"What is the History of Books?" Revisited

Abstract
Having accepted the invitation to revisit my essay of 1982, “What Is the History of Books?”, I find that I can do it only in the first person singular and therefore must ask to be excused for indulging in some autobiographical detail. I would also like to make a disclaimer: in proposing a model for studying the history of books twenty-four years ago, I did not mean to tell book historians how they ought to do their jobs. I hoped that the model might be useful in a heuristic way and never thought of it as comparable to the models favored by economists, the kind in which you insert data, work it over, and arrive at a bottom line. (I do not believe that bottom lines exist in history.) It seemed to me in 1982 that the history of books was suffering from fissiparousness: experts were pursuing such specialized studies that they were losing contact with one another. The esoteric elements of book history needed to be integrated into an overview that would show how the parts could connect to form a whole—or what I characterized as a communications circuit. The tendency toward fragmentation and specialization still exists.
History of books. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. The earliest object that we think of as a book is the codex, a stack of pages bound along one edge. But the real turning point in book history was Johannes Gutenberg’s printing press in the mid-15th century. The concept of moveable type had been invented much earlier in Eastern culture, but the introduction of Gutenberg’s press had a profound effect. Suddenly, an elite class of monks and the ruling class no longer controlled the production of texts. Messages could spread more easily, and copies could constantly be produced, so printing houses popped up all over Europe. The product of History books are loved by people who want to know about the past and enrich their knowledge. Here is our list of the best history books of all time. The Templars: The Rise and Spectacular Fall of God’s Holy Warriors, has been the top bestseller in the list of history books on New York Times. Check Latest Price on Amazon. Also Read: 13 Most Powerful Female Rulers in History. 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. Tuesday 04 June 2019 16:43. There’s not an ounce of fat on it, as Tombs embarks on an epic voyage through the ages to uncover what being English really, actually means. Buy now. 2. SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome by Mary Beard: £9.99 RRP, Profile Books. The charismatic historian breathes fresh life into Ancient Rome – from its early days as a relatively innocuous little village, to its fire-breathing peak as one of history’s most notorious superpowers. This covers 1000 years of civilization at a canter, and is hugely rewarding. Buy now. I’m not a Historian. But here is my view based on my life. I hated History in school. I mean absolutely HATED it. The same way some kids hated mathematics. Later, after just having finished school, my girl friend who had studied fine art history . I read the book over the course of a week and was thoroughly enthralled. Could history really be that interesting? I dived into all sort of historical books and textbooks.