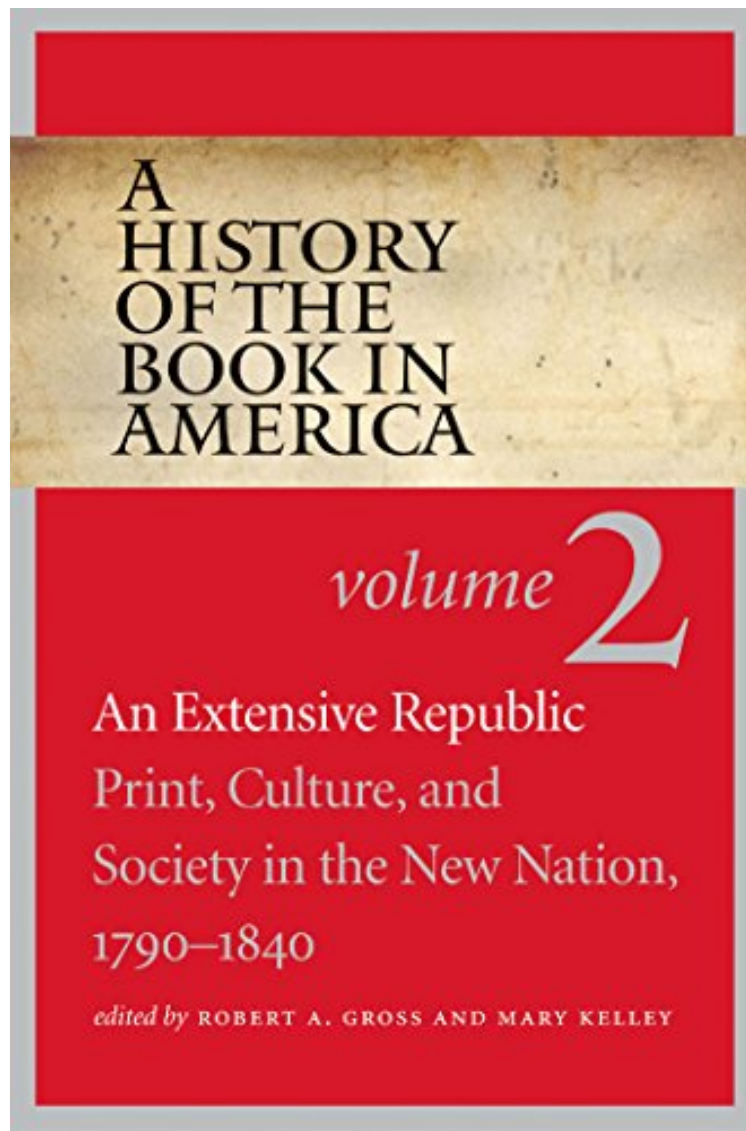


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A History of the Book in America: Volume 2: An Extensive Republic: Print, Culture, and Society in the New Nation, 1790-1840

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Volume Two of *A History of the Book in America* documents the development of a distinctive culture of print in the new American republic. Between 1790 and 1840 printing and publishing expanded, and literate publics provided a ready market for novels, almanacs, newspapers, tracts, and periodicals. Government, business, and reform drove the dissemination of print. Through laws and subsidies, state and federal authorities promoted an informed citizenry. Entrepreneurs responded to rising demand by investing in new technologies and altering the conduct of publishing. Voluntary societies launched libraries, lyceums, and schools, and relied on print to spread religion, redeem morals, and advance benevolent goals. Out of all this ferment emerged new and diverse communities of citizens linked together in a decentralized print culture where citizenship meant literacy and print meant power. Yet in a diverse and far-flung nation, regional differences persisted, and older forms of oral and handwritten communication offered alternatives to print. The early republic was a world of mixed media.

Contributors: Elizabeth Barnes, College of William and Mary; Georgia B. Barnhill, American Antiquarian Society; John L. Brooke, The Ohio State University; Dona Brown, University of Vermont; Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut; Kenneth E. Carpenter, Harvard University Libraries; Scott E. Casper, University of Nevada, Reno; Mary Kupiec Cayton, Miami University; Joanne Dobson, Brewster, New York; James N. Green, Library Company of Philadelphia; Dean Grodzins, Massachusetts Historical Society; Robert A. Gross, University of Connecticut; Grey Gundaker, College of William and Mary; Leon Jackson, University of South Carolina; Richard R. John, Columbia University; Mary Kelley, University of Michigan; Jack Larkin, Clark University; David Leverenz, University of Florida; Meredith L. McGill, Rutgers University; Charles Monaghan, Charlottesville, Virginia; E. Jennifer Monaghan, Brooklyn College of The City University of New York; Gerald F. Moran, University of Michigan-Dearborn; Karen Nipps, Harvard University; David Paul Nord, Indiana University; Barry O'Connell, Amherst College; Jeffrey L. Pasley, University of Missouri-Columbia; William S. Pretzer, Central Michigan University; A. Gregg Roeber, Pennsylvania State University; David S. Shields, University of South Carolina; Andie Tucher, Columbia University; Maris A. Vinovskis, University of Michigan; Sandra A. Zagarell, Oberlin College

The decision to plumb as many themes of print culture as possible, coupled with the skillful use of various rhetorical devices . . . has produced a volume that meets the challenge of coming to grips with a history of American printing that is more variegated than in any other society or culture of the period. . . . Eminently successful, and as in all good history it flings open doors for new avenues of research and understanding." --*Printing History*

The scholarship is up-to-date in every way, as the contributors (many leading scholars on their subject) look at every facet--human and machine--of producing the written word. . . . Gross and Kelley provide lucid, helpful overviews in their introductions to the book as a whole and to its six sections. No other single book offers such a rich and comprehensive analysis of how the written word helped shape antebellum America, and the series as a whole is magnificent. . . . Essential.--*Choice*

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A standard reference work that every university library will want to acquire.--*Journal of Southern History*

A remarkable work For scholars interested in this important period of transition, *An Extensive Republic* is required reading.--*Sharp News*

Well-illustrated, richly documented, and painstakingly edited An outstanding resource for anyone interested in women's experiences of and impact on print culture.--*Legacy*

This volume provides a fascinating revisionist history of the United States through its focus on what was printed, how the economy of the book trades worked, who was reading, and what role reading came to assume in all sorts of people's lives. Editors Gross and Kelley make a strong team, and the contributors represent an array of disciplines suitable to the equally wide range of printed material in the United States between 1790 and 1840.--Patricia Crain, New York University

A magnificent achievement. Brilliant editing and graceful writing shatter many old assumptions about the world of the Founders. Linking intellectual history with politics, social change, and the distinctive experiences of women, African Americans and Indians, *An Extensive Republic* is the rare reference book that is also a mesmerizing read.--Linda K. Kerber, author of *No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship*

This impressive collaborative effort by two dozen leading authorities in the field will be essential reading

for any serious student of the history of American publishing and print culture during one of its most crucially transformative periods.--Lawrence Buell, Harvard University
About the Author
Robert A. Gross is James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History at the University of Connecticut. He is author of *The Minutemen and Their World*.
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