

Printing History News

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

Number 47 ☆ Summer 2015

Printing History News: some thoughts from the new editor

I take over the editorship of *Printing History News* from Paul Nash with some anxiety, for I know that under Paul's editorship the *Newsletter* has set consistently high standards of news and information in both content and presentation, as surely befits a publication about printing.

We as readers owe a debt of gratitude to Paul for his years of faithful editorship; I shall endeavour to maintain those standards, and look forward to working with contributors to ensure that future issues are as full of interest as past issues have been.

For me, editorship of the *Newsletter* is another step on what has been a lifetime's journey through the world of print and words in all their forms – a journey which started at the age of 13 when I joined Wallasey Grammar School Press on the Wirral, from whence I served a five-year apprenticeship as a compositor at Tinlings of Liverpool and Prescot. After a short period in printing administration I taught letter assembly (composing) and publishing for 25 years at Liverpool College of Printing. In more recent times I have been a freelance copyeditor, proofreader and typesetter for major publishing houses.

Now, in retirement and running my own Silver Birch Press (the remnants of Wallasey Grammar School Press), I find myself thrust deeply into printing heritage work, especially though not confined to helping set up Juniper Press at Liverpool's Bluecoat – and advising and helping others to discover the wonders of traditional printing.

As a member of the National Printing Heritage Trust committee, and now editor of *PHN*, I am delighted to be able to contribute to the preservation and conservation of the craft which Beatrice Warde described as 'the gateway to the freedoms of the literate mind'.

ST BRIDE NEWS AND EVENTS

New prints of historic wood-engravings

St Bride has printed a series of new impressions of wood-engravings in the Library's collection. The blocks are from Henry Mayhew's 'London Labour and the London Poor', first published in the 1840s as a series of articles in the *Morning Chronicle* and reprinted in book form in 1851. The images show the common people and street vendors of early Victorian London, and were cut by Richard Beard, often after his own daguerreotypes. A large collection of the surviving blocks is now held at St Bride, and in March five of the best were chosen for a careful reprint. One hundred copies of each were printed in the St Bride printing workshop, and the prints are now for sale in support of the Library. The full set of five prints costs £100; a selection of three costs £70; and prints are available separately at £25. They can be bought by visiting the Library, or by contacting Gill Clayton at St Bride on 020 7353 3331, e-mail gill@sbf.org.uk.

St Bride Library

The St Bride Library is now closed to visitors while major rebuilding works are undertaken. All pre-booked appointments will be honoured, and the Library will continue to provide access for those with ongoing research, for as long as it is practical to do so. No new appointments can be accepted at the moment, although this decision will be reviewed at regular intervals. Lectures, printing workshops and other events will continue as usual. The online catalogue of the Library is available at prism.talis.com/cityoflondon and further details of the closure may be found at www.sbf.org.uk/library.

Workshops at St Bride's

Details of upcoming workshops can be found on the St Bride's website at <http://www.sbf.org.uk/print-workshop>.



Dürer Press Group

The Dürer Press Group ran a one-day introduction to printing on a wooden hand press on Friday 12 June, in which participants used the DPG's newly built press in the workshop at St Bride Foundation.

DPG member Claire Bolton will be teaching a week-long course on 'Understanding Incunabula' as part of London Rare Books School from 6 to 10 July. This course will include two days of practical experience at St Bride Foundation, working on the Dürer press; fellow DPG member Richard Lawrence will be collaborating on the practical days. Further information on the LRBS courses is available on the LRBS website.

We would also like to remind readers that the Dürer Press is intended for public use and study, and encourage them to contact the DPG or St Bride Foundation for more details: info@durerpress.co.uk.

BEN WEINER

Hartmann Schedel's World Chronicle

An English edition of the Munich exhibition catalogue *Worlds of Learning: The Library and World Chronicle of the Nuremberg Physician Hartmann Schedel (1440–1514)* has recently been published.

Over 90 manuscripts from Hartmann Schedel's library can be consulted via the publisher's website (search digitale-sammlungen) where you can also find some information on the exhibition (including two Youtube videos, in German).

For incunabula from Schedel's library, see <http://inkunabeln.digitale-sammlungen.de/sucheEin.html>.

The compiler of the Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493 and his book collection

The Nuremberg physician Hartmann Schedel (1440–1514) is known mainly as the compiler of the *World Chronicle* which was published by Anton Koberger in a Latin and German version in 1493 and which survives in more than 1,700 copies. The *Chronicle* is renowned as being the most lavishly illustrated incunabula, with more than

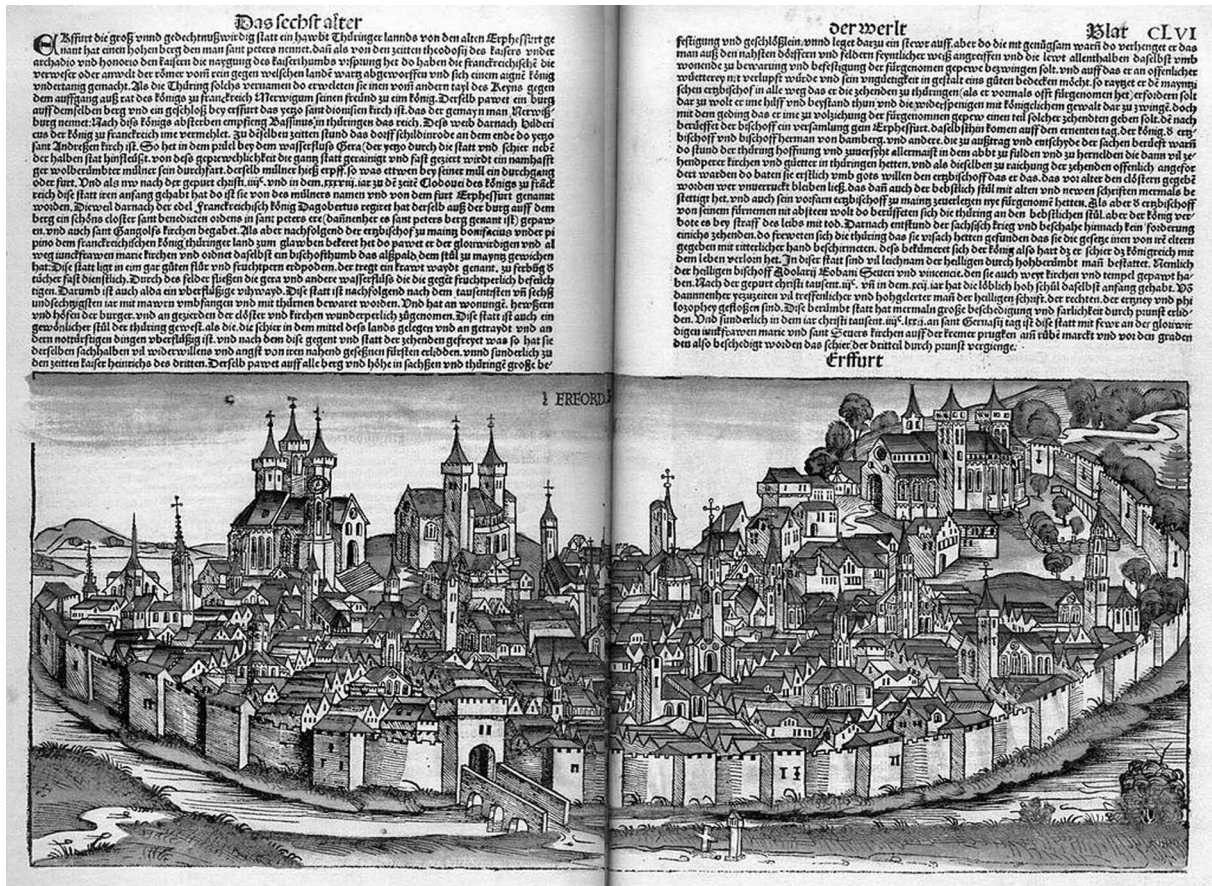
1,800 woodcuts depicting biblical and historical events and persons as well as numerous views of European towns, many of which are the earliest accurate representations of these cities. In contrast, the *Chronicle's* text has received scant attention. Hartmann Schedel compiled it from a large variety of sources that he had assembled over decades in the course of his studies and professional career, which took him to the universities of Leipzig and Padua before he finally settled in his home town of Nuremberg for the rest of his life.

This book accompanies an exhibition which was shown on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Hartmann Schedel's death at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich. Some 40 manuscripts and early printed books from the learned doctor's private collection were presented.

Schedel's book collection is one of the very rare examples of a late medieval private library to have survived the centuries in an unusually complete state. It spans a wide range of subjects, beginning with university textbooks on the arts and on medicine which Schedel copied by hand, and includes a large number of early printed books produced by German

and Italian presses. Schedel was interested in nearly all subjects: rhetoric, astronomy, philosophy, classical and humanist literature, historiography, geography and cosmography, medicine, law, theology. He enhanced his books with painted and printed images, and stored documents in them, among them letters he exchanged with a network of fellow humanists and book collectors, and notes concerning the acquisition of books. Some of his manuscripts contain detailed autobiographical information such as coats of arms and portraits of family members, inventories of property and books, records of journeys he undertook and accounts of important events. There is hardly another fifteenth-century author about whom we know so many private details from such a wide range of different sources. Through his unique manuscripts and rare incunables, Schedel springs to life for us as a person.

Worlds of Learning: The Library and World Chronicle of the Nuremberg Physician Hartmann Schedel (1440–1514). Ed. Bettina Wagner for the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich; Munich: Allitera Verlag, 2015; ISBN: 978-3-86906-757-5.



Believe Me, I Am: Selected Letters of Frederic Warde, 1921–1939



The designer and typographer Frederic Warde (1894–1939) was a deliberately enigmatic figure during his lifetime, but ironically a large amount of his correspondence has survived, which gives us a fascinating insight into not just the man and his life, but the world of design, typography, printing and publishing which he inhabited in the years between the world wars, both in the United States and Europe.

Following his 2013 biography of Warde, *Printer's Devil*, Simon Loxley has chosen 135 pieces of Warde's correspondence, covering the period from his self-introductory letter to his great friend William Kittredge in 1921 to just before his death in 1939.

This is a varied selection; some are conversational and gossipy, others business- and project-orientated, with financial and technical detail; some are short, some long. All the letters are fully annotated, and the book contains over 100 colour illustrations, not just of Warde's work, but of those he writes to, and about.

Believe Me, I Am is being produced in an edition of 125, and will be available from the St Bride Library online shop (www.sbf.org.uk/shop). For every copy sold, £5 will be donated to Amnesty International and £5 to Save The Children to help with the effects of the Ebola crisis. So you can enjoy what is guaranteed to be a fascinating insight into the inter-war design world, while knowing that you have helped make today's world a little better.

Friends of the National Printing Heritage Trust

Those on the list of current Friends of the National Printing Heritage Trust should have received a new membership card with the previous (Spring) number of *PHN*. However, some copies appear to have been omitted from the mailing, while others may have gone astray in the post; so, if you believe you are a Friend, but did not receive a card, please contact the Honorary Correspondent (see page 4).

PHS anniversary keepsake

The PHS fiftieth anniversary keepsake should be delivered to members later this year. The production of a stereotype plate has at last been achieved, and printing is now under way. This should be complete before this issue of *PHN* is in members' hands, and all that will then remain is the printing of a letterpress text to accompany the stone lithography page, and the collating, folding and sewing.

John Hinks

We are delighted to announce that Dr John Hinks, Chairman of the Printing Historical Society, has been made an Honorary Fellow in Printing History at Birmingham City University. John will be working with Prof. Caroline Archer in the Typographic Hub at BCU, and in the newly formed Centre for Printing History & Culture, a joint enterprise between the University of Birmingham and Birmingham City University. More information will be included in the next *Newsletter*. CAROLINE ARCHER

William Morris Society

The William Morris Society would welcome support demonstrating William Morris's Albion press to visitors to its museum on the Hammer-smith riverside, west London. We are open to the public on Thursday and Saturday afternoons 2–5pm, as well as extended hours for a number of special events during the year (such as Open House London). Occasional or regular help is very welcome. Additionally, we are happy to make the press available to professional printers for non-commercial projects. We have recently collaborated with artists and musicians in the production of various materials on the press. If interested, please email admin@williammorrisociety.org.uk or contact us on 0208 741 3735.

REBECCA ESTRADA-PINTEL

The Grange and a bit of printing history . . .

Based in the Shropshire lake district just a few miles north of Shrewsbury, the Grange is a privately owned Georgian house and gardens with its own bindery and letterpress print workshop and has developed as a vibrant centre for learning about traditional printing and bookbinding techniques.

Run by publishers Jon and Rose Ward-Allen it offers a unique range of residential courses that follow the creation of a traditional book right through from typography and printing to finished product. Other related courses include linocut printing, paper marbling and calligraphy. It hosts a very popular annual Book Day, free to all. This year it is held on 27 June, where letterpress printing, binding, marbling and other skills are demonstrated.

The press room has a range of restored letterpress machinery, all now fully operational, from a Hopkinson & Cope Albion from 1864, Arab and Eagle treadle presses and a Vandercook proofing press as well as numerous Adanas. In addition it holds a good range of wood and metal type.

Short courses for the rest of the year:

Letterpress: Friday 9 October to Sunday 11 October and Friday 23 October to Monday 26 October.

Bookbinding: Summer School 16 July to 20 July. Short course Friday 23 to Monday 26 October.

Linocut printmaking: Friday 25 September to Sunday 27 September.

Calligraphy: Friday 9 October to Sunday 11 October.

Marbling: Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 September.

For full details of its courses, or if you would just like to visit, please contact the Grange at: www.thegrange.uk.com.

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. 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.



Robert Smail's Printing Works

Robert Smail's Printing Works, the National Trust for Scotland's working letterpress printers, is to celebrate 150 years as a jobbing printers in 2016. Originally started by Robert Smail in 1866, it ran through three generations of the Smail family before being purchased by the NTS in 1986.

There are exciting plans for an Artist in Residency and a poster project with Napier University design students. There will be exhibitions, workshops, events and a new guidebook to showcase the archive and the future potential of this amazing property.

The works is open every year for tours from April until October where people can come and see the printing works and learn about this important trade. Visitors can also meet our Apprentice, originally funded in partnership with Historic Scotland through the Heritage Lottery Fund. His funding has now been extended through a generous donation from the Trust's President Ball Fund and will enable us to continue to conserve the traditional skills required to keep Smail's working beyond its first 150 years.

More information at www.nts.org.uk/smails or find us on Facebook: Robert Smail's Printing Works.

Baskerville Society

The Baskerville Society holds regular events, usually in and around Birmingham, on aspects of the life, work and influence of John Baskerville. For events see www.typographicclub.org (and click on the Society's tab).

Where is printing history being taught?

We are grateful to all those who replied to the question in *PHN* 44, and are collating the results for the National Printing Heritage Trust. A further question, related to the first, has been asked – Where is printing history being taught? Answers can similarly be sent to the Editor.

Bibliographical Society Lectures

Lectures are open to members of the Bibliographical Society and guests, and are held at University College, Gower Street, London WC1, beginning at 6pm. Website: <http://www.bibsoc.org.uk>.

Printing workshops in Oxford

The Bodleian Hand-Printing Workshop will host the following workshops at the Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP. Further details may be found on the Museum's website at www.storymuseum.org.uk. For booking please visit the website or telephone 01865 305305.

Family sessions: Aimed at parents and children, the session 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 attendee to set their name in metal type and print it as part of a keepsake. Suitable for children aged eight and over, accompanied by an adult. Tutor: Paul W. Nash or Michael Daniell. Running: 2–4pm on Saturday 18 July and Saturday 15 August 2015. Fee: £8 per child, £10 per adult.

Monotype Recorder

John Trevitt is compiling a catalogue of the *Monotype Recorder* in and since the era of Stanley Morison. He would be interested to buy all or any issues, starting with number 187 (January–February 1922), and then sell any duplicates. He sells secondhand books through Abebooks, trading as Typographia, and can be reached via email: jj@trevitt.freeserve.co.uk or through the post at Rose Cottage, Church Road, Weobley HR4 8SD, tel: 01544 318388.

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.

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