

**Guide to the Study of Early Modern European History**  
**For Students Preparing their Oral Examination**

By Constantin Fasolt

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

I first wrote this guide in 1991. Since then, I have kept revising it, mostly by adding new items to the lists of books, articles, and tools of research that attracted my attention at one point or another for one reason or another. Over time, these lists have grown too long. They have also been superseded by a great deal of information that is now available online. I have therefore put together shorter and more focused lists of readings that will give you a more specific sense of what I expect you to know if you are studying with me.

But this document is the only place where I've put my understanding of the purpose of the oral exam in writing, given a systematic account of the different kinds of knowledge I want you to acquire, and described what I regard as the most effective ways in which you can prepare yourself for the oral exam.

If you plan on taking your oral exam with me, please read this guide carefully and write a brief statement of your intent (as described below) before we meet to talk about your plans for the exam. I do not of course expect you to familiarize yourself with every bibliographical item listed below. But do read through those lists. They may bring one or another item to your attention that you would otherwise have missed and they will give you a sense of what I have been reading or would have liked to have read over the years.

## **II. GENERAL POINTS**

The purpose of the oral examination is for you to demonstrate a professional grasp of early modern European history. The purpose of this guide is to explain what I mean by a "professional grasp of early modern European history," and how you can go about acquiring one.

In keeping with the limits of my research, this guide is focused on continental Europe—especially the Germanies—from the Black Death to the Peace of Westphalia. It privileges the history of law and politics, legal and political thought, historiography, and theory of history. It is informed by my conviction that the early modern period is impossible to understand without a knowledge of its place in the history of Europe as a whole, and that the history of Europe properly speaking begins with what R. I. Moore has called the First European Revolution, that is, the transformative two centuries after the collapse of the Carolingian Empire in the tenth century, when Europe first acquired the institutions and the habits of mind that have given Europe its specific historical character. The most important institutions are a governmental church, governmental states, incorporated cities, and incorporated universities. The most telling habit of mind is the preference for scientific objectivity most memorably singled out for attention by Max Weber, whether it is in the area of theology and law, as in the Middle Ages, or in the study of nature and politics, as in modern times.

Do not take any of my suggestions as writ in stone. They are meant to help you in your preparation for the examination and to explain to you what I expect students to know about early modern European history unless I am told otherwise. If you are already prepared, for example, or if you have some definite ideas of your own about how you would like to structure your field that don't agree with mine, by all means let me know. There is no inherent reason why you should have to proceed in the manner I have suggested below. The definition of your field depends on certain basic intellectual decisions that will make a

difference to your future. They are therefore yours to make. Unless they violate certain basic intellectual decisions I have made, I will support them, no matter how far away they may lead from this guide.

A professional grasp of early modern European history requires you to be familiar with the whole range of what historians consider to be the basic themes, facts, and developments of that period and that region: the economy and society of Europe, from the demographic, economic, and political crisis of the later Middle Ages to the first stirrings of the so-called Industrial Revolution; the Hundred Years War; the Great Schism and the conciliar movement; the price rise of the sixteenth century; the Renaissance; humanism; the Reformation; the Counter-Reformation; the inquisition; the Jesuits; the impact of printing; the expansion of Europe into the so-called new world and its commerce with Asia; the so-called Scientific Revolution; the wars of religion in France, Germany, and England; popular culture; agriculture; urbanization; dynastic and diplomatic relations; the nations of Europe; the fall of Byzantium; the expansion of the Ottoman empire into the Balkans; the Tudor revolution in government; the Thirty Years War—all of these are things of which you need to know at least enough not to fall silent when you are asked about them. It is *your* responsibility to acquire that knowledge.

This does of course not mean that you have to know everything. But it does mean that you need to be able to talk intelligently about *any* issue in the history of early modern Europe that your future students may ask you about, including issues you have not studied in any depth. "Professor, I have been told that printing was really invented by the Chinese, not by Gutenberg. Is that true?"—"Professor, I have read somewhere that Columbus really wanted to found a new religion in Asia. Is that true?"—"Professor, somebody told me that the peasants of early modern Europe did not believe in Christ. Is that true?" These are perfectly fair questions. If you do not want to lose the respect of your students, you must be able to respond intelligently to them, even if you do not know the answer as well as you would like. That is why the oral examination will not merely test what you know, but also your ability to handle what you do not know.

Lack of experience with exams sometimes tempts students to start guessing as soon as they are confronted with a question to which they do not know the answer. Don't guess. If you don't actually know, or if you are only half sure of your knowledge, say so, and say so clearly: "I do not know the answer to that question." Never forget the reason why you are going to graduate school. The reason is that you want to learn something you do *not* know. If it were otherwise, there would be nothing for you to learn and nothing for me to teach. The more clearly you realize that you are expected *not* to have a certain kind of knowledge, the easier it will be for you to avoid falling into the kind of anxiety that is typical of students who are afraid to reveal the limits of their own knowledge.

Of course you cannot leave it at that. You need to be able to go on. One of the most effective ways to go on is to say what you *do* know, even if it does not answer the question, and then to describe what you would do in order to find the answer. If you were being asked by your own students (but of course not in your examination), the best thing you might say would be, "I don't know, but let me see what I can find out and get back to you." If you are very hard pressed, you may even hazard a guess, provided your answer is clearly characterized as a guess. But no matter how you go on, you must neither fall silent nor fudge the limits of your knowledge. The best examinations are not those in which students answer all questions (nobody can), but those in which students demonstrate that they can distinguish clearly what they know from what they don't know while engaging their examiners in a conversation that is both lively and substantial.

### III. SCOPE OF THE EXAM

In principle, I expect you to demonstrate three things: first, that you have traveled the length and breadth of early modern Europe far enough to be able to teach an upper-level undergraduate course on early modern European history that meets the standards of the best liberal arts colleges in the country; second, that you are familiar with the state of the scholarship; and third, that you would be able to undertake original research in the field even if you have not done so and will never do so. That is perhaps the simplest way to explain what it means to have a professional grasp of early modern European history.

In order to develop such a grasp you need to have five different kinds of knowledge:

1. Broad knowledge of early modern European history as a whole (**general knowledge**)
2. Knowledge of the current state of scholarship in at least a few specific areas (**special knowledge**)
3. Knowledge of the sources for the period in question (**primary sources**)
4. Knowledge of the historiographical context in which historians were writing in the past and are writing today (**historiography and theory of history**)
5. Knowledge of the main historical dictionaries, guides, handbooks, journals, bibliographies, catalogs and other tools of research with which to deepen your grasp of the literature (**tools of research**)

**General knowledge** is the kind that can be found in textbooks, surveys, and other standard historical accounts with a broad scope. It can be assimilated without much preparation beyond a good general education. **Special knowledge** is the kind that can be found in professional monographs, essays, and articles published in books, edited volumes, conference proceedings, and historical journals. They usually presuppose some understanding of the debates in which the scholars in the relevant fields are currently engaged. The **primary sources** constitute the foundation for all historical research. They consist of all sorts of pieces of evidence that may shed light on the period in question because they were produced at that time—not just written sources, but also paintings, buildings, landscapes, coins, clothes, tools, and so on. They can be found in archives, libraries, and museums, either in their original form or in reproductions such as facsimiles, copies, critical editions, and translations. Usually they cannot be understood without some kind of technical knowledge, such as knowledge of the language in which they were written or mastery of skills like diplomatics, paleography, numismatics, and so on. Knowledge of **the historiographical context** can be found in books and articles about the work that historians have done in the past, especially in the reviews of historical scholarship that are constantly appearing in professional journals. It is something that I stress because I do not believe that historians can understand the significance of their work unless they understand the relationship in which it stands to the work that other historians have done before them and the reasons why they have done that work. The **tools of research** consist of a tremendous variety of dictionaries, guides, encyclopedias, compendia, handbooks, journals, current bibliographies, retrospective bibliographies, catalogs, and so on (now constantly being increased by material that is accessible online) intended to make it easier for scholars to find the information they are looking for.

In part V of this guide below you will find sections corresponding to each of these five kinds of knowledge with more detailed information about their significance and particular books and articles to consider.

If early modern Europe is your major field, you should also have carried out some sort of serious research within the limits of the field. Such research may be embodied in your first-year seminar paper; it may be the subject on which you wish to write your dissertation; or it may be a subject in which you began to be interested while taking courses in college. Whatever it is, you ought to be familiar with relevant primary sources, controversial issues raised by historians in the field, arguments offered for and against conflicting interpretations, the current state of our knowledge, any progress that may have been made over the past decade or two, leading historians in the field, their publications, their contributions to our knowledge—and above all else you ought to be able to take a well-reasoned position of your own.

I usually start an examination with general questions and then proceed to whatever specific questions may seem appropriate, depending on your preparation, the course of the examination, and my fancy. Examples of general questions are the following:

- What do you mean by "early modern Europe"?
- What are the chronological and geographical limits of early modern Europe?
- What are the main geographic regions of early modern Europe?
- What happened in early modern Europe?
- What are the major developments, the major issues, and the major turning points in early modern European social, economic, cultural, political, religious, or intellectual history?
- What were the relations between early modern Europe and the rest of the world?
- How was early modern European society structured?
- What were the basic features of the early modern economy?
- What were the main political units of early modern Europe?
- How many people lived in early modern Europe, and how did their numbers change over time?
- How would you structure an upper-level undergraduate course on European history from 1300 to 1700?
- Which readings would you assign in such a course?
- What sources are there for early modern European history?
- Who are the leading scholars in early modern European history?
- Which are the leading journals on early modern Europe?
- What are the main historiographical traditions in the study of early modern Europe?
- What do you consider to be the five most important books on early modern European history written in the last ten years?
- What are the five books that have done the most to shape your understanding of early modern European history?

I recommend that you think carefully about each of these questions and prepare an answer to each of them well in advance of the exam. Even in the unlikely event that I won't ask a single one of these questions, that will give you a good foundation on which to base other aspects of your preparation.

"Early modern European history" is not a hard and fast concept. The definition of that concept will therefore almost certainly take up some time in the examination. When

does "early modern" begin, and when does it end? Which areas of Europe does it include, and why these? Why not call the field "Renaissance and Reformation," as it used to be called in the past? What is special about the period 1300-1700? Is it not perhaps more appropriate to deal with the period 1450-1650? Or to divide early modern Europe into two periods, such as 1350-1500 and 1500-1650? Such questions are worth attention. For the purposes of this guide, however, I will take "early modern Europe" to mean the history of the people living on the Eurasian promontory, to the West of the Urals, from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries, with occasional excursions backward and forward in time, but with little emphasis on the regions east of the Oder and the Adriatic.

Students often want to know how many books and articles they ought to read. The honest answer is: as many as they can. The reading lists of students who have taken their exams with me have ranged from about thirty books and fifteen articles at the low end to about eighty books and fifty articles at the high end. Thirty books is enough if early modern Europe is your second or third field. Eighty is more than enough, whether early modern Europe is your main field or not. Indeed, if reading eighty books forces you to delay your examination or does not allow you to gain a thorough grasp on what you are reading, eighty is too much. That ought to give you as good a sense as it is possible to get before you have taken your exam.

#### **IV. STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Your first responsibility after having read through this guide is to write a statement of your intentions for the examination, so that I will know better how to guide your preparation. Your statement should identify the fields for which you are preparing yourself, the names of your prospective examiners, the date at which you intend to take your examination, and your current status in the department.

Next, give me two separate lists of books and articles. The first list should identify books in the field that you *have already read*. The purpose of this list is for me to get a sense of what you've made yourself familiar with at one time or another, regardless of whether or not you still remember what you've read. The second list should contain whatever you *intend to read* in preparation for the exam and the time when you intend to read it. Organize both lists according to topics; list primary sources separately from secondary sources; and put asterisks next to books you know well in order to distinguish them from books you have only skimmed or read too long ago to remember.

I would also like you to give me lists of the readings you will be doing in your other fields. If those lists aren't ready yet, give them to me when you can.

The main point to keep in mind when you compose your reading list is that you should aim at two goals: a judicious balance between feasibility and coverage of the five different kinds of knowledge mentioned above. Be realistic. Make a list of every major task you will need to accomplish by the time your exam comes around (including your preparation for other fields), estimate the time you will have available for this field, and figure out how many pages, titles, and books you will be able to digest in that amount of time, perhaps on a weekly basis.

Be prepared to change both your reading list and the timetable as you go along. You will read some books more quickly than others, depending on the nature of the material and your progress to that point; you will skim entire volumes here or study every line there; and you will omit certain titles from your reading list altogether while adding others that have



come to your attention more recently. But unless you commit yourself to a definite plan at the beginning you won't have anything to change later on.

When you have finished your statement of intent, get in touch with me to fix a date when we can meet to talk about your plans. Send me your statement via email at least a week before our meeting, so that I have time to read it carefully.

## V. HOW TO STUDY FOR THE EXAM: REDUNDANCY, NOTES, AND MEETINGS

If you want to prepare yourself for the exam without wasting time you should take advantage of something information theorists call "redundancy." Redundancy is the part of a communication that can be eliminated without loss of essential information. Redundancy occurs when the same information is communicated more than once. Redundancy means repeating yourself. (I just gave you an example).

You may very well think that you will be using your time most effectively if you eliminate all redundancy from your readings. Redundancy, after all, takes time and adds no new information. But you would be wrong. Redundancy only deserves to be avoided if the essential information in a communication has already been understood. In that case, redundant information will by definition not teach you anything new. But that is not your case. Your case is that of someone trying to acquire a large and complicated body of new information. The only way to complete that task without redundancy is by means of a photographic memory. If you don't have one, redundancy is your friend.

A deliberate use of redundancy will help you to assimilate the new information you are expected to master. Entirely new information, which contains no redundancy at all (for example: the Russian names in *War and Peace* for those who do not know Russian) is hard to assimilate, while totally redundant information is useless. A moderately redundant piece of information, however, combines something you already know with something that is new to you. That combination is the most effective means for you to absorb new knowledge while reinforcing the knowledge of what you read before. Think of it as a kind of informational feedback that magnifies the amplitude of the informational waves washing through your brain. That feedback is crucial if you want to fix the subjects of your study both quickly and firmly in your memory.

There are many ways of achieving a properly memorable mixture between new and redundant information. In the present context the best way is to **take systematic advantage of the differences between three elementary types of historical writing:** primary sources (written *at the time and place* you are studying); secondary literature (written *about the time and place* you are studying); and historiographical, theoretical, or bibliographical literature (written *about books about the time and place* you are studying).

On any given subject you can and should be switching back and forth between each of these different kinds of writings. They function like three different handles by which to grasp one and the same subject. Take Machiavelli, for example. Read Machiavelli's *Prince*. But don't read it in isolation. Also read some piece of secondary literature, like Isaiah Berlin's famous essay on "The Originality of Machiavelli," or Nicolai Rubinstein's essay on "Italian Political Thought, 1450-1530" in the *Cambridge History of Political Thought, 1450-1700*, or J. G. A. Pocock's great book on *The Machiavellian Moment*. But don't stop there. Take a look as well at the two-page review of Pocock's book by Nathan Tarcov in the *Political Science Quarterly* 91 (1976): 380-382, and the thirty-one page review by Jack Hexter in *History and Theory* 16

(1977): 306-337. Read a historiographical article, like Eric Cochrane's article in the *Journal of Modern History*, 33 (1961): 113-36, which reports on studies of Machiavelli published from 1940-1960. Read the AHR Forum on Hans Baron's ideas about Renaissance Humanism published by Ronald Witt, John M. Najemy, Craig Kallendorf and Werner Gundersheimer in the *American Historical Review* 101 (1996): 107-44, which reassesses the work of one of the most important twentieth-century historians of the Italian Renaissance. If you read these works side-by-side with Machiavelli's *Prince* and Pocock's book about Machiavelli, you will acquire three interlocking sets of information: one from Machiavelli himself; one from Berlin, Rubinstein, and Pocock about Machiavelli; and one from Tarcov, Hexter, Cochrane, and the AHR forum about the ways historians like Berlin, Pocock, and Baron have dealt with Machiavelli. That will strengthen your grasp of the subject more rapidly than would reading more by Machiavelli, about Machiavelli, or about the historiography about Machiavelli in isolation.

I would especially like to stress the importance of reading the third type of historical writing: books and articles *about* the secondary literature—what one might call the tertiary literature. Beginning students of history are often very well aware how important it is to master the primary sources and the secondary literature. They are not always equally well aware how important it is to read the tertiary literature.

The tertiary literature comes in a variety of forms. At one extreme it consists of reviews devoted to a recently published book. At the other extreme, it consists of magisterial studies unravelling the historiography of a whole period of history or more. In between there are review articles devoted to groups of books, historiographical essays surveying developments in given fields of study, forums like those the *American Historical Review* regularly devotes to subjects of current interest, and a variety of other genres of engagement with the secondary literature. Hayden White's *Metahistory* is a great example of a magisterial study. It unravels the whole of nineteenth-century historical writing. Book reviews like those by Tarcov and Hexter of Pocock's *Machiavellian Moment* can be found in most historical journals. Each issue of a given journal usually contains a whole section of reviews devoted to recently published books that can easily run into the hundreds. Historiographical essays like Cochrane's on studies of Machiavelli from 1940-1960 and forums like that in the *American Historical Review* of 1996 on the work of Hans Baron are published less frequently and in smaller numbers than book reviews, but still on a regular basis.

The great advantage of reading book reviews is that they appear soon after a book has been published, that they are brief, and that they give you an instant snapshot of one scholar's judgment of a recent book. If it's a good review, it will tell you what is important about the book, how it relates to other books published previously by the same or other authors, how it fits into the field, what is good about it, and what is not.

It's hard to overestimate how useful it is to have such information, both for books being published now and for books that were published long ago. Most books get reviewed in more than one journal, so that you can compare the views of different reviewers with each other. Each reviewer's judgment will differ somewhat from that of the others and from yours. Each reviewer will tell you something slightly different about the relation between the book in question and the existing scholarship. With each review you read you will therefore learn something new about the state of the field and develop a better understanding of what you can expect from the book in question. Reading book reviews is obviously not a substitute for reading the book. But neither does reading the book allow you to ignore the reviews. Reading the reviews of a book offers invaluable clues to reading the book with an understanding, not only of what's on the page and what the author says, but also of what it

contributes to the existing scholarship and what other historians make of what the author says. The same goes to a still greater degree for historiographical articles and magisterial studies. But you have to wait for those. Book reviews appear on an ongoing basis. Merely glancing through the list of books that are being reviewed in a given issue of a given journal will tell you a great deal about the state of the field. Doing so on a regular basis will tell you a good deal about the ways the field is changing. And reading the considered judgement given to a book in the reviews written by one or more professional peers of the book's author will tell you a great deal about the uses of that book that you would be hard pressed to learn in any other way.

Structuring your reading so as to take systematic advantage of the main types of historical writing is essential if you are going to master your field efficiently. In the bibliographical sections of this guide below I have therefore given you a considerable amount of information, not only about primary sources and the secondary literature, but also about the tertiary literature and the bibliographies and guides that will help you to find reviews of a given book and historiographical articles.

In addition I would like to mention three other strategies which speed up learning by taking advantage of redundancy. All three are very basic and can be applied to any field of learning. But my experience tells me that even students at the graduate level are not always as aware of their uses as they should be.

**First, pay attention to the speed at which you are reading.** Most students believe the best way to read is as quickly as possible, and some even pay money to learn how to do so. They are wrong. You can read too quickly; you can never read too slowly. If you are reading a book on a subject about which you know very little, every line may contain new information. In that case there is virtually no redundancy and you are very quickly going to forget most of what you read unless you change the speed of your reading. Slow down until you are able to assimilate what is new at a steady pace. Don't worry about reading too slowly: what matters is *not* how many pages you read in a day, but how much of what you have read you are going to remember a year later. Give your mind a chance to wander. If it goes in the wrong direction, you will be the first to notice. But if you do not interfere with its natural sense of direction it can establish more memorable connections between what you are learning and what you already know than if you tell it where to go and don't respect its natural inclinations. If, on the other hand, you are reading a book about a subject with which you are intimately familiar, you can speed up your reading because new pieces of information are few and far between. Even though you may be turning pages at different speeds, you are in effect absorbing roughly equal amounts of new information in roughly equal amounts of time.

**Second, take notes.** I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important that is. Taking notes means that, in addition to absorbing new pieces of information in the unilinear fashion that is characteristic of straight reading, you are doing at least four other things. First, you have to discriminate between information worth noting and not worth noting, which means that in addition to absorbing it you are ranking it in some fashion. Second, by writing down what you just read and judged to be important, you are going over it a second time and thereby translating it into your own words. That adds an especially important level of redundancy, because it makes the thoughts of someone else your own. Third, taking notes slows down your pace, which gives your mind the time it needs to integrate new information into your own frame of reference. And fourth, you create a record of your reading, which you can review in the future, for example, before the examination.

It does not really matter all that much how extensive your notes are, nor does it matter all that much whether your notes are pencilled in the margins of books and articles you own, or written out inside the back cover, or on separate sheets of paper, or in notebooks, or in word documents on your computer. What does matter is that you have *made* them, that you have *actively participated* in your reading. It is not enough to highlight or underline important passages. Underlining is like xeroxing: you know *that* the text is important, because otherwise you would not have xeroxed it. But you do not know *why* it is important, because you don't know what it says. Taking notes forces you to understand what you read and to decide what is important. Copying the most important passages verbatim can be useful (especially if you want to refer to them in footnotes in your future work). But the best notes do not repeat what you read; they state in your own words what *you think about* what you read.

Whatever else you do, make sure that your notes distinguish *precisely and consistently* between verbatim quotations (I use quotation marks for verbatim quotations, and only for verbatim quotations), paraphrases of what you have read (no quotation marks, ever), and your own random observations or ideas about the material you're reading [I put those in square brackets]. If you don't make these distinctions clearly and consistently, you will sooner or later confuse a verbatim quotation from somebody else's book with your own ideas. Soon after that you will be charged with plagiarism. Or else you will confuse your own ideas with something you found in primary sources. Soon after that you will be charged with fabricating evidence.

I like to take notes in longhand and keep them in the chronological order in which I have written them. I find that doing it that way lodges the content of my notes most firmly in my mind and makes it easy to track down the notes I took when I need to. If your memory works like mine, that will work for you as well. Your memory may of course work quite differently. Many students prefer to type notes on the computer, because you can search them and reorganize them without relying on your memory. You can also type faster than you can write by hand (without a lot of practice). In my experience, you never remember such notes as well as those which you wrote by hand, and you tend to change them or move them around in ways that makes it very difficult to find them—unless you make duplicates, in which case you can't keep track of the differences between the original and the duplicate. After many years of experimenting, I have returned to the simplest method of all: 150-page spiral notebooks, with notes, observations, and drafts in the chronological order in which they were written, identified by type and date of writing, with a little index on the last page of the notebook to indicate what's to be found on which pages.

**Third, keep a bibliography.** You no longer need to use three-by-five index cards, as I did when I started out. You can use database management software specifically designed for the purpose of maintaining bibliographic records and creating uniformly styled bibliographic references in notes or bibliographies to be appended to papers and books. I use Endnote, but there are other programs on the market. But whatever method you prefer, do make it a regular habit to create a bibliographic entry for every book and article you come across of which you think you might want to read it at some time in the future, perhaps by downloading it directly from the web.

Chances are that you will never read the books and articles that you recorded in your bibliography. You cannot read everything in which you are interested. And as time goes on you will discover that the more books and articles you do read, the more quickly the number of books and articles that you would like to read but can't increases. But you can keep a record. You can build up a bibliography of items in which you are interested. And you can

read through your bibliography every now and then and sort it in different ways. This will not only be an aide to your memory. It will also allow you to prioritize your reading. Certain titles will become more familiar than others, because you encounter them more frequently. You will impose some conceptual order on what would otherwise simply be a long and indigestible list of titles. You will learn to distinguish the pathbreaking or memorable article from the ephemeral contribution to scholarship. You will recognize series of books, schools of research, centers of interest, and so on. And you will be able to find the title of that article you decided not to read when you first noticed it two years ago, but that has suddenly become crucial to your research.

Don't study in isolation. Keep in touch with me. I need to know whether you are satisfied with your progress or are running into unforeseen obstacles of one kind or another. How often we meet will depend entirely on the circumstances of your case. We may meet once or twice in six months, or we may meet three times in a single month. Don't expect a set routine. And don't expect me to know by osmosis or mind-reading where you are in your studies. Tell me. If you told me before, tell me again. I have taught and am teaching many different students, and my memory is not perfect. I may think I have already recommended a certain book to you, but actually I recommended it to three other people. If you want to change your reading list because you bit off more than you can chew, let me know. If you have decided to change the focus of your attention, let me know. There is no reason for you to go on with a plan of reading that has turned out to be unprofitable. On the other hand, if everything is going perfectly according to plan, there is no need for us to meet more often than it takes for me to realize that everything is moving along just fine.

Finally, do not give in to the temptation to overprepare. You will never have read enough. There is nothing to be gained by continuing to read that cannot be gained just as well after having passed the oral examination. Delaying your oral examination, by contrast, has direct and unpleasant consequences for applications for fellowships and the speed of your progress through graduate school. Aim at taking your examination no later than the Autumn quarter of your third year.

## VI. PARADIGMATIC BOOKS

By "paradigmatic books" I mean books that have shaped my understanding of European history in one fundamental way or another. I believe they might do something similar for you if you read them, too. But the main reason why I list them here is not that I want you to read them. The main reason is that knowing what they are will give you some clues about the *reasons why* I go about dealing with early modern European history the way I do and what I hope to accomplish by doing so. If you want to figure out how I *actually do* go about dealing with early modern European history, you have two options: one, ask me; two, read what I have written. You'll find a selection of my work on my home page at <http://home.uchicago.edu/~icon/>, along with a detailed CV.

I list these books in rough chronological order. The order is chronological because I do not believe there is any way to make real progress except by critical engagement with traditions—and traditions happen to be formed in time. The order is rough because sometimes it makes sense to list books as they appeared over time, and sometimes it makes sense to list books in groups that belong to a similar school of thought or depart from earlier traditions in similar ways.

I call these books paradigmatic because they convey particularly important, incisive, influential, or durable lessons about history in a manner that is entirely original. Other books

won't convey those lessons at all or only in a derivative fashion. This does not mean that I have listed all of the books that really matter to me, nor does it mean that I agree with all of the ones I have listed. On the contrary, some of them have shaped my views precisely because I disagree with them. Even so I recommend them. Regardless of whether you agree with them or not, and regardless of how outdated or misguided they may strike you, all of them have something valuable to say that is difficult to find elsewhere.

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## VII. FIVE KINDS OF KNOWLEDGE

### 1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

The best way to make sure that you are not missing any elementary bit of knowledge about early modern Europe is to master one or two surveys of the period in detail and then skim other surveys, which may be older or more recent, in order to measure their differences from the one's you've read carefully. Most people find this boring, and I know why: most textbooks and handbooks are boring. Books that make a case for a particular issue are usually more interesting, especially if they happen to deal with an issue in which you are interested. Nor is there any doubt that the focus of your examination will not be on basic historical knowledge, but on the most important and original scholarship that has been produced in the last half century or so. That is what you really need to know.

But if you are a novice in the field, the basic information found in surveys designed to introduce you to the whole period may in fact turn out to be eye-opening. More important, your obligation as a teacher goes beyond teaching undergraduates the things in which you happen to be interested or the things historians have discovered in recent decades—not only because your students may be interested in something else, but also because they will expect you to give them a rounded introduction to the field as a whole. If only for those reasons there is no way around studying the kinds of systematic overviews of the period that only textbooks and handbooks provide.



The easiest way to find decent general histories is to go to one of the great **multi-volume series in European history** that have been published over the last half century and more. Among the most useful are, in chronological order of appearance, the *Rise of Modern Europe* edited by William Langer (Harper), the *General History of Europe* edited by Denys Hay (Longman), the *History of Europe* edited by J. H. Plumb (Harper), and the *Norton History of Modern Europe* edited by Felix Gilbert (Norton). The advantage of these series is that each volume is written by a single author, which gives it a coherence that is indispensable for someone trying to enter into the field.

More recently, there has been a proliferation of series of general histories published by Cambridge U.P., Oxford U.P., Routledge, and other publishers that are written at what strikes me as a lower level of scholarship and a higher level of generality than the series I've just mentioned, but that have the advantage of including more up-to-date information. The series on *The Making of Europe* that is currently being edited by Jacques Le Goff is worth special mention. It is not particularly useful for giving you a clear grasp of early modern European history. But it contains some truly outstanding volumes (e.g., Peter Brown's *Rise of Western Christendom*) and it has two unusual features: most of its volumes are topical rather than chronological (e.g., *Europe and Islam*, *The Culture of Food*), which means that it departs from the standard tapeworm model (in which each volume resembles the segment of a worm, reliably preceded and followed by another segment that differs only in the period covered); and all volumes are being published simultaneously in English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish by five different publishers. I know no historical venture that exemplifies the new Europe better than this.

Unfortunately there is no really good single **survey of late medieval European history** in English that does the job. You will have to mix and match. Denys Hay, *Europe in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*, 2nd ed. (London: Longman, 1989), one of the volumes in the *General History of Europe* he edited for Longman, is thorough and reliable, but it is also boring. Christopher T. Allmand, ed., *The New Cambridge Medieval History, vol. 7: c.1415-c.1500* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008) is probably the best way to get a comprehensive overview of the current state of the scholarship on late medieval Europe, but like all such handbooks it is very heavy going.

An outstanding work written from the *Annales* perspective is Bernard Guenée, *States and Rulers in Later Medieval Europe*, trans. Juliet Vale (Oxford: B. Blackwell, 1985). This is an easy read that offers a lot of outstanding information on intellectual attitudes, political organization, social orders, and so on. No other book that I am aware of deals equally well with the later Middle Ages. But it is focused on political order and written from a firmly synchronic perspective. It does not give you a good sense of chronological development.

If you can read German, you might try Heinz Schilling, *Die neue Zeit: Vom Christenheits Europa bis zum Europa der Staaten, 1250 bis 1750* (Berlin: Siedler, 1999). This is a recent and unusually wide ranging attempt by one of the leading proponents of the so-called confessionalization thesis to write a readable history of the whole of early modern Europe from the late Middle Ages all the way to the Enlightenment. As the title indicates, the main theme is the transformation of Christendom into the world of modern European states as perceived from the vantage point of a social historian, very much in keeping with the confessionalization paradigm. From your point of view, it has the advantage that it treats late medieval and early modern Europe in a single volume from a single author's point of view. The main disadvantage is that it treats late medieval Europe as a precursor to modern Europe. It is written from a firmly modernist perspective. It tries to annex the later Middle Ages to the early modern period and it understates the extent of change.

There are several good **surveys of early modern European history**. I highly recommend two that were published in the multi-volume series I mentioned above, H. G. Koenigsberger, G. L. Mosse, and G. Q. Bowler, *Europe in the Sixteenth Century*, 2nd ed. (London: Longman, 1989), from the Longman General History of Europe, and Eugene F. Rice and Anthony Grafton, *The Foundations of Early Modern Europe, 1460-1559*, 2nd ed. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1994) from the Norton History of Modern Europe. Both reflect a style of historical analysis that was current in the 1970s, when they were first published, but both have been updated. Both are models of what a general historical survey ought to look like. These are the two volumes I would read first.

Koenigsberger's account is limited to the sixteenth century, but since it deals with the period in such clear, well-informed, and convincing fashion, it can help you to develop an understanding of the main areas of historical life that will prove perfectly appropriate to the fifteenth and the seventeenth centuries as well. One of its outstanding features is the way in which it integrates social, economic, and political history into a single survey.

Rice's book is much briefer and deals with a slightly different period. But Rice is not only a real master at explaining large-scale historical phenomena by means of tellingly chosen details. He is also determined to focus your attention on the complicated interplay between intellectual, cultural, economic, social, and political history. Though you will not find as many details in his book as in Koenigsberger's, the ones you do find may give you a better grasp of the fundamental features of the period. Rice doesn't overwhelm you with details, but he does inform you about the things you really need to know.

Something similar can be said about Theodore K. Rabb, *The Struggle for Stability in Early Modern Europe* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1975). This book does not belong to any series, and it does not really offer an overview of European history. It is rather a response to the claim that there was a general crisis in the seventeenth century that affected Europe as a whole and marked one of the major turning-points in European history. That claim was much debated in the 1950s and 1960s, and it is alive and well today: see Trevor Aston, ed., *Crisis in Europe, 1560-1660* (London: Doubleday Anchor, 1965), Geoffrey Parker and Lesley M. Smith, eds., *The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978), Geoffrey Parker and Lesley M. Smith, eds., *The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century*, 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 1997), and Jonathan Dewald, Geoffrey Parker, Michael Marmé, et al., "AHR Forum: The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century Revisited," *American Historical Review* 113 (2008): 1029-99.

Rabb believes that there was in fact a crisis and he offers his own account of it. But he does so from such a broad and clearly defined perspective that this little book can serve as an excellent introduction to the entire period from 1300 to 1700. It describes and analyzes the arguments for and against different understandings of the idea of a general crisis, and it is especially good at explaining exactly what came to an end in the seventeenth century. Most important, it is one of the very few books available that succeed at presenting the history of Europe as an integral whole, as opposed to dividing it into bits and pieces and proceeding by adding one bit after another. Combining it with Koenigsberger and Rice makes for an outstanding trio.

I also recommend Richard Bonney, *The European Dynastic States, 1494-1660* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991). Bonney's emphasis is on politics, diplomacy, and war, but he does pay a good deal of attention to matters like religion, economy, and society. His book is reliable, well-informed, unusually comprehensive for a volume written by a single author, and remarkably detailed. If you use this book as a basic frame of reference for the whole examination, you won't go wrong.

For the seventeenth century, things are as problematic as they are for the late Middle Ages. None of the volumes I know are quite up to the standard of Koenigsberger and Rice. D. H. Pennington, *Europe in the Seventeenth Century*, 2nd ed. (London: Longman, 1989), David Maland, *Europe in the Seventeenth Century*, 2nd ed. (London: Macmillan Education, 1983), and Richard S. Dunn, *The Age of Religious Wars, 1559-1715*, 2d ed. (New York: Norton, 1978) are all respectable. But none of them are impressive. It helps that Rabb's and Bonney's volumes mentioned above deal with the first half of the century, and that is the part that matters most for this examination.

Two other surveys of early modern European history are worth mentioning here. One is Merry E. Wiesner, *Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006). This has the advantage that it is recent and covers a lot of historical ground, especially in cultural and social history. It has the disadvantage that it is written at a very elementary level. The other is William Doyle, *The Old European Order, 1660-1800*, 2nd ed. (Oxford - New York: Oxford University Press, 1992). This deals with a period of European history on which I have never done any serious work. But that period is now generally considered to be part of early modern European history, and for those who want to gain more familiarity with it, this is probably the best single volume available.

You might vary your reading of general histories by adding elementary fare at one end and more advanced fare at the other. The elementary fare will help you to control for really basic gaps in your knowledge of which you may not be aware. The more advanced fare will give you a standard by which to judge what you have learned. And both types of fare will reinforce what you are reading in the general histories.

A good example of **elementary fare** is William H. McNeill, *History of Western Civilization: A Handbook*, 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986). This is written for undergraduates and it is pitched at the basic level of facts and dates. But it was written by an outstanding historian with a very broad perspective who spent his entire career trying to develop a coherent grasp of the history of the world as a whole. As a result, his survey has a coherence that is unusual for such books and conveying a great deal of elementary historical knowledge in a systematic and readily intelligible fashion and placing it in an unusually informative light. It covers the whole span of "Western" history from the ancient near east to the twentieth century in a highly compressed manner, and it has the added value that it may come in handy if you ever get a chance to teach in our "European Civilization" sequence, the successor to the old "History of Western Civilization" course. McNeill's *Handbook* was explicitly written to supply, in the most compressed form possible, essential historical background to the primary sources on whose reading those courses concentrate.

You might also consider the companions to Renaissance and Reformation history published by Longman (focusing on facts and dates, and very different from the similarly named companions published by Cambridge and Blackwell, which consist of collections of scholarly essays), or the *Anchor Atlas of World History, Volume I: From the Stone Age to the Eve of the French Revolution* (Garden City: Doubleday, 1974), originally published in German by H. Kinder and W. Hilgemann as the *DTV-Atlas zur Weltgeschichte*. This offers two kinds of information on facing pages: historical maps, graphs, and charts on the left page, and historical chronologies on the right page (occasionally there are purely descriptive pages without maps, usually devoted to large historical themes like ancient Roman society or the medieval church). The maps are small, but they are informative, and the chronologies are an excellent collection of the most elementary historical facts.

A good example of **more advanced fare** is the *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation* edited by Thomas Brady, the late Heiko

Oberman and James Tracy (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1994-95). This is a comprehensive collection of scholarly essays by recognized authorities in their respective fields. It is now more than fifteen years old, but it is still remarkably up-to-date. It is systematically subdivided according to subject matter, time, and geography. Each essay is accompanied by succinct bibliographies. As always, there are some significant omissions, not to mention that these volumes reflect the interests of their editors in the history of the Reformation quite directly. But the high quality of the essays and the bibliographies more than make up for the deficiencies. The piece by Jan de Vries on early modern European population, for example, is one of the best short introductions to historical demography I know, and the essays by Philip Benedict on the French Reformation and Robert Kingdon on International Calvinism are superb. At the moment, this is probably the best available summary of current scholarship on early modern Europe in English.

There are many other handbooks that follow the same basic model: essays by experts in their respective specialized fields, compiled by an editor in order to give reliable and comprehensive information about the field as a whole (see section 5.7.5 below). John Jeffries Martin, ed., *The Renaissance World* (New York - London: Routledge, 2007) and Andrew Pettegree, ed., *The Reformation World* (London - New York: Routledge, 2002) are good recent examples. The same is true of the "companions" to the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and various aspects of medieval and early modern history that have recently been published by Cambridge and Blackwell.

The disadvantage of such volumes is always the same: they don't offer a coherent narrative. Individual essays may be outstanding. But reading the whole volume cover-to-cover can be painful. Since the essays are written by different scholars with different or even contradictory views, you will find yourself jerked around each time you start reading a new one. Merely recognizing the differences between individual authors is a complicated task in its own right. Such books are therefore not good for someone trying to make their first approach to the field as a whole. But they are very good for those who want to fill in the gaps in a body of knowledge that is already well developed. That is how I would advise you to use them. If you have already read Koenigsberger's *Europe in the Sixteenth Century* and already have some sense of the factors that may explain the growth in early modern population, but would like to know more, de Vries' essay on population in the *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation* edited by Brady, Oberman, and Tracy is perfect for you. But I wouldn't read it first.

Finally there are **standard multi-volume handbooks of European history** like the *Cambridge Modern History*, the *New Cambridge Modern History* (in which the Reformation volume is one of the few that have been published in thoroughly revised editions) and the later volumes of the *Cambridge Medieval History* and the *New Cambridge Medieval History*. These are not for the faint of heart. Their advantage is that they are massive, detailed, and aim at the most authoritative and comprehensive presentation of historical knowledge possible, often with comprehensive bibliographical references to both primary and secondary literature. In that regard they are generally better than the more recent collections of essays. Their disadvantage is that they are dated and that attempts to replace them with more current versions cannot always be called successful. That makes them perfect foils for anyone wishing to ascertain deeply entrenched views of the past. But it also makes them hard reading.

I might add, for those who read foreign languages, that there are similar **handbooks of European history in German, Italian, French, and other European languages**. Reading a general history written by a German, French, or Italian historian is highly

recommended for anyone who can do so and would like to broaden their horizon. It can be a real eye-opener to realize how differently historians of different nationalities place their emphases, how differently they draw their boundaries, how differently they proceed, and how differently they judge what is common knowledge and what is not—even in very basic historical accounts. In German, there are the *Handbuch der Europäischen Geschichte* in seven volumes edited by Theodor Schieder (Stuttgart: Union Verlag, 1968-87), and the *Geschichte der Neuzeit* edited in three volumes by Gerhard Ritter (Brunswick: Westermann, 1950-62). In French there are the old *Clio: Introduction aux études historiques* and its successor, the *Nouvelle Clio: L'histoire et ses problèmes*, edited by Robert Boutruche and Paul Lemerle since 1963. The latter deals not only with Europe, but also with Asia, Africa, and both North and South America, and some of its volumes are superb illustrations of the *Annales* school approach to history. Pierre Chaunu's book on *L'expansion européenne due XIII<sup>e</sup> au XV<sup>e</sup> siècle*, for example, and Jean Delumeau volume on *Le catholicisme entre Luther et Voltaire*, are such well-known classics in the field that they have been translated into English.

There are of course also **handbooks of the history of the various European nations**, e.g., the *Storia d'Italia* published by Mondadori in Milan since 1936, the *Oxford History of England* edited by George Clark, the *New Oxford History* currently in progress, the old *Histoire de France* edited by Ernest Lavisse, and the *Handbuch der Deutschen Geschichte*, known as the *Gebhardt*, after the high school teacher who produced the first edition with a team of assistants late in the nineteenth century. These used to count among the most important reference tools for historians and especially beginning historians. But the rise of social, economic, and cultural history in forms that do not cling to national boundaries has seemed to make most of them seem less useful than they once were, even if they are still being updated.

## 2. SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE

In this section I have listed books and articles that strike me as offering sound scholarship in the various subfields of early modern European history: Renaissance, Reformation, Catholic Reformation, Counter-Reformation, German history, economic history, social history, the history of gender, the history of science, printing, the expansion of Europe, the history of law, political thought, and so on. For the reasons mentioned above, I have also added a good bit of information about the Middle Ages.

This is the area in which you will do your most important work. It is also an area in which too much is written for me to be able to comment on individual titles in any detail. In order to make it easier for you to make informed decisions, I have therefore adopted three conventions:

- I have put asterisks \* next to books that strike me especially worth reading for someone studying early modern European history.
- I have put two asterisks \*\* next to books that count as classics—either classics for the historical profession as a whole (in which case they may have been published as far back as the nineteenth century) or classics in their particular field (in which case they may have been published as recently as the 1990s).
- At the beginning of each section I have listed a small selection of books and/or articles that you would do well to read first.

I have not tried to be comprehensive, but to cover only areas in which I might actually examine you. You will therefore not find much for the period after the Peace of Westphalia or for any national history other than the history of Germany. You will find a great deal about the history of political thought, law and legal thought, the church, the state, intellectual history, religion, and the like. You will not find a lot about the history of politics, but that's only because the political history of early modern Europe is well covered by the books listed in the preceding section on "general knowledge."

I have not been shy about paying attention to older pieces of scholarship. That's not because they have not been superseded by more recent scholarship. In many ways they have. But familiarity with older pieces of scholarship is an invaluable aid in finding one's way through the clutter of new books and articles constantly pouring from the presses into the academy and onto the web. Without knowing older pieces of scholarship that have proven their worth over time, it can be very difficult to recognize just which recent publications are really new and significant and which merely add one more study of a certain very specific kind to a long and well established list of similar studies, or that merely repeat well known information in a slightly different form with slightly different words, as they often do at the invitation of publishers eager to survive in an increasingly tight market.

There is no way you can arrange titles in this kind of bibliography in a thoroughly consistent manner unless you use a purely mechanical criterion, like the date of publication or authors' last names. But using a mechanical criterion would be counterproductive for students trying to understand how the body of scholarly knowledge about early modern Europe is articulated. It's much more enlightening to arrange books according to some kind of criterion that reflects the intellectual relationships in which these books stand to each other.

I have therefore arranged titles according to whatever criterion seemed to make the most sense for a particular group of titles—by importance, by author, by topic, by date of publication, by genre, by school of scholarship, and so on—and I have felt free to switch criteria whenever I could think of no better way to proceed. That means that these arrangements reflect nothing more clearly than my own judgment. You may not recognize the reasons why I arranged things the way I did, and if you do, they may strike you as arbitrary. That's fine by me just so long as it helps you to recognize what these books have contributed to our knowledge of the past and how they differ from each other. Choose whatever you think will be most useful for your purposes and discuss your choices with me.

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### 3. PRIMARY SOURCES

Here you will find a list of primary literature from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, and the period leading up to the Enlightenment of whose existence you should at least be aware. I have included primary sources from the Middle Ages starting with St. Augustine's *City of God* because I find it impossible to formulate a responsible perspective on early modern European history without real knowledge of the preceding period. Collections of sources are listed at the beginning of each section. References to the works of individual authors follow in roughly chronological order. Because all of these works are classics, I have used only single asterisks \* to identify titles that stand out for their importance.

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## 5. TOOLS OF RESEARCH

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION: MASTERING THE LITERATURE

One of the most important tasks you need to learn how to perform well is finding the best information about a subject in which you happen to be specially interested. This is true when you are taking your first seminar and when you are preparing for your oral exam. But it really becomes important once you have gotten the Ph.D. and are working independently in a field of your own research.

Students often believe that the most effective way to find such information consists of going to the Internet and searching on-line databases, such as our Library Catalog, WorldCat, the Library of Congress Catalog, *JSTOR*, *Early English Books Online*, *Dissertation*

*Abstracts, Historical Abstracts, Iter: The Bibliography of Medieval and Renaissance Europe from 400-1700, Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, and so on.* These are indeed extremely useful tools. If you know what you are looking for, they allow you to find in seconds what it might have taken you days and weeks to find before they became available. Increasingly often they allow you to access the full text of journal articles and entire books, not to mention the capability of searching contents for specific terms or combinations of terms. You should therefore spend some time exploring the library's web-page for on-line historical resources (at this writing the location is <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/su/hist/>). It is well done, and it includes a wealth of information about the different kinds of electronic tools at your disposal, and a detailed inventory of journals and books whose texts are available on-line.

But on-line resources are by no means the best approach for all purposes, especially not if you do not yet know exactly what you are looking for. Anybody who has done a few generic searches on WorldCat (not to mention Google) knows how often they produce so much garbage that it is difficult to find what you are really looking for. Moreover, even if you do find what you are looking for, you can never be sure that your search criteria have given you a reasonably reliable listing of what is out there. It could very well be that, by changing one or two terms, you might have come up with quite different and much better results. And it often happens that you know the proper search criteria only after you have already found the literature you need. That is the reason why other tools of searching are not at all outdated.

One of the best ways to develop a grasp of the scholarship on a particular field of research is to find one or two or three books or articles on the subject you would like to learn more about that are both **good** and **recent**—and then to follow up on their footnotes and bibliographies. Notes and bibliographies in books and articles that are good and recent have the outstanding advantage that they will spare you a great deal of the sorting and sifting you would otherwise have to do on your own, simply because the scholars who wrote them have already done that sorting and sifting for you. Few things will get you more quickly into an existing body of scholarship than to follow the lead of the scholars who are currently engaged in it by conducting original research and debating the results.

"Following up on footnotes and bibliographies" does not mean merely identifying the titles and bibliographic data of the sources cited by the author and noting them for the future, but also, and far more importantly, finding those sources in the library, taking them physically in hand, inspecting them, noting *their* footnotes and bibliographies, and then following up on *these*. This way you will start a snow-ball effect. Scholar A will refer you to scholars B, C, and D. Scholar B will refer you to E, F, and G. Scholar E will refer you to H, I, and K. Scholar H will refer you to L, M, and N, and so on, for each iteration. Assuming that each step leads to three new ones, by the time you've completed four levels of following-up, you will have met with eighty-one different figures (three to the power of four).

For a while new names will keep coming up. But relatively soon, say, once you have reached the third or fourth level, and especially if you are careful about keeping a bibliographical record of the titles in which you are most interested, you will encounter familiar names: scholar P will refer back to D, A, and M, and scholar Q will refer back to B, N, and K—people you already know. At that point, the network closes, the snow-ball effect comes to an end, and you realize that you have begun to trace the outlines of a definite body of scholarship. You will have recognized the crucial article published sixty years ago, because that is the one article that keeps being cited by today's scholars. You will have a sense of the

scholars dominating the field today: their books and articles always figure in the earliest footnotes.

Bodies of scholarship are defined by people sharing certain interests and referring to each others' work across time. In practice, once you have learned how to go about it, they are not all that difficult to recognize, because they never grow to a very large size. You can estimate the size of a group of scholars genuinely conversant with each other's work by looking at the size of publication runs for academic books or specialized scholarly journals. They do not usually go above 1,000. Assuming that more scholars buy the books and journals than are actually engaged in doing original research in the specific field in question, you arrive at groups smaller than three or four hundred.

Following up on footnotes and bibliographies is the most effective way to enter directly into scholarly dialogue. A given body of scholarship will be united by a certain interest in a given subject, but divided over its understanding of that subject, or over the best methods to study it, and extending backwards in time. Some people will prefer certain sources, others other sources. They will refer to each other by name and disagree with each other for identifiable reasons. All you need to do in order to join the debate is to figure out what's going on and formulate your own point of view in light of your own reading.

At the same time this way of finding the appropriate literature makes you dependent on other people's definitions of the subject and the limits of their interests. To give an example, you may be interested in witchcraft. You read a good book about it and follow the leads. You gain a good understanding of what one might call the current state of the scholarship. Now, you happen to believe that witchcraft is fundamentally related to family structure. None of the scholars working on witchcraft, however, happens to share your belief. They never refer to family structure and they don't know much about it in the first place. It would be a mistake to conclude that there is no literature dealing with the relationship between witchcraft and family structure. Perhaps, if you examine the literature on family structure, you will find that some of it deals with witchcraft, too. Perhaps, the literature you want will disclose itself to you the moment you start looking into the history of psychology. Perhaps you need to examine the literature on Nostradamus. Perhaps you need to look at books in French, rather than English. Perhaps there was a debate about just this issue in Italy sometime in the early 1960s that was never even noticed in the United States.

If you want to do genuinely original work, you should therefore never allow the limits of your interests to be defined by an existing body of scholarship. You must go beyond those limits. You must go out on your own and search with open eyes for literature that other people have not considered.

I mean this quite literally. Keep your eyes open and keep looking. Go into the library, walk along the shelves, and look. If you see something that attracts your attention, act on the attraction: pull the volume off the shelf, open it, and look at the insides. Make a point of looking at time and place of publication, publisher, table of contents, preface and acknowledgments. Prefaces and acknowledgments are a great source of critical information, because those are the places where scholars tend to say most clearly from whom they learned the most and what they have tried to accomplish. The worst that can happen is that you put the book back on the shelf. But it can also happen that you get access to ideas and sources of information you would never have considered if you had not simply gone and looked without preconceived notions. Make it a habit. Spend time browsing in libraries, not on the web. It will help you in archives no less than in libraries. It is the best way to make real finds.

Bibliographies allow you to browse libraries by proxy, as it were. They are books (some of which may well be published on-line) that have already done the search for you.

They have sifted the garbage from the valuable material, and they arrange the valuable material in a systematic manner. That makes them extremely useful tools for someone who is just beginning to investigate a certain subject and wants to avoid falling victim to the limitations imposed upon the definition of that subject by an existing body of scholarship.

The truth is that most students vastly underestimate the astonishing amount of bibliographic work that has long since been completed and that keeps going on all the time. There are bibliographies on just about every topic you can possibly imagine. If you can't find them, most often that does not mean that no such bibliographies exist, but only that you have not yet looked hard enough. If you don't look hard enough, you are likely to overlook what you are looking for. If you overlook what you are looking for, you are likely to duplicate work that has already been done. Few things are more embarrassing for a scholar than to be told that you have unwittingly done again what someone else had done before you. It's very much worth your while to make it a regular practice to read bibliographies.

There are bibliographies of European history, of national history (French, German, English, and so on), bibliographies of medieval history, of the Renaissance, of economic history, of church history, of demography, and almost any other topic you can imagine. There are bibliographies that list important books and articles published up to a certain cut-off date (so-called *retrospective bibliographies*), and there are bibliographies that do the same thing on a recurring basis, year by year, month by month, every five years, and so on (so-called *current bibliographies*). There are bibliographies summarizing publications in the humanities and others that do so for the history of science. There are bibliographies listing reviews—very useful for anyone wishing to find out how a certain book has been reviewed in the professional journals. There are even bibliographies of bibliographies.

The trick is finding the right bibliography. I recommend strongly that you familiarize yourself with some of the elementary bibliographies in the field. For early modern European history, there are two good current bibliographies (i.e., series in which new volumes are published on a regular basis, in which each volume lists only whatever new scholarship has appeared since the last issue was published or had for some reason not been noticed). One is the *Bibliographie internationale de l'humanisme et de la Renaissance*, the other the *Literature Review* published by the *Archive for Reformation History*. Both go far beyond Renaissance and Reformation in any narrow sense of the term. They are published on an annual basis, and they offer detailed and comprehensive coverage of books and articles published in all major European languages. In the case of the *Archive for Reformation History* they even do you the additional favor of including abstracts (usually in English or German) of the work listed—and that includes not only books, but also articles. If you happen to work on the Reformation, in other words, it is very easy to get a quick overview of the scholarship that was published last year, to find out what has recently been published by Thomas A. Brady, Jr., and Peter Blickle, or what new books and articles have been written about Anabaptism and Puritanism. All you need to do is to study the index or skim the pages of the most recent volume of the *Literature Review* of the *Archive for Reformation History*.

For an example of a retrospective bibliography that seems to be highly specialized, but turns out to be very far-ranging indeed, take a look at the *Althusius-Bibliographie: Bibliographie zur politischen Ideengeschichte und Staatslehre, zum Staatsrecht und zur Verfassungsgeschichte des 16. bis 18. Jahrhunderts* edited by H. U. Scupin and U. Scheuner in 1973. Don't let yourself be deceived by the title. This is not just a bibliography about Althusius (although it is that, too) or German political thought. It rather is a massive two-volume bibliography systematically listing some 16,000 titles about virtually all aspects relevant to the study of early modern European political and constitutional thought that had been published by

about 1970. It emphasizes Germany, but it deals extensively with England, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, Hungary, Sweden, and colonial America. It has chapters on Bodin and Machiavelli, ancient authorities, and the Counter-Reformation. It lists primary sources as well as secondary literature—and by 1970 a great deal of primary sources had long since been published in standard editions. And it has excellent indices. Its great advantage is that it is comprehensive in coverage and topically arranged. Its great weakness is that it goes only up to about 1970. For any later literature, you will have to rely on more recent bibliographies. That disadvantage is built into the very notion of a retrospective bibliography: it does not aim to tell you what has been published most recently; it aims to inform you as systematically and comprehensively as possible about the literature that was published about a given subject up to a certain date.

Let me also mention some examples of more general historical bibliographies. The most obvious current bibliography is *Historical Abstracts*. This one happens to be available on-line. As our history bibliographer puts it on the library's website for historical on-line resources (accessed 2 July 2011), this is

the fundamental indexing and abstracting tool for modern history. Abstracts and indexes articles appearing in 2,000 journals published worldwide, from 1954, covering world history since 1450 (except United States and Canada). Includes key historical journals from nearly every country, and selective coverage of social science and humanities journals in related fields. Database is updated monthly.

The advantage of *Historical Abstracts* is that their coverage is very broad. The disadvantage is that, as a result, they often miss some of the more important specialized work.

I also recommend two retrospective bibliographies. One is the *Bücherverzeichnis zur deutschen Geschichte* by Winfried Baumgart, of which the 17th edition is supposed to be published in 2011. Once again, the title is misleading. It is true that it focuses on German history. But it also makes a concerted effort at listing all of the basic tools of research available to European historians, not only in German, but in all of the major European languages. It includes separate sections listing introductions to historical thinking, general bibliographies, historical journals, historical bibliographies (general ones and national ones), dictionaries and encyclopedias (both general ones and those specializing in historical information), biographical reference works, handbooks of history, handbooks of the so-called auxiliary sciences (geography, chronology, paleography, genealogy, heraldics, numismatics, and so on), handbooks devoted to certain aspects of history (such as legal history, military history, economic history, ecclesiastical history, history of literature, history of technology, and so on), and sources, source-collections, and bibliographies of sources and source collections (both medieval and modern). I have been using this book since I went to graduate school in Germany, and I continue to use it today, not just because I am accustomed to it, but because it happens to be very effective. As far as I am aware, there is no equivalent of the same calibre in English.

The other retrospective bibliography I would like to mention is the *American Historical Association Guide to Historical Literature*, edited by Mary Beth Norton and published in two volumes in 1995, now available online. It contains nearly 27,000 briefly annotated citations aiming to cover all of world history in forty-eight sections devoted to different types of history and different regions of the world. It privileges works written in English, and it refers mostly to works published between 1961 and 1992 (because items published earlier than that were covered in the older *Guide to Historical Literature* that the American

Historical Association published in 1961). It is not nearly as good as Baumgart's *Bücherverzeichnis* in guiding you to the basic tools of research. But it is much more comprehensive and much better than Baumgart in guiding you to what has actually been written about history, in no small part because it accompanies each item with a brief abstract. This is probably the best single place to go for a short potted bibliography of the most important publications about any particular area of historical investigation.

Finally it's worth making special mention of the American Library Association's *Guide to Reference Books*, of which the most recent, 11th edition was edited by Robert Balay and published in 1996. This big book and its predecessors have been the Bible of reference librarians for a long time. It is a wonderfully accurate and complete bibliography of reference books on virtually every area of knowledge. Though it is unlikely to be issued in a revised edition because WorldCat and similar online tools have largely taken over its function, leafing through the pages of this book is a great deal more effective in giving you a real grasp of the range and variety of reference works available to you than scrolling down screens. It is clearly and systematically arranged in a few broad sections (general reference works; humanities; social and behavioral sciences; history and area studies; science, technology, and medicine), which are further subdivided into subdisciplines; it has an exhaustive index; and it is carefully annotated. I don't think it is exaggerating to say that this is *the* single best bibliographic tool available to anyone who would like to approach a subject for which they do not yet have any expertise at all. Buddhism, race relations, marketing, literary travel guides, dance, Latin, rare books, political science, public opinion, mechanical engineering, botany, chronology, medical jurisprudence, Australia—if you don't know about these, but would like to find out what the best sources of information for them are, the *Guide to Reference Books* will tell you.

In the appropriate sections below I have listed various types of guides, dictionaries, handbooks, journals, bibliographies, and other tools of research, including those just mentioned, that I believe to be most effective in helping you to find the information you are looking for and turn it to your purposes. I have made a point of directing you to some particularly useful dictionaries and encyclopedias. There is often no better way to start a research project than to read articles in standard dictionaries and encyclopedias. The reason is that they give you direct access to what was considered to be the scholarly consensus at the time of their publication. They have the great virtue of being at one and the same time authoritative (because they embody some kind of common wisdom) and open to serious question (because they are invariably out of date, omit important information, or mis-state the points that interest you the most). They are particularly useful if they were published in successive revised editions, because then they reflect not only the common wisdom of a certain age, but also the changes of that common wisdom over a certain period of time. Give it a try. Go to the old printed editions of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and see how entries on a given subject changed from, say, the seventh edition of 1842 to the famous eleventh edition of 1910-11, the revised fifteenth edition of 1985, and the current online version (all of these editions are available online).

I have also included a section on the so-called auxiliary disciplines of history, which is to say, different kinds of technical knowledge about things like forms of dating, forms of writing, ways of naming places, formulaic expressions, abbreviations in letters, charters, and legal documents, types of seals, and so on. You rarely need these so long as you work with secondary literature. You do need them the moment you start dealing with primary literature. What does it mean, for example, when somebody writes "Fer. IV. Trinitatis 1641"? (It means 23 June 1641). Where do you check? (In Grotefend, of course, or Cappelli.) And what does

the date on a papal letter mean? Is that the date when the letter was sent? Or when it was drafted by a secretary? Or when it was entered into the papal registry? Where do you check? (In Harry Bresslau's amazing *Handbuch der Urkundenlehre*.) And where do you find the contemporary names for "Argentoratum" (Strassburg) or "Aquisgranum" (Aachen)? (In Graesse, Benedict, and Plechl's *Orbis Latinus*.)

## 5.2 BASIC REFERENCE BOOKS

Balay, Robert, ed. *Guide to Reference Books*. 11th ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 1996. The Bible of reference librarians: a remarkably accurate and complete bibliography of reference books for all areas of knowledge. Excellent index, clear and systematic arrangement, careful annotations, and outstandingly reliable judgments about what qualifies as an important reference work in any given field make this *the* basic tool for approaching *any* topic for which you do not yet have any expertise at all. If you are not certain which reference tools there are in your field, this is a great place to look.

Howell, Martha, and Walter Prevenier. *From Reliable Sources: An Introduction to Historical Methods*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001. A general and deliberately conservative introduction to working with primary sources that includes a detailed annotated survey of many of the most important tools available for historical research.

Baumgart, Winfried. *Bücherverzeichnis zur deutschen Geschichte: Hilfsmittel, Handbücher, Quellen*. 17th ed. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2010. In spite of its title this bibliography lists reference works, handbooks, source-collections, and all kinds of useful books not only for German but also for European, Russian, and American history (although it obviously privileges German history). Its greatest virtue is that it is brief and informed by a good sense of judgment. It lists standard introductions to the study of history, journals of all sorts, historical bibliographies, bibliographies of dissertations, encyclopedias, language dictionaries, biographical dictionaries, handbooks on all areas of European history, chronologies, books about genealogy, heraldics, and the other auxiliary disciplines, collections of treaties, source collections, and so on. This is the most useful single bibliographical guide for anyone working on any area of European history that I know. I know of no decent equivalents in English or French or Italian.

## 5.3 HISTORICAL DICTIONARIES AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS

### 5.3.1 General History

Strayer, Joseph R., ed. *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. 13 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1982-89. The best general purpose reference tool for information about all aspects of the Middle Ages in English. The essays vary in quality, but some are outstanding and most contain good bibliographical references. One advantage of this work is that it has a thorough index (where you should start your search) and that it offers relatively recent bibliographical references.

*Lexikon des Mittelalters*. 10 vols. München: Artemis-Verlag, 1977-99. Much more comprehensive and detailed than Strayer's *Dictionary of the Middle Ages* and superior to it in other ways, including its bibliographies.

Grendler, Paul F., ed. *Encyclopedia of the Renaissance*. 6 vols. New York: Scribner's, 1999. A recent, handsome, and very solidly executed encyclopedia on all major aspects of

- Renaissance history and culture with good references to existing scholarship. The editor is a scholar distinguished for his work on Renaissance education.
- Hillerbrand, Hans J., ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation*. 4 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. A recent encyclopedia that covers more than just the Reformation. Most entries are written in the form of scholarly essays, with bibliographies, and some of them are quite extended. Some are very good, others are more superficial, but all have the virtue of guiding you to the most important currently available information. The editor is a well established authority on Reformation Theology and on the Radical Reformation.
- Wilson, Ellen Judy, and Peter Hanns Reill. *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*. New York: Facts On File, 1996. Much more limited in scope than the other encyclopedias listed here, but useful.
- Sills, David L., ed. *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. 18 vols. New York: Macmillan, 1968-1979. As the title says: a social-scientific reference tool, which helps to balance the sometimes overly confessional tone of works on the Reformation (if you are lucky enough to locate the entry where to look up the appropriate information).

### 5.3.2 Biographical Dictionaries

- Michaud, Louis Gabriel, ed. *Biographie universelle ancienne et moderne*. 2nd ed. 45 vols. Paris: Louis Vives, 1870-73. The first place to look for information about any person born before the nineteenth century if you can't find them identified in more recent dictionaries. This is one of those amazing nineteenth-century attempts at universal coverage—amazing because of the degree to which it succeeds.
- Jöcher, Christian Gottlieb. *Allgemeines Gelehrten-Lexicon. Darinne die Gelehrten aller Stände ..., welche vom Anfange der Welt bis auf die ietzige Zeit gelebt ...* 4 vols. Leipzig, 1750-51. An outstanding guide to the world of learning as it was viewed at the beginning of the German Enlightenment. It still makes wonderful reading.
- Chevalier, Ulysse. *Répertoire des sources historiques du Moyen Age: Bio-Bibliographie*. 2nd ed. 2 vols. Paris, 1905-7. An old but unusually comprehensive and therefore still very useful tool for tracing bibliographical information about individuals who lived in medieval Europe.
- Historische Commission bei der Königlich Akademie der Wissenschaften, ed. *Allgemeine deutsche Biographie*. 56 vols. Leipzig: Duncker & Humblot, 1875-1912. This is the standard biographical reference tools for Germany up until the end of the nineteenth century. It is a wonderful reference tool with information about much lesser personalities than you might think. Anyone who matters in German history is here, and many who don't are here as well. Some of the essays are long and excellently done by the main authorities of their time on the person in question.
- Historische Kommission bei der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, ed. *Neue deutsche Biographie*. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1953-. The up-to-date but not equally comprehensive successor to the *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie*. Its main advantage: it has good bibliographical references. Its main disadvantage: not yet complete.
- Fabian, Bernhard, ed. *Deutsches biographisches Archiv*. Munich: K.G. Saur, 1982-84. This is a very useful tool for anyone working on the more poorly researched areas of early modern German history. It consists of about 1,500 microfiches, on which the entries from 254 biographical dictionaries printed between 1707 and 1913 are reproduced in alphabetical order. What that means in practical terms is that you can verify the



biographical information available on a given person in 254 old and sometimes very rare biographical dictionaries by checking just once.

- Stephen, Leslie, and Sidney Lee, eds. *Dictionary of National Biography*. London: Oxford University Press, 1937-90. The standard biographical reference tool for figures in English history.
- Balteau, J., M. Barroux, and M. Prevost, eds. *Dictionnaire de biographie française*. Paris: Letouzey et Ane, 1933-. The authoritative French biographical dictionary, but not as far advanced along the alphabet as one might like: somewhere near L last time I checked.
- Ghisalberti, Alberto M., ed. *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*. Rome: Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, 1960-. Even better than the French biographical dictionary, but even worse in terms of its progress: last time I looked it was near D.
- Stolleis, Michael, ed. *Juristen: Ein biographisches Lexikon. Von der Antike bis zum 20. Jahrhundert*. München: C.H. Beck, 1995. This is a concise and very useful biographical dictionary of jurists understood in the broadest sense of the term from antiquity to the present. I mention it because my interest in legal history makes this one of the tools I use more often. Those who doubt that legal history can be compatible with a sense of humor are referred to the entry concerning I. M. Kidding.
- Weber, Wolfgang. *Biographisches Lexikon zur Geschichtswissenschaft in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz: Die Lehrstuhlinhaber für Geschichte von den Anfängen des Faches bis 1970*. Frankfurt, 1970. An excellent source of information about the leading German historians in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the influence they exercised by virtue of their professorial positions over the formation of the historical discipline in Germany.
- Cannon, John, R. H. C. Davis, William Doyle, and Jack P. Greene, eds. *The Blackwell Dictionary of Historians*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1988. This is much more broadly conceived than Weber's *Biographisches Lexikon*. Its virtue is that it contains much interesting information on historians practicing today or only very recently. Its great disadvantage is that its coverage is entirely unpredictable. Some historians have been left out who should definitely have been included; others are included for reasons not entirely clear; and the articles vary greatly in quality. Still, in the absence of anything better, this is a good starting point for information and literature on a given historian.

### 5.3.3 History of Ideas

- Brunner, Otto, Werner Conze, and Reinhart Koselleck, eds. *Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe: Historisches Lexikon zur politisch-sozialen Sprache in Deutschland*. 7 vols. Stuttgart: Klett, 1972-92. An extraordinary compilation of sometimes book-length investigations into the history of concepts like "power", "lordship", "state", "time", "justice", "sovereignty", "party," etc. This is more than just an encyclopedia: it is a massive embodiment of the intellectual agenda known as "conceptual history" that was started by Otto Brunner and has been powerfully advanced by Reinhart Koselleck. It may be considered a German analog to the so-called Cambridge school of the history of political thought, though it arose earlier on quite independent intellectual foundations and has only recently been noticed by Anglophone scholars. Most articles contain detailed information about the changing meanings of a given term from antiquity to the present.

- Ritter, Joachim, ed. *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*. 13 vols. Basel: Schwabe, 1971-2007. A superb dictionary for intellectual historians, recently completed. It contains detailed surveys of the meanings of terms used in philosophy and the ways in which those meanings changed over time.
- Wiener, Philip P., ed. *Dictionary of the History of Ideas: Studies of Selected Pivotal Ideas*. 5 vols. New York: Scribner, 1973-74. Non-confessional, conventional, liberal: a classic expression of the "history of ideas" approach to intellectual history pioneered by Arthur Lovejoy. You will find it very interesting to compare articles in this work with parallel articles in the *Geschichtliche Grundbegriffe*.
- Horowitz, Maryanne Cline, ed. *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas: Studies of Selected Pivotal Ideas*. 6 vols. New York: Scribner, 2005. A revised version of Wiener's *Dictionary*, but still following the same basic approach.
- Bächtold-Stäubli, Hanns, ed. *Handwörterbuch des deutschen Aberglaubens*. 9 vols. Berlin-Leipzig, 1927-42. This is a massive encyclopedia of all sorts of superstitious beliefs. It focuses on Germany, but since the kinds of beliefs to which it is devoted are not really national in character, the information contained here is eminently useful for other regions of Europe as well. I have always had the hope that one day I might have the time to study this marvelous source of unusual information in detail. It is surely one of the best collections of data about popular culture.
- Bayle, Pierre. *The Dictionary Historical and Critical of Mr Peter Bayle*. 2nd ed. 5 vols. London: Routledge/Thoemmes Press, 1997. This is a reprint of the 2nd edition of the English translation of Bayle's great contribution to the Enlightenment that was published in London in 1734-38. It is as much a part of intellectual history as it is a source of information about it.
- Zedler, Johann Heinrich. *Grosses vollständiges Universal-Lexikon aller Wissenschaften und Künste. Nebst einer Vorrede von J. P. v. Ludewig*. 68 vols. Halle, 1732-54. At sixty-eight volumes this is one of the more impressive eighteenth-century attempts to encompass the entire world of learning. Its main value is the bright light it throws on intellectual life in mid-eighteenth-century Germany, and the contrast in which it stands to Bayle's *Dictionary* that was published a little earlier and the great French *Encyclopédie* that was published soon after.
- Diderot, Denis, and Jean le Rond d' Alembert. *Encyclopédie, ou, Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*. 28 vols. Geneva: Chez Briasson [and others], 1754-72. The mother of all encyclopedias, both a symbol and an accomplishment of the Enlightenment—now available in paperback on Amazon.com.

#### 5.3.4 History of Law

- Brundage, James A. "Appendix I: The Romano-Canonical Citation System." In *Medieval Canon Law*, by James A. Brundage, 190-205. London - New York: Longman, 1995. Medieval and early modern writers commonly identified individual passages in the law by quoting the opening words of the law in question, and adding the name of the title and the book where that law could be found. Thus "l.[ex] bene a Zenone in prin.[cipio] C.[odici] de quadriennii prescriptione" means "the law that begins with the words 'bene a Zenone' and that is found at the beginning of the title 'on prescription in four years' in Justinian's *Code*." This method is no longer used today. Nowadays, we would refer to it as "C.7.37.3," which means "Justinian's *Code*, book 7, title 37, law 3." Brundage's little appendix gives a straightforward explanation of the different methods medieval, early modern, and modern scholars used in order to

refer to Roman and canon law. It is indispensable for anyone who ever needs to look up one of those Roman or canon laws on which so much of medieval and early modern social, economic, political, and religious life depended. It is not difficult to learn, but if you don't learn it, you will be clueless.

- Berger, Adolf. *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Roman Law*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1953. An outstanding source of English definitions of all of the legal terms that occur in Roman law, with some bibliographical references and clear indications of the passages in Roman law where a particular concept is treated. This is the best place to go for a first understanding of any concept of Roman law.
- Heumann, H. G. *Handlexikon zu den Quellen des römischen Rechts*. Ed. E. Seckel. 9th ed. Jena, 1914, known as Heumann-Seckel. A more comprehensive reference tool for Roman law than Berger's *Dictionary*, but also older. Alphabetically arranged, it identifies the different meanings of the various terms of Roman law and points you to the sources in Roman law where those meanings can be found.
- Nicolini, Hugo, and Franca Sinatti d'Amico, eds. *Indices corporis iuris civilis iuxta vetustiores editiones cum criticis collatas*. 3 in 5 vols. Milan: Giuffrè, 1964-70. Nicolini's index is far and away the best tool available for identifying references to Roman law in medieval and early modern writings, and for transforming them into the style commonly used today.
- Ochoa Sanz, Javier, and Luis Diez, eds. *Indices titulorum et legum Corporis iuris civilis*. Rome: Commentarium pro Religiosis, 1965. This does the same job as Nicolini's *Indices*, but it is not nearly as thorough and detailed.
- Naz, Raoul, ed. *Dictionnaire de droit canonique*. 7 vols. Paris: Letouzey & Ané, 1935-65. Not quite as imposing as the three massive French encyclopedias on Catholic history and theology listed below, but an invaluable encyclopedia for any aspect of canon law and its history from antiquity to the twentieth century. This is the first place to go for basic information about the history and substance of canon law.
- Ochoa Sanz, Javier, and Luis Diez, eds. *Indices canonum, titulorum et capitulorum Corporis Iuris Canonici*. Rome: Commentarium pro Religiosis, 1964. This does exactly the same thing for canon law as the *Indices* edited by Ochoa Sanz and Diez for Roman law. The main difference is that, for various historical reasons that most students of canon law insist on respecting scrupulously, the subdivisions of canon law are a good bit more complicated than those of Roman law.
- Erlar, Adalbert, and Ekkehard Kaufmann, eds. *Handwörterbuch zur deutschen Rechtsgeschichte*. 6 vols. Berlin: E. Schmidt, 1964-1994. As crucial for German legal terminology as Berger and Heumann-Seckel are for Roman terminology and Naz is for canon law. This is a very rich and detailed work of scholarship in which you will find entries approaching little treatises on the basic concepts of German law. A second, revised edition is in progress.
- Görres-Gesellschaft, ed. *Staatslexikon: Recht, Wirtschaft, Gesellschaft*. 7th ed. 5 vols. Freiburg im Breisgau: Herder, 1985-89. An excellent source of information on German law, politics, society, and economy with a lot of historical background information. The first edition of this encyclopedia was published in the nineteenth century. Comparing entries in successive editions is an efficient way to develop thumbnail sketches of modern German intellectual history on a given subject in law or politics.
- Walker, David M. *The Oxford Companion to Law*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980. An all-purpose reference tool for matters concerning law. It is biased towards contemporary affairs and even more so to Anglo-American law. It also doesn't give

any good bibliographical references. But it can be a useful first point of contact on elementary questions of legal history.

### 5.3.5 Church History

- Cross, F. L., and E. A. Livingstone, eds. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1974. A handy reference tool for the more important people and events in the history of the church. It doesn't go very far, but it's a good place to start for the most basic information.
- Gründler, Johannes, ed. *Lexikon der christlichen Kirchen und Sekten unter Berücksichtigung der Missionsgesellschaften und zwischenkirchlichen Organisationen*. 2 vols. Freiburg: Herder, 1961. A good general handbook for all the distinct varieties of Christianity, and one of few available reference tools explicitly dedicated to covering missionary efforts.
- Bautz, Friedrich Wilhelm, ed. *Biographisch-bibliographisches Kirchenlexikon*. 32 vols. Hamm, Westf.: Traugott Bautz, 1970-. A massive and unusually comprehensive source of biographical information about figures in church history with good bibliographies. It is listed as being incomplete, but the first fourteen volumes do in fact go all the way up to "Zygomalas, Theodosios." The later volumes all consist of additions to the original fourteen and they include an index.
- Krause, Gerhard, and Gerhard Müller, eds. *Theologische Realenzyklopädie*. 36 vols. Berlin: De Gruyter, 1976-. An equally massive and up-to-date source of accurate and detailed information and good bibliographical references to the scholarly literature on issues in theology. One of its virtues is that it tries with greater success than some other works to avoid confessional bias.
- Betz, Hans Dieter, ed. *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Handwörterbuch für Theologie und Religionswissenschaft*. 4th ed. 8 vols. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998-2007. The most important Protestant encyclopedia in German today. This is the best place to look up the Protestant point of view on any issue or subject in the Reformation.
- Herzog, J. J., and A. Hauck, eds. *Realencyklopädie für protestantische Theologie und Kirche*. 3rd ed. 24 vols. Leipzig: Hinrichs, 1896-1913. The classic accumulation of Protestant historical scholarship in its time. Hauck is the author of what remains an outstanding history of the church in Germany. For information about contemporary knowledge it has been superseded by *Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, but it still contains exceptionally useful historical information about the state of scholarship at the height of historical positivism just before World War I. Few things can show as clearly how our approach to history has changed than to read a solid article in this work and compare it with, say, a corresponding article in Hillerbrand's *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation*.
- Jackson, S. Macauley, ed. *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. 12 vols. New York, London: Funk & Wagnall, 1908-1914. This is essentially an English translation of Herzog and Hauck's *Realencyklopädie für protestantische Theologie und Kirche*, which helps to appreciate the respect with which German scholarship in general and that of Protestant church history in particular was treated at the time.
- Kasper, Walter, and Konrad Baumgartner, eds. *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche*. 3rd ed. 12 vols. Freiburg im Breisgau: Herder, 1993, the successor to Josef Höfer and Karl Rahner, eds., *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche*, 2nd ed., 10 vols. (Freiburg: Herder, 1957-1965). This is the most important contemporary Catholic encyclopedia in German. It is more concise than the grand French encyclopedias listed below, which

may be a virtue. It is also more recent, outstanding in its coverage, and has good bibliographies.

- Wetzer, Heinrich, and Benedikt Welte. *Wetzer und Weltes Kirchenlexikon*. Ed. J. Hergenröther and F. Kaulen. 2nd ed. 12 vols. Freiburg, 1882-1903. The Catholic equivalent of the *Realencyklopädie für protestantische Theologie und Kirche*. Just as the *Realencyklopädie* was superseded by *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, so this has been superseded by the *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche*. Like the *Realencyklopädie* it is still very useful for information about the state of scholarship at the time.
- Catholic University of America. *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. 2nd ed. 15 vols. Detroit, MI: Thomson/Gale Group, 2003. This supersedes the first edition of the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, 18 vols. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1967-1989). It is the most important contemporary Catholic encyclopedia in English, but the articles in the first edition varied greatly in quality. Compared to the *Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche*, they were often unreliable.
- Heimbucher, Johannes. *Die Orden und Kongregationen der katholischen Kirche*. 3 vols. Paderborn: Schöningh, 1907-1908. The standard reference work for information about the many different monastic, mendicant and other orders and congregations of the Catholic church. It's a more comprehensive and usually more reliable tool than any others for anyone wishing to know something about the difference between the various branches of the Dominican, Franciscan, and Benedictine orders.
- Vacant, Alfred, and Eugène Mangenot, eds. *Dictionnaire de théologie catholique*. 15 vols. Paris: Letouzey et Ané, 1903-50, known as the Vacant-Mangenot. The oldest and grandest in a trio of French encyclopedias on matters Catholic. This is unsurpassed as a source of information on all aspects of Catholic theology, which means on a great many aspects of medieval thought as well. Many of the articles are long and thorough enough to qualify as monographs. Much of the information is of course dated, but you would be surprised how much remains to the point.
- Baudrillart, Alfred, M. Albert Vogt, and Urbain Rouziès, eds. *Dictionnaire d'histoire et de géographie ecclésiastiques*. Paris: Letouzey et Ané, 1909-. A companion to Vacant-Mangenot that is much more useful for strictly historical questions, but has unfortunately not yet proceeded beyond the letter L or so. I think this is the best general encyclopedia of church history through the ages.
- Cabrol, Fernand, and Henri Leclercq, eds. *Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie*. 15 vols. Paris: Letouzey et Ané, 1907-1953. A companion to Vacant-Mangenot which focuses on aspects of early Christianity, Christian archeology, including especially architecture and liturgy.
- Mennonite Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Reference Work on the Anabaptist-Mennonite Movement*. 5 vols. Hillsboro, Kan.: Mennonite Brethren Pub. House, 1955-90. An important reference tool for any aspect of anabaptist history and the so-called Radical Reformation.

#### 5.4 LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES

Murray, Sir James A. H., Henry Bradley, W. A. Craigie, and C. T. Onions, eds. *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles*. 10 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1888-1933. This has been updated more than once, is now known as the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and is most easily consulted online. But it still deserves pride of place as the best of all language dictionaries. The detailed information about particular usages, the source quotations with which they are documented, and the dates of their first known

occurrence alone make this an invaluable resource for intellectual history far beyond the limits of the English language.

Partridge, Eric. *Origins: A Short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English*. 4th ed. New York: Macmillan, 1966. If you need to translate a particular word into English, this may not be of much help to you. But if you want to understand the conceptual range of a particular word, or the reasons why a certain word was chosen to express a particular new meaning, this book will help you better than any other I know. Here, for example, you can learn about the linguistic connections that join cities, hides of land, villages, estates, and marriage in a single conceptual framework denoted by a single Indo-European root.

Grimm, Jacob, and Wilhelm Grimm, eds. *Deutsches Wörterbuch*. 33 vols. Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1854-1960. The Grimm brothers were leading figures in the German romantic movement, famous not only for their collection of fairy tales supposedly damaging to young children (judge for yourself, or judge by examining me—I read them as a child), but also for detailed research into all sorts of German antiquities and this remarkable dictionary. There is no better dictionary of the German language than this, never mind that, given the vagaries of the German language and its multifold dialects, it cannot hope to aspire to the systematic elegance of what Littré was able to do for French and does not even attempt to put the historical principles into practice that make Murray's *Oxford English Dictionary* such a miraculously rich mine of linguistic information.

Springer, Otto, ed. *Langenscheidt New Muret-Sanders Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English and German Languages*. Rev. ed. 2 vols. Berlin: Langenscheidt, 1974-75. This is the most thorough dictionary for translating German into English and English into German.

Littré, Emile. *Dictionnaire de la langue française*. 7 vols. Paris: J. J. Pauvert, 1956-58. The standard dictionary of French, originally written in the nineteenth century.

Huguet, Edmond. *Dictionnaire de la langue française du seizième siècle*. 7 vols. Paris: E. Champion, 1925-73. Though French has not nearly changed as much as German has since early modern times, and began to develop standardized forms much earlier than German, early modern French can still be quite bewildering. This dictionary helps.

Glare, P. G. W., ed. *Oxford Latin Dictionary*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1982. In my opinion this is the best dictionary of the Latin language for English speakers. Its main disadvantage is that it focuses entirely on classical Latin. It will do you little good if you are trying to find out the meaning of a medieval Latin term for which there is no classical equivalent. For all forms of Latin that have classical precedents, however, which includes most early modern humanist Latin, this will give you the best English equivalents, not to mention that it refers you to passages in the ancient sources where you can see how the word is used.

Lewis, Charlton T., and Charles Short, eds. *A Latin Dictionary Founded on Andrews' Edition of Freund's Latin Dictionary*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1879. This is the most venerable among Latin dictionaries for English speakers, and it has proved its worth over the last century, but as I have just indicated, I believe Glare's *Oxford Latin Dictionary* is decidedly preferable.

Niermeyer, Jan Frederik, and C. van de Kieft. *Mediae Latinitatis lexicon minus: Lexique latin médiéval-français anglais = A Medieval Latin-French English Dictionary*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997. This is the most recent and in some ways the best Latin dictionary for people who have to struggle with medieval Latin. It is very comprehensive, pays detailed attention to usages in charters and other kinds of legal documents, and offers both

English and French translations, which can sometimes be very illuminating. But it is by no means complete enough to supersede the great early modern collection by Du Cange:

Du Cange, Charles du Fresne. *Glossarium mediae et infimae Latinitatis*. Ed. L. Favre. Rev. ed. 10 vols. Niort: L. Favre, 1883-87. This ten-volume work produced by one of the great seventeenth-century erudites was the first to distinguish medieval Latin clearly and comprehensively from classical Latin. It is and remains the best dictionary of medieval Latin. Its main disadvantage for most students is that it does not offer translations. It rather explains the meaning of the terms in Latin. But if you can read the Latin, it is invaluable because it is clear and includes countless examples of medieval and early modern usage drawn directly from the sources that you will not find anywhere else so easily. Many a time when I was stymied and Glare or Niermeyer didn't help, this dictionary gave me the crucial key.

Forcellini, Egidio, ed. *Totius latinitatis lexicon*. 6 vols. Prati: Typis Aldinianis, 1858-87. This is the great competitor to Du Cange, also created by an early modern erudite. It is perhaps a little more comprehensive than Du Cange, but I have rarely needed to use it.

Hoven, René. *Lexique de la prose latine de la renaissance*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1994. As the title says, this dictionary focuses specifically on Renaissance Latin. It thus helps to bridge whatever gap exists between the classical Latin covered by Glare's *Oxford Latin Dictionary* and the idiosyncracies of early modern humanists imagining they were merely reviving classical Latin while in fact doing something quite different.

## 5.5 AUXILIARY DISCIPLINES

Powell, James, ed. *Medieval Studies: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1992. This is an extremely useful introduction to the various auxiliary disciplines in history. It is divided into chapters, each of which is written by an expert in a particular area. This is the first place for you to go if you need technical advice about questions of paleography, chronology, codicology, diplomatic, numismatics, sphragistics, heraldry, and so on. Don't let yourself be deceived by the title. Though it is written for medievalists, that is mainly because medievalists cannot afford to ignore these subjects as easily as modernists and have therefore done the most to develop the necessary knowledge. The knowledge itself applies throughout much of early modern European history.

Brandt, Ahasver von. *Werkzeug des Historikers: Eine Einführung in die historischen Hilfswissenschaften*. 12th ed. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1989. The German equivalent to Powell and, for those who read German, a very useful complement. Ahasver von Brandt represents the best of the German tradition of precision in textual criticism and philological analysis.

Clemens, Raymond, and Timothy Graham. *Introduction to Manuscript Studies*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007. Very useful for any issues having to do specifically with manuscripts, like punctuations, abbreviations, and decorations, but not for matters like seals, dates, coins, etc.

### 5.5.1 Diplomatics

Bresslau, Harry, ed. *Handbuch der Urkundenlehre für Deutschland und Italien*. 2nd ed. 2 vols. Leipzig, 1912-31. This is the best account of the distinctive features of medieval charters, letters, and other formal documents. It is broad in its coverage but at the

same detailed in explaining particular problems. It describes the typical parts of a medieval dispositive document (arenga, narration, disposition, sanction, and so on) and the various formulaic characteristics whose mere presence the untrained eye will not even notice, much less recognize for their significance.

Chaplais, Pierre, ed. *English Medieval Diplomatic Practice. Part I: Documents and Interpretations*. 2 vols. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1982.

### 5.5.2 Paleography

Bischoff, Bernhard. *Latin Paleography: Antiquity and the Middle Ages*. Trans. Dáibhí ó Cróinin and David Ganz. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. Probably the best account of medieval paleography available in English, originally written in German by the man generally considered to be the greatest authority on the field in the twentieth century. Between Bresslau's *Handbuch* and Bischoff's *Latin Paleography* you can cover most of the important bases.

Boyle, Leonard E. *Medieval Latin Paleography: A Bibliographical Introduction*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984. A standard contemporary introduction to the forms of writing found in medieval Latin manuscripts by the most recent master in the field.

Prou, Maurice. *Manuel de paléographie latine et française*. Ed. Alain de Boüard. 4th ed. Paris: A. Picard, 1924. A standard French manual of Latin and French paleography, thoroughly revised by Boüard.

Degering, Hermann, ed. *Die Schrift: Atlas der Schriftformen des Abendlandes vom Altertum bis zum Ausgang des 18. Jahrhunderts*. Berlin, 1929. This is a collection of different samples of handwriting that is useful for its broad chronological coverage of different types of script from antiquity to the eighteenth century.

Dülfer, Kurt, and Hans-Enno Korn. *Schrifttafeln zur deutschen Paläographie des 16. - 20. Jahrhunderts*. 3rd ed. Marburg, 1973. This is particularly useful for students of early modern German history. It contains a few well chosen reproductions of German script and includes transliterations for each of the reproductions, which makes it a great help in learning how to read early modern German handwriting by example.

Demandt, Karl E., ed. *Lateinisch-deutsche Interpretationshilfen für spätmittelalterliche und frühneuzeitliche Archivalien: Mit 3 Tafeln spezieller Zahlenschreibungen des 14.-16. Jahrhunderts*. Marburg: Institut für Archivwissenschaft, 1970. A useful source of information about the most effective way to go about solving the sorts of problems one encounters with late medieval and early modern archival documents, including the way numbers are written.

Thomson, S. Harrison. *Latin Bookhands of the Middle Ages, 1100-1800*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969. A good general introduction to Latin script during the period in question.

Seckel, Emil. *Paläographie der juristischen Handschriften des 12. bis 15. und der juristischen Drucke des 15. und 16. Jahrhunderts*. Weimar: H. Böhlau Nachfolger, 1925. A paleographical aid focused on legal manuscripts and early modern legal prints.

Fairbank, A., and B. Wolpe, eds. *Renaissance Handwriting: An Anthology of Italic Scripts*. Cleveland, 1960. Good to supplement Bischoff with illustrations of handwriting from the Renaissance.

Wardrop, James. *The Script of Humanism: Some Aspects of Humanistic Script 1460-1560*. Oxford, 1963. Similar.



Preston, Jean F., and Laetitia Yeandle. *English Handwriting, 1400-1650: An Introductory Manual*. Binghamton, N. Y.: Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 1992. As the title says.

Parkes, Malcolm Beckwith. *English Cursive Book Hands, 1250-1500*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1969.

### 5.5.3 Abbreviations

Cappelli, Adriano. *Dizionario di abbreviature latine ed italiane*. 6th ed. Milano: Hoepli, 1973.

Given the exorbitant cost of writing materials such as vellum in medieval times, and the still considerable cost of paper in early modern times, abbreviations were a highly desirable means of reducing the cost of books. If they are absent, that usually signals an instance of conspicuous consumption on the part of the rich, who could afford to pay for expensive books. Most of the time, they are present, in infuriatingly complicated and unpredictable variations. Capelli's *Dizionario* is the best old standby. It gives you virtually every imaginable form of abbreviation used in medieval manuscripts. Since the same abbreviations continued to be used throughout the early stages of printing, it is perfectly useful for printed books, too. This is the place where you can learn, for example, that the tilde ~ is commonly used to signal the omission of a nasal (such as the letters m or n). Thus the letters "ões" are simply another way of writing "omnes" without having to spell out the m and the n.

Dülfer, Kurt. *Gebräuchliche Abkürzungen des 16. - 20. Jahrhunderts*. 3rd ed. Marburg, 1973. Does the same thing for German that Cappelli does for Latin and Italian. This is not as detailed as one would like, but it is a good start, and it has the advantage of going hand-in-hand with Dülfer's *Schrifttafeln zur deutschen Paläographie* mentioned above.

Grun, Paul Arnold. *Schlüssel zu alten und neuen Abkürzungen: Wörterbuch lateinischer und deutscher Abkürzungen des späten Mittelalters und der Neuzeit mit historischer und systematischer Einführung für Archivbenutzer, Studierende, Heimat- und Familienforscher u. a. Nachbildungen der Originale*. Limburg/Lahn: Starke, 1966. Another instance of illustrations and keys to abbreviations in both Latin and German aimed at novices trying to find their way in archives.

Bryson, William Hamilton. *Dictionary of Sigla and Abbreviations to and in Law Books before 1607*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1975. As the title explains, this is a more specialized tool than Dülfer's and Capelli's, but it is very useful for anyone working in legal history.

### 5.5.4 Chronology

Grotefend, Hermann. *Taschenbuch der Zeitrechnung des deutschen Mittelalters und der Neuzeit*. Ed. Th. Ulrich. 11th ed. Hannover: Hahnsche Buchhandlung, 1971. This is the short version of Grotefend's massive *Zeitrechnung des deutschen Mittelalters und der Neuzeit*, 2 vols. (Hannover: Hahn, 1891-98). The title is slightly misleading. This is in fact an indispensable review of different systems of chronology from antiquity to the present, and at the same time a tool for translating medieval and early modern dates into the forms used nowadays. It covers the Roman calendar, the French Revolutionary calendar, the system of dating by reference to Easter, and many other ways of dating and timing by reference to the sun, the moon, the turning of the earth, and so on. When did the year begin in Montpellier in the first half of the sixteenth century? What do the hours of the day measure? Here you find out.

- Cappelli, Adriano. *Cronologia, cronografia, e calendario perpetuo dal principio dell'era cristiana ai nostri giorni*. 4th ed. Milano: Hoepli, 1978. Similar to Grotefend's *Taschenbuch*, but in my opinion it is less effective.
- Grafton, Anthony. *Joseph Scaliger: A Study in the History of Classical Scholarship*. 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983-93. This is a study of Joseph Scaliger rather than a handbook of chronology. But since Scaliger was one of giants in the history of chronology, and since Grafton was determined to do justice to Scaliger's research, the second volume is an exceptionally learned place to find solid technical information about different ways of reckoning time and the complications you encounter in trying to reconcile them with each other.

#### 5.5.5 Historical Geography

- Chevalier, Ulysse. *Répertoire des sources historiques du Moyen Age: Topo-Bibliographie*. 2 vols. Montbéliard: Société anonyme d'imprimerie Montbéliardaise, 1894-99. This does for places what the *Bio-Bibliographie* by the same author listed above does for people. It is arranged alphabetically by place names. It is old, but since so much elementary work was done in the nineteenth century it is still very useful if you want to find literature dealing specifically with a given abbey, bishopric, town, county, and so on.
- Grässe, Johann Georg Theodor. *Graesse-Benedict-Plechl: Orbis Latinus. Lexikon lateinischer geographischer Namen des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit*. Grossausgabe ed. 3 vols. Braunschweig: Klinkhardt & Biermann, 1972. This is the best place to look up Latin names for places you find in medieval and early modern sources and find out what those places are called in the vernacular today.
- Pounds, Norman J. G. *An Historical Geography of Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990. A concise survey of the main features of European economic and social history as seen from a geographical perspective. Wonderful on urbanization and full of very informative maps and graphics.

#### 5.5.6 Atlases

- Grosser historischer Weltatlas*. 5th ed. 3 vols. München: Bayerischer Schulbuch-Verlag, 1972-1981. The maps are not the most beautiful, but this is the most reliable and detailed single source of scholarly maps for European history from antiquity to the twentieth century.
- Stier, Hans-Erich, et al., eds. *Westermann Grosser Atlas zur Weltgeschichte*. 9th ed. Braunschweig: Westermann, 1976. Probably the best and most beautifully produced one-volume historical atlas with maps for European and world history from antiquity to the present.
- Barracough, Geoffrey, and Norman Stone, eds. *The Times Atlas of World History*. 3rd ed. Maplewood: Hammond, 1989. Very general in its coverage, but for those who like to connect historical developments to geographical location, this is the best single volume for all of world history. The maps are accompanied by historical essays.
- Moore, R. I., ed. *Rand McNally Atlas of World History*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1987. Similar to Barracough's atlas, but doesn't have the running historical commentary that Barracough provides.
- Kinder, H., and W. Hilgemann, eds. *Anchor Atlas of World History*. Trans. by Ernest A. Menze with maps designed by Harald and Ruth Bukor. 2 vols. Garden City: Doubleday, 1974-78. The maps in this compilation are small and sometimes not clear enough. But what they lack in size and precision, they make up in quantity and entertainment

value. Moreover, in addition to the maps there are plenty of charts and chronologically arranged dates on facing pages. This is the best work to get a hold of the famous "facts" that everyone is supposed to know (like when did Charles V resign?).

Darby, H. C., and Harold Fullard, eds. *New Cambridge Modern History, 14: Atlas*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970. Excellent for modern history; straightforward maps, not nearly as sophisticated as the German ones, but often better suited to make the basic points about, say, the spread of the Peasants' War, or the shifting fortunes of the Thirty Years' War.

Jedin, Hubert, Kenneth Scott Latourette, and Jochen Martin, eds. *Atlas zur Kirchengeschichte: Die christlichen Kirchen in Geschichte und Gegenwart*. Freiburg: Herder, 1970. Good historical atlas with specific attention to questions of church history.

## 5.6 PRIMARY SOURCES

Caenegem, R. C. van. *Guide to the Sources of Medieval History*. Amsterdam: North-Holland Pub. Co., 1978. This is one of the best introductions to working with primary sources in any period of history. It focuses on medieval history, but here as in other cases much of the information it provides and many of the publications it lists are pertinent for early modernists as well. It treats the available sources according to their different genres, which allows it to serve at one and the same time as an introduction to the history of historical writing in medieval Europe and as a survey of the major types of sources and source collections. This is a good place to learn about the various types of sources published by the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, Muratori's collection of Italian writers, the Bollandists' *Acta Sanctorum*, the so-called Rolls Series, and other great historical enterprises.

Dotzauer, Winfried, ed. *Das Zeitalter der Glaubensspaltung (1500-1618)*. Quellenkunde zur deutschen Geschichte der Neuzeit von 1500 bis zur Gegenwart, 1, ed. Winfried Baumgart. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1987, and Winfried Becker, *Dreissigjähriger Krieg und Zeitalter Ludwigs XIV., 1618-1715* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1995). These two volumes are introductory survey of published sources from the Reformation to the early Enlightenment. They inform you about the standard collections and editions of primary sources for the period, such as the works of Erasmus, Luther, and Calvin, the acts of the imperial diets, the laws of the empire, memoirs, correspondences, documents relating to the Thirty Years War, the negotiations leading up to the Peace of Westphalia, and so on. Scanning these books will help you to develop a sense of the different kinds of sources that are available. Note that there is very little here to correspond to the flourishing "social history of the Reformation" in the United States and that you will find much of the same bibliographic information in handbooks and bibliographies of German history like *Dahlmann-Waitz* and *Gebhardt*, on which see below. But here it is given in concentrated form. There are similar works for all the European nations. I will mention only one of the best of them, namely:

Hauser, Henri. *Les sources de l'histoire de France, XVI siècle (1494-1610)*. 4 vols. Paris, Alphonse Picard et fils, 1906-15. This is obviously much older than the collections by Dotzauer and Becker, but it remains a fundamental tool for identifying primary sources of early modern French history, which is why it was reprinted in 1967. As you can see from the number of volumes, this work is far more detailed than the ones by Dotzauer and Becker for Germany.

- Solnon, Jean François, ed. *Sources d'histoire de la France moderne XVIe, XVIIe, XVIIIe siècle*. Paris: Larousse, 1994. This differs from Hauser in that it is more recent and goes up to the eighteenth century.
- Coing, Helmut, ed. *Handbuch der Quellen und Literatur der neueren europäischen Privatrechtsgeschichte*. 3 vols. München: Beck, 1973-. This is a very systematic survey of the history and the sources of European legal history. It was never completed, but for anyone interested in legal history it is an excellent source of information about the available sources.
- Kuttner, Stephan. *Repertorium der Kanonistik, 1140-1234: Prodrömus corporis glossarum*. Città del Vaticano: Biblioteca apostolica vaticana, 1937. This is the work that made Kuttner famous and that put the study of medieval canon law on a sound scholarly foundation for the very first time. It remains an unsurpassed inventory of medieval writings in the area of canon law.
- Bircher, Martin, ed. *Deutsche Drucke des Barock, 1600-1700 in der Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel*. München, 1977. One of many bibliographic publications by the Herzog August Bibliothek on seventeenth-century prints and manuscripts. The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek is responsible for similar work on sixteenth century prints and manuscripts.
- British Library. *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in the German-Speaking Countries and of German Books Printed in Other Countries from 1455 to 1600 now in the British Library: Supplement*. Ed. D. L. Pailey. London: The British Library, 1990. Given how rich the collections in the British Library are, this is a handy way of looking for books published in German before 1600.
- Kristeller, Paul Oskar. *Latin Manuscript Books before 1600: A List of the Printed Catalogues and Unpublished Inventories of Extant Collections*. 3rd ed. New York: Fordham University Press, 1965. In order to appreciate the utility of this book you need to know three things. The first is that a huge proportion of late medieval and early modern books were never put into print. They were "Latin Manuscript Books." That is to say, they were written by hand, in Latin, circulated from individual to individual, were often copied by hand, and eventually landed in some library or archive. Unlike printed books, whose outstanding feature is that they can be produced in many identical copies, every one of these manuscript books is unlike every other manuscript book. The second is that these unique books are preserved in libraries, archives, and private collections that are dispersed all over Europe and, indeed, the world. In order to read, let us say, five manuscripts containing five unpublished works by some early modern writer, you might therefore have to travel to five different libraries. The third is that for many of these collections of manuscripts there are printed catalogs or inventories that describe the manuscripts and their contents. These catalogs vary enormously in length and detail. The catalogs of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the Vatican Library in Rome, and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, to mention three of the largest collections of Latin manuscript books in the world, are huge and sometimes very detailed. Others are short and sketchy. Some catalogs describe the contents of several different libraries. And so on. The great virtue of all of them is that, unlike the manuscripts they describe, they have been published and can therefore be found in a great many different libraries, including our own. By consulting them you can get at least preliminary information about the contents of a given manuscript without having to visit the library in person or ordering a microfilm of the whole of it. If you want to see what I mean, go to the manuscript search room in the Special Collections Department of the Regenstein Library, which owns a very

good collection of these catalogs. What Kristeller did in his *Latin Manuscript Books before 1600* was simply to compile a list of all the existing printed catalogs as well as the unpublished inventories kept in some libraries of which he was aware. His list begins with a section devoted to catalogs that deal with more than one library or collections in more than one location. The bulk of his book is arranged alphabetically according to names of cities in which there are libraries and archives holding manuscript collections, and then within cities according to the names of the libraries and archives. If you ever need to find manuscripts written by some particular author, this will prove immensely useful to you because it allows you to go systematically through the catalogs of all of the collections where such manuscripts might be held.

Kristeller, Paul Oskar. *Latin Manuscript Books Before 1600: A List of the Printed Catalogues and Unpublished Inventories of Extant Collections*. Ed. Sigrid Kramer. 4th rev. and enlarged ed. München: Monumenta Germaniae Historica, 1993. This is an updated version of Kristeller's book that will show you how many new manuscript catalogs were published during the thirty years from 1963 to 1993, and how many old ones were improved and expanded. Given the ease with which microfilms can now be obtained from most European libraries, and their relatively modest cost, that makes it remarkably uncomplicated to research unpublished manuscripts without actually having to visit the libraries where those manuscripts are held.

Kristeller, Paul Oskar. *Iter Italicum: A Finding List of Uncatalogued or Incompletely Catalogued Humanistic Manuscripts of the Renaissance in Italian and Other Libraries*. 6 vols. Leiden - London: Brill - Warburg Institute, 1963-97. You have to have some familiarity with manuscripts and manuscript catalogs in order to appreciate how useful this "finding list" is for anyone working in the period and the unbelievable amount of work that has gone into it. Suffice it to say this: if you are interested in doing something more original than relying on published sources, and if you are interested in early modern cultural or intellectual history, this is as good a point to start your work as any. For forty years Kristeller traveled all over the world in order to visit manuscript collections (the first two volumes deal with Italy, the next three cover other countries from Australia to Yugoslavia, in alphabetical order, including Utopia, and the last volume contains supplements). He called up whichever manuscripts interested him—which is to say, anything having some kind of connection to humanism that had not previously been described in published catalogs—took detailed notes on what he saw, and published them with his commentary in this finding list. It is important to realize that he did *not* include manuscripts that had already been described elsewhere in a printed catalog. His work is conceived as a supplement to printed catalogs. Even so, these volumes do a service unlike any other: they inform you about a large swathe of unpublished sources of early modern European intellectual history. All you need to do is skim these volumes, and almost instantly you will identify manuscripts somewhere in Europe, Asia, or America that contain an interesting piece of writing that has never before been carefully considered by any historian.

## 5.7 HISTORICAL HANDBOOKS

### 5.7.1 Facts and Dates

Greengrass, Mark. *Longman Companion to the European Reformation, c1500-1618*. London: Longman, 1998. A goldmine of basic historical information about such things as

feast days, monastic orders, universities, church institutions, the indulgence dispute, confessions, genealogical relationships, the archdukes of Austria and so on. A good place to familiarize yourself with the sorts of things one needs to know if one wants to get the most out of the scholarly literature.

Fletcher, Stella. *Longman Companion to Renaissance Europe, 1390-1530*. London: Longman, 1999. A parallel enterprise for the Renaissance.

*Der grosse Ploetz: Die Enzyklopädie der Weltgeschichte*. 35th ed. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2008. The greatest exemplar of books aiming to list all of the basic facts and dates of European and world history. The earliest editions were produced by Carl Ploetz in the nineteenth century, and they proved so popular that they are still being updated. This is a handy tool for reviewing basic historical facts in chronological order.

Kinder, H., and W. Hilgemann, eds. *Anchor Atlas of World History*. Trans. by Ernest A. Menze with maps designed by Harald and Ruth Bukor. 2 vols. Garden City: Doubleday, 1974-78. I've already mentioned this under the rubric of historical atlases, but it does equally good service for basic facts and dates.

Cheney, Christopher Robert, ed. *Handbook of Dates for Students of English History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995. The equivalent of the *Ploetz* in English, with a focus on English history.

Kirsten, Ernst, Ernst Wolfgang Buchholz, and Wolfgang Köllmann. *Raum und Bevölkerung in der Weltgeschichte: Bevölkerungs-Ploetz*. 4 vols. Würzburg: A. G. Ploetz Verlag, 1965-68. There is no other equally detailed and reliable source of population figures for all periods and regions of world history.

Rönnefarth, Helmuth K. G. *Konferenzen und Verträge: Vertrags-Ploetz, ein Handbuch geschichtlich bedeutsamer Zusammenkünfte und Vereinbarungen*. 2nd ed. 5 vols. Würzburg: A. G. Ploetz Verlag, 1958-1975. This is a compilation of treaties and conferences across world history as, for example, the Peace of Westphalia, the Congress of Vienna, the Peace of Versailles, and so on. For each treaty or international convention it indicates the most important decisions taken, sources where the original treaties were published, and references to further readings. It is obviously most useful for political and diplomatic history.

### 5.7.2 Handbooks of European History

Hay, Denys, ed. *A General History of Europe*. London: Longman, 1961-73. This is a comprehensive and reasonably readable series of books on European history from antiquity to the twentieth century. It's one of the best of its kind. The volumes on medieval Europe by my teacher John Mundy and on the sixteenth century by H. G. Koenigsberger are particularly good.

Langer, William L., ed. *The Rise of Modern Europe*. New York: Harper, 1934-85. This is a much older enterprise than the series edited by Hay, but many of the volumes are a better read. The volume on the Reformation by Lewis Spitz was one of the most recent to be published and is therefore still a decent source of information about relevant scholarship.

Gilbert, Felix, ed. *The Norton History of Modern Europe*. New York: Norton, 1970-82. This covers about the same period as the Langer series: it begins in the late Middle Ages and goes up to the twentieth century. The volumes are shorter and most of them are much more recent.

- Le Goff, Jacques, ed. *The Making of Europe*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1993-. This is the most recent such series. Each volume in the series is published simultaneously in German, Italian, Spanish, French, and English. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. The volumes do not follow the chronological model of the previously mentioned three series. They rather deal with topics (such as the rise of Christendom, peasants, the sea, European cities, population history, and so on). They are sometimes more in the style of extended essays, and sometimes major monographs. But they reflect the state of contemporary scholarship about as well as any contemporary series can.
- Clark, G. N., J. R. M. Butler, J. P. T. Bury, and E. A. Benians, eds. *The New Cambridge Modern History*. 14 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1957-70. This is the standard historical handbook in English, and far more comprehensive in its coverage than its predecessor, but also more uneven in its quality and far less coherent. Unlike the series mentioned so far, this is the kind of work that you really cannot read. You can only use it to look up certain information, or to get a quick review of the state of knowledge at the time on a given and relatively well defined subject.
- Ward, A. W., G. W. Prothero, and Stanley Leathers, eds. *The Cambridge Modern History*. 13 vols. Cambridge, 1902-11. Conceived by Lord Acton, this was the first major historical enterprise to respond to the proliferation of professional scholarship by adopting the model of multi-authored handbooks with contributions on particular subjects by different authors. It is surely one of the most distinguished of its kind, and it is still good for information about the kind of history that attracted most attention at the time: political and diplomatic history.
- Boutruche, Robert, and Paul Lemerle, eds. *Nouvelle Clío: L'Histoire et ses problèmes*. Paris, 1963-. An excellent collection of general histories, where you can relatively quickly determine the state of the art from an *Annales* point of view.
- Schieder, Theodor, ed. *Handbuch der Europäischen Geschichte*. 7 vols. Stuttgart: Union Verlag, 1968-87. The German equivalent of the *New Cambridge Modern History*, more condensed and more up to date in terms of available information, but more conservative and old-fashioned in terms of methodology.
- Ritter, Gerhard, ed. *Geschichte der Neuzeit*. 3 vols. Brunswick: Westermann, 1950-62. Just as conservative, but noteworthy in the present context for the periodization chosen by Erich Hassinger for an outstanding volume on *Das Werden des neuzeitlichen Europa 1300 -1600*. As far as I am aware, this was the first major publication to treat the history of "early modern" Europe as a coherent period.
- Oldenbourg Grundriss der Geschichte*. Munich: Oldenbourg, 1979-. The most recent German effort of its kind, this consists of highly condensed, textbook-like works of sometimes very high quality with thorough bibliographic information. Volumes worth noting here include Erich Meuthen, *Das 15. Jahrhundert*, 2nd ed. (München: Oldenbourg, 1984), Heinrich Lutz, *Reformation und Gegenreformation*, ed. Alfred Kohler, 5th ed. (München: Oldenbourg, 2002), and Heinz Duchhardt, *Barock und Aufklärung*, 4th ed. (München: Oldenbourg, 2006).

### 5.7.3 Handbooks of Medieval and Early Modern History

- Brady, Thomas A., Jr., Heiko A. Oberman, and James D. Tracy, eds. *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation*. 2 vols. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1994-95. This deserves pride of place because it is relatively recent and written with particular attention to the Reformation. Each volume contains essays by leading scholars on clearly defined subjects. The arrangement follows chronological,

- geographical, and topical considerations. There are essays on the various European nations, on fundamental features of European social, economic, and intellectual history, and on the developments that occurred in and outside of Europe in the early modern period. There are good bibliographies and a variety of useful tables on population growth, coinage, etc..
- Potter, George Richard, and Denys Hay, eds. *The Renaissance, 1493-1520*. New Cambridge Modern History, vol. 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1957. This includes significant statements by figures like Hans Baron and Rudolf Wittkower.
- Elton, Geoffrey R., ed. *The Reformation, 1520-1559*. New Cambridge Modern History, vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1958. Because of Elton's prominent role in Reformation historiography, this was a particularly important expression of the state of the scholarship on Reformation history about the middle of the twentieth century. It was published just before the explosion of what has come to be known as the social history of the Reformation and its varieties, with their emphasis on cities, classes, the common man, ritual, and so on. It therefore makes for particularly instructive reading to compare this volume with the second edition of 1990.
- Elton, G. R., ed. *The Reformation, 1520-1559*. 2nd ed. New Cambridge Modern History, vol. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. This is one of only three volumes of the New Cambridge Modern History that were issued in updated editions to reflect progress in scholarship. (The other two are J. O. Lindsay's 1996 volume on *The Old Regime, 1713-1763* and C. L. Mowat's 1968 edition of *The Shifting Balance of World Forces 1898-1945* under the new title *The Era of Violence*). It includes outstanding contributions to the social history of the Reformation by Bob Scribner and Heide Wunder, but also a frank introduction by Geoffrey Elton stating that in his view none of the scholarly progress that had been made since the first edition of this volume in 1958 required a fundamental readjustment of the understanding of the Reformation he had articulated at that time.
- Wernham, Richard B., ed. *The Counter Reformation and Price Revolutions, 1559-1610*. New Cambridge Modern History, vol. 3. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968. State of the art for the time, but never updated.
- Cooper, J. P., ed. *The Decline of Spain and the Thirty Years War, 1609-48/59*. New Cambridge Modern History. Cambridge, 1970.
- Carsten, F. L., ed. *The Ascendancy of France, 1648-1688*. The New Cambridge Modern History, 5. Cambridge, 1961.
- Gwatkin, H. M., and J. P. Whitney, eds. *The Cambridge Medieval History*. 8 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1911-36. The parallel to the *The Cambridge Modern History* and equally outstanding in its treatment of European history according to the standards of historical scholarship in force at the time.
- Fouracre, Paul, Rosamond McKitterick, Timothy Reuter, et al., eds. *The New Cambridge Medieval History*. 7 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995-2005. This offers precisely the same kind of treatment of medieval European history according to the standards of scholarship in force today. Its date of publication and information about the bibliography make this the first place to go if you are looking for a handbook on medieval history. The last volume, edited by Christopher Allmand and dealing with the period from 1415 to c. 1500, is particularly relevant.

#### 5.7.4 Companions to Medieval and Early Modern History



The volumes listed in this section consist of collections of up-to-date essays on the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and medieval and early modern philosophy. They were (mostly) written specifically for these volumes by leading contemporary scholars in their fields. They follow the same basic model as most of the handbooks listed above, but they are not such heavy going. They offer a good starting point for reading and research.

- Lansing, Carol, and Edward D. English, eds. *A Companion to the Medieval World*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.
- George Holmes, ed., *The Oxford History of Medieval Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992)
- McGrade, Arthur S., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Frank, Daniel H., and Oliver Leaman, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Cameron, Euan, ed. *Early Modern Europe: An Oxford History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Martin, John Jeffries, ed. *The Renaissance World*. New York - London: Routledge, 2007.
- Ruggiero, Guido, ed. *A Companion to the Worlds of the Renaissance*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2002.
- Kraye, Jill, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Rabil, Albert A. Jr., ed. *Renaissance Humanism: Foundations, Forms, and Legacy*. 3 vols. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988.
- Hankins, James, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Pettegree, Andrew, ed. *The Reformation World*. London - New York: Routledge, 2002.
- Hsia, R. Po-chia, ed. *A Companion to the Reformation World*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2004.
- Roth, John D., and James M. Stayer, eds. *A Companion to Anabaptism and Spiritualism, 1521-1700*. Leiden: Brill, 2007.
- Bagchi, David V. N., and David Curtis Steinmetz, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Reformation Theology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.
- Rutherford, Donald, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Nadler, Steven M., ed. *A Companion to Early Modern Philosophy*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2002.
- Broadie, Alexander, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Scottish Enlightenment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

#### 5.7.5 Handbooks of Subfields of European History

- Postan, Michael M., and H. John Habakkuk, eds. *The Cambridge Economic History*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1966-1989. The most authoritative handbook on European economic history. This supersedes J. H. Clapham and Eileen Power, eds., *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe*, 8 in 10 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1941-89).
- Cipolla, Carlo M., ed. *The Fontana Economic History of Europe*. 6 in 7 vols. London: Fontana, 1972-76. A very good treatment of European economic history, and a lot more readable than the *Cambridge Economic History*.

- O. F. Robinson, T. David Fergus, and William M. Gordon, *European Legal History: Sources and Institutions*, 3rd ed. (London: Butterworths, 2000). Not very widely cited, but this is one of the most reasonable surveys of European legal history with a strong emphasis on Roman law and legal institutions that I have come across.
- Coing, Helmut, ed. *Handbuch der Quellen und Literatur der neueren europäischen Privatrechtsgeschichte*. 3 vols. München: Beck, 1973-. A massive survey of the history of European law that was never quite completed, but has crucial information about medieval and early modern legal history that is difficult to find equally easily elsewhere.
- \*\*Savigny, Friedrich Karl von. *Geschichte des römischen Rechts im Mittelalter*. 2nd ed. 7 vols. Heidelberg: J. C. B. Mohr, 1834-51. This is the great classic that put the history of Roman law in the Middle Ages on the map. It was an outstanding accomplishment in its day, and though you may not believe it, it has never been quite surpassed. It still is one of the best places to start looking for information about particular figures in the history of medieval Roman law.
- Feine, Hans Erich. *Kirchliche Rechtsgeschichte: Die katholische Kirche*. 5th ed. Köln: Böhlau, 1972. Probably the best single treatment of the whole history of canon law from antiquity to modern times. It's true that it is in German, but so is Willibald Maria Plöchl, *Geschichte des Kirchenrechts*, 2nd ed., 5 vols. (Vienna - Munich: Verlag Herold, 1960-1970), which takes up five volumes—and that's probably an easier read for most students than the other one-volume classic by Anton Maria Stickler, *Historia iuris canonici latini, 1: Historia fontium* (Torino: Libreria Pontif. Athenaei Salesiani, 1950), which is in Latin.
- \*\*Schulte, Johann Friedrich von. *Die Geschichte der Quellen und Literatur des canonischen Rechts*. 3 vols. Stuttgart, 1875-1880. This did for canon law what von Savigny did for medieval Roman law and, as in the case of von Savigny, it is an unsurpassed tool for making a first approach to any number of figures in the history of medieval canon law.
- Burns, James Henderson, ed. *Cambridge History of Medieval Political Thought, c. 350 - c. 1450*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988. A comprehensive and systematic collection of outstanding essays on all of the major topics in the history of medieval political thought. John Watt's essay on spiritual and temporal power, for example, is one of the best treatments of the subject I know. There are excellent bibliographies and very useful lists of the major figures covered in this volume.
- Burns, J. H., and Mark Goldie, eds. *Cambridge History of Political Thought, 1450-1700*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. This successor volume to the preceding item follows the same basic model. It does not succeed equally well, but it is still very much worth consulting.
- Kretzmann, Norman, Anthony Kenny, and Jan Pinborg, eds. *The Cambridge History of Later Medieval Philosophy: From the Rediscovery of Aristotle to the Disintegration of Scholasticism, 1100-1600*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982. This is an outstanding collection of essays written at a very high level of scholarship. The essays are arranged according to topics: logic, ethics, politics, metaphysics, etc. Don't let the title mislead you. It is correct in that this volume does not deal with early medieval philosophy. But it does cover the whole of high medieval scholastic philosophy and extends far into the early modern period.
- Schmitt, Charles B., ed. *The Cambridge History of Renaissance Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988. The same quality as the medieval volume and organized on the same principles.

- Frederick Copleston, *A History of Philosophy*, 8 vols. (London: Burns Oates & Washbourne, 1947). This has the same relationship to the *Cambridge History of Philosophy* as Cipolla's *Fontana Economic History of Europe* has to the *Cambridge Economic History*, except that it is written by a single author. It is an intelligent, detailed, lucid, and eminently readable survey of the whole history of European philosophy from the Presocratics all the way to Dewey and Russell. Copleston was a Jesuit. He paid particular attention to the Middle Ages, and there are places where one can tell that he has preferences. But all told, this is one of the best places to go for an overview of the history of philosophy in any period or for a first approach to the philosophy of any particular author, largely because Copleston's chief aim was to achieve clarity in specifying exactly what made each particular philosopher's views distinct from those of others. His history has been reissued by different publishers in different editions over the years, and it is still in print today.
- Kenny, Anthony John Patrick. *The Oxford History of Western Philosophy*. Oxford - New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. I have never used it, but given Kenny's stature, this ought to be good.
- Porter, Roy, and Mary Jo Nye, eds. *The Cambridge History of Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Conrad, Lawrence I., Michael Neve, Vivian Nutton, et al. *The Western Medical Tradition: 800 BC to AD 1800*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

#### 5.7.6 Handbooks of German History

- Gebhardt, Bruno. *Handbuch der deutschen Geschichte*. Ed. Herbert Grundmann. 9th ed. 4 vols. Stuttgart: Union Verlag, 1970-76. This is generally considered to be the most reliable standard handbook of German history, known simply as "the Gebhardt." It is named after the nineteenth-century schoolteacher who produced the first edition. Grundmann's ninth edition covered the scholarship up to about the 1960s. It is subdivided into numerous sections, each of which is written by an expert in the field and accompanied with a bibliography of primary sources and the relevant secondary literature.
- Gebhardt, Bruno. *Handbuch der deutschen Geschichte*. Ed. Wolfgang Reinhard. 10th ed. Stuttgart: Klett-Cotta, 2001-. This successor to Grundmann's ninth edition is still in progress, but the volumes covering late medieval and early modern history from 1410 to 1806 (volumes 8-12) are in print. It covers a great deal more territory than its predecessor and reflects the current state of scholarship well. At the moment this qualifies as the most authoritative scholarly survey of German history, with detailed references to the secondary literature and sources.
- Sante, Georg Wilhelm, ed. *Geschichte der deutschen Länder: "Territorien Ploetz"*. 2 vols. Würzburg: A. G. Ploetz-Verlag, 1964-1971. Given the diversity of the territories into which Germany was divided for most of its history, and in fact continues to be divided today, this concise treatment of the history of the German territories is indispensable for anyone who needs more than the most generic information about the goings on in one or another place in Germany.
- Holborn, Hajo. *A History of Modern Germany*. 3 vols. New York: Knopf, 1959-69. This is not so much a handbook as a narrative. It is old but is still very much worth mentioning because it remains the only history of Germany from the Reformation to the twentieth century written by a single historian that covers the story in so much detail and such a high level of scholarship.

### 5.7.7 Handbooks of Church History

- The Pelican History of the Church*. This was published in seven volumes in the 1960s. It is an authoritative and remarkably readable survey of the entire history of the Christian church, from antiquity to the present. The volumes most relevant to this guide are those by Richard W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1970), Owen Chadwick, *The Reformation* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1964), and Gerald R. Cragg, *The Church and the Age of Reason, 1648-1789* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1962), each of which I have listed in the appropriate section above.
- Fliche, Augustin, and V. Martin, eds. *Histoire de l'église*. 21 vols. Paris: Bloud & Gay, 1934-52, known as *Fliche-Martin*. The standard French Catholic handbook of church history. In spite of its age this is still the most useful general such history, chiefly because it is more readable than later handbooks.
- Jedin, Hubert, ed. *Handbuch der Kirchengeschichte*. 7 in 10 vols. Freiburg: Herder, 1962-79. The standard German Catholic handbook of church history. More recent than Fliche-Martin, and much more up-to-date in its scholarship. A few of its volumes have been translated into English.
- Le Bras, Gabriel, ed. *Histoire du droit et des institutions de l'Eglise en Occident*. Paris: Sirey, 1955-. This is a sociologically inspired history of the legal and administrative institutions of the Catholic church from antiquity to the present and an outstanding example of the high quality of French legal scholarship with the focus on sociology that it was given under the leadership of Gabriel Le Bras. It's hard reading, but a very good source of information on such matters as canon law and the organization of monastic orders. Volume 7 of this series, Gabriel Le Bras, Charles Lefebvre, and Jacqueline Rambaud, *L'âge classique, 1140-1378: Sources et théorie du droit* (Paris: Sirey, 1965), is remarkable for the depth of its treatment of classical canon law.
- Pastor, Ludwig von. *Geschichte der Päpste seit dem Ausgang des Mittelalters*. Freiburg, 1909-29. The greatest single history of the papacy ever written and still very useful, not only because of its narrative, but also because of its extensive quotations from unpublished documents in the papal archives.
- Haller, Johannes. *Das Papsttum: Idee und Wirklichkeit*. 5 vols. Reinbek bei Hamburg, 1965. A great Protestant counterpart to Pastor's history: idiosyncratic, brilliant, often hostile, and still one of the most readable narratives of the history of the papacy ever written. Unfortunately it ends in the Middle Ages and has never been translated into English.
- Hinschius, Paul. *Das Kirchenrecht der Katholiken und Protestanten*. 6 vols. Berlin, 1869-97. A great classic of German nineteenth-century scholarship, and a goldmine of information about the constitutional and legal structure of Catholicism.
- Hauck, Albert. *Kirchengeschichte Deutschlands*. 5 vols. Leipzig, 1887-1920. The basic narrative history of the German church from a Protestant point of view. A great historical classic from the nineteenth and early twentieth century. It's hard to imagine any historian nowadays even trying to attempt this kind of mammoth synthesis.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. 5 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971-84. This is neither a church history nor is its fourth volume a history of the Reformation. It is rather an attempt to trace the development of the church's doctrinal tradition as a whole through the changes it underwent from antiquity to the present. It does not focus on individuals, though of

course it does refer to them throughout. It is rather structured around the main themes of Christian dogma.

Léonard, Émile G. *A History of Protestantism, 1: The Reformation*. Ed. H. H. Rowley. Trans. Joyce M. H. Reid. London: Nelson, 1965. A concise survey written from a thoroughly French Jesuit point of view, and the only primer I know that aspires to deal with all of Protestant church history.

## 5.8 HISTORICAL JOURNALS

My choices are arbitrary, but they may give you a sense of the great range and diversity of the scholarly journals that began to be established in the nineteenth century and keep multiplying today. I have listed the journals in each section according to the date when they began to be published. That seems a good way to show where the focus of historical scholarship lay in the beginnings, and the ways in which it has become more specialized since then.

For a more comprehensive list of scholarly historical journals see the key to the abbreviations at the end of the annual bibliographical volumes of the *Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique*, use *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory* online, or turn to the following bibliography:

Boehm, Eric H., Barbara H. Pope, and Marie S. Ensign, eds. *Historical Periodicals Directory*. 5 vols. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 1981-86. This is comprehensive source of information about journals and serials in any field of history for all current publications as well as those that ceased publication after 1960.

For older historical journals you should look at the predecessor, entitled *Historical Periodicals: An Annotated World List of Historical and Related Serial Publications* (Santa Barbara, 1961).

### 5.8.1 General History and Subfields of History

*Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* (1769-). One of the oldest journals of its kind and along with the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* (1838-) an important place of publication for distinguished scholarship in all areas of the humanities and sciences.

*Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelalters* (1820-). This journal was founded in conjunction with the establishment of the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*. It was published under a variety of slightly different titles. As its association with the most famous project of publishing critical editions of medieval sources would suggest, it specializes in philological studies. But it also serves as one of the major journals of medieval history and one of the very oldest examples of the professionalization of historical scholarship in the nineteenth century.

*Bibliothèque de l'école des Chartes* (1839-). The oldest and most distinguished journal devoted specifically to the so-called auxiliary sciences like diplomatics, heraldics, sphragistics, etc. from the Middle Ages to the modern period.

*Revue historique de droit français et étranger* (1855-). The oldest and best established French journal devoted to French and European legal history.

*Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* (1877-). The leading publication of the most distinguished British professional historical society, and a good illustration of the pressure felt by other countries to contribute to the development of "scientific" history as pioneered in Germany in the nineteenth century.

- Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte* (1880-). Named after Karl-Friedrich von Savigny, the great nineteenth-century historian of Roman law, this continues to be an outstanding journal of legal history. It is divided into three "Abteilungen" devoted, respectively, to Roman, canon, and "Germanistic" law.
- American Historical Review* (1896-). Published by the American Historical Association, long since devoted to aspects of history in all regions of the world and all periods of history, and unusual in assembling influential forums devoted to issues of particular contemporary salience for the profession, this journal represents the gold standard of scholarly accomplishment in the United States. One of its most important functions consists of choosing which books to review and publishing judgments of their quality that are likely to inform the opinion of the profession at large.
- Quellen und Forschungen aus italienischen Archiven und Bibliotheken* (1898-). Published by the Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rome, this is an outstanding journal in the great tradition of manuscript and archival research conducted by Germans in Italy, with a focus on medieval and Renaissance history.
- Vierteljahrschrift für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte* (1903-). Founded by Stephan Bauer, Georg von Below, and Ludo Hartmann in the aftermath of the development of "Nationalökonomie" in Germany, this was one of the very first journals and remains one of the most distinguished to draw attention to social and economic history.
- Isis* (1913-). Founded by George Sarton and now published by the University of Chicago Press for the History of Science Society, this is the leading American journal on the history of science, medicine, and technology.
- The Historical Journal* (1923/1958-). Founded in 1923, this was called *The Cambridge Historical Journal* until 1958, and even though the title has changed, it is in fact edited by Cambridge History faculty and published by Cambridge University Press. It is outstanding for British history, but deals with European history, too.
- Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies* (1926-). Published by the Medieval Academy of America, this is the most distinguished American journal devoted to medieval history.
- The Economic History Review* (1928-). One of the oldest and most distinguished journals specifically devoted to economic history.
- Annales: Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations* (1929/1946-). The journal after which the single most important and influential school of historical scholarship in the twentieth century is named, from Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre via Fernand Braudel to Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Jacques LeGoff, and Jean-Claude Schmitt, among others.
- Journal of Modern History* (1929-). Founded by Bernadotte Schmitt, published by the University of Chicago Press, and now edited by John Boyer, and Jan Goldstein, this is the most highly respected English-language historical journal publishing work in all of modern history since 1500, and without a doubt one of the most highly visible contributions of our Department to the historical profession. Among the faculty who edited it at one time or another were Hanna Gray, William McNeill, and Sheila Fitzpatrick.
- Annals of Science: An international Review of the History of Science and Technology since the Renaissance* (1936-). This is a British journal with an international audience that has broadened its scope to include ancient history and medicine as well as articles in French and German.
- Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* (1937-). A journal publishing on a wide range of subjects in cultural and intellectual history in the specific tradition of study established by the Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg and favored by

- scholars like Arnaldo Momigliano and Anthony Grafton, often stressing philology and the classical ancient tradition.
- Mediaeval Studies* (1939-). Published by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto.
- Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies* (1941-). Published by the Warburg Institute in London, but specifically focused on medieval and Renaissance history.
- The Journal of Economic History* (1941-)
- Traditio: Studies in Ancient and Medieval History, Thought and Religion*. (1943-). This is a Catholic leaning journal published by Fordham University with an emphasis on manuscript studies.
- Journal of the History of Ideas* (1946-). The classic journal in the field of study established by Arthur Lovejoy.
- Journal of Jewish Studies* (1948-). Published by the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, this is one of the leading international academic journals on all aspects of Jewish history.
- Geschichte in Wissenschaft und Unterricht* (1950-). A journal with a broad historical perspective that specializes in publishing topically defined issues aimed at introducing history teachers to the current state of scholarship.
- Revue de droit canonique* (1951-). One of the best journals in the field, this was founded by Gabriel Le Bras, the founder of the sociology of legal studies in France, at the University of Strasbourg—not coincidentally the same university where Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre started out.
- Past and Present* (1952-). An outstanding journal that radiates intelligence. It was founded by British Marxists and has by now lost some of its edge, but still keeps publishing some of the most important scholarship and sparking the most interesting debates on major subjects involving a great range of scholars.
- American Journal of Legal History* (1957-). Published by the Beasley School of Law at Temple University, this is the oldest American journal specifically devoted to legal history.
- Bulletin of Medieval Canon Law*. (1955-). This journal was founded by Stephan Kuttner, a German immigrant to the United States and the man who was singlehandedly responsible for putting the study of canon law on the map in the United States and turning it into a major field of professional historical inquiry. He holds very much the same place in the history of canon law as Paul Oskar Kristeller does in the history of Humanism. The bulletin was initially published as an appendix to *Traditio*, then had a checkered publishing career, and has now found a home at the Stephan Kuttner Institute of Medieval Canon Law at the University of Munich.
- Comparative Studies in Society and History* (1958-). Founded by the great social historian Sylvia Thrupp at the University of Chicago, this journal quickly established itself as one of the major venues for scholarship in social history broadly conceived and with a comparative bent inspired in part by William McNeill's drive to turn world history into a professional field of study. Since Thrupp moved to the University of Michigan, it has been edited by Michigan faculty. It is now published by Cambridge.
- History and Theory* (1960-). Founded by Richard Vann and now published by Wiley-Blackwell, this is the best journal specializing in articles and reviews on the philosophy of history. The level of scholarship is outstanding.
- Law and Society Review* (1966-). Published for the Law and Society Association, this is an interdisciplinary American journal with international scholarly reach that focuses on the relationship between society and the law.

*Journal of Social History* (1967-). This is the brainchild of Peter Stearns, one of the historians in the vanguard of social and public history in the United States, who founded it and continues to edit it.

*Ius commune: Zeitschrift für Europäische Rechtsgeschichte* (1967-2001). Founded by Hermann Coing and published by the Max-Planck-Institut für Europäische Rechtsgeschichte in Frankfurt, this was one of the most important journals with articles on the history of medieval and early modern Roman and canon law.

*Il Pensiero politico* (1968-).

*Central European History* (1968-). Probably the most distinguished American journal devoted specifically to the history of central Europe, which means mostly, but by no means exclusively, the Germanies.

*Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (1970-). Founded by Theodore Rabb and Robert Rotberg, this was the first journal explicitly focused on publishing scholarship combining distinct disciplinary approaches.

*The Journal of European Economic History* (1972-).

*Geschichte und Gesellschaft: Zeitschrift für historische Sozialwissenschaft* (1975-). This started as the chief organ of historians like Hans-Ulrich Wehler and Jürgen Kocka at the University of Bielefeld, who wanted to change the traditional focus of the German historical profession on political and diplomatic history by following the lead of the *Annales* and establishing social history as a significant field of study in Germany.

*Journal of Medieval History* (1975-)

*History of Political Thought* (1980-). As the title says.

*History of European Ideas* (1980-)

*History of Universities* (1981-). An outstanding source of information on all aspects of the history of universities and scholarship in medieval and early modern times.

*Storia della Storiografia/History of Historiography* (1982-). A European follow-up to *History and Theory*.

*Law and History Review* (1983-). Published by the American Society for Legal History, this is now probably the leading American journal in legal history.

*Jewish History* (1986-). An international and interdisciplinary journal edited by Kenneth Stow at the University of Haifa.

*History and Memory* (1989-). Published by Indiana University Press and edited by Gadi Algazi at Tel Aviv University, this responds to the explosion of interest in memory studies that was provoked by unprecedented debates about the Holocaust in the 1980s.

*Journal of World History* (1990-)

*Journal of the History of Sexuality* (1990-)

*Environmental History* (1996-). Published by Oxford University Press for the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society.

*Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* (2001-). Published by Indiana University Press for the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, this journal leans heavily towards literature.

*Zeitschrift für Rechtsgeschichte* (2002-). The successor of *Ius commune*, this continues to be published by the Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte, but has expanded its coverage beyond the *ius commune* to include all aspects of legal history.

*European Journal of Jewish Studies* (2006-). A recently established journal published by Brill for the European Association for Jewish Studies.

*Journal of the Philosophy of History* (2007-). A very recent addition to the field published by Brill.



### 5.8.2 National History

*Archivio storico italiano* (1842-). Officially a journal of Italian history, in practice this tends to give pride of place to the history of Florence and Tuscany, especially in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

*Zeitschrift für die Geschichte des Oberrheins* (1850-). Not national history, but one of the oldest and most widely-cited examples of scholarly journals focused on the history of a particular region or territory of which there are a great many, especially in Germany and France.

*Blätter für Deutsche Landesgeschichte* (1852-). Similar to the *Zeitschrift für die Geschichte des Oberrheins* in its focus on territorial history, except that this one does not limit itself to the history of a particular region.

*Historische Zeitschrift* (1859-). The oldest historical journal explicitly devoted to the "scientific" study of history according to the critical professional standards established by Niebuhr and Ranke. This continues to be the most prestigious historical journal in Germany.

*Revue historique* (1876-). The French equivalent of the *Historische Zeitschrift*.

*Rivista storica italiana* (1884-). The Italian equivalent of the *Historische Zeitschrift*.

*English Historical Review* (1886-). The English equivalent of the *Historische Zeitschrift*.

*Hispania: Revista española de historia* (1940-). Published by the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas.

*French Historical Studies* (1958-). Published by the Society for French Historical Studies, this is the leading American journal specifically devoted to French history.

*German Studies Review* (1978-). Published by the German Studies Association, this journal places greater weight on literature than on history, but it is one of only a few outlets for scholarship on specifically German aspects of early modern history.

*German History: The Journal of the German History Society* (1984-)

*French History* (1987-). Published by Oxford University Press for the Society for the Study of French History.

### 5.8.3 Church History

*Zeitschrift für Schweizerische Kirchengeschichte* (1876-). Classic historical journal of Swiss Protestantism.

*Historisches Jahrbuch der Görresgesellschaft* (1880-). Classic historical journal of German Catholicism.

*Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte* (1887-). Classic historical journal of German Protestantism.

*Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique* (1900-). This was founded at the Catholic University at Louvain and continues to be published there. It covers all aspects of church history from antiquity to the present and is especially valuable for the accompanying annual bibliographical survey. It obviously leans towards Catholicism, but it is generally recognized as one of the best, if not simply the best, international journal of all matters concerning church history.

*Catholic Historical Review* (1915-). Published by the American Catholic Historical Association and very much worth watching for articles by leading scholars on medieval and early modern history.

*Luther-Jahrbuch* (1919-). Narrowly German and theological in character, but important for anyone who wants to study Luther.

*Mennonite Quarterly Review* (1927-). The main journal for all aspects of Anabaptist history or the history of the "radical Reformation," with a noticeably confessional bent.

*Church History* (1932-). Published in Chicago by the American Society of Church History, this is the main organ for scholarly church history in the United States  
*The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* (1950-). Same for England.

#### 5.8.4 Early Modern History

*Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte/ Archive for Reformation History* (1903-). Published by the Verein für Reformationsgeschichte, this is the oldest and still the most authoritative journal of Reformation history. It was originally rather thoroughly German in its coverage, but has in recent years become more international in its interests and coverage, including articles in several of the modern European languages, with an emphasis on English and German.

*Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance* (1934-). I would regard this as the single most important journal focused specifically on Renaissance history—but it is unfortunately written in French. You will just have to live with that.

*Renaissance Quarterly* (1947-). The best established American journal on Renaissance history, published by the Renaissance Society of America. It focuses very much on literature, Italy, and England—lots of Shakespeare—but it has articles on other subjects as well and good reviews.

*Eighteenth-Century Studies* (1967-). Published by Johns Hopkins University Press for the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, this journal focuses on later stages of early modern history than I am focusing on, but it's important for anyone with an interest in the Enlightenment.

*Sixteenth-Century Journal* (1970-). Recent American journal with good articles on all aspects of early modern European history, beginning well before the sixteenth century and ending well after. It gives a lot of attention to recent changes in historical methodology, and it is inclined to publish the views of established scholars as well as those of new members to the field. It is particularly useful for its comprehensive book reviews and for the commendable speed with which recently published books get reviewed here.

*Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies* (1970-). This journal is published by Brepols for the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at UCLA. It is not as widely cited as most of the other journals listed above, but its scholarly level is outstanding, and it is one of the few journals still willing to publish long articles that can do full justice to a rich subject.

*Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. (1971/1996-). This is published by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Duke University. It has been appearing since 1971, but was called the *Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* before a change of name in 1996 that was meant to reflect an extension in its coverage from a traditional focus on the Renaissance to a broader range of subjects. (The Center, on the other hand, is still called the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies). It is unusual in making a point of addressing both medieval and early modern history.

*Zeitschrift für Historische Forschung* (1974-). A relatively new German journal with a distinct focus on the early modern period (ca. 1300-1800) and a clear bent towards social history. Articles are mostly in German, but also in English and other languages. At the moment this is the best German journal on the period.

*Journal of Early Modern History* (1997-). A recently founded journal that is published by Brill for the University of Minnesota Center for Early Modern History—which means, it reflects the leadership of James Tracy. In part because of Tracy's wide-ranging

interests in early modern commerce, it is explicitly aimed at expanding the range of "early modern history" from a narrow focus on Europe and the interests of Europeans to the history of the globe and the place of Europe in global history. *Early Modern Women* (2011-). A brand-new journal published by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Arizona.

## 5.9 BIBLIOGRAPHIES

### 5.9.1 Retrospective Bibliographies of European History

To the best of my knowledge, there are no retrospective bibliographies specifically devoted to early modern European history. The following bibliographies of European and medieval history will therefore have to do.

- Norton, Mary Beth, and Pamela Gerardi, eds. *The American Historical Association's Guide to Historical Literature*. 3rd ed. 2 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. The standard general bibliography for all areas of history. Given its comprehensive range, the recommendations it makes on any particular subject are naturally highly selective. But they will get you started.
- Howe, George Frederick, ed. *American Historical Association: Guide to Historical Literature*. 2nd ed. New York: Macmillan, 1961. This is the predecessor to the version edited by Mary Beth Norton in 1995. Comparing the two editions will tell you a lot about what has happened to historical writing since 1960.
- Roach, John Peter Charles, ed. *A Bibliography of Modern History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968. This bibliography was published as an afterthought to the *New Cambridge Modern History*, which lacks the comprehensive bibliographies that characterized the original *Cambridge Modern History*. It is divided into sections according to the volumes and chapters of the *NCMH*. Each section was composed by the authors of the corresponding chapters. Hence the quality varies a good deal, but the whole is nevertheless both a useful addition to the *NCMH* and a decent introductory bibliography to the whole of modern European history.
- Paetow, Louis John. *A Guide to the Study of Medieval History*. Rev. ed. New York: F.S. Crofts & Co., 1931. This is a comprehensive bibliography on medieval history covering sources as well as secondary literature up to 1931. It serves as an excellent introduction to the accomplishments of medievalists from the nineteenth century up to, roughly speaking, the so-called revolt of the medievalists led by Charles Homer Haskins at Harvard in the 1920s.
- Boyce, Gray Cowan, ed. *Literature of Medieval History, 1930-1975: A Supplement to Louis John Paetow's A Guide to the Study of Medieval History*. 5 vols. Millwood, N. Y.: Kraus International Publication, 1981. As the title indicates, this bibliography continues Paetow's work until about the mid-1970s. That happens to be a good cut-off point because just about that time the writing of medieval history began to change very significantly. Using Paetow and Boyce in conjunction makes it easy to cover all of the significant scholarly bases until about 1970.
- Farrar, Clarissa P., and Austin P. Evans. *Bibliography of English Translations from Medieval Sources*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1946. This bibliography will guide you to the surprisingly large number of sources for medieval history that have been translated into English. Even for students who do know Latin, this is a good place to begin looking for sources they might like to consider in their work.

Ferguson, Mary Anne. *Bibliography of English Translations from Medieval Sources, 1943-1967*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1974. This brings the preceding item up to the mid-1960s. It shows very nicely how much was translated into English during the quarter-century in question.

#### 5.9.2 Retrospective Bibliographies of German History

Dahlmann, Friedrich Christoph, and Georg Waitz, eds. *Quellenkunde der deutschen Geschichte*. 9th ed. 2 vols. Leipzig: Köhler, 1931-32. This is obviously out of date, but it is a complete general bibliography of German history for sources and secondary literature published in the years up to 1932. Since much elementary source work in medieval and early modern history had already been done by then, it is by no means superseded, and it is easier to use than its successor.

Heimpel, Hermann, and Herbert Geuss, eds. *Dahlmann-Waitz, Quellenkunde der deutschen Geschichte: Bibliographie der Quellen und der Literatur zur deutschen Geschichte*. 10th ed. Stuttgart: Hiersemann, 1965-. This updated version of *Dahlmann-Waitz* is a classic illustration of how thoroughness can conflict with the needs of practice. Although it is undoubtedly the most comprehensive, accurate, and reliable bibliography of German history ever published, it is still incomplete and its arrangement is so complex that it is much more difficult to use than its predecessor. But it is a must for anyone trying to do a thorough bibliographic canvas for any area of German history.

Zophy, Jonathan W., ed. *An Annotated Bibliography of the Holy Roman Empire*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986. This is a unique item. It is unfortunately marred by an incalculable number of minor bibliographical errors that can easily turn into major headaches when you are trying to track down a particular reference. It is also idiosyncratic and arbitrary in its choices. But it is the only compact bibliography for the whole history of the Empire that I'm aware of, and the annotations allow you to assess the references with a certain degree of reliability.

Keyser, Erich, ed. *Bibliographie zur Städtegeschichte Deutschlands*. Köln: Böhlau, 1969. Excellent if you want information about any particular city, and much more recent than Chevalier's *Topo-Bibliographie* listed above.

*Althusius-Bibliographie: Bibliographie zur politischen Ideengeschichte und Staatslehre, zum Staatsrecht und zur Verfassungsgeschichte des 16. bis 18. Jahrhunderts*. Eds. H. U. Scupin and U. Scheuner. 2 vols. (Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1973). Don't pay attention to the title. This is not really a bibliography on Althusius (although it is that, too), but a massive two-volume bibliography for the history of political and constitutional thought in the early modern period. It emphasizes Germany, but deals extensively with other countries. It has a whole section on Bodin and Machiavelli. It pays good attention to the Reformation. It lists sources as well as secondary literature. And it has excellent indices.

#### 5.9.3 Retrospective Bibliographies of the Reformation

Ozment, Steven E., ed. *Reformation Europe: A Guide to Research*. St. Louis: Center for Reformation Research, 1982. A survey of the state of historical research on early modern Protestantism from a mixed Protestant, ecumenical, and "secular" point of view. It consists of essays by leading figures in fields like social history, the history of religion, Luther research, the study of the peasants war, and so on. Each author reviews the main trends in research and concludes with a bibliography. The essays vary in quality, but some of them are superb (Brady on social history, Tracy on

- humanism), and overall the collection offers a lot of good bibliographical information and an excellent point of entry into (almost) current scholarship.
- Maltby, William S., ed. *Reformation Europe: A Guide to Research II*. St. Louis: Center for Reformation Research, 1992. An update to the preceding entry with some more recent information, but not the same kind of scholarly energy.
- Whitford, David M. *Reformation and Early Modern Europe: A Guide to Research*. Kirksville, Mo.: Truman State University Press, 2008. The most recent update to Ozment's 1982 guide, and again not much of an improvement. It does of course contain information about more recent developments (confessionalization, for example), and it also says a good deal about online resources.
- O'Malley, J. W., ed. *Catholicism in Early Modern History: A Guide to Research*. St. Louis: Center for Reformation Research, 1988. A survey of historical writing on early modern Catholicism from a broadly Catholic point of view to complement the Protestant-leaning *Guide to Research* by Ozment.
- Schottenloher, Karl. *Bibliographie zur deutschen Geschichte im Zeitalter der Glaubensspaltung, 1517 - 1585*. 7 vols. Leipzig: K. W. Hiersemann, 1933-1966. This is the most comprehensive retrospective bibliography ever published on the Protestant Reformation in Germany. Though it is bulky, it is so systematic and well-indexed that it is relatively easy enough to use. Essential for anyone who wants to get a good grasp on the work that was done before about 1960.
- Commission internationale d'histoire ecclésiastique comparée, ed. *Bibliographie de la réforme, 1450-1648: Ouvrages parus de 1940 à 1955*. 8 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1960-82. Good for the material that it includes, but cumbersome to use: it arranges the literature according to the country of publication.
- Bainton, Roland H., and Eric W. Gritsch, eds. *Bibliography of the Continental Reformation: Materials Available in English*. 2nd ed. Hamden, Ct.: Archon Books, 1972. Out of date, but interesting for the light it throws on the state of scholarship in English in the late 1960s.
- Aland, Kurt, ed. *Hilfsbuch zum Lutherstudium*. 3rd revised ed. Witten: Luther-Verlag, 1970. A basic bibliographical tool to get a handle on the massive volume of Luther's writings, with a lot of useful indices that can help you, for example, to track down which of Luther's sermons deal with the subject in which you happen to be interested.
- Niesel, Wilhelm, ed. *Calvin-Bibliographie, 1901-1959*. München: C. Kaiser, 1961. Far more limited in scope than Aland's *Hilfsbuch* for Luther.
- Wiesner, Merry E. *Women in the Sixteenth Century: A Bibliography*. Sixteenth Century Bibliography, 23. St. Louis: Center for Reformation Research, 1983. This is one of the more interesting volumes in the series of bibliographies on aspects of Reformation history that have been published by the Center for Reformation Research in St. Louis, but it is largely outdated by more recent publications.
- Thomas, Ulrich. *Bibliographie zum deutschen Bauernkrieg und seiner Zeit*. 2 vols. Stuttgart: Fachdokumentationsstelle für Agrargeschichte im Institut für Sozialwissenschaften Abt. Wirtschafts- Sozial- u. Argrargeschichte an der Universität Hohenheim, 1976-1977. Much has been published since the mid-1970s, but this is a particularly good example of a thorough retrospective bibliography dealing with an important historical subject.

#### 5.9.4 Current Bibliographies

*Bibliographie internationale de l'humanisme et de la Renaissance*. Ed. Fédération internationale des Sociétés et Instituts pour l'étude de la Renaissance. Geneva: Droz, 1965-. Annual volumes with detailed and very comprehensive international coverage of all publications, including articles, on the history of the period, going well beyond either humanism or the Renaissance in any narrow definition of the term.

*Archiv für Reformationsgeschichte/ Archive for Reformation History, Beiheft, Literaturbericht/ Supplement*. Ed. Verein für Reformationsgeschichte. Gütersloh: Gerd Mohn, 1972-. The Reformation counterpart to *Bibliographie internationale de l'Humanisme et de la Renaissance*, and the best current bibliography on Reformation history. Contains concise reports and comments on the most recent publications arranged according to precisely subdivided subject headings. The greatest advantage of this bibliography is that it gives you thumbnail sketches of the contents, not only of books and volumes of essays, but also of individual articles published in scholarly journals. Reading through a single volume will give you an excellent sense on what has been published on most aspects of Reformation history in a given year.

*Historical Abstracts: Bibliography of the World's Periodical Literature*. Santa Barbara: American Bibliographical Center-Clio Press, 1955-. The basic research tool for access to current publications, books as well as articles, on any aspect of world history since 1450. (Until 1971/3 *Historical Abstracts* did not go back beyond the eighteenth century.) International in its coverage, with brief annotations on the publications that are covered. Now, of course, this is available online.

*International Bibliography of Historical Sciences*. Ed. International Committee of Historical Sciences. Paris: A. Colin, 1926-. Annual volumes which do not appear as soon as they ought to, but still make for a decent basic bibliography and a very effective means of getting an overview of the state of the work being done by the historical profession overall.

*Jahresberichte für deutsche Geschichte* (1927-). The standard and very comprehensive current bibliography for German history published annually, but ceased publication for the years from 1940-1949 because of World War II. Thereafter it was published in the German Democratic Republic. It is now published by the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften and available online for all entries later than 1974. The last book version was published in 2009.

*Bibliographie annuelle de l'histoire de France du cinquième siècle à 1958*. Paris, 1954-. The standard current bibliography for French history.

*Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique*. Louvain: Université catholique de Louvain, 1900-. Each annual volume of this classic journal of church history is accompanied by a remarkably complete bibliography volume that cover all aspects of church history and is systematically arranged. Don't be misled by the qualifier *ecclésiastique*: This bibliography interprets church history in the broadest conceivable terms, listing a great deal of purely social and economic history, among other things. Whenever I used it, I found it to be unusually good at guiding me to relevant literature in any number of different languages.

### 5.9.5 Indices of Journal Articles

This is one area of scholarship in which online resources like JSTOR have made a tremendous difference. Even so, the printed volumes of the bibliographies listed below do a better job of giving you a condensed overview of what was being published when than does scrolling through JSTOR screens.

- Internationale Bibliographie der Zeitschriftenliteratur aus allen Gebieten des Wissens* (1965-). This is the successor to the two following items. It is known as *IBZ* and, unlike its predecessors, does not distinguish between publications in German and publications in other languages. It is the most comprehensive current printed index to publications in scholarly journals on *any* area of knowledge. It is published annually in two parts consisting of several volumes each, arranged by subject headings, and thoroughly cross-referenced by authors. Each part includes a volume listing the journals that have been indexed. Volumes published since 1985 are searchable online as *IBZ Online*—*International Bibliography of Periodical Literature in the Humanities and Social Sciences*.
- Bibliographie der deutschen Zeitschriftenliteratur* (1896-1964). This was the main index of scholarly publications on any field of knowledge in German language journals from 1896 to 1964.
- Bibliographie der fremdsprachigen Zeitschriftenliteratur* (1911-64). This is the companion to the preceding item covering journals in languages other than German, but not nearly as comprehensive.
- Social Sciences and Humanities Index* (1907-74). Like the *IBZ*, this was published annually, but it focused only on the social sciences and the humanities, and it covered a much smaller number of journals, most of which were published in English. It is not useful for tracking down little known publications. It is very useful for ascertaining the dominant point of view in the English-speaking scholarly world until 1974 or so.
- Humanities Index* (1974-). After 1974 the *Social Sciences and Humanities Index* was divided into two separate publications. This is one of them. It is most useful as a tool of access to English publications on any aspect of the humanities in roughly 160 important current journals.
- Social Sciences Index* (1974-). The twin to the *Humanities Index* for the social sciences. Most historical journals are listed in the *Humanities Index*, but given the ambiguous standing of much historical writing on the border line between the social sciences and the humanities, it is worth checking here, too.
- Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* (1900-). Largely useless for scholarly publications, but very useful in order to get an impression of the manner in which the popular press deals with scholarly topics.
- Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* (2000-). Now available online, this was founded in 1932 by Carolyn Ulrich at the New York Public Library and came to be known as *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*. It

#### 5.9.6 Indices of Book Reviews

- Internationale Bibliographie der Rezensionen wissenschaftlicher Literatur* (1971-). Known as *IBR*, this is a companion publication to the *Internationale Bibliographie der Zeitschriftenliteratur* (*IBZ*) that indexes reviews of scholarly books with unique comprehensiveness. An online version focused on reviews in the humanities and social sciences published since 1985 is published by De Gruyter and available under the title *IBR Online: International Bibliography of Book Reviews in Scholarly Literature in the Humanities and Social Sciences*.
- Bibliographie der Rezensionen* (1900-1943). Index of reviews that were published in German language scholarly journals during the period indicated. This is the predecessor of the *IBR*. It lapsed in the middle of World War II and took a long time before it was resuscitated in a new and improved version.

- Farber, Evan Ira, Ruth Matteson Blackmore, William Scott Buchanan, and Frank Wayne Pilk, eds. *Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals, 1886-1974*. 15 vols. Arlington, Inverness: Carrollton Press, 1979-82. This is by no means as complete as it appears to be, but it is a superb tool for quick access to reviews of scholarly books that were published from 1886-1974. The cut-off date overlaps nicely with the start date of the IBR.
- Farber, Evan Ira, and Stanley Schindler, eds. *Combined Retrospective Index to Book Reviews in Humanities Journals, 1802-1974*. 10 vols. Woodbridge, CT: Research Publications, 1982-84. A companion publication to the preceding one, distinguishing journals in the humanities from scholarly ones in ways that are not entirely clear to me.
- Gray, Richard A. *A Guide to Book Review Citations: A Bibliography of Sources*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1969. A bibliography of bibliographies, this is a concise survey of the most commonly used reference tools available in 1969 with which to locate reviews of a particular book.

#### 5.10 CATALOGS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES

These catalogs are now largely superseded by online catalogs. I mention them anyway, because they can still come in handy. If nothing else, they are a wonderful source for the history of books and the state of bibliographic knowledge before the age of the computer. The National Union Catalog in particular was a triumph of efficiency and comprehensive coverage that Europeans in general and Germans in particular could only envy.

- Library of Congress, and American Library Association, eds. *National Union Catalog. Pre-1956 Imprints: A Cumulative Author List Representing Library of Congress Printed Cards and Titles Reported by Other American Libraries*. 754 vols. London: Mansell, 1968-81. A catalog of books published before 1956 and held either in the Library of Congress or in any other library in the United States of whose holdings the Library of Congress was aware at the time when the catalog was compiled. (There is a supplement, published 1980-81, vols. 686-754, with additional entries and locations). Although it includes only books held in the United States, it is by far the most comprehensive and useful catalog of its kind, especially since it lists the libraries where the book is available at the end of each entry. Even in the presence of WorldCat, this is still a wonderful place to go if you want to track down the title, bibliographical data and current locations of *any* book published before 1956. The Library of Congress has published a series of parallel catalogs for books that were printed after 1956.
- British Museum, Department of Printed Books, ed. *General Catalogue of Printed Books*. 263 vols. London: Trustees, 1959-66. Probably the most awful smelling series of volumes ever published. Lists the holdings of the British Museum, now called the British Library. This is the British equivalent of the *National Union Catalog*, but neither as complete nor as useful. It is, however, often better on early printed books, and it is the first place to go for references that you don't find in the *National Union Catalog*.
- Bibliothèque Nationale, ed. *Catalogue général des livres imprimés: Auteurs*. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1900-81. The equivalent of the British Museum catalog for France.