

The Sir Stanley Wells fellowship has made a difference to me personally by allowing me to explore and further develop an interest in the history of printing, and specifically the roles of women in printing companies. It has given me the opportunity to expand my initial interest into a project that has already outgrown the bounds of the fellowship. I plan to turn my work on the Shakespeare Head Press into an article that I would hope to publish in a bibliographic journal, and it might even grow to become part of a PhD dissertation. The fellowship allowed me to explore and rethink how I might structure my future research, and it sparked a new interest for me in hand-press printing techniques and their popularity following the Arts and Crafts Movement in the late nineteenth century. I intend to use this as the basis for an article, if not for an entire PhD, in which the Shakespeare Head Press would become a chapter of its own.

In practical and present terms, I'm working on editing the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography article for Arthur Henry Bullen. I also proposed to the DNB that they include articles on Frank Sidgwick (his co-founder) and Edith Lister (the immediate focus of my project). These proposals are under review. I imagine that Frank Sidgwick's, at least, will be approved with ease, and I would hope to write it with help from the archivists at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. In the meantime, I have written Wikipedia articles for each of the above, as well as for the Shakespeare Head Press itself. The articles are all still in the required trial period before they become live online, as part of Wikipedia's protocol for creating new articles, but based on their length and subject matter, they should be approved for posting and public editing soon. As part of the Wikipedia editing process, I also had to learn to write simple code in JavaScript. While perhaps not directly related to the fellowship, this is doubtless a skill I'll make use of in future and be able to list on my resumé.

Personally, the fellowship allowed me to spend time travelling in Britain. I was able to visit the Bodleian in Oxford to further my research, see old friends and colleagues on weekends, and present work from my master's thesis at a conference in Lincoln just days after leaving Stratford-upon-avon. Between the fellowship and the conference, I made professional connections from all over with whom I'm still in touch; I'm even planning to propose a panel for another conference with some of them in the coming weeks. Maria, Liam, and I became close during our time working in the archive together, and they've both proved helpful by asking thought-provoking questions about my work, and demonstrating how a project might develop over the course of a PhD, since they are both several years ahead of me in the process.

With regard to how the scheme might be improved for future recipients, my only comment would be directed toward improving lines of communication between different branches involved. The expectations of us as students were clear, and the meetings we had with Rev. Dr. Paul Edmondson and Prof. Sit Stanley Wells were extremely insightful. Receiving the Sir Stanley Wells Shakespeare Studentship made this an unforgettable and hugely productive summer for me, and I'm profoundly grateful to have been selected for the award.