How to Identify the Correct Microfilm Reel in the *Short Title Catalog*

The *Short Title Catalog* is made up of two parts: Pollard & Redgrave (STC I, 1475-1640) and Wing (STC II 1641-1700). This is a collection of Early English Books on Microfilm; it is only a selection of the possible total. There are two sets of books to use to identify items on the microfilm.

**CSU owns STC I reels: 1-36, 1193-1337 and STC II reels: 302-649.**

These microfilms are located at call number AC 1 .E5 in the Microfilm area (in the basement) in gray file drawers.


Use Pollard & Redgrave (P&R) (STC I) or Wing (STC II) to identify items of interest by author or subject. Write down the identifying number on the left hand side in the author section. If using Wing, **also take note of the letter of the alphabet**--each letter starts with number 1, so you need to note whether it is A, B, C, etc. You then must take that number (or letter/number combination) to find out on which reel of microfilm that the item can be found.

There are separate guides to the reels, depending upon whether it is P&R or Wing.

The P&R (*Early English Books 1475-1640*) *Cross Index to Reels 1-1536* is found at Z 2002 .E1 1st-42d reel nos. 1-1536 Ref

The Wing (1641-1700) *A Cross Index to Years 1-18 of the Microfilm Collection, Reels 1-649* is found at Z 2002 E14 1st-18th reel nos. 1-649 Ref

After finding out on which reel number the item is found, it is a very good idea to look up that particular reel in the appropriate P&R or Wing listing guide books (slender volumes, home-bound) to see where on the reel the item is. Is it the first item? The fifteenth? The microfilm has black spaces between books, so knowing which item it is will make it much faster to search the microfilm.

A possible short cut:

One can also find useful information in *WorldCat*. For example, a search for personal name: Agrippa von Nettesheim, Heinrich Cornelius, 1486?-1535 AND keyword Early English Books brings up the following title on microform: *Female pre-eminence, or, The dignity and excellency of that sex above the male: an ingenious discourse*. In one of the note fields it indicates: Early English books, 1641-1700 ; 444:4. Wing; A784. What this means is that this item can be found in the Wing set of microfilms (that is to say, STC II), reel 444, the 4th item on the microfilm. This matches perfectly with what your librarian discovered when she went to Wing page 36, where number 784 was listed to the left of the entry for Agrippa, Henricus Cornelius. *Female Pre-eminence;* after recording/taking note of that number and the fact that it came from an author whose last name began with "A", she then went to *Early English books 1641-1700 Selected from Donald Wing's Short-Title Catalogue: A Cross Index to Years 1-18 of the Microfilm Collection, Reels 1-649* (call number Z 2002 E14 1st-18th reel nos. 1-649 Ref) where she looked up A784 and saw that the reel number was 444. She then went to *A Guide to Years 13-17 of the Microfilm Collection, Reels 444-620* (Z 2002 .E13 13th-17th reel nos. 444-620 Ref) and looked up reel 444. The 4th item listed is: A784 Agrippa, Henricus Cornelius. *Female pre-eminence*. Because CSU owns reel 444, your librarian looked through it and the fourth item on it was *Female pre-eminence*. However, a cruise through *WorldCat* is going to be effective only if you keep in mind that **CSU owns only STC I reels: 1-36, 1193-1337 and STC II reels: 302-649.** So CSU has far from the complete set.

If you are at another library, take note of owned reels and do your searching in the *Short Title Catalog* accordingly.

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Feb. 2010 accessed via http://lib.colostate.edu/research/history/earlymodeuro.html