble what we think of as modern science.

If you go to Early English Books Online, you will be able to see the pages as they appeared in the original book.


*Source: EEBO [hyperlink]*