

Printing History News

The Newsletter of the Printing Historical Society and
Friends of St Bride Library

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Michael Passmore: A personal tribute

It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of one of the founders and first chairman of the National Printing Heritage Trust, Michael Passmore, following a fall the day after his ninety-th birthday.

Michael, of the printing firm Passmore International, was held in high esteem by his many friends, and especially through his long connection with the, then, British Federation of Master Printers. It was in the headquarters of this organisation, in Bedford Row, that Michael organised the formal launch of the Trust. His many personal contacts in the printing industry, along with his warm and friendly personality, resulted in both financial and moral support for the Trust. But, like myself, he became disappointed that its primary aim, the setting up of a National Museum of Printing and Related Trades, similar to those already established in several countries, remains unrealised. On reaching the age of 70 he had, as was then the requirement of the Charity Commission, to retire as a trustee and relinquish his chairmanship, but he continued for many years on the Trust's Advisory Committee.

On a personal level, Michael and his wife, Anne, became good friends, and my wife and I had several enjoyable meals with them when they drove up from Kent to visit Michael's late sister who lived just a few miles from us over the border in Wales, or when Michael was involved in the 'Jesse James' adventure centre for young people in Snowdonia.

Michael was also a down-to-earth practical printer, and his workshop at his home in Kent housed a Monotype installation which was regularly used by himself and a group of retired men who had been in the printing industry. Each year he produced a tastefully designed Christmas card, usually set in his favourite type, Garamond.



Like all the many people Michael befriended, I shall miss him very much. He was a pillar of the traditional printing industry that so many of us enjoyed being a part of.

DEREK NUTTALL, MBE

PHS Journal

The next number of the *Journal* of the Printing Historical Society (No. 29, for Winter 2018) is due to be published in December and will contain the following articles: an obituary of late PHS President Iain Bain; Michael Twyman on 'Giovanni Battista Belzoni's Portrait Frontispiece in the Various Editions of his *Narrative of the Operations and Recent Discoveries . . . in Egypt and Nubia*'; Wiesław Cetera on 'The Polish Printing Industry After 1945: With a Case-study of the Buszczyński Printing House'; Bornha Izadpanah on 'Early Persian Printing and Typography in Europe'; Vaibhav Singh on 'The First Indian-script Typeface on the Monotype: A Missing Chapter in the History of Mechanical Typesetting'; and Riccardo Olocco on 'The Jenson Roman: Its Mutations and Spread in Fifteenth-century Italy'; followed by reviews.

It will be a substantial number, foreshadowing the intended bulk of volumes in the Third Series of the *Journal*, which will begin annual publication in 2020. The *Journal's* Editor (see page 4) welcomes submissions of papers, offers of

papers and reviews, and suggestions for papers and for books to review. There is now a page of 'Notes for Contributors' on the Society's website at <http://printinghistoricalsociety.org.uk/publications/>.

News from St Bride's

Design Educator Glen Robinson has been connecting generations of graphic design students and graduates with one another for over a decade. Collectively and individually they have made an indelible mark on his life. Together with past students Rick Banks (Face37), Marianne Waller (CNN Digital) and current students Rowan Collins and Olivia Bush (studying Design for Publishing) they will share some personal insights from their creative lives and loves in 'Talkin' 'bout My G-g-g-generation' on Tuesday 27 November 2018 at 7pm. Tickets: £8-£12.50.

Peter Silver (Chair, St Bride Foundation Board of Trustees) writes: 'Pankaj Vyas (who has been acting manager) has recently left St Bride's. The Trustees are very grateful for the excellent work he has done for the Foundation, particularly since the departure of our last Foundation Manager. The financial responsibilities he has we will transfer to a new member of staff, a part-time Financial Manager (including Company Secretary) and this appointment has been advertised externally, with interviews to be conducted in due course. As an interim position, Alison Lee has agreed to cover the newly defined role of Foundation Manager, and the Trustees are discussing a permanent way forward.

Would you like to support us by becoming a Friend of St Bride Library? For £5 a month, you will benefit from discounts on our lectures and conferences, free retrieval for items in our Closed Access collections viewed in the Library reading room, and bi-annual email updates on how your donations are helping.



Prince Charles at Gwydir Press (Gwasg Gwydyr)

His Royal Highness Prince Charles paid a visit to Gwydir Press, in the delightful setting of Gwydir Castle, Llanrwst, during his tour of north Wales in early July. During his visit to the Press, the Prince watched type being handset and a keepsake being printed on the Press's Cropper platen. The Press was set up seven years ago to publish and print by letterpress fine, hand-bound limited-edition books. More information at: www.gwydirpress.com.

'More Than Just Books'

The exhibition 'More Than Just Books: Four Centuries of Printing in Glasgow', organised by the Scottish Printing Archival Trust, will open in early November at The Lighthouse just off Buchanan Street in Glasgow, originally built as the printing works for the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper. It will continue until the end of the year: the events programme is under development and will be publicised through the Trust's website and Twitter-feed.

The Trust has also published a new leaflet on the printing industry in Glasgow, available through the Trust's online shop.

HELEN WILLIAMS
(scottishprintarchive.org)

Bristol Wayzgoose

Saturday 1 December, 11am to 5pm at Centrespace, 6 Leonard Lane, Bristol BS1 1EA – letterpress books, posters, prints and cards, new and used type, printing demos, cafe and bar.

Winter Wayzgoose at The Story of Books

This traditional gathering of printers, bookbinders and papermakers returns to The Story of Books, with a festive theme, on Saturday 24 November at 20 Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5DF.

From 10am to 3pm there will be tabletop stalls selling books and prints, with printing presses set up for you to print your own Christmas card for just £2 each. Please join us for folk music, coffee and pastries, 'Printer's Pie' and glühwein.

There is also the opportunity to see two exhibitions: '#NoWords: A Celebration of Wordless Picture Books', and '250 Years of John Murray Press', that will introduce our new Four o'Clock Friends programme of events.

At 6pm we are launching *The Charm of Magpies* from Incline Press, and The Rhona Muirhead Prize for printing. This will be followed by a candlelit Winter Wayzgoose supper at 20 Castle Street. Tickets for this are £10 per head. Please email Emma Balch at info@thestoryofbooks.com to reserve your place. More information at: www.thestoryofbooks.com.

George Mann & Co. Ltd

Malcolm Gibbons (malcolm.gibbons@xtra.co.nz) writes: 'I have in my possession a copy of the House Organ of George Mann & Co. Ltd: an interesting publication of about 1926 giving technical and other information about the company and its staff. I wonder if it has any value to any individual or organisation who may have an interest in the history of the industry?'

Recent conference reports

'Women in Print: Production, Consumption and Distribution', Birmingham, 13–14 September 2018.

The conference 'Women in Print' focused on the relationship between women and print; women as producers, consumers and distributors. Organised by the Centre for Printing History and Culture and hosted by the University of Birmingham, the conference attracted a truly international audience. This interdisciplinary conference sought to recover the lives, work and impact of the women who were active in all aspects of printing and print culture.

Lectures included Professor Helen Smith (University of York) who explored the relationships between 'widows, orphans and other errors', on and off the early modern page. Sessions also covered aspects of women producing and consuming print, with papers such as Sébastien Morlighem's 'A Tale of Two Elizabeths: Renovating the Caslon Foundry' which told the intricate story of William Caslon's foundry.

CONNIE WAN

'Script, Print and Letterforms in Global Contexts'.

This international conference on contemporary and historical aspects of printing, print culture and typography, took place at Birmingham City University's Faculty of Art, Design and Media on 28–29 June. The event was made possible by the support of the Centre for Printing History and Culture (CPHC), the Bibliographical Society and Birmingham City University.

Topics ranged from manuscripts and printed texts in several scripts of the world, to technologies of production, forms of notation (including music and pictographic depictions), to the wider social, political and economic aspects of production and textual practices, as well as new approaches to archival material and book-historical research. The breadth of the conference's theme brought together an interdisciplinary group of scholars, researchers and practitioners who found a constructive setting in which to discuss matters of common interest.

Reconstructing presses

Alan May has recently launched a website describing his work on reconstructing printing presses, hand-moulds and other early printing equipment and techniques at www.makerpress.co.uk.



John Jarrold Museum

The future of the John Jarrold Printing Museum in Norwich has been called into question because plans to redevelop the site will include demolition of its existing location.

The latest Press Release (10 October) states:

‘As you can imagine, as dedicated members we feel very strongly that this amazing collection should not be consigned to the terrible fate of being a “café display” or indeed sent to the scrap heap, should the worst come to the worst. Printing is a part of our heritage, and historic Norwich is an ideal location for a museum such as this, being a thriving artistic hub, a UNESCO City of Literature, and with fine educational institutions such as UEA and NUA, both of which regularly use the Museum as part of their curriculum. The Museum is visited by people from all over the world, and is admired and greatly loved.’

Further details can be found at: <http://www.jarrold.com/what-we-do/museum.aspx>.

Ffowndri

Ffowndri is a new, not-for-profit letterpress/art studio on the site of the former Talargoch lead mine in Dyserth, Flintshire. The studio aims to promote the use of letterpress and related arts and crafts, providing open access membership and opportunities to learn and experiment through workshops, open days and supported sessions. More information at www.Ffowndri.co.uk.

Centre for Printing History and Culture: Calls for papers

‘The Art of Transient Print’, to be held on 9 and 10 July 2019 at Liverpool John Moores University.

This is an opportunity to take a fresh look at the printed material too often regarded as trash – either by its contemporaries, who regarded it as disposable, or by the academy which until recently has tended to treat such items as beneath contempt.

We invite papers on topics such as those listed below, the emphasis throughout being on the production, distribution and consumption of such items. Papers should consider any of the following aspects of the book trades in the British Isles: technology, typography and design; the people, printers, publishers and distribution networks involved; pricing and sales; buyers and readers. Contributions on all periods of print from early modern to the present are welcome.

Proposals for papers (20–30 minutes), panels (one hour) or presentations on aspects of the following or related topics are welcome: magazines; cheap novels; comic prints and cartoons; sketches and scraps; song sheets and ballads; almanacs; advertisements and flyers; manufacturers’ free booklets; political pamphlets; chapbooks; and a host of other ephemera.

Abstracts (c.300 words) should be accompanied by a brief biography.

All proposals for papers, and applications for the postgraduate fellowship, should be submitted by 31 January 2019 via the calls for papers page hosted by the Centre for Printing History and Culture at: <https://www.cphc.org.uk/calls-for-papers/>

‘The Poetics of Print’, a one-day symposium to be held on 21 February 2019 at Winterbourne House and Garden, University of Birmingham.

This symposium aims to explore the manifold relations between literature and the technologies, practices and cultures of print, from the invention of the printing press to the present day. The symposium will seek to assemble a diverse group of scholars and practitioners from both sides of the literature–print interface, and to promote interdisciplinary discussion about the manifestations of English-language literature in print.

Proposals for 20-minute papers are invited from academics, doctoral students and independent scholars in literary studies, history of the book, printing history, art history and other relevant disciplines, and from practitioners in printing, publishing, creative writing and the fine and applied arts. Topics may include, but are not limited to: printer-authors, and authors’ involvement in the printing of their own work; handwriting and print: from manuscript to printed page; autographs, inscriptions, marginalia; typography, illustration, mise-en-page, book design; literary representations of printing and print culture.

Please send a title, 300-word abstract and short bio as a PDF or Word attachment to clemt@contacts.bham.ac.uk by 14 December 2018.



Type Directors’ Club Beatrice Warde Scholarship

To honour the memory of Beatrice Warde, the Type Directors’ Club, in collaboration with Monotype, has named a scholarship after the great ‘lady of typography’ – appropriately in the fiftieth year after her death. The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to the student ‘whose work demonstrates exceptional talent, sophistication and skill in the use of typography’.

Deadline for submissions is 22 February 2019, and full details can be found at: www.tdc.org/beatrice-warde-scholarship.

Printing Historical Society: AGM condensed report

Held at the St Bride Foundation on 23 May 2018.

Chairman's report

This has been another rather difficult year, largely due to the lack of a permanent Treasurer. Our very grateful thanks to Francis Cave for carrying out the role of acting Treasurer for a second year. Thanks also to Andrew Dolinski, former Treasurer, who has kindly provided advice and assistance with the preparation of the Society's accounts.

I am pleased to report that the Society has recently become associated with the Centre for Printing History and Culture, a joint venture between Birmingham City University and the University of Birmingham, of which Caroline Archer is co-director.

To end on a sad note, I regret to have to report the deaths of Iain Bain, Life President of the Society, and Ken Brooks, who served for many years as Treasurer.

Secretary's report

We currently have 297 individual members on our books, which includes 209 in the United Kingdom and 88 overseas members. Twenty-four of these are Supporting Members, choosing to make donations to the Society in addition to the annual subscription. There are 116 institutional members, of which 21 are in the United Kingdom. These figures represent a small but, I believe, significant increase on the figures I presented at last year's AGM.

With assistance from the Committee, I have drafted a Privacy Policy for the Society, which explains what personal data the Society holds concerning individual members, how we hold it and what we do with it. This Privacy Policy is available on our website, and all members whose email address we hold have been asked for their consent for us to use their personal data in line with this Privacy Policy. Our membership application and renewal processes will in future require that members give similar consent.

Publications Secretary's report

The Publications Sub-committee has met once in the past year. The Society continues to publish *Printing History News* and the *Journal* according to the established pattern. In 2019 it is planned to publish a double number of the *Journal* to end the current series, and it is proposed thereafter to start a third series of the *Journal*, to be published annually. Annual publication would offer a number of advantages, including the opportunity to publish articles of

greater length than in the current series, as well as cost advantages, and could be achieved without any reduction in the overall extent of articles published each year. The design for the third series would follow closely the design of the current series.

The Society is not currently publishing monographs, but a number of projects are awaiting a resumption of monograph publishing at some future date.

Presentation of the Society's 2017 accounts

The financial statements for the year 1 January to 31 December 2017 were presented to the AGM by Francis Cave. Copies are available to members from the Hon. Secretary upon request.

NPHC Sub-committee report

The NPHC Sub-committee has met twice in the past year. Work has been focused upon preparing a directory of printing heritage in the United Kingdom for online publication, and on lobbying and exploring options for the creation of a National Printing Museum.

Grants & Prizes Sub-committee report

For the 2018 research grants a total of 11 applications was submitted by researchers in the UK, Europe and USA. Very interesting projects were proposed, covering a wide geographical and chronological range. From a strong field the sub-committee selected four applicants to receive grants (for details see the report in PHN 59).

Events Sub-committee report

The Society enabled a successful workshop to be held in London in December 2017, one of the continuing Interactions series, at which a group of printing historians and cartographic historians explored areas of common interest and concern. The Society plans to host its next conference in 2019.

By the end of 2017 the Society found itself in a much improved financial position and the Trustees were able to agree to resume the Society's programme of research grants. Four grants were awarded earlier in 2018.

Elections of officers and Committee members

Mr David Osbaldestin was proposed for election as Honorary Treasurer of the Society, to serve for a period of three years, and was duly elected. Dr Paul Nash was proposed for re-election as Publications Secretary, to serve for a further period of three years, and was duly elected. The following were proposed for election to the Committee for a period of two years and were duly elected: Caroline Archer, Sebastian Carter, Richard Lawrence, James Mosley, Pia Östlund, Vaibhav Singh (new elected member).

For sale

The first ten years' editions of the Printing Historical Society's *Journal*, in perfect condition, along with Newsletters 22–42, including various enclosures sent with them. Any reasonable offer, plus postage, and they are yours.

Also, Monotype Catalogue ('All Typefaces, Rules and Ornaments', 1979), 11 inches by 9 inches, hard cover, loose leaf. Complete volume, weighs 3.75 kg. Any reasonable offer, plus postage. In Dunstable area, so could be collected rather than posted. Contact Anthony Roberts, 01525 839691.

CONTACTS

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All enquiries about purchasing the Society's publications and applications for membership should be made via the Society's website or by email to the Hon. Secretary.

ST BRIDE LIBRARY

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