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A Brief Editorial Note

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EDITORIAL

A BRIEF EDITORIAL NOTE

What is it with books that we simply cannot put them away? I do not even mean throwing them in the bin per se, but passing them away to second hand stores or bookswap initiatives can be hard enough. Why is it that the tangibility of a book, its smell, its size and shape, are so determining for our reading experiences? How does handmade paper stand apart from paper fabricated in big rolls with machinery? What is it with books? That images of reading men appear to be material for an Internet hit with its own hashtag, Instagram account, and even wall calendars and – how suitable – books, with inside those same images.

What is it with books?

It may be the central question of *TXT Magazine: The Book Issue*, the issue you now find in front of you. In it, you will find articles addressing the central issue of the book; the paper codex. The articles have been distributed over three sections. The first one addresses the historical significance of the book, like it's symbolism in World War 2. The middle section addresses the

materiality of the book. What is the significance of materiality, and what determines a codex' bookishness? In the final section, the social significance of the paper book is being discussed, for instance its significance within a bookswap project from Germany.

The magazine in front of you would not have come to existence without the help of all those who were involved in its production process. Of course the authors who wrote the articles which together make up this issue. The hard-working and dedicated members of the TXT editorial team, who put a lot of dedication and effort in this magazine, as did Adriaan van der Weel, one of the instructors of the Book and Digital Media Studies Master's Programme, who assisted our team. We would like to thank Amsterdam University Press, which has supported us in our work on this magazine. Without AUP, this issue could by no means have been realized. We owe them, and Max Haring and Vanessa de Bueger in particular, a great debt of gratitude.

Sam Koster
Editor-in-Chief