The Book History Reader

SECOND EDITION

Edited by David Finkelstein and Alistair McCleery
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10 best history books. From Mary Beard on Ancient Rome to tales of Soviet espionage, delve into the past with these recently published works. Joshua Burt. The popular historian made a TV show of the same name, which has essentially been adapted into this punchy, concise read, which offers an account of the political happenings that changed the course of history in 1215. The question is: were they as successful as everyone would have us believe? Not so much.
3.1 History of Books. Learning Objectives. Identify the material and cultural origins of the book in ancient and medieval times. Indicate the influence of mechanical movable type on modern society. Most historians trace the origins of the book back to the ancient Egyptians, whose papyrus scrolls looked very different from the books we’re accustomed to today. From the time they first developed a written script, around 3000 BCE (Before Common Era), Egyptians wrote on many different surfaces, including metal, leather, clay, stone, and bone. It also allowed readers to quickly flip between sections. While reading a scroll was a two-handed activity, a codex could be propped open in front of a reader, allowing for note taking.