

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 and Industry’ Conference

The Printing Historical Society is holding a joint conference with the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design on ‘Industry and Genius in the Printing Trade’. The conference will be held at the Birmingham School of Art, Margaret Street, Birmingham on 4 and 5 September 2012. The programme includes a wide range of excellent papers, including several of local interest on the career of John Baskerville. The conference will also include a walking tour of sites of interest and an exhibition of the work of Leonard Jay and the Birmingham School of Printing.

The cost of attending the event is very reasonable, £30.00 for PHS members and £45.00 for non-members. Overnight accommodation is not provided. To register for the event, please visit the Printing Historical Society website at www.printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk/forthcoming_phs_events/index.html.

ST BRIDE NEWS AND EVENTS

The St Bride Library remains closed on a day-to-day basis, while the collections are re-organized and cataloguing work is completed. The Foundation hopes to appoint a new Librarian, and to open on a regular basis soon. Until then, the Library will be open by appointment only. If you would like any further information please contact Glyn Farrow, Director and Clerk to the Governors, on glyn@sbf.org.uk.

The workshops, lectures and events held at St Bride will continue as advertised, and as follows (for booking please see below).

Beatrice Warde memorial lecture

The 2012 Beatrice Warde memorial lecture will be given by Paul Barnes, who will speak at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday 18 October on ‘You can’t repeat the

past’. Barnes is a graphic designer and typographer who also makes typefaces and, with Christian Schwartz, runs a typefoundry, Commercial Type. In the Beatrice Warde lecture he will talk about how important the past has been in his work, how it has influenced many of his designs and what we can learn from it in making contemporary typefaces.

He will be showing his latest design ‘Marian’ and signing copies of *Marian: une collection de revivals* (a bilingual edition, published by Ypsilon Éditeur) afterwards. The lecture will be held in the Bridewell Hall at St Bride and tickets (available in advance from St Bride) cost £5.00 each.

Illustration: making pictures. A one-day conference curated by Becky Chilcott will be held in September 2012 (dates to be announced – please see www.stbride.org) in the Bridewell Hall, St Bride Foundation. Price £85.00 (£70.00 for Friends, £60 for full-time students). Illustration plays an integral part in many design processes – from interpreting the ideas of designers, to bringing to life an author’s words. One normally sees only the highly-polished end-result in the pages of a magazine, on a billboard or jam-jar label, but for illustrators the journey starts with ideas, with scribbles and sketches, mistakes and musings.

Speakers include Ben Eine, Linzie Hunter, Kai and Sunny, John Lawrence, Colin McHenry, Martin O’Neill, Nic Rawling, Peter Schrank and Helen Stephens. Demonstrations will be given by Paul Antonio, Helen Ingham, Richard Lawrence and Peter Smith. A full conference programme is available at www.stbride.org/events/illustration/schedule.html.

Printing workshops

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. Tuesday 26 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 17 June, 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 18 June to 23 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.

Two-day letterpress intensive

Designed for beginners, those with some limited experience and those wanting to extend their printing experience to a

new process. Sessions run 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday 30 June and Saturday 7 July 2012. *Maximum class size:* six. *Fees:* £245.00 (£195.00 for those over sixty and full time students). This two day class will explore the basics of hand composition using metal type, and progress to more advanced techniques. The working of a number of different letterpress printing machines will be studied and their suitability for different kinds of work drawn out. The importance of ink and paper will also be explored. Beyond these basics, the direction of the course will be dictated by the interests of participants. A collaborative poster will be created and individuals will also be able to print business cards, letterheads or similar projects. *Facilitator:* Richard Lawrence.

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

Printing workshops in Oxford

The Bodleian Hand-Printing Workshop has announced a further series of workshops and courses, to be held at the Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP. Details may be found on the Museum's website at www.storymuseum.org.uk. For booking please contact the Story Museum on handprinting@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 21 July, Saturday 18

August, Saturday 29 September, Saturday 27 October and Saturday 24 November 2012.

Adult workshop. An introduction to printing for adults, this workshop is similar to the family sessions described above, but aimed at those of sixteen and above. *Tutor:* Paul W. Nash. *Maximum class size:* sixteen. *Fee:* £15.00 per person. Running 7:00–9:00 p.m. on Tuesday 24 July 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. on Tuesdays from 11 September 2012.

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, the author of *Oral and literate culture in England 1500–1700*, and Sheila O'Connell of the British Museum, the author of *The popular print in England*. The full conference programme and booking details are now available on the British Book Trade Index website at www.bbti.bham.ac.uk.

TEXT AND TRADE: BOOK HISTORY PERSPECTIVES ON EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LITERATURE

This one-day conference will be held on Saturday 15 September 2012 at Queen Mary, University of London. The keynote speakers will be Professor James McLaverty (English Department, Keele University) and Dr John Hinks (Chair of the Printing Historical Society and Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester). The

organizers write: 'This interdisciplinary conference will explore relations between book production, distribution and content to re-examine notions of textual culture in the eighteenth century. Taking intersections in current scholarship between Book History and Literary Studies as its starting point, it will explore the ways in which we can expand our knowledge of eighteenth-century literary production by revisiting the circumstances of material life in the period.' Further information may be had from the organizers of the conference, Dr Jenn Chenkin and Dr Tessa Whitehouse at textandtradeconference@gmail.com



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.

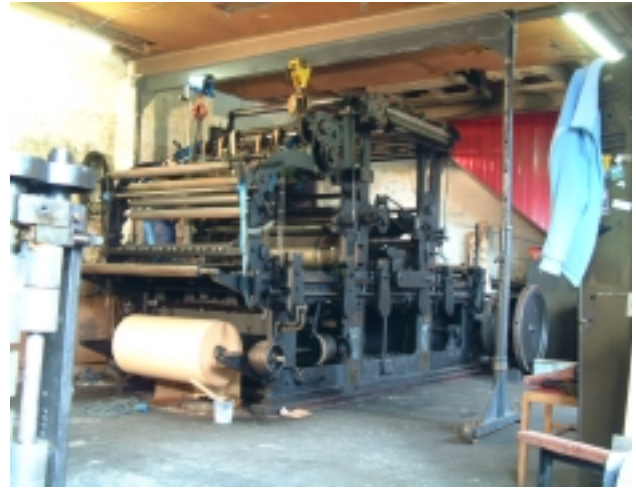
Ampersand conferences

'Ampersand' is a series of conferences on the subject of web-based design and typography. The 2012 conference was held in Brighton on 15 June 2012; look out for the 2013 conference at www.ampersandconf.com.



Linotype: the film

I reported in *PHN* 30 (Spring 2011, p. 4) that a group of young American filmmakers was attempting to produce a 'feature-length documentary' about the Mergenthaler Linotype. This is now complete, and the 'world premier' was held in New York in February. The film was screened elsewhere in the United States and in London on 26 April; further screenings are scheduled for Melbourne, Australia, in May and Brighton, England, in June (at the Ampersand Conference, see above) and the film will soon be released on DVD. If any reader of *PHN* has seen *Linotype: the film* and would care to write a short review the Editor would be pleased to publish it. Further details can be found at www.linotypefilm.com.



Collecting the Cossar Press for National Museums Scotland

Alison Taubman

National Museums Scotland (NMS) was contacted several years ago by Mr David Philips of David Philips Printers of Crieff in Perthshire, owner of a Cossar web-fed flatbed newspaper press. The press had printed *The Strathearn herald* every week from its installation in 1907 until the last run on 28 March 1991. Since that date, Mr Philips had kept the press in good working condition, but the time had come to sell the property and therefore the press had to be removed or scrapped.

When first approached, the Museum was not in a position to collect the press which, although small for a newspaper press, is still a large museum acquisition at around ten tons with a footprint of nearly twenty square metres. Mr Philips approached us again last year, with a deadline of Easter 2012. This time we were able to raise funding of £16,000 to cover costs for the first of three phases which will complete the acquisition of the press by the Museum. Phase one covers the dismantling and move of the press to commercial storage in Glasgow. Phase two will see its reassembly to working condition and phase three the move to the Museum stores in Edinburgh.

Museum staff had been meeting regularly with members of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust (SPRAT) who lobbied for the preservation of the press as the last surviving example of its kind, and one with a unique Scottish story in both its development and use.

The Museum contracted Robert Mitchell of RMH Print Engineering Limited, Glasgow, to start the dismantling process on 16 March. The press

was located in the basement of David Philips Printers with access only by the steep, narrow alleyway at the side of the building, giving a maximum width for each load of ninety centimetres. It was down this alleyway that the parts had originally been delivered 105 years before, when the press was assembled under the personal supervision of the inventor Tom Cossar.

Robert Mitchell and colleague Graham spent three weeks dismantling the press (pictured above and right), each section being mounted on an individually-made pallet. The bed, consisting of one casting, was supported on its side in a purpose-made steel frame. Every section was marked up as it was removed and the whole process was documented by photograph or video.

The pallets were then either winched up the alleyway or hauled by hand, to be lifted from the pavement onto a flatbed lorry and trailer. The flywheels and driveshaft proved to be the widest load, with a ten millimetre clearance at the narrowest point of the alleyway. The side-frames with gearing still *in situ* were the heaviest single loads, estimated at over two tons each.

All the pallets are now stored at a commercial site in Glasgow. The Museum hopes to proceed to phase two of the project as swiftly as possible, while the dismantling sequence is still fresh in the minds of the print engineers. Funding for this next phase is currently being sought by the Scottish Printing Archival Trust (see page 4).

Brief history of the press

This web-fed flatbed newspaper press was developed around 1900 by marine engineer Thomas Cossar, whose father had established the Govan Press in Glasgow. As an adaptation of the two-



feeder Wharfedale flatbed press, intended specifically for newspaper work, the Yorkshire firm of Payne and Sons became interested and invited Cossar to join the company to develop and market his press. Its success lay in its relative compactness and transportability and in the replacement of the Wharfedale's feed-boards with a mechanism to handle paper reels. The Cossar did not need stereotype plates, so could be operated successfully by jobbing printers in remote locations. Around fifty examples of this type of Cossar were sold and installed around the Empire from New Zealand to South Africa and India in the early twentieth century, producing such newspapers as *The Rangoon mirror*, *The Diamond Fields advertiser* and *The Poverty Bay herald*.

The Crieff Cossar was installed in 1907 under the supervision of Thomas Cossar at the printworks owned by the Philips family since 1862. The machine could print around 3,000 newspapers an hour and is believed to be the last example of this model in existence.

The archive related to *The Strathearn herald* has been donated by Mr Philips to Crieff Public Library. Film of the last running of the Cossar press on 28 March 1991 can be seen on youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ebBp81JTcg

NEW BLOG

Trinity College Dublin's Department of Early Printed Books and Special Collections has recently launched a new blog, 'tales of mystery and pagination'. The blog focuses particularly on items and collections from the Department. The College hopes it will demystify the work of the Department of Early Printed Books and Special Collections and suggest ways the collections may be used in teaching. The blog is to be found at www.mysterypagination.wordpress.com.

NEW PRINTING HISTORY PUBLICATION: BRITISH CONTRIBUTOR SOUGHT

A handbook of the history of printing in Europe and the Mediterranean with a special focus on theatra, musicalia and orientalia is now being prepared under the auspices of the Don Juan Archiv Wien, a research institute in Vienna (see www.donjuanarchiv.at). It seeks to break new ground by treating Europe and its immediate neighbours to the east and south, principally the Ottoman Empire and its successor states, as a cultural whole. The work will focus on the printing and publishing of books, periodicals and ephemera in the areas of theatre, music and 'Orientalia'. Each entry will include bibliographies of primary and secondary sources.

A contributor is sought for the section on Great Britain, which is expected to contain approximately 12,000 words. Unfortunately the Archiv has no funds to provide payment, but contributors will receive two copies of the *Handbook* when published. The work is being edited by Dr Geoffrey Roper in London and Dr Michael Hüttler in Vienna. It will be in the English language, and is expected to be published in 2014. If you would like to contribute, or learn more of the project, please contact Dr Roper on gjr2@cam.ac.uk.

Crieff Cossar appeal

The Scottish Printing Archival Trust (SPRAT) is launching a campaign to preserve and restore the Cossar newspaper press which has recently been donated to National Museums Scotland (see page 3). The Museum has funded the first stage of the project, and SPRAT is seeking funds for the next stage, the

re-assembly and restoration of the press. Approximately £15,000 is needed to complete this phase. All donations of whatever size would be welcome. Further details of the appeal can be found at www.scottishprintarchive.org.

SMALL ADS

Imperial press. For sale, a 19th century Imperial press ('arming' press), in excellent condition having been fully restored (pictured below). The Imperial printing press was introduced by Cope and Sherwin around 1828. It was one of the many second generation hand press designs, combining the compound levers of the Stanhope with the toggle action that replaced the screw in the Albion and other presses, and had a lighter frame replacing the heavy Stanhope frame. Currently stored in London. Offers welcome. Please e-mail Krane Jeffery at kranejeffery@yahoo.co.uk.



NEW BOOKS

Tramping printers. A new book has been announced from the Poltroon Press, *Typographical tourists: tales of tramping printers*, edited by Alastair M. Johnston (178 pages, paperbound, \$20.00, plus \$5.00 for overseas postage). It is an anthology, illustrated with cuts and typographical ornaments from the 1880s, including entertaining essays and articles by Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Bill Nye, Opie Read, Hayden Carruth and many others. The subject is the wandering 'printers' (often, strictly speaking, compositors) who picked up work where they could in America, Europe

and the antipodes, carrying with them only a composing stick and, perhaps, a set of setting-rules. For further details and orders please contact the Press at snaporaz@gmail.com.

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 www.theoldschoolpress.com. The Old School Press, The Green, Hinton Charter-house, Bath BA2 7TJ, or info@theoldschoolpress.com.

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