

Printing History News

The Newsletter of the National Printing Heritage Trust,
Printing Historical Society and Friends of St Bride Library

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PRINTING HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Printing Historical Society will be held on Wednesday 16 May at 5:30 p.m. at the Salisbury Room at the St Bride Institute, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EE. At this meeting it is proposed to change the Society's Constitution to add the post of Publications Secretary to the list of Officers.

Following the formal business, at 6:00 p.m., Michael Twyman will speak on *Chromolithography: the critical years*. Professor Twyman is the world's leading authority on lithography, in all its forms, and is currently putting the finishing touches to a study of chromolithography, due to appear in 2013.



Students learning hand-composition at St Bride around 1910

ST BRIDE NEWS AND EVENTS

Glyn Farrow, Director and Clerk to the Governors of St Bride writes: 'Many of you will know that in January 2012, after many years' service, Nigel Roche left his position as librarian. At the time of Nigel's departure the library was, and still is, undergoing a period of refurbishment and renewal.

Nigel's departure has prompted the Foundation to undertake a thorough review of the library stock, the layout of the various collections, and perform an audit of all the other items associated with printing that are held within this rambling and complex building. This is a time consuming and expensive process but one which must be completed before we are in a position to recruit a new librarian. The team of library staff who are doing all this work are very committed and working hard to ensure that the process is completed as soon as possible.

Until this work is finished the library will be open to readers, but only to those who make an appointment in advance.

The reason for this is that it is our priority to provide an excellent service to those readers undertaking research or completing existing projects and having prior knowledge of their requirements makes this possible. The Foundation is committed to re-opening the library to casual readers and extending the opening hours as soon as possible. If you would like any further information please contact me, Glyn Farrow, Director and Clerk to the Governors of St Bride on glyn@sbf.org.uk.

Printing workshops

Despite the restricted opening of the St Bride Library, the printing workshops will continue as advertised, and as follows (for booking please see below):

Open evenings

Come and look round the workshop, see the presses and equipment, meet the tutors and find out more about the courses on offer. Monday 25 June 2012, 6:00–9:00 p.m. Entry £5.00.

Getting started with the Adana

This one-day course is for the new or aspiring letterpress printer who hopes to set up a simple home studio using the Adana platen press. You will receive instruction in hand composition of type and printing on an Adana, as well as maintenance of the press, workshop management and what to look out for when purchasing equipment. *Facilitator:* Helen Ingham. Sunday 18 March, Sunday 25 March, Sunday 22 April, Sunday 20 May and Sunday 17 June. Each session runs 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. *Maximum class size:* six. *Fee:* £90.00.

Letterpress short course

Designed for beginners or those with some knowledge of typography, graphic design or relief printing. There will be six sessions running from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. every Monday from 23 April to 28 May, and from 11 June to 16 July 2012. *Maximum class size:* six. *Fees:* £355.00 (£305.00 for those over sixty and full-time students).

During this course students will examine the processes and materials needed to create their own letterpress work using Albion, Columbian, Stanhope and Adana presses. Each week will focus on a particular area of letterpress. The course will begin with an induction to the workshop, health and safety, an overview of letterpress printing with examples of practitioners' work, an explanation of hand-composition and an introduction to the presses.

Subsequent weeks will cover wood-letter printing, table-top platen presses, two-colour printing and the use of metal type and polymer blocks. The final sessions will be dedicated to more experimental processes such as mono-printing and overprinting whereby participants will create their own pieces under supervision. The course will provide an excellent overview of the letterpress process, materials and workshop management. *Facilitator:* Helen Ingham.

Exploring letterpress and linocut

Linocut came into its own in the 1930s and 1940s with Iain Macnab's Grosvenor School and its students' dynamic overprints inspired by the machine age. Picasso employed reduction cutting techniques in the 1950s, and Edward Bawden developed his distinctive style from the 1950s to the 1990s. In more recent times, Paul Catherall has come to the fore with his bold multiple-block prints inspired by modern architecture. The St Bride Printing Workshop now offers the opportunity to carry on this tradition and develop the techniques of linocut printmaking in combination with metal type.

Students will explore lino-cutting and printing techniques as well as learning basic hand-composition and letterpress printing on antique presses, to produce type- and image-based prints. Courses run over two consecutive Saturdays. All materials and refreshments are provided. *Facilitators:* Richard Lawrence and Helen Ingham. Sessions run 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a forty-five minute break for lunch. Saturdays 4 and 11 February; 12 and 19 May. *Maximum class size:* twelve. *Fees:* £245.00 (£195.00 for students and over-sixties).

Booking and further details

To book, and for further details (including other classes, courses and workshops, which are being added regularly

to the schedule), please visit the website at www.printworkshop.stbride.org. Alternatively you can book by credit card, by telephone on 0207 353 4660. Concessions are available for members of the Friends of St Bride.

OTHER EVENTS

M-SHED Events

Bristol's M-Shed held a successful series of one-day printing sessions aimed at children and families on 15, 18 and 19 February. It is hoped to repeat these 'make an impression' sessions later in the year. We will include dates here if they are announced in good time, but for more immediate information please see the website at www.mshed.org.

Bernard Seward writes 'A further printing session was organised to coincide with half-term. I took a half-day interest; the Columbian press was again in use, the "punters" being asked to choose between three blocks (a half-tone, a line-block news advert and a Bristol tourism booklet cover), printed on white A4 paper or a sulphite paper bag. The event was well supported. Most of the attempts turned out well. Positive interest was being displayed both by parents and children, the latter being exceptionally patient and well-behaved.'

STREET LITERATURE: CHEAP PRINT, POPULAR CULTURE AND THE BOOK TRADE

This conference, organized jointly by Print Networks and the Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester, will be held at the University on 10-12 July 2012. Speakers will include Adam Fox of the University of Edinburgh, author of *Oral and literate culture in England 1500-1700* and Sheila O'Connell of the British Museum, author of *The popular print in England*. **The full conference programme and booking information will be available from mid-March at www.bbti.bham.ac.uk.**

INDUSTRY AND GENIUS IN THE PRINTING TRADE

This two-day conference will be held jointly by the Printing Historical Society and the Birmingham Institute of Art

and Design on 4-5 September 2012 at the Birmingham School of Art, Margaret Street, Birmingham.

Between the Hall of Memory and Baskerville House in Birmingham stands a sculptural tribute to John Baskerville. On the columns of Portland Stone are reversed bronze letters spelling the word 'VIRGIL', the Roman poet whose works Baskerville printed in 1757 using the famous type he created. A poem in praise of the printer appeared in *Aris's gazette* in 1751, entitled 'Industry and genius', from which poem the sculpture takes its name.

The conference will examine the contributions made by printers, processes and products to their industry and the wider political and cultural world. Further details and a full programme will soon be available on the PHS website at www.printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk.



Book History Research Network

The Book History Research Network holds a series of twice yearly events. Information about these and a register of interests can be found on their website at www.bookhistory.org.uk. Please visit the website to register and to sign up for the next free event.

Bibliographical Society Lectures

The following lectures are open to members of the Bibliographical Society and guests, and are held at University College, Gower Street, London WC1, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The Gutenberg galaxy's dark matter: lost incunabula and ways to retrieve them by Falk Eisermann. An examination of the losses of incunabula, both historical and recent, and of the ways in which the 'contents and contexts' of the lost editions may be reconstructed. The 2012 Graham Pollard Memorial Lecture. Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre. Tea

will be served in the South Cloisters.
Tuesday 17 April 2012.

Some Italian Renaissance bindings by Anthony Hobson. A discussion of a group of chiefly Florentine bindings not previously described in print. The 2012 Homee and Phiroze Randeria Lecture. Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre. Tea will be served. Tuesday 15 May 2012.

Printing workshops at Oxford

The Bodleian Hand-Printing Workshop at the Story Museum (see *PHN* 33, pp. 2–3) has announced a series of workshops and courses. Most are now fully subscribed, but a few places remain on the following two. Courses are held at the Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP. Further details may be found at www.storymuseum.org.uk, where dates for future courses will soon be available. For booking please contact Eka Morgan at the Museum on eka@storymuseum.org.uk or 01865 790050.

Family session. Aimed at parents and children, this session lasts for two hours and consists of a short history of hand-printing and type manufacture, demonstrations of printing on a common press and hand-composition, and the chance for each attender to set their name and print it as part of a keepsake. *Tutor:* Paul W. Nash. *Maximum class size:* sixteen. Suitable for children aged eight and over. Children aged eight to sixteen must be accompanied by an adult. *Fee:* £8.00 per person. Running 2:00–4:00 p.m. on Saturday 26 May 2012.

Hand-printing course. A series of six weekly sessions for beginners or those with some knowledge of printing. The course will begin with a short history and practical demonstration of hand-composition and printing, followed by the setting, proofing, correcting, printing and binding of a small edition of a pamphlet of poetry. Each participant will be able to take away copies of the pamphlet produced. *Tutor:* Paul W. Nash. *Maximum class size:* nine. Suitable for adults (aged at least sixteen). *Fee:* £120.00 per person for the six sessions. Running 7:00–9:00 p.m. every Tuesday from 10 April 2012.

NEW BOOKS

The Daniel Press

Two new titles on the Daniel Press have recently been published by The Old School Press. *The Daniel Press in Frome* describes the work of the Daniel family press that was the forerunner of Henry Daniel's press in Oxford (72 pages of new research printed letterpress, and 48 pages of photographs). *Printing at the Daniel Press* describes 52 recently-discovered proof sheets from the Daniel Press in Oxford (32 pages of text and 12 pages of photographs). Full details may be found at the Press's website, www.theoldschoolpress.com. Contact The Old School Press, The Green, Hinton Charterhouse, Bath BA2 7TJ, or info@theoldschoolpress.com.

The Gin Lane Gazette

Adrian Teal writes: 'I have launched a pitch for my illustrated history book on Unbound, the crowd-funded publishing website. It's called *The Gin Lane Gazette* (the promo video for which was filmed in St Bride's Church), and it will be a bawdy, tabloidy, romp through the 1700s; a kind of 18th-century *Heat* magazine, if you like. There'll be gossip columns, fashion news, sports reports, ads, and a 'courtesan of the month' feature. If the project garners enough pledges, it will be published, and supporters can enjoy various 18th-century-themed perks, such as a Georgian pub crawl, and a walking tour of Georgian London.

Every page will be festooned with my own Hogarthian and Gillrayesque caricatures (I am a national press cartoonist, and have worked for the *Sunday Telegraph*), and the principal focus will be the hell-raising of Georgian celebrities. You can see the book's video and read the pitch for it here: www.unbound.co.uk/books/22.

Unbound was established by John Mitchinson and Justin Pollard of *QI*; among their authors are Terry Jones and Robert Llewellyn.'

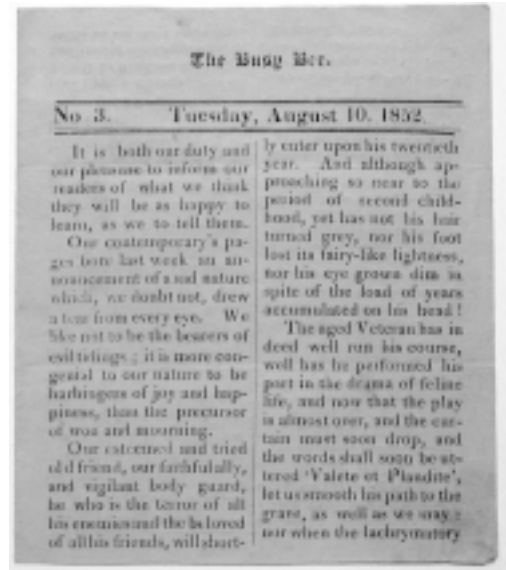
BINDING BRASSES

John Trevitt

I have become interested in the design of hand-cut lettered bookbinding dies, also called 'brasses'. Magnesium typographical designs were sold under the trade name of 'chemacs' by the old-established firm of Mackrell, who had previously been able to cut brass-alloy

dies by hand following tracings or sketches. I have made contact with Colourfoil (Mackrell's successors) and hope to hear more from them.

Meanwhile I would be interested to hear from anyone who shares this interest and/or has material bearing on my new craze. If you can help please contact me at jj@trevitt.freeserve.co.uk or John Trevitt, Rose Cottage, Church Road, Weobley, Hereford HR4 8SD.



Two specimens of Daniel Press ephemera from the Frome period



PRINTING HISTORICAL SOCIETY: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER FOR 2012

Andrew Dolinski, Hon. Treasurer

I would like to remind members of the Printing Historical Society that the annual subscription for January to December 2012 became due on 1 January 2012. The subscription rates are: UK individuals £25; UK institutions £30; UK students £10; overseas individuals £35; overseas institutions £40; overseas students £20. Payment may be made by the following methods:

- 1 By bank transfer/internet payment to The Royal Bank of Scotland, a/c number 12111882, sort code 16 19 15 (IBAN GB17RBOS16191512111882 BIC RBOSG82L)
- 2 By debit or credit card
- 3 By PayPal account
- 4 By cheque

If paying by bank transfer/internet payment please quote your membership number as the reference (which I will be happy to supply you with if you are unsure). Please also send a notification of payment via e-mail to me at treasurer@printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk.

If paying by cheque in a currency other than sterling, please add £10 as a contribution to the high UK bank conversion charges. Cheques should be made payable to 'Printing Historical Society' and sent to me, Andrew Dolinski at 34 Martineau Lane, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0SF, UK.

The introduction of debit/credit card and PayPal account payments has proved popular, especially with our overseas members. If you wish to pay by debit/credit card or your PayPal account please send an email request to treasurer@printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk. I will respond by sending you an automated e-mail. This e-mail has a secure link for you to follow.

PRINTING HISTORICAL SOCIETY: GIFT AID

Andrew Dolinski, Hon. Treasurer

An important benefit of the charitable status of the society is that UK individual members can elect to pay their annual subscription under Gift Aid. In doing so the Society can reclaim an

additional 25 pence for every £1 received from those members. This is at no extra cost to either the society or the members. All that is required is for the UK member to provide the Society with a signed Gift Aid declaration. The scheme is open to anyone who will have paid UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the Society, as a charity, will reclaim on your annual subscription. If you wish to enter into a Gift Aid agreement, or are unsure if the Society currently holds one on your behalf, please send me an e-mail, to treasurer@printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk or write to me, Andrew Dolinski, at 34 Martineau Lane, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0SF, UK.

PRINTING HISTORICAL SOCIETY: REQUEST FOR E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Andrew Dolinski, Hon. Treasurer

With postage costs again set to increase this year it makes economic sense for the Society to use e-mail as its preferred means of communication with members. Many members have yet to provide the society with an up-to-date e-mail address and I would therefore ask that you do so by sending a brief e-mail to me at treasurer@printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk. Please use 'PHS E-mail Request' as the subject-line of your e-mail and include in the body your name and address and, if known, your membership number. Thank you.

SMALL ADS

Type etc available. The following type etc is offered by Willmot Printers Ltd of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. All reasonable offers will be considered (as a guide the printer is hoping for £1.00–£2.00 per pound for the metal type). If interested, please contact Linda Freeth on lindafreeth@gmail.com or 07831 773727. **Virtually new type** (all cases are full, type names are followed by point sizes): Ashley Script 24, 30; Baskerville 30; Figaro 72; Franklin Gothic Caps 72; Rockwell Light 14, 24; Rockwell Medium 14, 24; Rockwell Medium Italic 30; Rockwell Medium Condensed 24; Rockwell Bold 18, 36, 48; Rockwell Bold Italic 18; Times Bold 48, 60. **Used type** (in usable second-hand condition): Baskerville range 6–36; Baskerville Italic 6, 8, 10, 12; Baskerville Bold 8, 10,

12; Madonna Ronde 12, 14; Madonna Bold 18, 24; Palace Script complete range 12–48; Scarab range 6–18; Scarab Bold 8, 10, 12, 14; Spectrum 36, 60, 72; Temple Script 14, 18; Times range 6–30; Times Bold 6, 8, 10, 12, 14; Trafton Script 16, 24, 30; Unifers range (including some Extra Bold Expanded) 8–30. **Wood type** (all founts are complete unless otherwise noted): 40-line caps, in three cases; 20-line outline caps; 14-line caps (no Y); 12-line condensed (no H); 12-line caps (with some lead replacements/additions); 10-line bold caps (no E, M, N or T); 10-line condensed (no lower case g); 8-line bold caps and numerals (no V or 3); 8-line (no lower case p); 8-line bold with numerals; and 8-line (no B, Q, R and X). **Equipment:** Intertype (Harris C-Line) with four main and four side magazines and spares, manuals etc, free to good home. Various galley racks, randoms and tallboys once above type is cleared.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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www.nphtr.org.uk

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