



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

April 2013

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Meeting recall:

When Gabrielle Falkiner introduced Lida Lopes Cardozo to the Guild on 8 April, she promised a talk on lettering in stone that would inform and entertain. Lida did both. She told us how she had come in 1976 to be an apprentice to David Kindersley (died 1995) in the same way as he had previously started as an apprentice to Eric Gill in 1934. The ethos of Gill endures in the Kindersley workshop today: 'Mr Gill was a hard worker' and 'Stonecutting is a discipline'.

Lida introduced us to the tools - a pitch, a hammer, a point, a claw, the tungsten-tipped chisels, and a mallet - and how workers in the Kindersley workshop in Cambridge approach the job 'earthed and relaxed'. We learnt that the first task of the apprentice is to sharpen a pencil: 'Sharpening the pencil is like meditation or prayer - a precise business', the outcome being an elegant point that exposes several centimetres of wood and lead four or five times longer than that produced by a mechanical pencil sharpener.

Lida's descriptions of the letters of the alphabet included such terms as 'avoiding the wandering point of the capital A', 'the step in the R', and 'the aggressive T'. We learnt of the concern of lettercutters that their work should last for posterity despite the effect of weathering. Though the thin strokes may weather over time into obscurity, the message will still be carried by the thickly carved strokes of each letter.

Then we were shown a breathtaking range of examples: sundials, memorials, and inscriptions on buildings, most notably the entrance to the British Library where the Kindersleys not only executed the lettering but also designed the gates.

By the end of the talk Lida had our heads spinning with lively letters and flourishes. We could understand why David Kindersley used to describe himself as an alphabetician practising alphabetic.

As Miles said in his concluding words of thanks, we had experienced an evening of delightful vivacity.

Michael Daniell

Guild meetings

Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held at the Bell in Charlbury, at 7:30 for 8:00p.m. The Bell serves food (as well as drink, naturally) and some members have taken to dining there before meetings. If you would like to order food in advance to avoid the rush, please contact Lidia Dhorn on 01608 810278.

Tuesday 7th May

John Randle: *Vance Gerry and the Weather Bird Press*. For those members who missed it, John will give a reprise of his Alan Hancox Memorial Lecture given at the Cheltenham Literary Festival in 2012.

Thursday 30th May

Visit to the Wormsley Library, arranged by the late Dr Simon McMinn.

Monday 3rd June

Martyn Ould (Old School Press): 'Banging out the Bibles: printing Bibles by the million at OUP in the 1770s'.

P.T.O.

From the Chairman:

I hope everyone enjoyed Peter White's initiative of 'Printing on Show'. I thought it was tremendously worthwhile and I'm most grateful to him and to all those who contributed to it. It has not been discussed by your Committee but I am in no doubt that it should be repeated next year. As I've said elsewhere there will be Guild members who will think themselves accursed that they lay abed and failed to print something for this bundle. Think about it now and be ready to contribute next time!

Lida Kindersley's talk, as is evident from Michael's account, was highly enjoyable. She was suggested and invited as a speaker by member Gabrielle Falkiner to whom we owe a debt of thanks. Please consider her example and let me know of any suggestions you may have for speakers; it's a most helpful way of easing the task of the Event's Secretary!

Wormsley Library Visit, Thursday 30th May. There are still a few places left for this jaunt. I'm assured by those who have already been there that it should not lightly be overlooked. When I have precise details of the day I will contact all those who have told me that they want to come.

Small Ads:

For sale: One Super Double Royal Albion Handpress (38"x24" bed) possibly by Ulmer, with brass supplier's plate for Miller and Richard. Excellent con-dition. All enquiries by email to: dayajoti.2@gmail.com

For sale: Martyn Ould (The Old School Press) will soon be selling some surplus paper and type. If you would like to hear by email when he has a list please contact him at mao@theoldschoolpress.com.

Wanted: From Stephen Kenny: My love of typography & printing lead me to study Fine Art and then Graphic Design. In 2007 I established A Two Pipe Problem letterpress. My clients include Innocent Smoothies, Tate Enterprises, Profile Books and M&C Saatchi. My stockists include The Design Museum, Liberty and The V&A. My cards and prints are available in stores in Stockholm, Vancouver, Paris, LA, Sydney and Tokyo. In June 2013 I'll be having my first show in Tokyo & Osaka.

Items wanted:

- 1 - Medium sized proofing press, print area 32 x 45 cm or slightly larger
- 2 - Wood type 8 - 18 lines - both 'jobbing' and unusual
- 3 - Old rollers
- 4 - Quoins and quoin key
- 5 - Wood furniture

Contact details:

Email: stephen.kenny71@gmail.com
Address: A Two Pipe Problem Letterpress
10 Maynard Road, London E17 9JG
Mobile: 07786 640 053
Website: www.atwopipeproblem.com

Chipping Campden Literature Festival:

Tuesday 30 April 9:30am-3:30pm in the Town Hall: Jonathan Korejko gives step-by-step guidance as participants explore the joy of creating handmade paper from a variety of ingredients.

Friday 3 May 11:00am in the Library: Will Hill's talk on the history and importance of typography.

Saturday 4 May 10:00am-4:00pm in the Town Hall: **Louisa Hare** and other printers hold a sale of rare and irresistible work, including books, posters, cards, bookplates, wood engravings, antiquarian fine press volumes, letter press equipment and papers.

Oxfordshire Art Weeks

From 4th to 27th May 2013 Oxfordshire artists and craftspeople will open their studios to the public for the county's most important arts festival.

Members will be particularly interested in the many print-makers who form part of the almost 500 exhibitions throughout the county.

For more information pick up a brochure from booksellers, cafes, galleries and museums in Oxfordshire, or see the website for a downloadable version: <http://www.artweeks.org/>

