Contents

Acknowledgments	vii

Introduction 3

1	The	Myth	of Print	Culture	10
1	THE	TATACTT	OI I I IIII	Cuituic	10

- 1.1 Print and Scribal Culture (Eisenstein, Johns, Love) 11
- 1.2 The Coming of the Book and the Departure of Bibliographical Inquiry 21

2 Twenty Million Incunables Can't Be Wrong 32

- 2.1 The Calculus of Book-Copies 32
- 2.2 The Quantification of Evidence 41
- 2.3 Note on the Relative Popularity of Juvenal and Persius 52

3 What Is a Book? Classification and Representation of Early Books 57

- 3.1 The Cataloguing of Early Book Fragments 57
- 3.2 Type Measurement and Facsimile Representation 75

4 The Notion of Variant and the Zen of Collation 88

- 4.1 Charlton Hinman and the Optical Collator 88
- 4.2 The Logic and Description of Press Variation 97

5 Two Studies in Chaucer Editing 114

- 5.1 The Presumed Influence of Skeat's Student's Chaucer on Manly and Rickert's Text of the Canterbury Tales 114
- 5.2 The Electronic Chaucer and the Relation of the Two Caxton Editions 124

6 Editorial Variants 143

- 6.1 Early Terence Editions and the Material Transmission of the Text 144
- 6.2 Richard Bentley: Milton and Terence 148
- 6.3 Malone Verbatim: The Description of Editorial Procedures 158
- 6.4 W.W. Skeat, Chatterton's Rowley, and the Definition of the True Poem 163

7 Bibliographical Myths and Methods 170

- 7.1 The Curse of the Mummy Paper 170
- 7.2 The History of Irony as a Problem in Descriptive Bibliography 185

Conclusion 191

Notes 195

Principal Works Cited 229

Index 237