

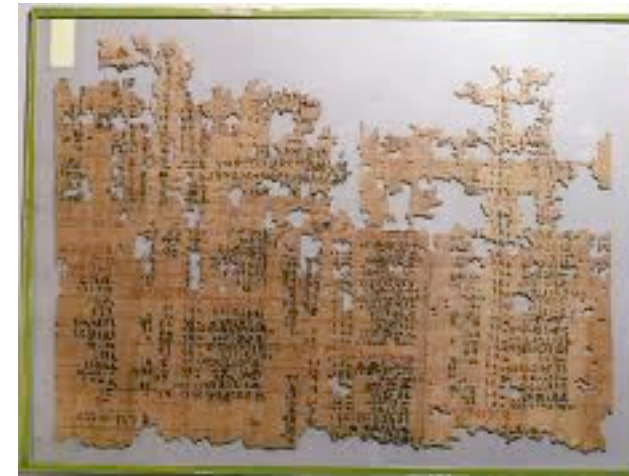
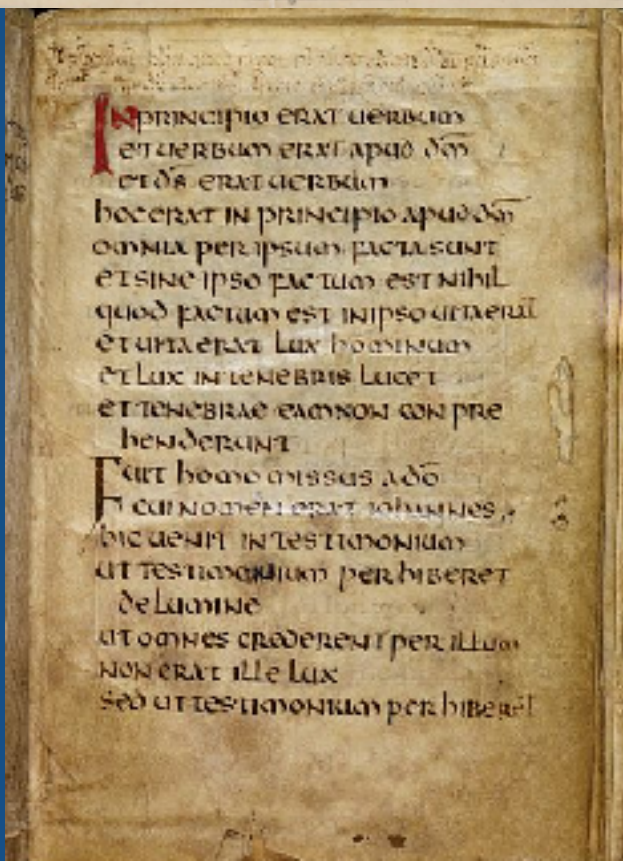


manuscript "revolution"

**the authority of the text
and a “missing revolution”?**

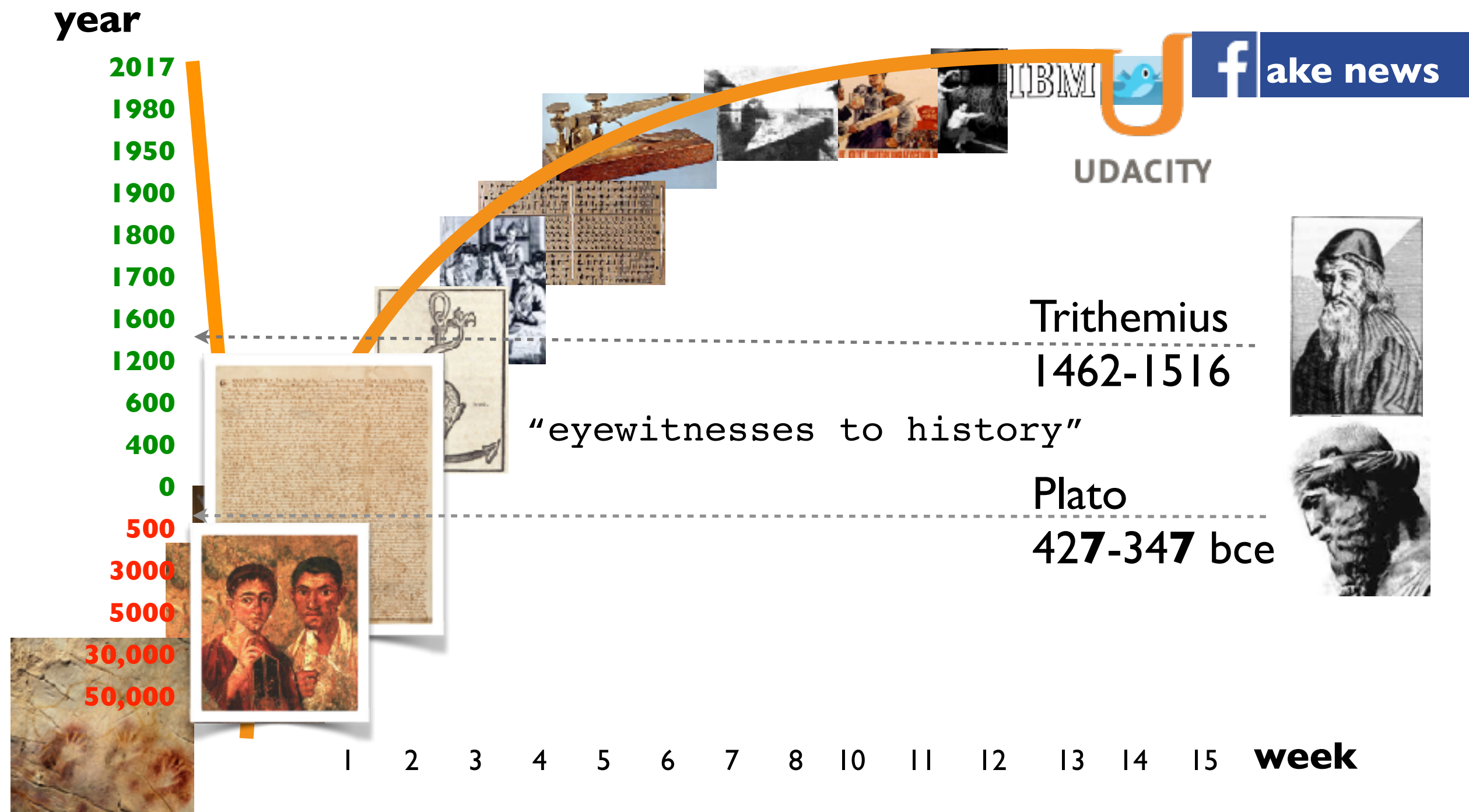
history of information

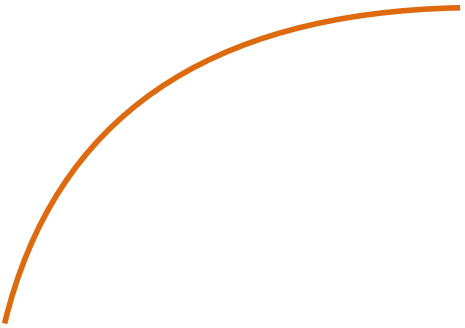
February 2, 2017



History of Information

a great leap forward





"By **Plato's time** the written word had created a new environment that had begun to detribalize man. Previously the Greeks ... had memorized the poets."

technological effects

how to think about determinism

what happened?

who/what was involved? and what did they think

what did (or did not) come before? about it?

what did (or did not) follow?

what did (or did not) contribute?

what happened elsewhere?

what's likely to be underestimated?

what was necessary, what sufficient?

Manuscript revolution?

overview

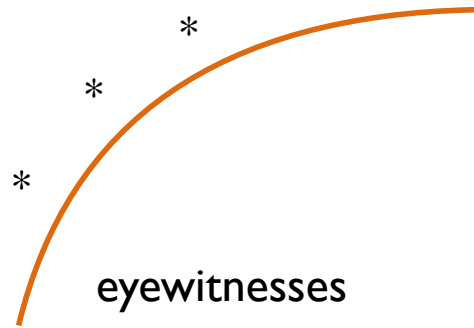
unintended consequences

authority

technologies

eyewitnesses





Plato's perspective

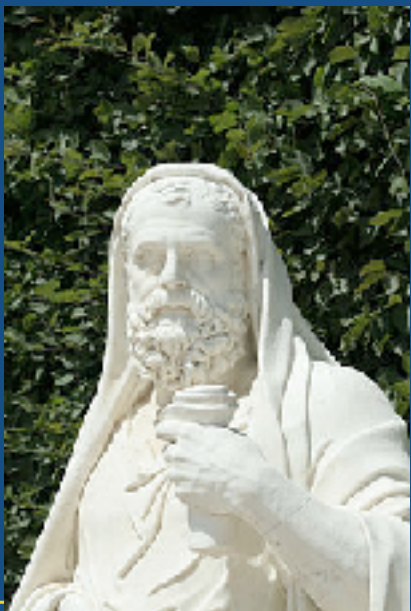


that "new technology"-- writing

cast of characters

Socrates
Phaedrus
Lysias

Thamus
Theuth
Thebes





what good is writing?



Theuth: "An accomplishment ... which will improve both the wisdom and the memory of the Egyptians ..."

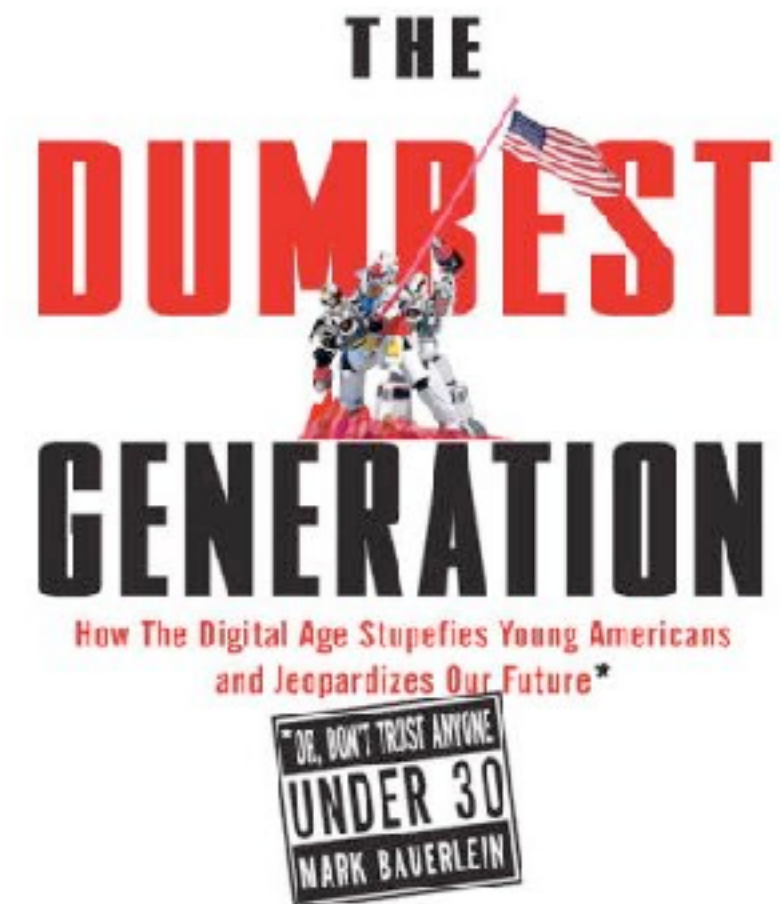
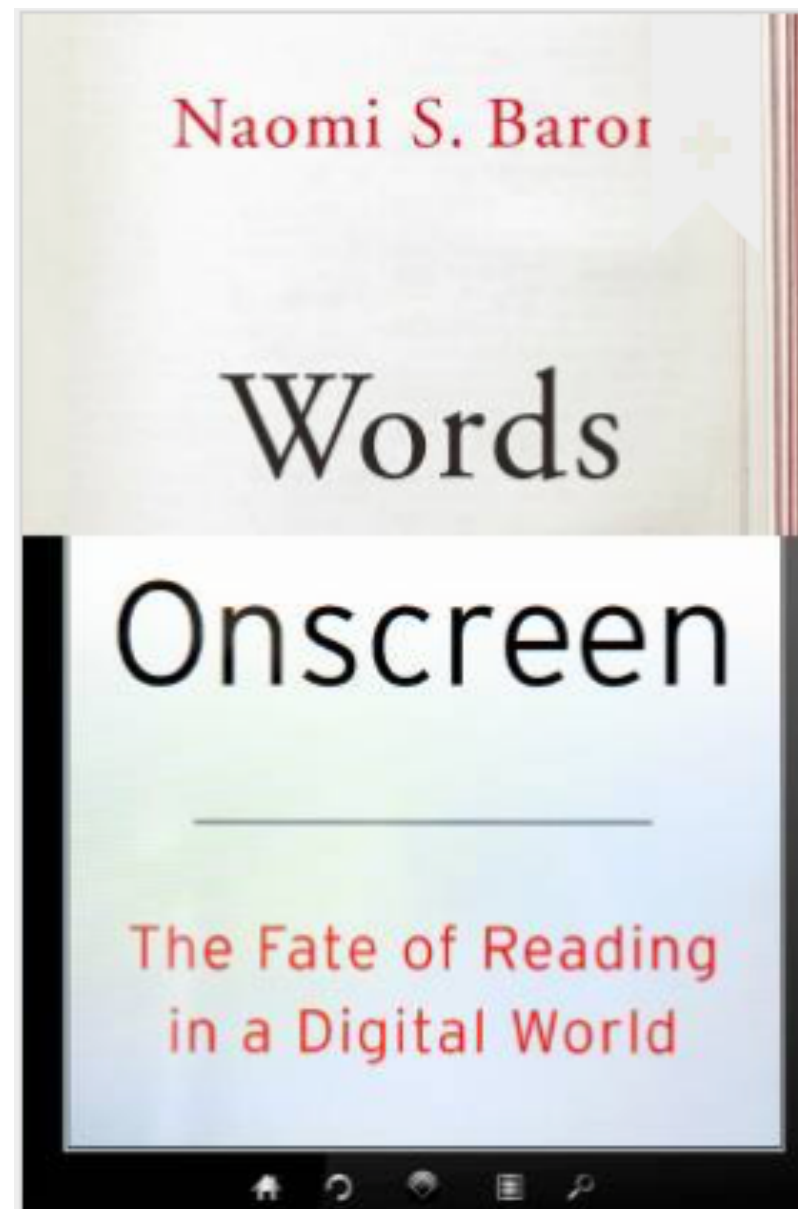
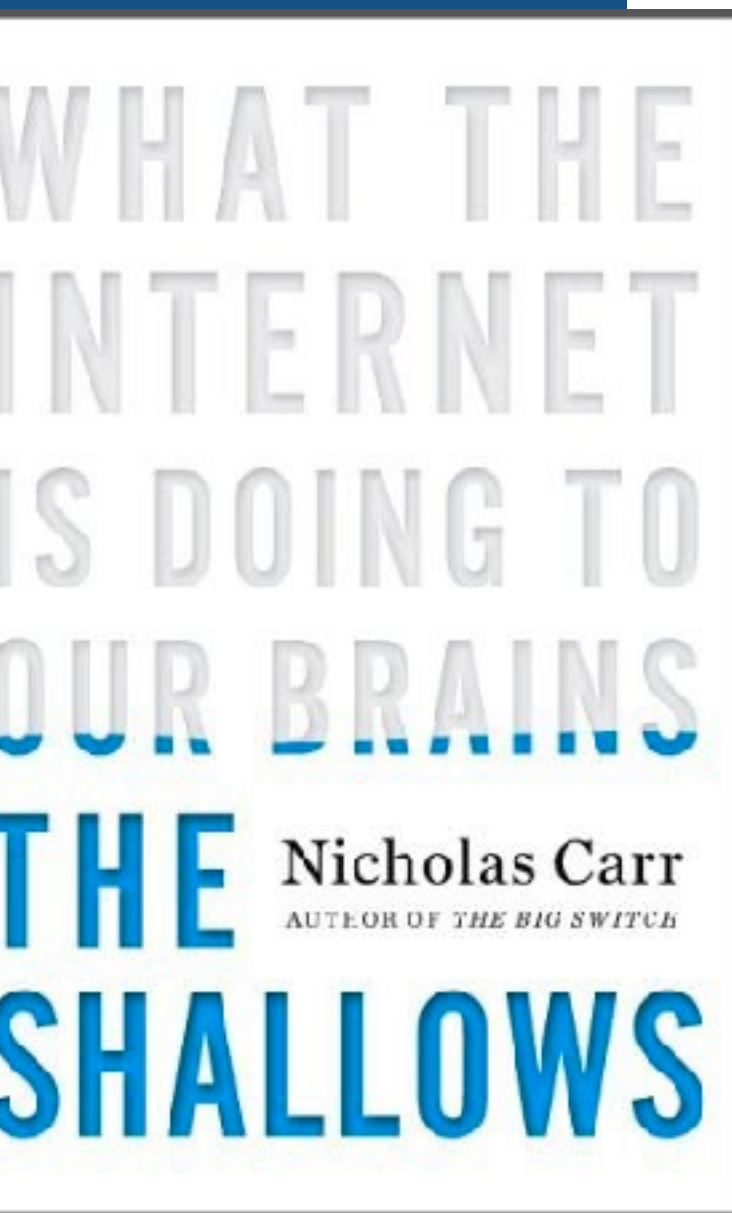
Thamus: "The discoverer of an art is not the best judge of the good or harm which will accrue to those who practice it."

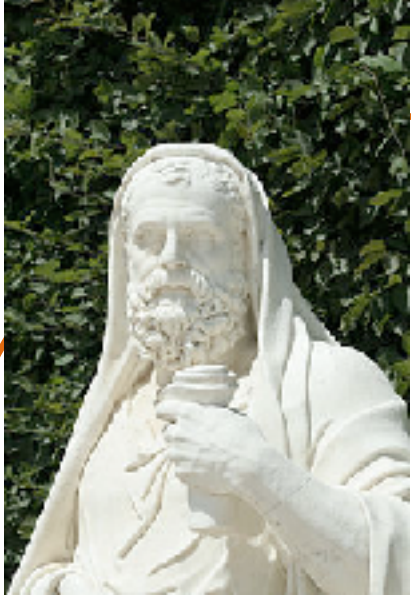
"... Those who acquire it will cease to exercise their memory and become forgetful; they will rely on writing to bring things to their remembrance by external signs instead of on their own internal resources."



Thamus updated?

generational revolution once more





Socrates Was Against Writing

implications: Socrates didn't like books

really?

"I am a lover of learning ... Men lead hungry animals by waving a branch or some vegetables before their noses, and it looks as if you will lead me all over Attica and anywhere else you please ... by waving the leaves of a speech [book] in front of me"

"Plato ...had such a love of books that he bought three books ... at the price of 10,000 denarii. Aristotle ... acquired a few books for three Attic talents which amounts to 72,000 nummii."



Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric

sophists

writing

wisdom

truth [and authority]



YAHOO!
ANSWERS

Search Answers

Search Web

Trending Nelson Angel! Ellen DeGeneres Cheryl Boone Isaacs Carly Fiorina China Hills

Home

Categories

Arts & Humanities

Beauty & Style

Business & Finance

Computers & Technology

Pregnancy & Parenting > Newborn & Baby

Next >



Is it true men can breast feed I read it on the net?

Follow 7 answers

Socratic concerns



Phaedrus

memory

speeches

rhetoric

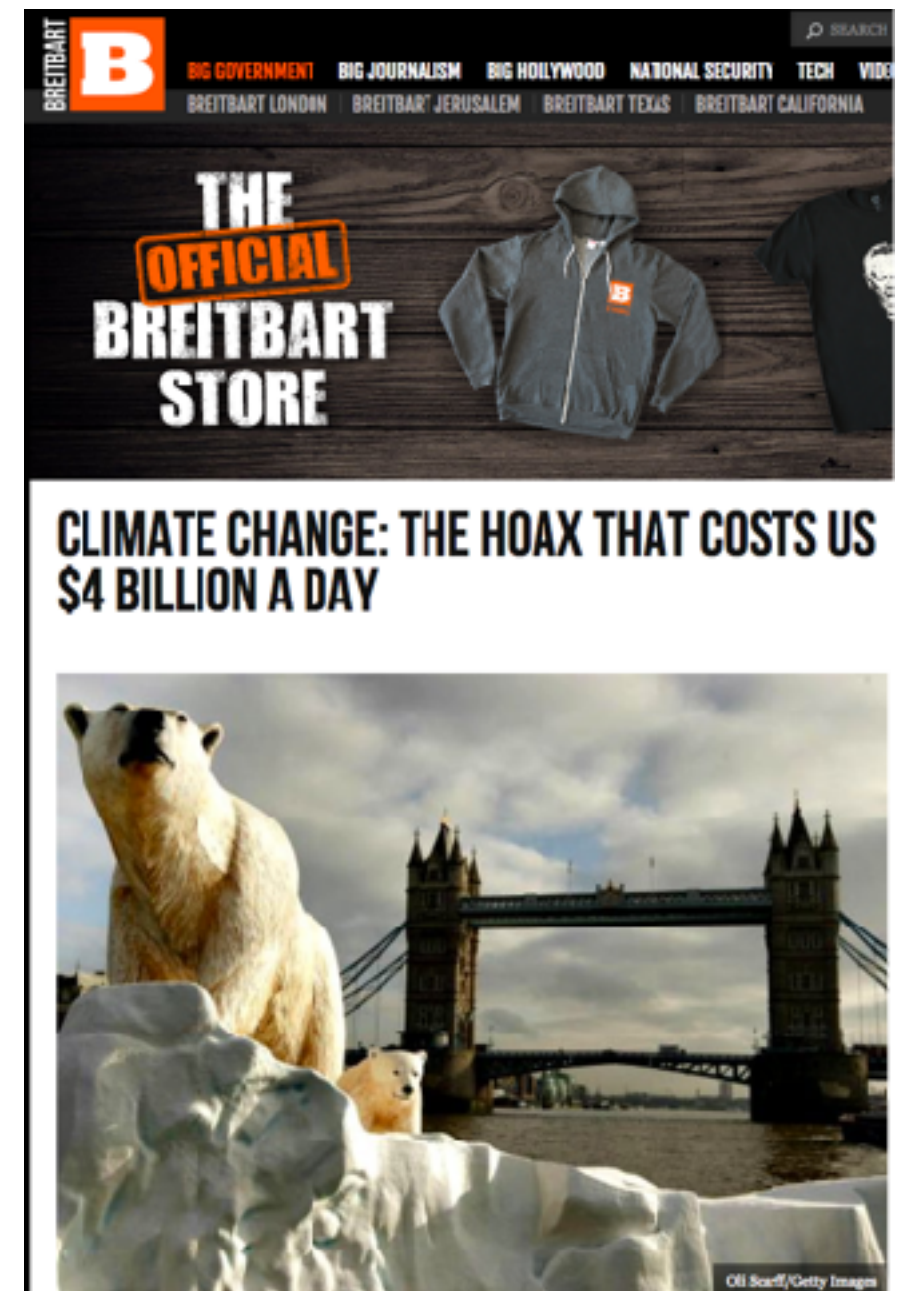
sophists

writing

wisdom

truth [and authority]

dialectic





Pittsburgh Post-Gazette®
post-gazette.COM



January 14, 2016 10:18 PM
43°
7-day Forecast

Search
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Home News Local Sports Opinion A & E Life

The facts don't add up for human-caused global warming

May 29, 2014 4:38 PM

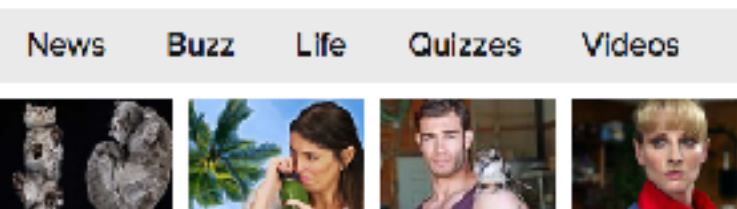
writing vs wisdom

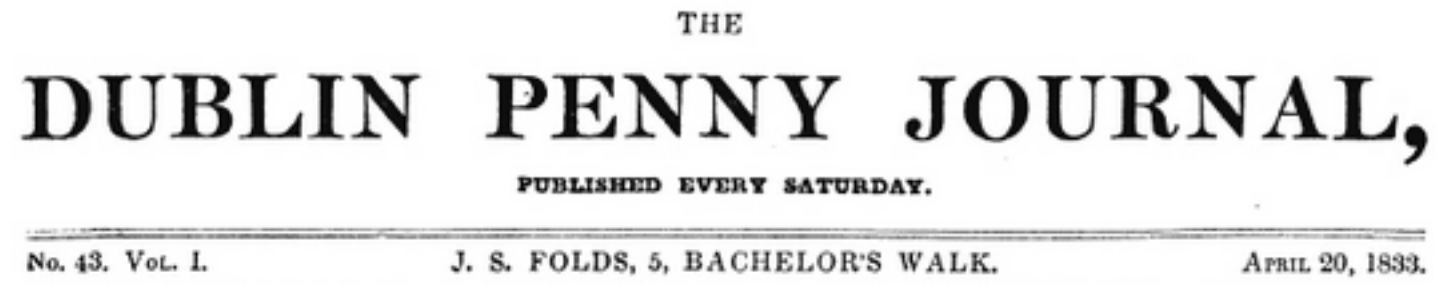
Socrates' concerns

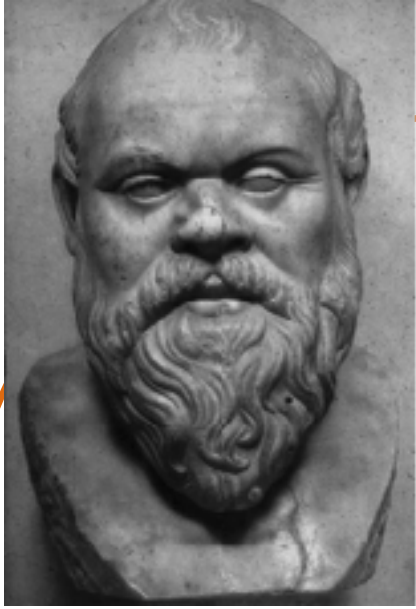
"**Writing** circulates equally among those who understand the subject and those who have no business with it."

"for **wisdom**, your pupils will have the reputation for it without the reality; they will receive a quantity of information without proper instruction, and in consequence be thought very knowledgeable when they are for the most part quite ignorant."

BuzzFeed NEWS BUZZ LIFE







writing, dialectics, & truth

"**Writing** involves a similar disadvantage to painting ... if you ask [words] what they mean ... they simply return the same answer over and over ... writing cannot distinguish between suitable and unsuitable readers ..."

"**written** composition aimed at creating belief without any attempt at instruction."

"when a man employs the art of **dialectic**, and, fastening upon a suitable soul, plants and sows in it **truths** accompanied by knowledge ... such truths can defend themselves ..."

"Speech ... **written** on the soul of the hearer"



remember?

Socrates' concerns

"But though books are easily procured, yet, even in this age of information, there are thousands in the lower classes that cannot read. Besides, it is a well-known truth, that the same precepts **inculcated by a living instructor, adorned by a proper oratory, enforced by a serious and authoritative manner, produce a powerful effect,** not to be experienced in solitary retirement."

—Vicesimus Knox, *Essays Moral and Literary*, 1778



More People Were Affected by Travel Ban Than Trump Initially Said

By RON NIXON JAN. 31, 2017

ashamed no more?

Socrates'
concerns
endure

"... most influential statesmen are ashamed of writing speeches and leaving them in written form, lest they should be called Sophists by posterity.

Go and tell .. Solon and anyone who has written ... political utterances. ... If any of them had knowledge of the truth when he wrote, and can defend what he has written by submitting to an interrogation ... "

Manuscript revolution?

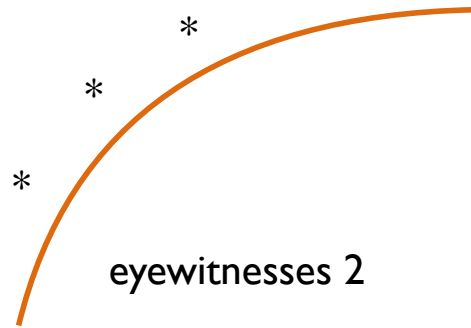
unintended consequences

authority

technologies

eyewitnesses 2

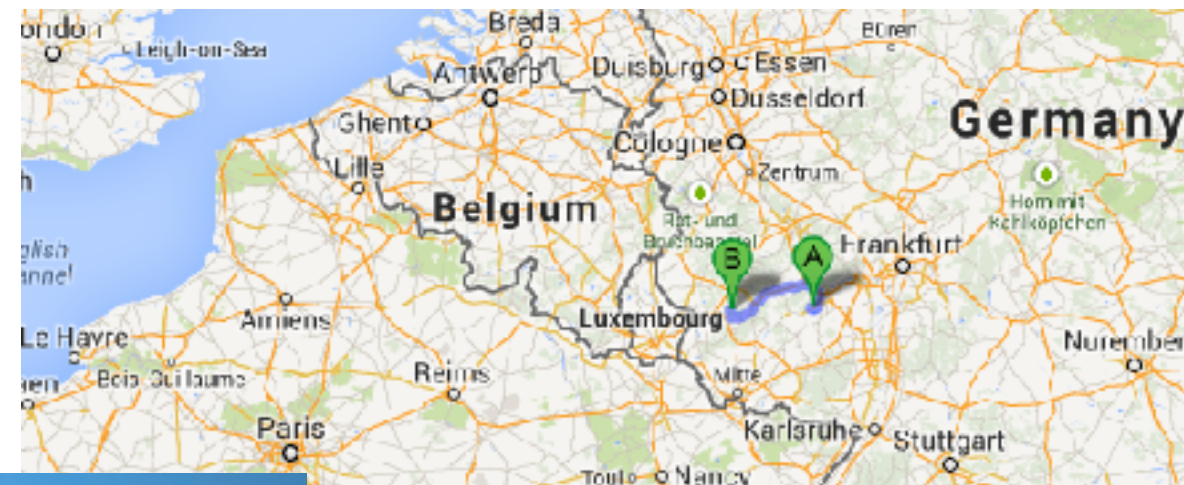




the set up

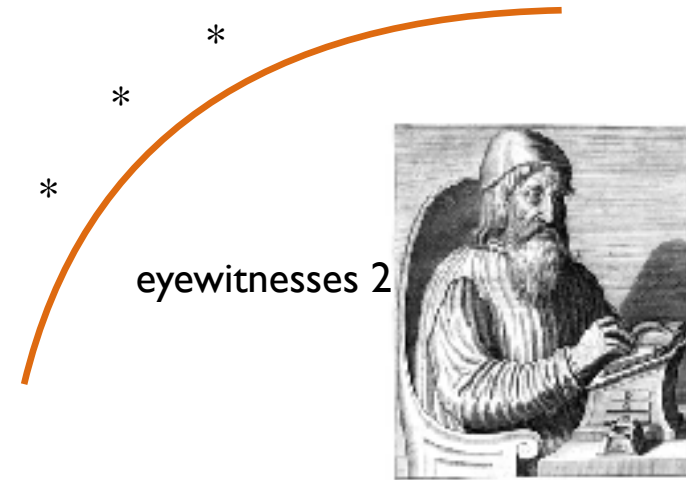


Trithemius (1462-1516)
native of Trittenheim (B)
Abbot of St Martin's,
Sponheim (A), 1483-1505

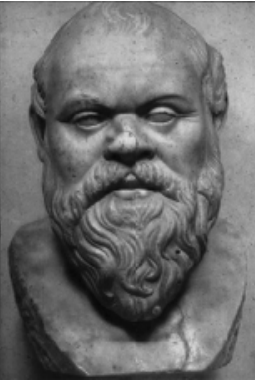


Platonic?

"Scripture records
the past truthfully,
interprets the
present more
intelligibly."



Trithemius & Socrates



rebellious youth ?

"monks shouldn't stop copying because of the invention of printing"

... doubts about new tech?

"findings of scholar ... never reach posterity without the skill of the scribe ... **forgotten** ... printed book ... quickly disappear...

"the sermon ... vanishes into air ... the preacher's office dies with him ...

"parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper.

How long will it last? The most you can expect a book of paper to survive is two hundred years .. only time will tell."



reading between the lines

... and the *how* - learning through *writing*

"Since Scripture cannot be read until it is written, it is both profitable and necessary for monasteries to train monks carefully in the art of writing"

"Every word we write is imprinted more forcefully on our minds." [cp Socrates: "written on the soul of the hearer"]

"findings of scholars ... never reach posterity without the skill of the scribe" [coming up: Erasmus]



HEALTHY LIVING

Why Using Pen And Paper, Not Laptops, Boosts Memory: Writing Notes Helps Recall Concepts, Ability To Understand

Feb 6, 2014 12:18 PM By Lizette Barrell

reading between the lines

... and the *how* - learning through *writing*

"Since Scripture cannot be read until it is written, it is both profitable and necessary for monasteries to train monks carefully in the art of writing"

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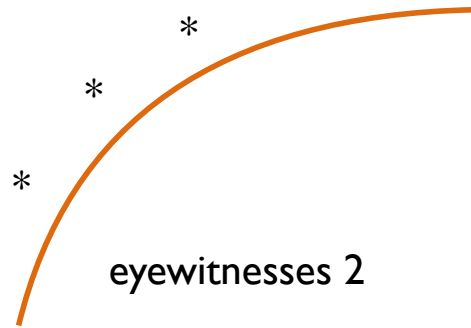
St. Bonaventure
1221-1274

"findings of scholars ... never reach
posterity without the skill of the scribe"

dialectics of "copying"

Quadruplex est modus faciendi
librum. Aliquis enim scribit
aliena, nihil addendo vel mutanda;
et iste mere dicitur **scriptor**.
Aliquis scribit aliena addendo,
sed no de suo; et iste **compiler**
dicitur. Aliquis scribit et
aliena et sua, sed aliena tamquam
principalia, et sua tamquam annexa
ad evidentia; et iste dicitur
commentator non auctor. Aliquis
scribit et sua et aliena, se sua
tamquam / principia, aliena
tamquam annexa ad confirmationem
et debet dici **auctor**.

There are four ways to write a book.
One just writes the other's words,
adding nothing; that is merely called
the **writer**. Another writes another's
words, adding, though not from his
own work; and that one is called the
compiler. A third writes both the
other's and his own words, but gives
precedence to the other and attaches
his own by way of explanation; that
one is called a **commentator**. Yet
another writes both the other's and
his own, but his are the principal
ones, the other's annexed for
confirmation; such ought to be called
an **author**.



"parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last?"

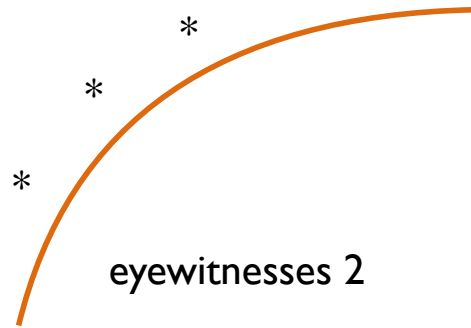
only an ancient problem?

magna carta or magna curta?



Magna Carta
June 15, 1215





"parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last?"

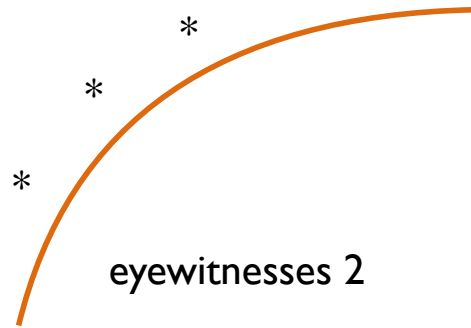
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Magna Carta
June 15, 1215

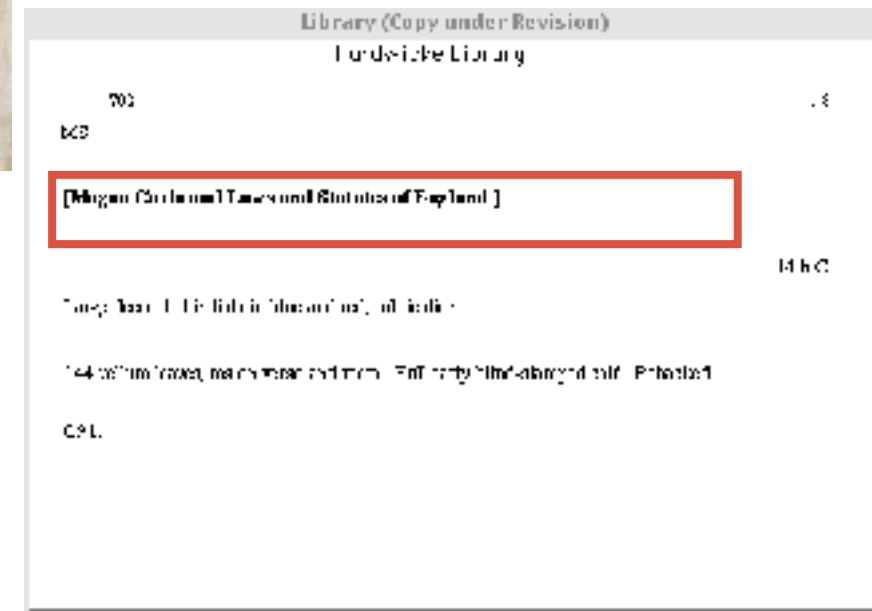




"parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last?"

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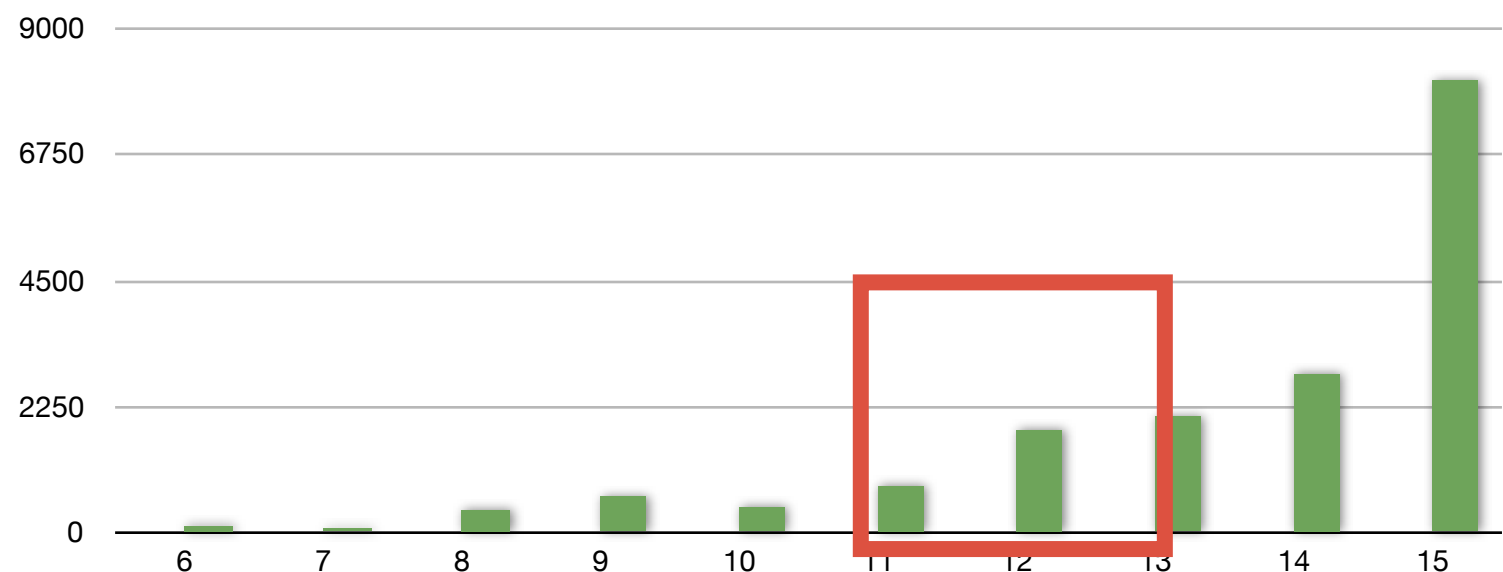
Magna Carta
June 15, 1215

"It is both **profitable** and necessary for monasteries to train monks carefully in the art of writing"

not just spiritual concerns?



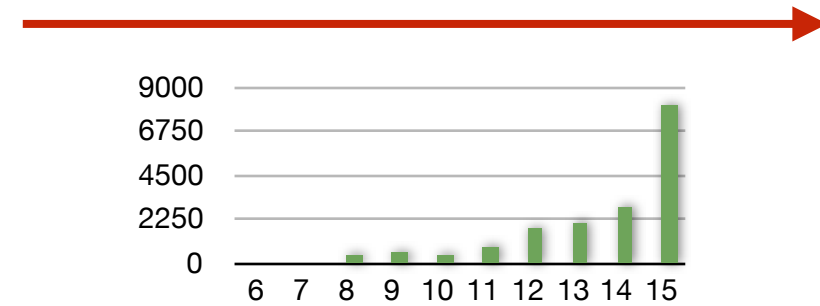
Shifts in MS Production in Europe, 6th-15th century



Buringh & van Zanden, "Charting the 'Rise of the West': Manuscripts and Printed Books in Europe" *Journal of Economic History* 2009

"By 1200 most scribes were professionals instead of being monks"

— Michael Clanchy, *Parchment and Paper*, 2008



here we come

from monastery to university

"In the 700 years between the Fall of Rome and the 12th century, it was the monasteries which enjoyed an almost complete monopoly of book production and so of book culture.... **from the end of the 12th century a profound transformation took place ... reflected in the founding of the universities and the development of learning.**"

--Febvre & Martin, *The Coming of the Book*, 1984

[but

"We owe to the holdings amassed in ... monasteries most of what has survived of the writings in Latin and Greek"]

Manuscript revolution?

unintended consequences

authority

technologies

eyewitnesses



Bullae and tokens



Early cunieform

material matters

and “immutable mobiles”?

stone

clay

wood

wax

parchment/vellum

papyrus

palm

bamboo

silk

paper

ink





Bullae and tokens



Early cunieform

material matters

and “immutable mobiles”?

stone

clay

wood

wax

"bees' wax with
metal stylus ...

slivers of fir
wood recycled
from old barrels"

parchment/vellum

papyrus

palm

bamboo

silk

paper

ink

UK's oldest hand-written document 'at Roman London dig'

© 1 June 2016 | London

Share

Happy 1960th, give or take



Over 400 tablets were found at the site, 87 of which have been deciphered

Roman tablets discovered during an excavation in London include the oldest hand-written document ever found in Britain, archaeologists have revealed.

The Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) said it had deciphered a document, from 8 January AD 57, found at the dig at Bloomberg's new headquarters.





"parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last?"

[or How much will it cost?]

material changes



geographical determinism?

bark

parchment at Pergamum

papyrus at Alexandria

palm in India (pattachitra)

silk in China

"the parchment alone in a fine Bible, even allowing for the shorthand script of the day, represented a flock of perhaps three hundred sheep"

-- John North, *God's Clockmaker*, 2005





"parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last?"

[or How much will it cost?]

material changes



geographical determinism?

bark

parchment at Pergamum

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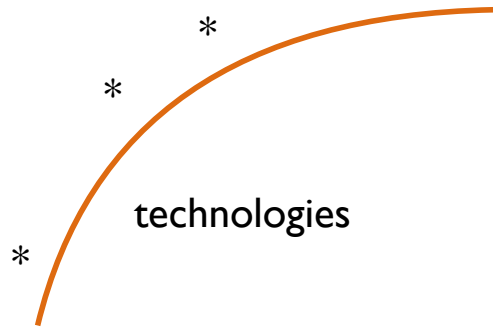
silk in China

"the parchment alone in a fine Bible, even allowing for the shorthand script of the day, represented a flock of perhaps three hundred sheep"

paper

-- John North, *God's Clockmaker*, 2005





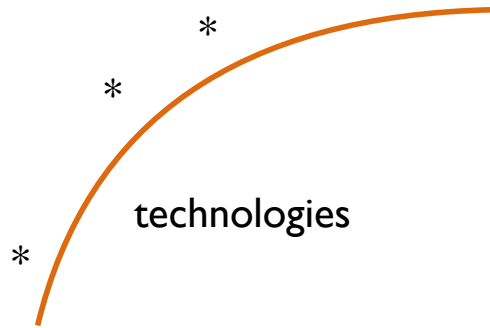
technological leaders?



Ts'ai Lun
62-121

paper

China	200 bce
Korea	3d century ce
India	5th century
Japan	7th century
Islam	8th century
Jews	10th century
Byzantium	9th century
-along the "Silk Road"	



technological leaders?



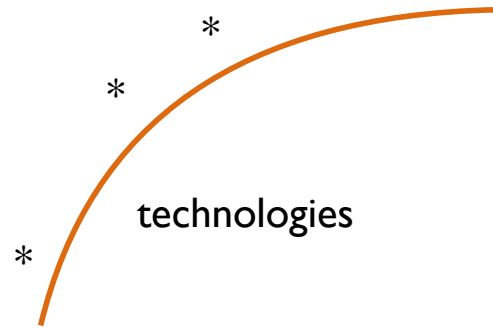
Ts'ai Lun
62-121

paper

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-along the "Silk Road"	

w. Europe:

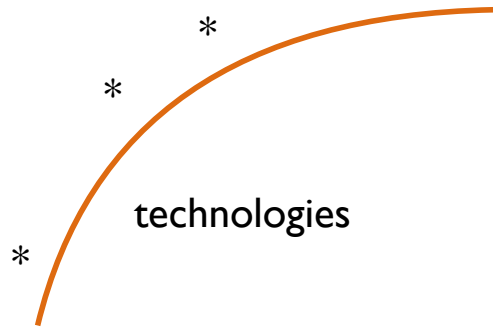
Spain	1056 [?]
Italy,	1255
France	1348
Germany	1390
Switzerland	1411
Britain	1494
Russia	1690
USA	1690/1



“dark ages”

silk road dead end

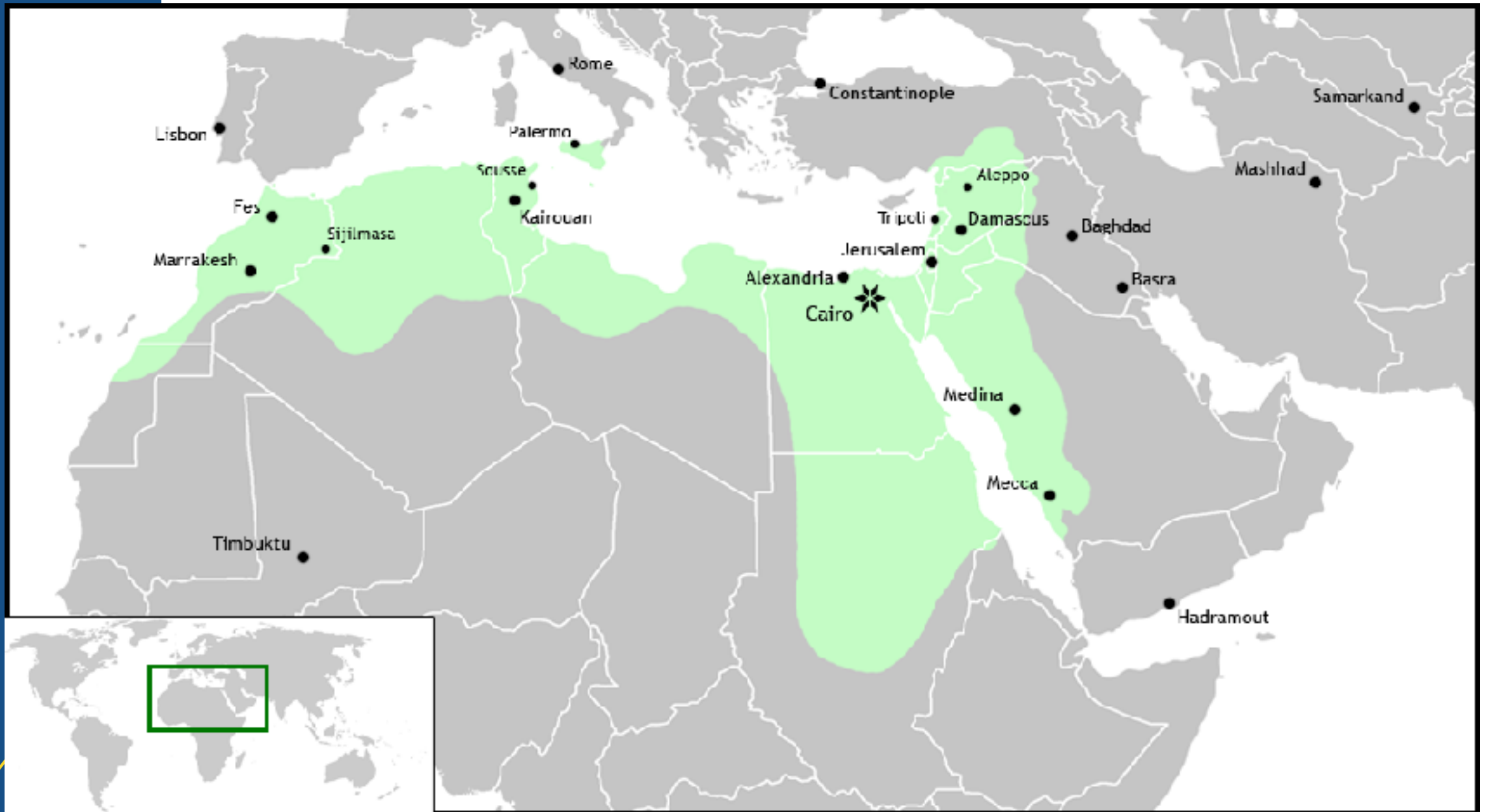


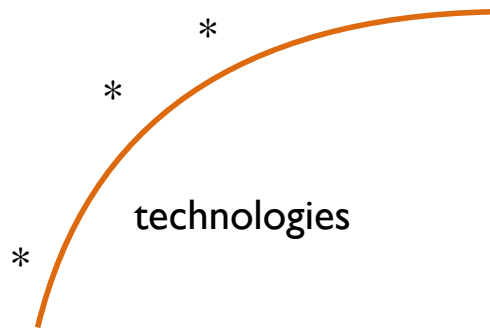


technologies

“dark ages”

silk road dead end





unrevolution?



a missing "revolution"?

"the revolution between the second and fourth centuries that changed the very structure of the book by substituting the **codex** for the **roll**"

— Roger Chartier, *Forms and Meaning*, 1995

Pompeii,
c 79 ce



"Homerus ... Vergilius ... Cicero ... Titus Livy ... in **membranus**...quam brevis immensum cepit membrana"

—Martial (c38-103), *Epigrams*

pugillares

"Printed books will never be the equivalent of handwritten **codices**" —Trithemius



technologically determined?

parchment to paper

China, 200 bce

Korea, 3d century ce

India, 5th century

Japan, early 7th century

Islam, 8th century

Byzantium, 9th century

Jews, 10th century

scroll to codex

Christians, 2d century

Islam, 8-9th century

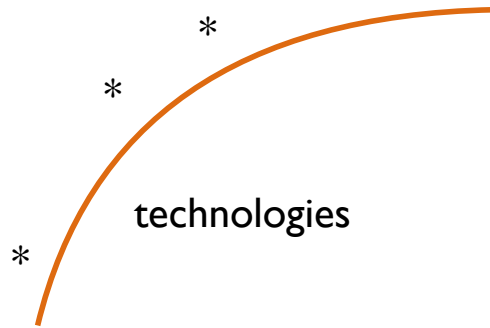
Jews, 8-9th century

China, 9th (butterfly)

13th (thread binding)

Korea, ?12th century (sutra binding)

Japan 18th century



codex

- superior technology?



order of importance?

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

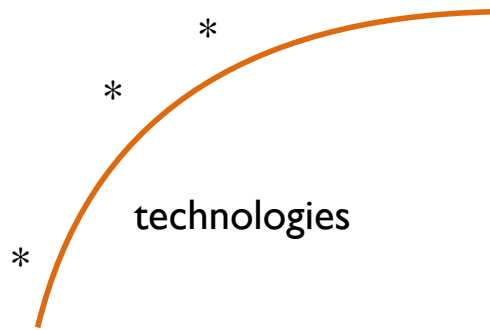
indexes

one handed

two-sided

random access



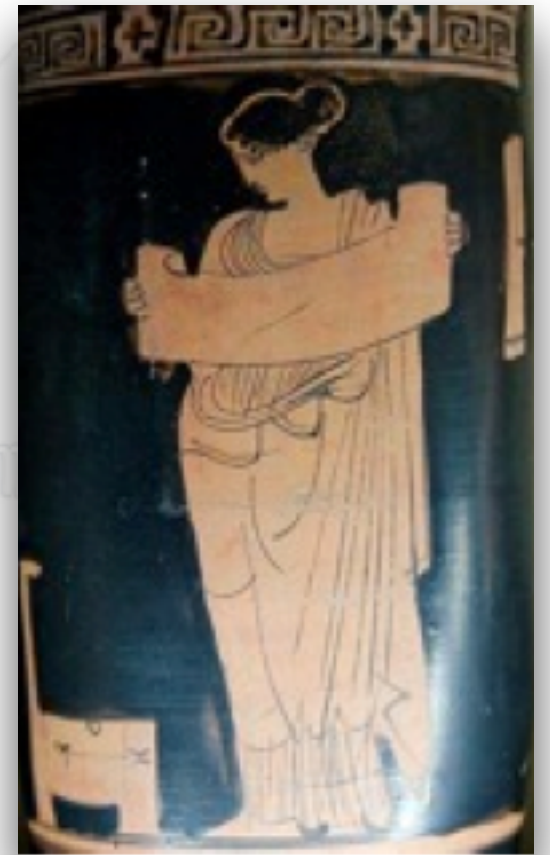


do we trivialize the past?



**handy
pages
divisions**

(incipits,
explicits,
colophons,
sillyboi)



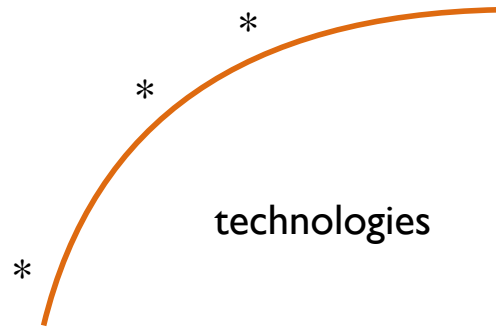
Edwin Smith
Papyrus

c. 1600 ce

NY Academy of Medicine

6_Hofl-2.2.17-MS-PD 32

"Discovered as a possibility, television ...
... had unforeseen consequences"



what sort of determinism?

order of importance?

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes

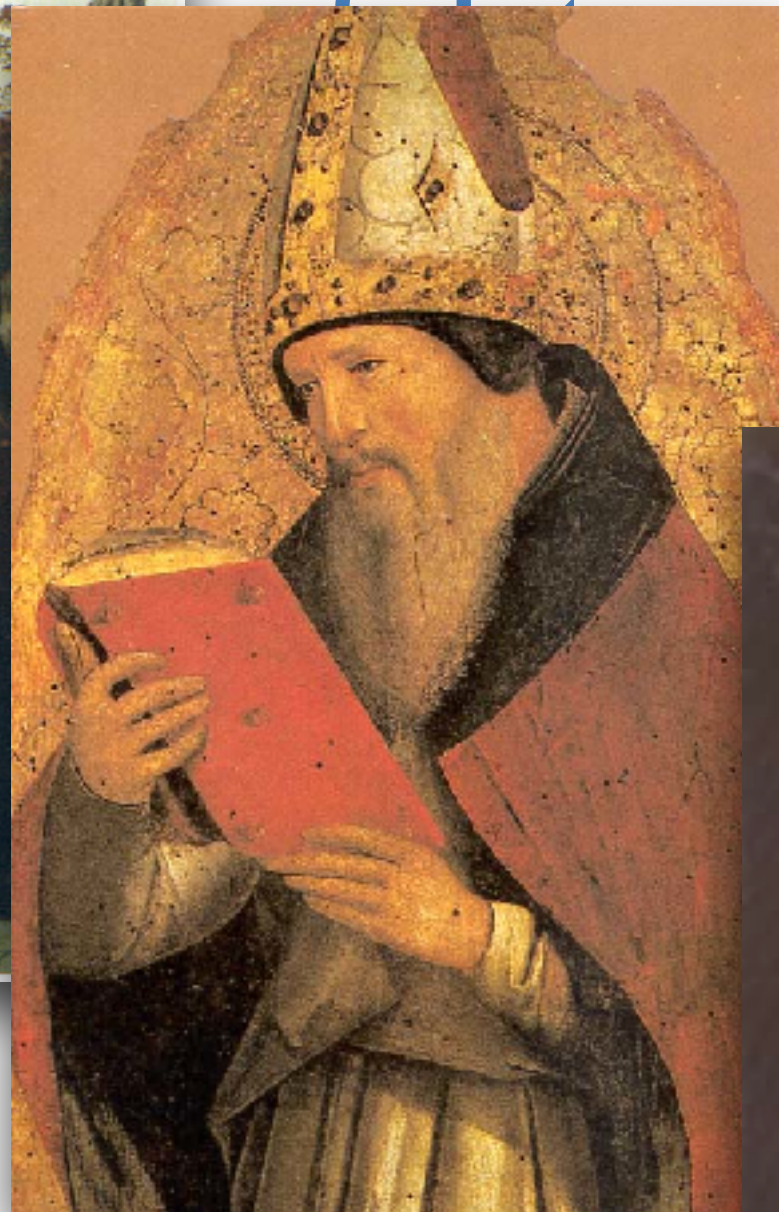
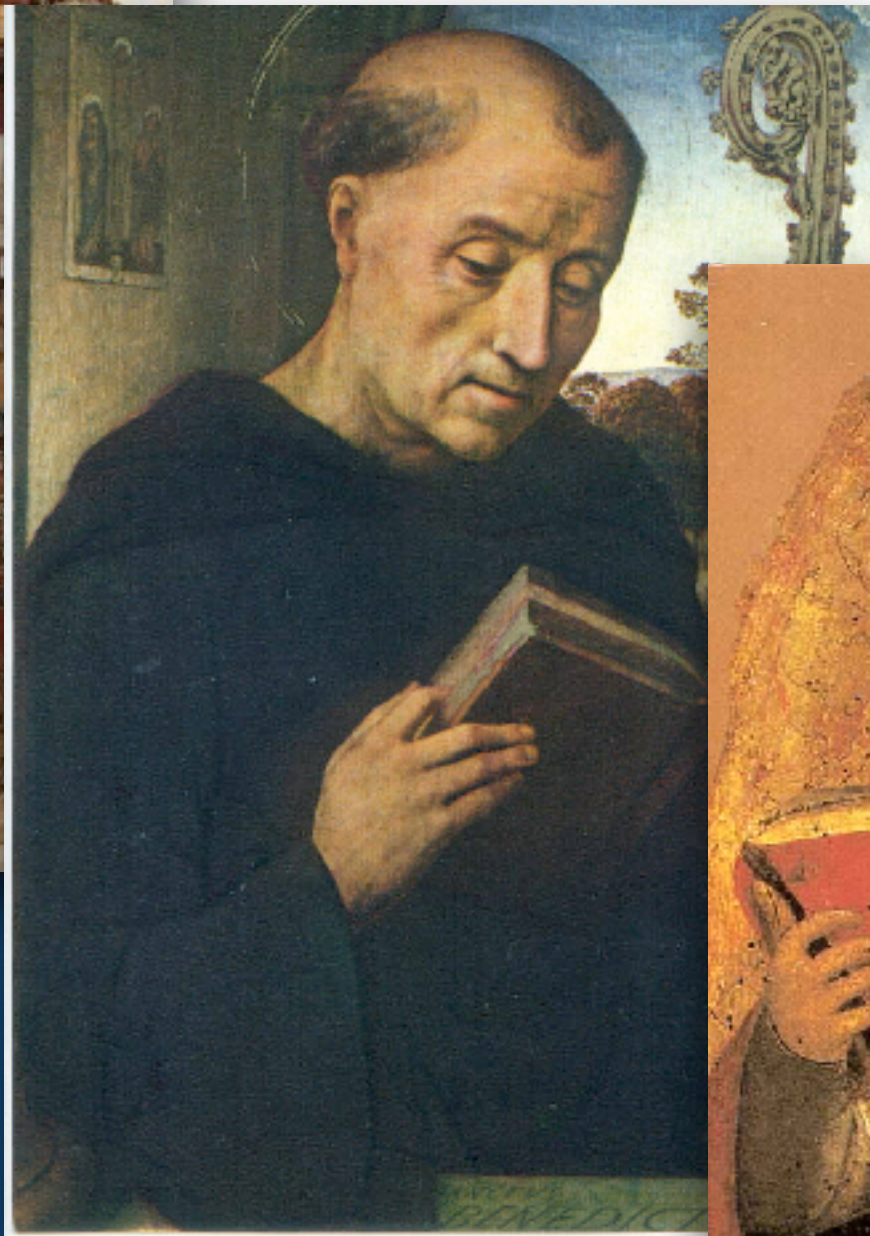
one handed

two-sided

random access

"Discovered as a possibility, television ...
... had unforeseen consequences"

6.4.17
feminism?



one handed
two-sided
random access

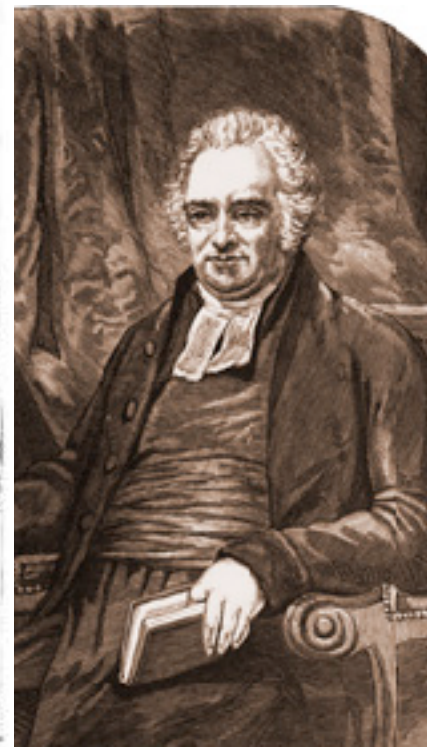


`Link``

``

critical advantage?

knowing your place?



codex to scroll back to the future?

```
function top()
{  document.getElementById( 'top' ).scrollIntoView();
}

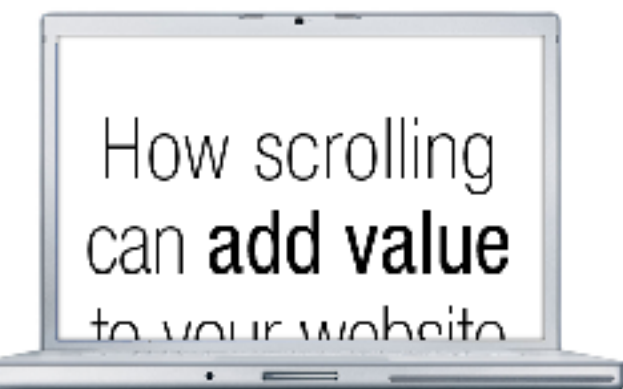
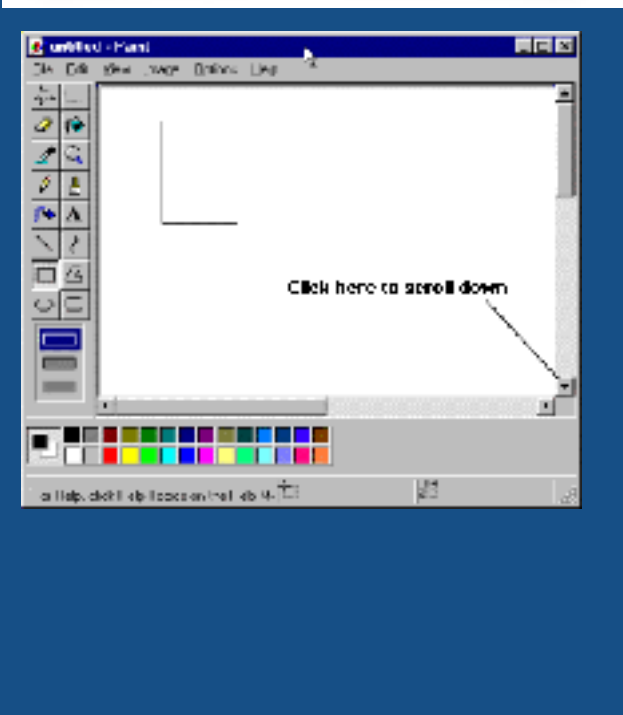
function bottom()
{document.getElementById( 'bottom' ).scrollIntoView();

  window.setTimeout( function () { top(); }, 2000 );

}

bottom();
```

Scroll
down
for
more
↓



Manuscript revolution?

overview

unintended consequences

authority

technologies

eyewitnesses

You Tube

Deferred notification.

WhatsApp

New voice message.

Description

Jan 8 3:26 PM
07 seconds

autoplay

Skype

You have missed message.

[View messages.](#)

Gmail

Delayed notification.

[View notifications.](#)

facebook

You have missed notification.

[View notifications.](#)

Very truly yours
Facebook service

"Knowledge of Scripture .. Nobody will doubt your words, kings and princes will call you friend and the farthest ends of the earth will praise you." —Trithemius

what/whom to trust?

Henry I vs Anselm

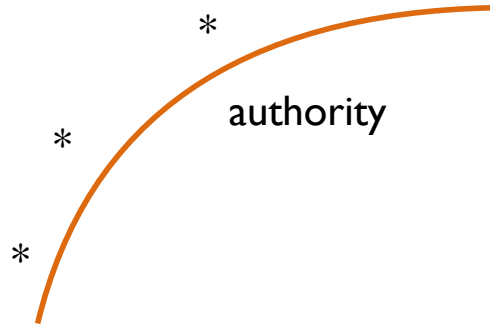
"We don't accept the evidence of monks or bishops, why should we accept that of a sheepskin?"



Henry I 1068–1135



St. Anselm 1033–1109



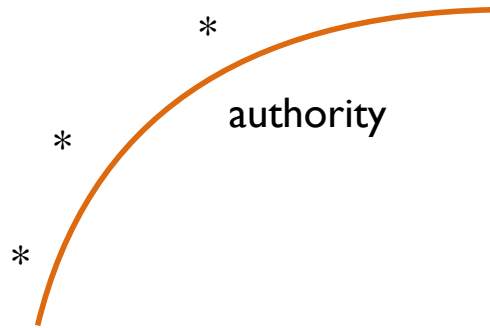
"Knowledge of Scripture .. Nobody will doubt your words, kings and princes will call you friend and the farthest ends of the earth will praise you." —Trithemius

Socrates not alone?

Hadith & Isnād

"documenting the authenticity of all transmission of knowledge ... truth does not reside in documents, however authentic, ancient, or well-preserved, but in authentic human beings ... Documents alone, without a line of persons possessed of both knowledge and righteousness ... are useless ... a book ... of no use without ... certification of a master."

—Graham, "Traditionalism in Islam," 1993

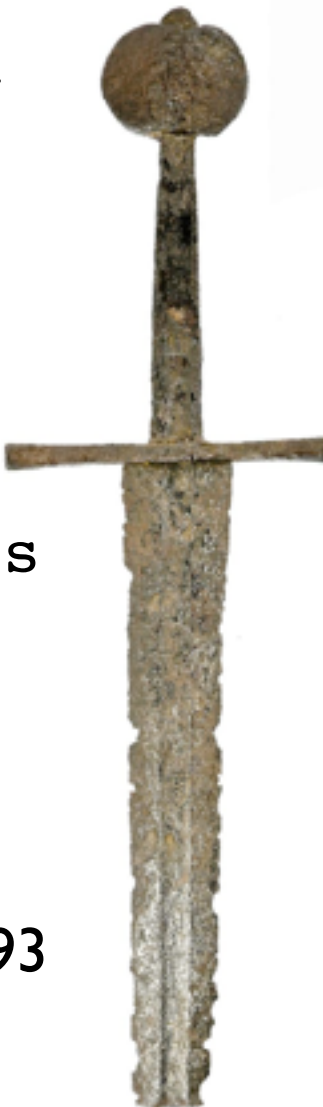


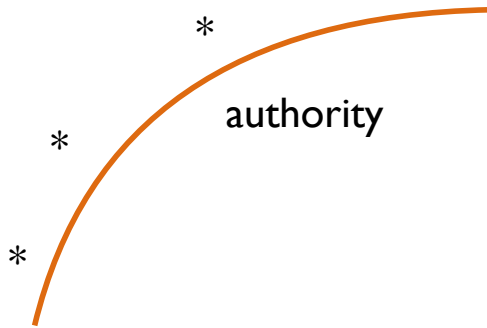
quo warrento

medieval contracts

"usual practice ... to preserve the memory of a title to property in the object that symbolized their possession ... Earl Warenne in a gift to Lewes priory in 1147 had given it possession by the hairs of his head; these, together with his brother's, were cut off before the altar."

-- Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993



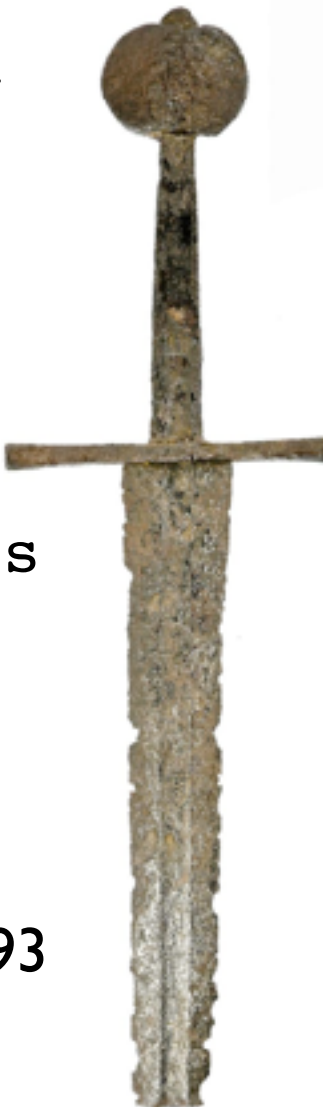


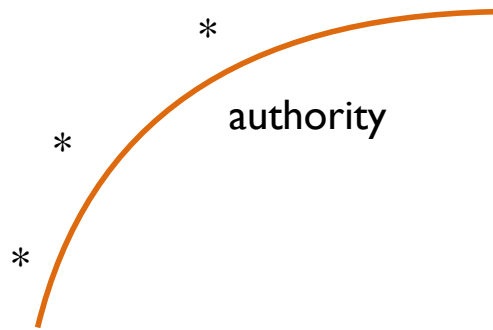
quo warrento

medieval contracts

"usual practice ... to preserve the memory of a title to property in the object that symbolized their possession ... Earl Warenne in a gift to Lewes priory in 1147 had given it possession by the hairs of his head; these, together with his brother's, were cut off before the altar."

-- Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993



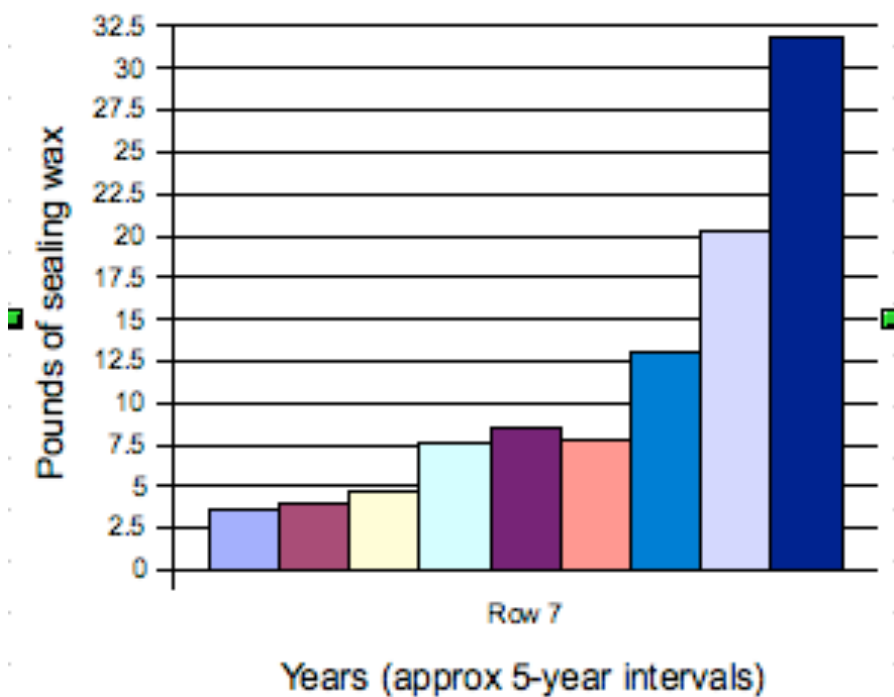


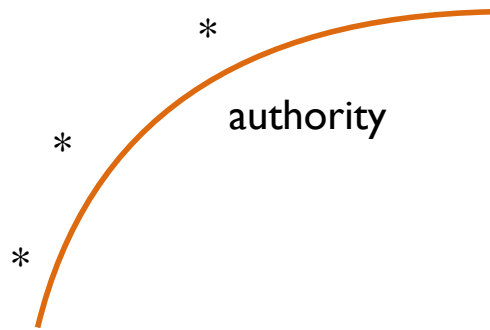
sealing the deal

icon/index/symbol



Sealing wax consumption, 1226-1271





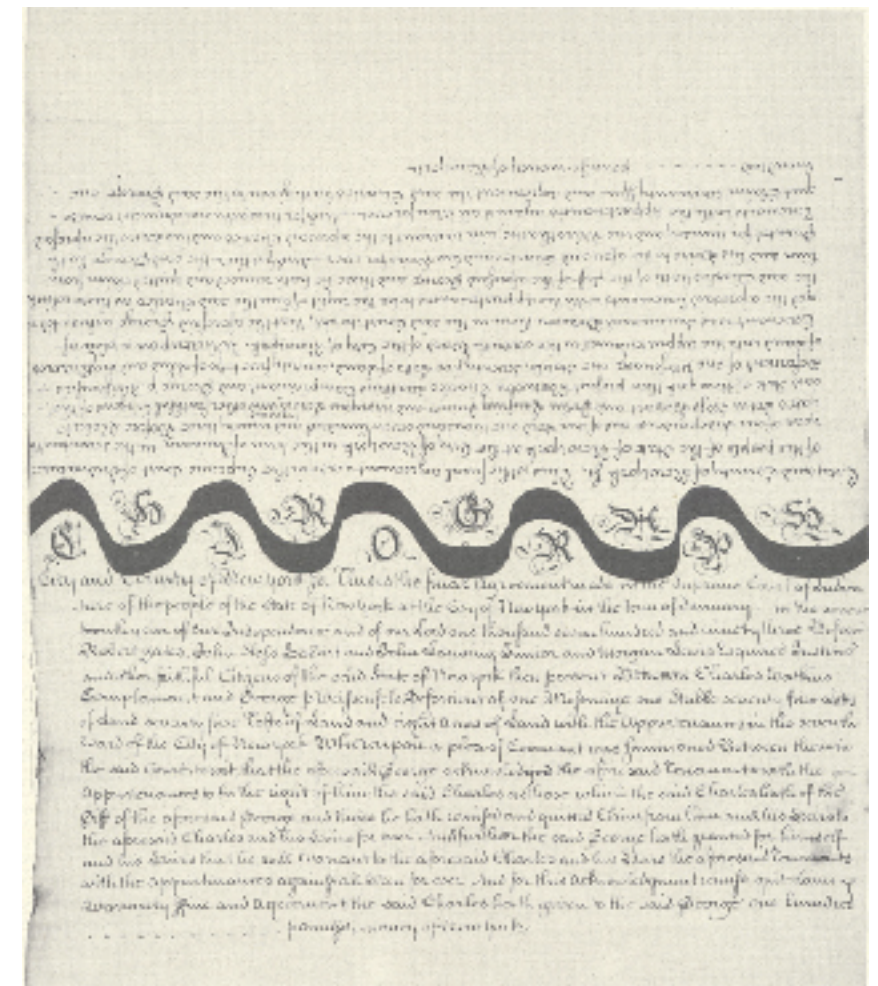
not just mediaeval

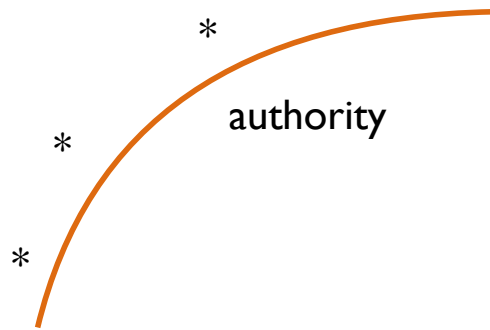
icon, index, symbol

causal connections?

... rusty swords, knives, cups, staffs cut
from the land; chirographs,

chirograph



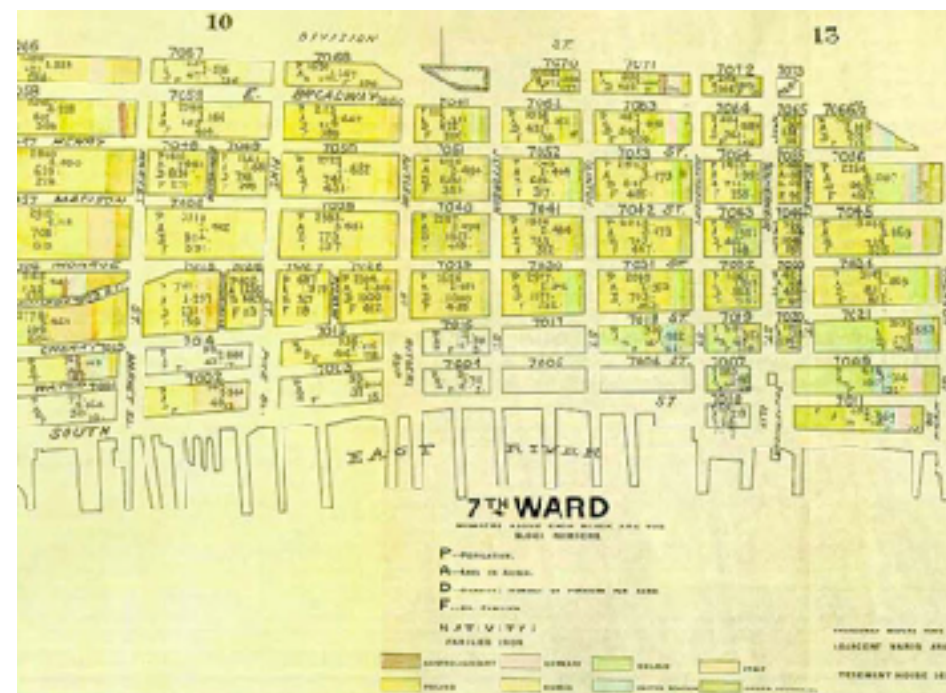


not just mediaeval

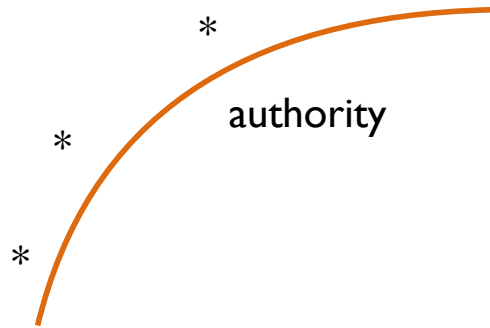
icon, index, symbol
causal connections?

... rusty swords, knives, cups, staffs cut
from the land; chirographs, seals, signatures,

chirograph

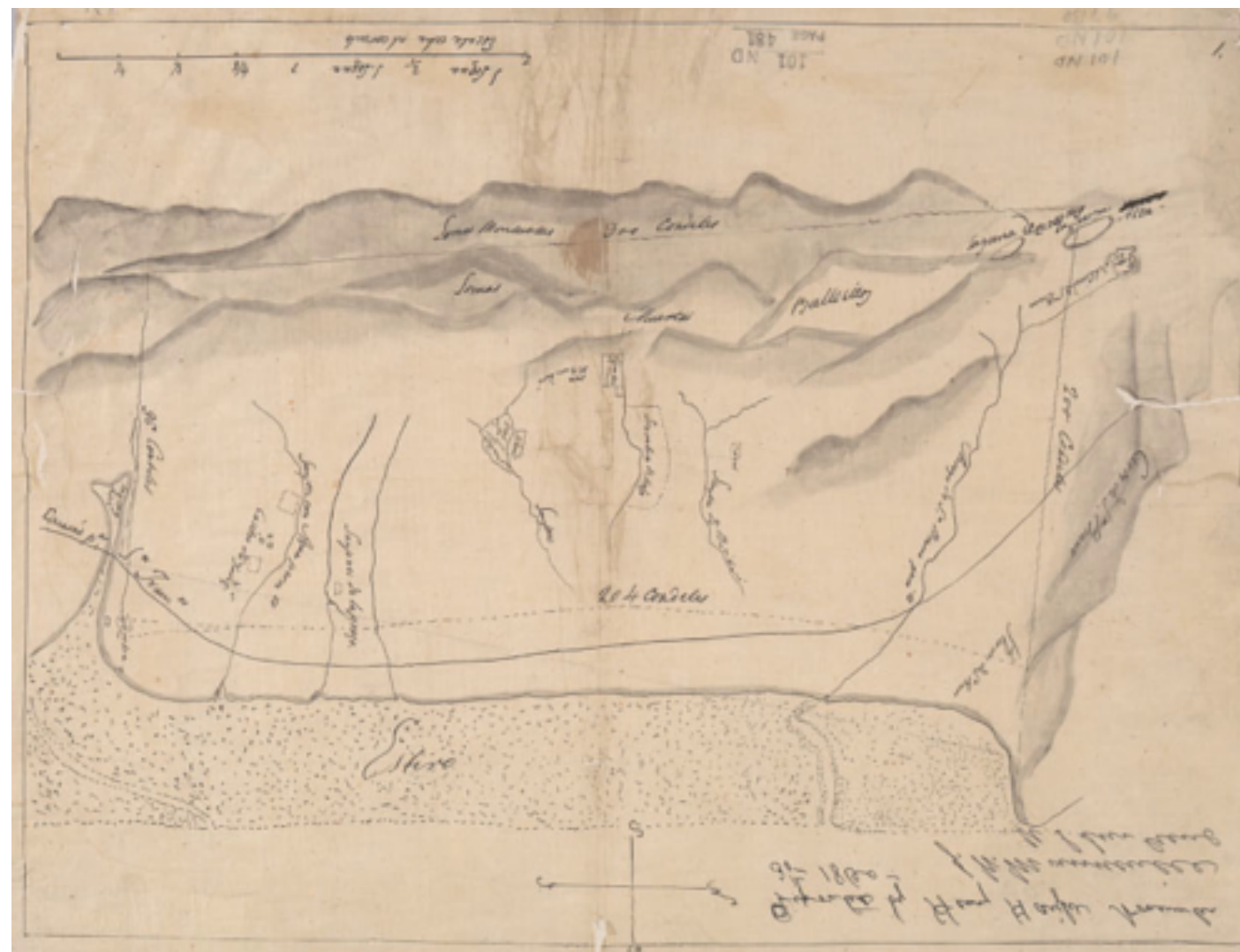


"Fine and Recovery:
Conveyance of
property,
7th Ward NYC, 1793



documenting ownership ancient issues?

Buri Buri land grant 1827-1872



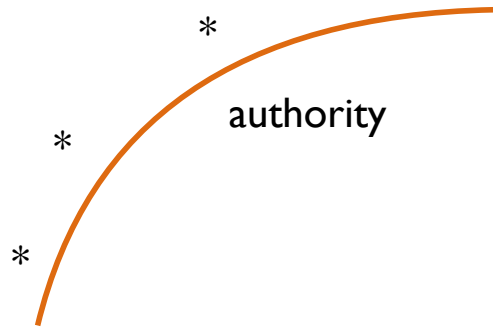
Title:
[Diseño del Rancho Buri Buri : San Mateo Co., Calif.]

Description:
4362 B84On verso: Deposited ... November 30th, 1860. From: U.S. District Court, California, Northern District. Land Case 101 ND, page 481; land case map D-231 (Bancroft Library). José de la Cruz Sanchez. clmt. Pen-and-ink and watercolor. Relief shown by shading.

Creator/Contributor:
United States. District Court (California : Northern District). Land case. 101, Related Name Indexing Term

Date:
1860

Contributing Institution:
UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library

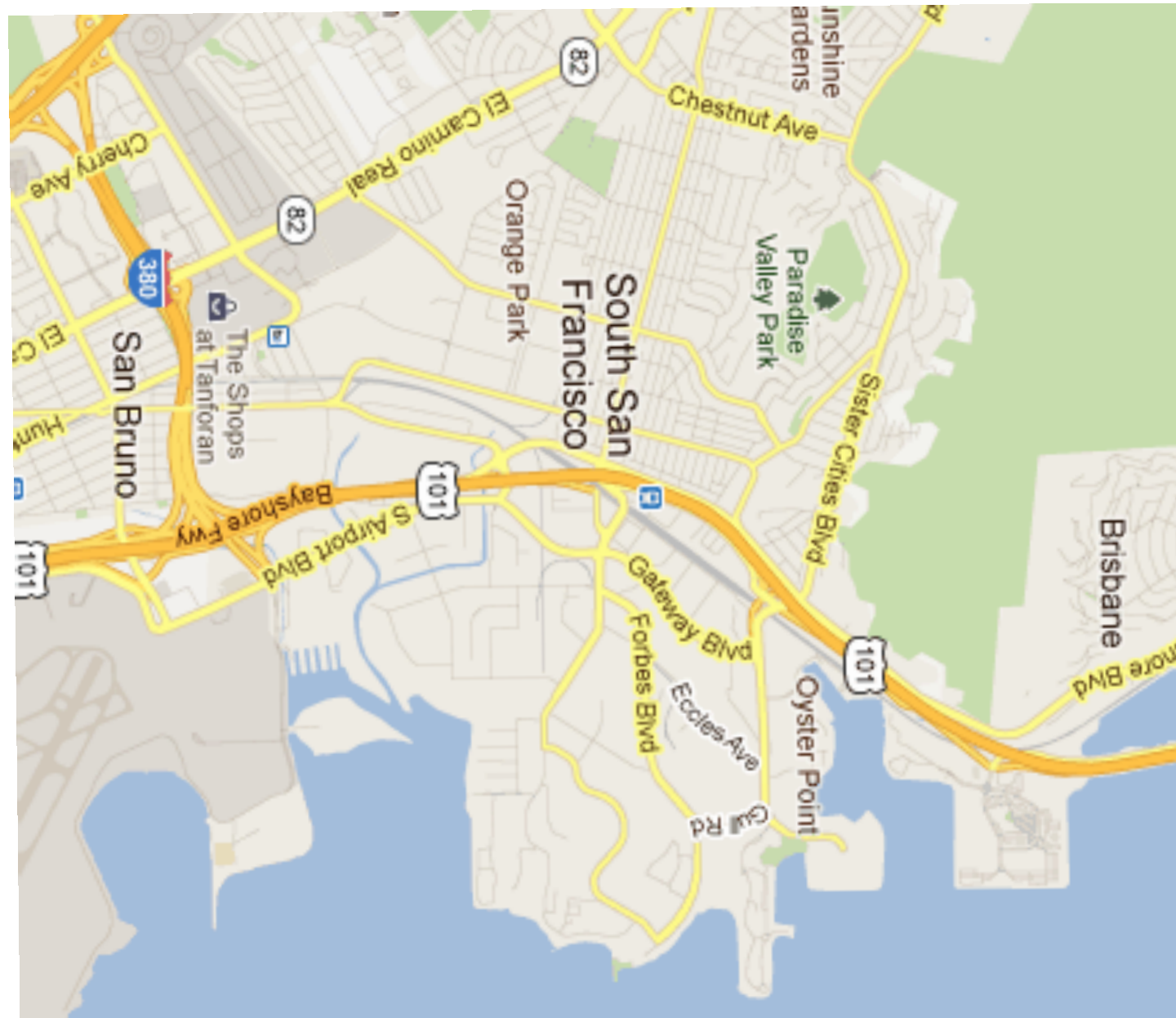


documenting ownership ancient issues?

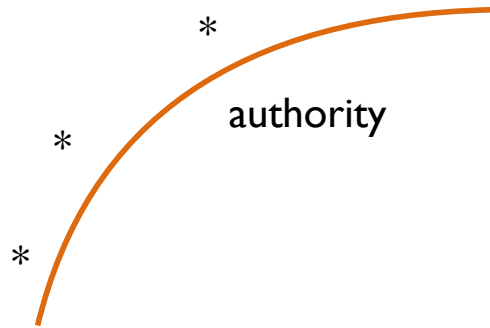
"Miller & Lux,
San Francisco
wholesale
butchers, have
450,000 [acres]
... These men are
the Lords of
California ... as
truly as every
were ribboned
Dukes or belted
Barons."

George Henry,
*Our Land and Land
Policy*, 1911

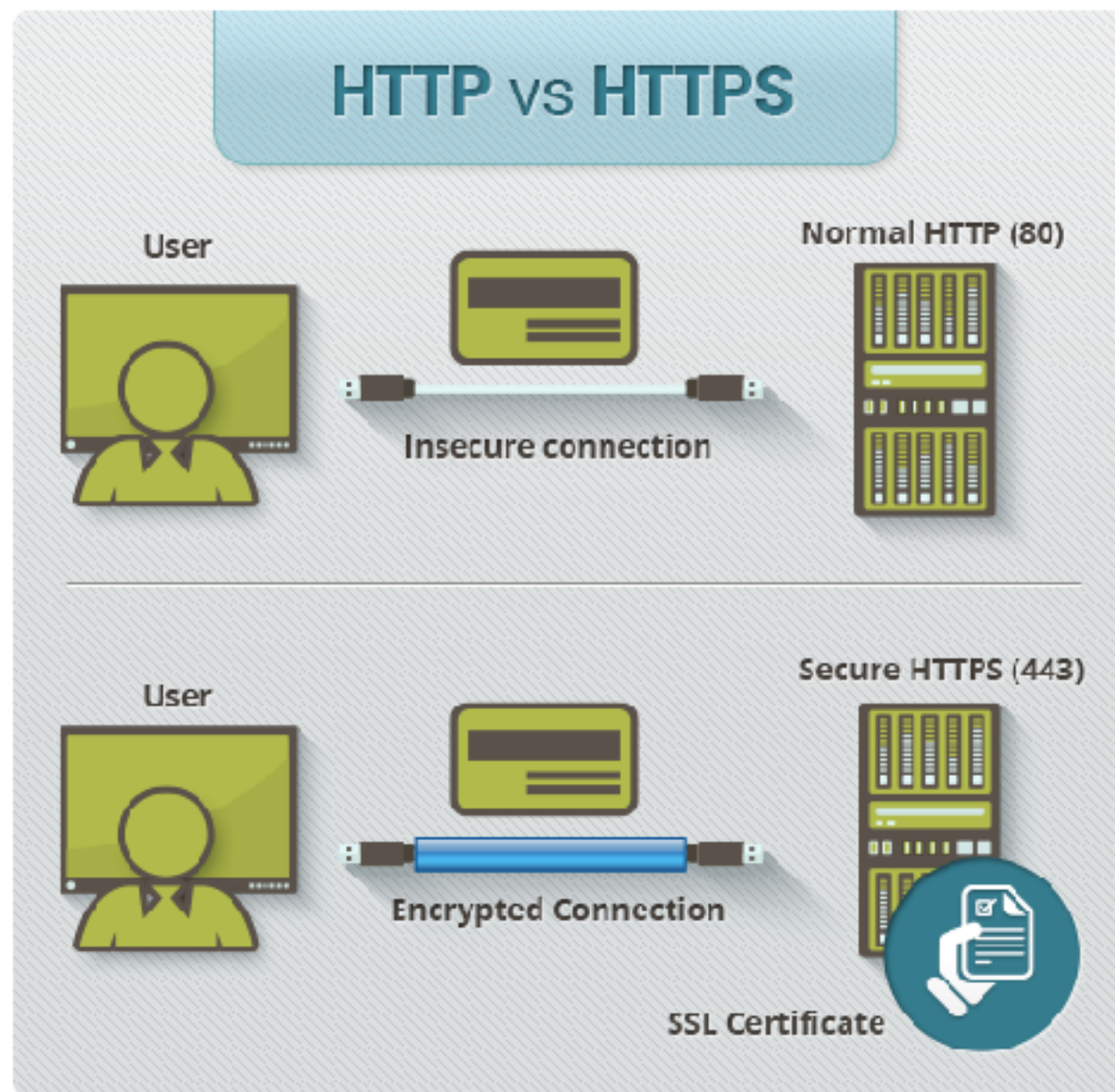
Buri Buri land grant 1827-1872



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Date:
1860
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not just 19th century



failed
certification



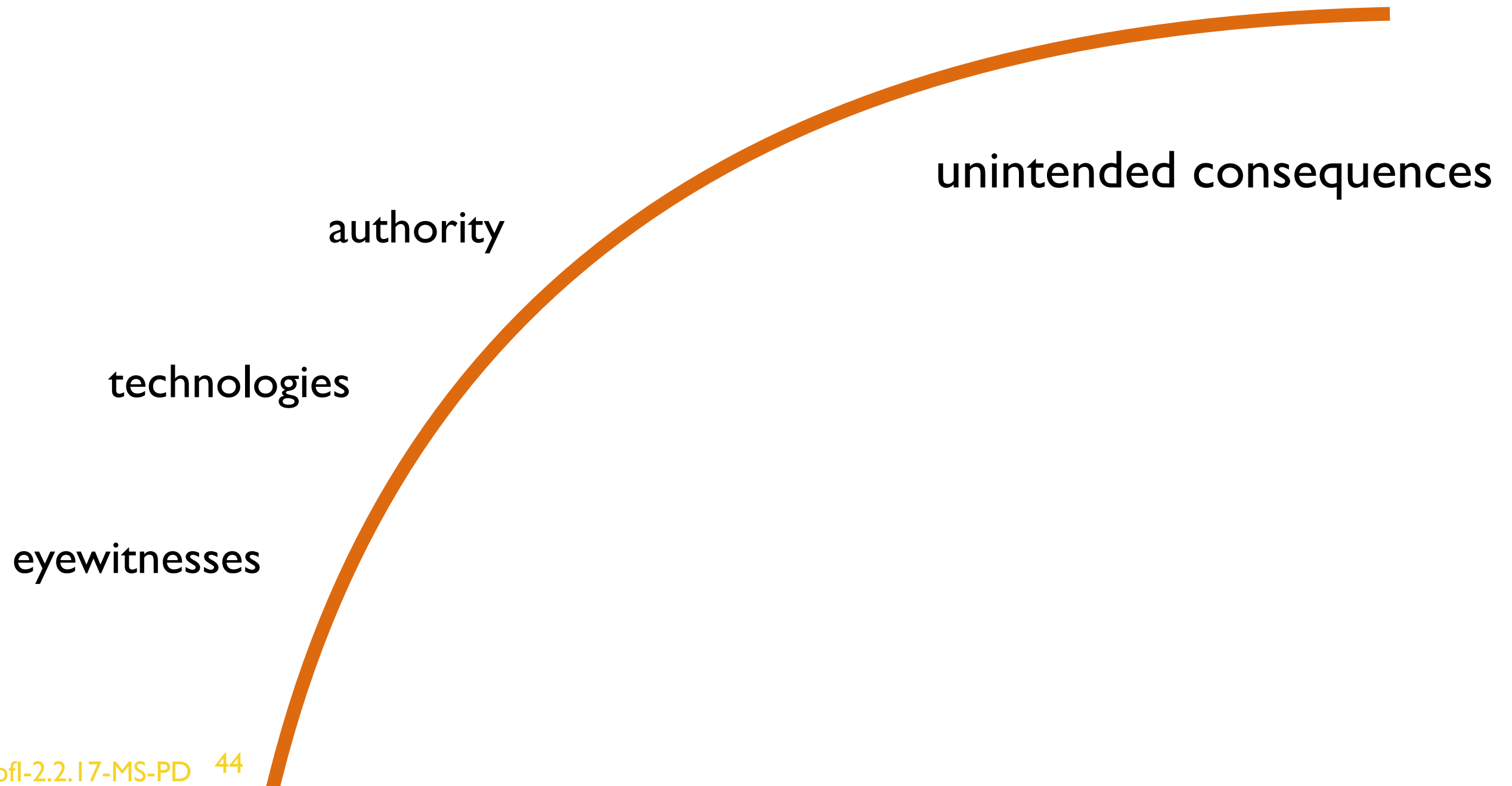
DNC Emails Hacked by Russia After
Aide Made Typo, Investigation Finds

Manuscript revolution?

"Discovered as a possibility, television
... had unforeseen consequences" —Williams



overview





unintended consequences

quo warranto? — the true forgery?

"No document coming from such centres of proved fabrication as Westminster, Evesham, Winchester cathedral, Chertsey and Malmesbury should be accepted at its face value without close examination. ... Ancient monasteries like Chertsey had traditionally forged charters. Now that the king was keeping copies ... abbots ensured that their forged documents were reinforced by inspection in the Chancery and enrollment among the royal records. The Chancery rolls, which were intended to prevent fraud, thus became a means of making forgeries official."

--Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*

unintended consequences

trustworthy?

The “Donation”
apparently
giving,
authority of
the western
Roman empire to
the bishop of
Rome
(ie. the Pope),
Silvester
(314–335).

donations of Constantine (c. 750-800)



forgery recognized by Nicholas of Cusa, 1565

unintended consequences

science of diplomatics



Jean Mabillon (1632-1707)

De Re Diplomatica, 1681

"the Reformation era ... bringing to light thousands of documents .. hitherto inaccessible and unknown. ... France pioneered in this new historical research ... Mabillon Montfaucon."

-- James Thompson,
"The Age of Mabillon," 1942



unintended consequences

science of diplomatics



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unintended consequences

from authority to ...

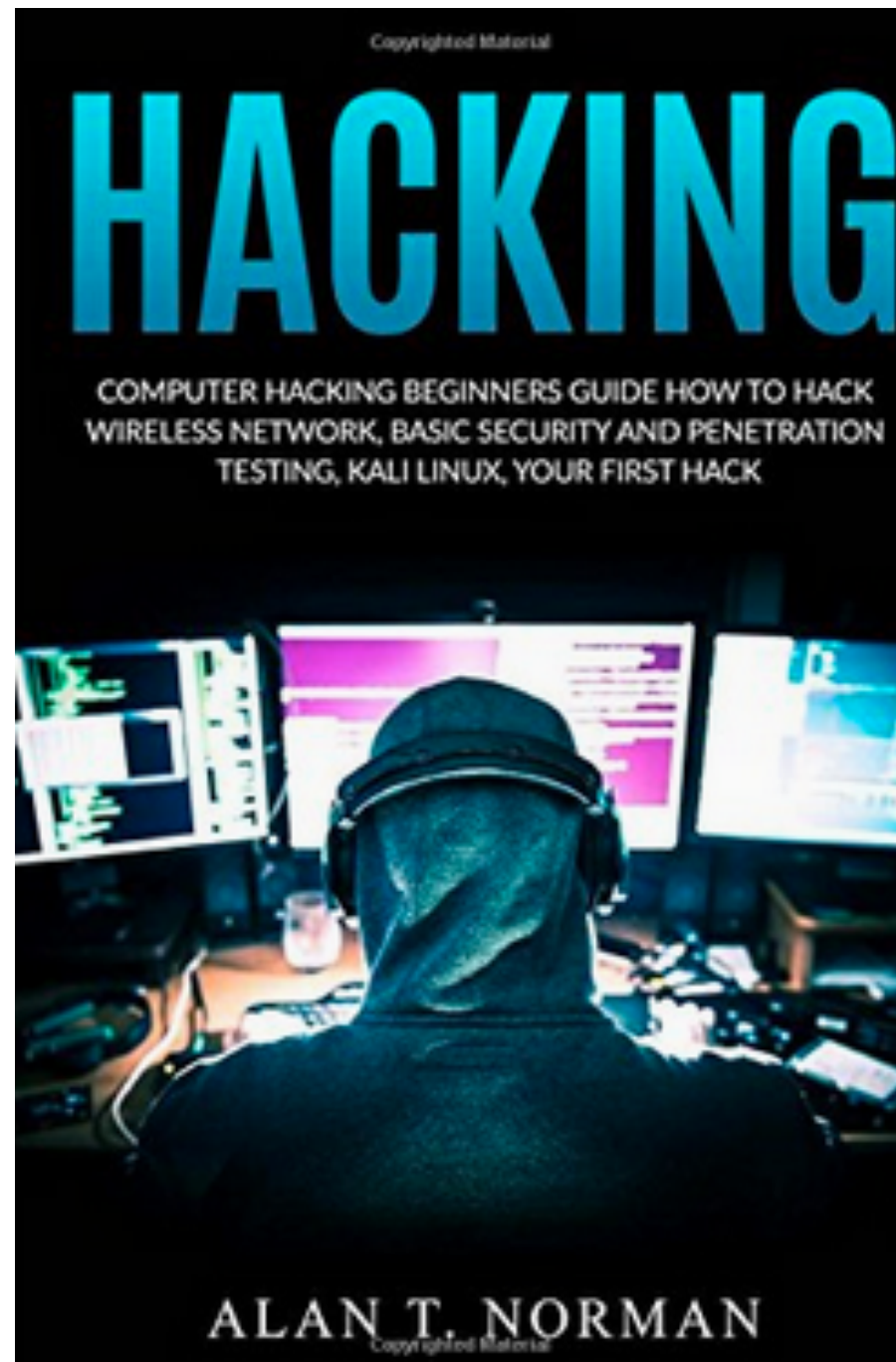
a guide to forgery

Mabillon "had exposed the fabricated charters of the Carmelite Father Andrew, in a model memorandum which later fell into the forger's hand, and was taken by him to heart with such good effect that he was able with a subsequent fabrication to have his revenge by planting one of his forgeries ... on Mabillon himself"

--David Knowles



revolution: going round in circles?





conclusion

in sum

it's not just information
message *and* medium
the challenge of “immutable mobiles”
concerns from content to credibility
in/security



dog in the manger, one foot in the grave, cart before the horse, in the same boat, no stone unturned,
festina lente



at last, a *real* “revolution”?

and so to Gutenberg

7 Feb: Print "Revolution"

Printing is often credited with producing the first great technological revolution, bringing about, some have argued, democracy, science, and modern society. Today, people often herald the significance of a technology with the lead "not since the invention of the printing press" The readings for this class look at how print appeared to contemporaries: to Desiderius Erasmus (1467?-1536), one of the great figures of the European Enlightenment, and to William Caxton (1415?-1492), who brought printing technology from continental Europe to England. The readings call on us to consider how these views, published over 500 years ago, fit with the great claims made for printing (and technology more generally) today.

Required Readings

Erasmus, Desiderius. 2001 [1506], *The Adages of Erasmus*. William Barker (ed.). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Read: "Festina Lente" (Adage III.1) pp. 132-153.

Source: Course reader [note on some right-hand pages the ends of the lines are missing]

Caxton, William. 1475. Printer's Prologue to Raoul Lefevre's *History of Troy*.

[look to bottom of page for Roman type].

Source: [bCourses](#)



festina lente



assignment



How do these early accounts of printing—one from Erasmus, the scholar, and one from Caxton, the printer—differ and what can these differences tell us about the introduction of printing? Which account would either (a) Plato or (b) Trithemius favor?

