

Skills for Medievalists: Week 7c Activity

Who was your chosen reader?

- Roger Lowe.¹

Where were they from?

- England.²

What type of socioeconomic background did they have?

- Clerk/Tradesman/Artisan/Smallholder.³

What profession (if any) were they employed in?

- Shopkeeper, so more specifically part of the tradesman socio-economic background.⁴

What types of books and/or other materials did they read?

- Practice of Pietie [Piety], Books of Martirs [Martyrs], and Prayer Book, so all three religious' texts.⁵

Can you identify any particular books that your reader liked/disliked?

- Get the impression they liked the Prayer Book, saying it 'possessed' them while reading it.⁶ Does not seem to have disliked any of them.

Is there any information about where and how your reader did their reading?

¹ UK Reading Experience Database, *Record Number: 21965* (1938)

<https://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/UK/record_details.php?id=21965> [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

² UK RED, *21965* (1938) [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

³ *ibid.*

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ UK Reading Experience Database, *Listings for Reader: Roger Lowe* (2020)

<https://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/UK/browse_reader_readings.php?s=Lowe&f=Roger> [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

⁶ UK Reading Experience Database, *Record Number: 21953* (1938)

<https://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/UK/record_details.php?id=21953> [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

- For the book on the Practice of Piety, the wife of William Hasleden was in the room while Lowe read the book. She was ill and died as he was reading the book, suggesting Lowe was at the house of Hasleden while reading.⁷
- The other two texts do not give much of an indication of where the book was read or who else was in the room.⁸

What insights might your different searches provide into histories of the book and reading habits?

- They can provide information on the sort of people who read certain texts. For instance, different searches can suggest what those from a clerical or gentry background commonly read, as well as what different age groups enjoyed reading.⁹

⁷ UK RED, 21965 (1938) [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

⁸ UK Reading Experience Database, *Record Number: 21956* (1938)

<https://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/UK/record_details.php?id=21956> [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

⁹ UK RED, 21965 (1938) [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

Biography

Electronic Sources

UK Reading Experience Database, *Record Number: 21953* (1938)

<https://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/UK/record_details.php?id=21953> [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

UK Reading Experience Database, *Record Number: 21956* (1938)

<https://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/UK/record_details.php?id=21956> [Accessed: 30 November 2020].

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