

Thomas Milles' Modified Books

We might assume—simplistically, but not implausibly—that the process of producing an early modern book involved two distinct stages: an author wrote a text which then passed to a (probably noisy, smelly, chaotic) print shop where sheets were printed and then some time later, at a binders, bound as a book. But of course this tidy separation of text-writing and book-pr

Heather Wolfe and William Sherman have recently provided a thorough overview of Milles' habits of pasting in additions to his own printed texts.⁵ It is tempting to figure Milles as a kind of eccentric, a bibliographical outlier, but he in fact sits in a seventeenth-century culture that was at ease with the idea that books might be modified after their printing, and that authors might do more to their books than merely write them. Perhaps the most compelling parallel to Milles in terms of post-

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