



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

# NEWSLETTER

February 2011

*This month's editor* Paul W. Nash 01608 654349 paul@strawberrypress.co.uk  
*Next month's editor* Brian Clarke 01295 738535 brian@balscotepress.com

*Chairman*  
Miles Wigfield 01285 750662

*Vice-Chairmen*  
Colin Cohen 01869 377040  
Richard Lawrence 01865 424594

*Events Secretary*  
Louisa Hare 01608 685924

*Treasurer and Membership Secretary*  
Michael Daniell 01865 510378

## The Oxford Guild of Printers' short story competition

Expressions of interest are sought by the Committee from members of the Guild who would be interested in printing the winning entry of this competition. In summary, the competition is open to residents of Oxfordshire and students at the University who have not previously had fiction published. There is a limit of 2,000 words for each story. It is proposed that the OGP and the Department of Continuing Education will publish the winning entry jointly. The edition will be of 250 copies, unillustrated and case-bound. Ten percent of the edition will be presented to the winning author. The remainder will be distributed between the publishers, though the printer may opt for a proportion of the edition to distribute on his/her own account. It is hoped to have a winner announced by June with a view to having the book finished by October. The Guild proposes to fund the production of this book and hopes to recoup some of the costs by selling copies of the edition. These arrangements remain fluid and open to negotiation. We would hope to have a firm commitment by the end of March. Please contact the Chairman directly if you would like to be considered for this exciting project, on: miles.wigfield@btopenworld.com or 01285 750662.

## Meeting recall

A large group of merry Guild members gathered at The Bell in Charlbury on 7 February to observe the film *Proceed and be Bold*. It tells the story of Amos Paul Kennedy, a black American printer who has come to letterpress in middle life, after a career in Information Technology. With the touch of ink on paper he seems to have found his vocation, and happiness. The film is, perhaps, a little overlong at around 90 minutes, but its subject is certainly full of *joie de vivre* and *joie de typographie*. Kennedy is also full of contradictions, convictions and disputatiousness, and uses his printing – initially of books, latterly of broadsheets and posters – as a means of expressing his love of life and his anger at injustice and the insidious

## Guild meetings

Meetings are held at the Bell in Charlbury, and start at 7:30 for 8:00 p.m. The Bell serves food (as well as drink, naturally) and some members have taken to dining there before meetings. The food is recommended, and there is often a special (and very pleasing) £6.00 menu available from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Monday 7 March** *Emil Rudolph Weiss: master type-designer*. An illustrated talk by Graham Moss.

**Monday 4 April** *Typecasting*. Talk and demonstration by Geoff Hulett, formerly of Stephenson Blake.

**Monday 2 May** *The Pen and the Quill*. Calligraphy in performance by Paul Antonio.

## Other events of interest

*Lucien Pissarro in England: the Eragry Press 1895–1914*. Exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PH, Saturday 8 January–Sunday 13 March. Admission free. The Ashmolean celebrates the work of painter, wood-engraver and printmaker, Lucien Pissarro (1863–1944) with the first comprehensive display of the Eragry Press.

P.T.O.

prejudices and preconceptions of his fellow Americans. His work is often axiomatic, confrontational, amusing and very much in the contemporary fashion for the use of bashed-about wood-type to create layers and patterns of colour, overlaid (and underlaid) with text. During the course of the film one meets a good many of Mr Kennedy's friends, students and family, including his charming 'beloved', and learns perhaps a little more of him than one does of his printing. Nevertheless, it was a most enjoyable and entertaining presentation.

---

---

## Yellow pages

A proposal was made at the last OGP meeting to expand members' *Sales/Wants/Swaps/Freebies/Help Sought and Offered*, both at our meetings and in the *Newsletter*. This could benefit, in particular, new members and also those venturing for the first time into the black art of letterpress printing. Some older (and wiser?) members might be delighted to share their expertise. At the meeting one member requested a composing stick (fulfilled on the spot) another offered cases of foundry Madonna Ronde (no takers at the time, but now happily re-homed) and another offered a small supply of Colles letter-paper watermarked 1809 (for free, taken on the spot). Yet another would like some Adana blocks (for use, not for collecting). It indicated the value of attending meetings ...

Peter White

## Small ads

The printing workshop at Dartington Hall is moving to smaller premises, and the following type is now available for sale ('all reasonable offers considered'). If interested, please contact Mary Bartlett by telephone on 01803 865371 or by e-mail on [mary.bartlett@virgin.net](mailto:mary.bartlett@virgin.net). *In case:* 24-pt Script (has the mark SG with an anchor); 30-pt Script; 36-pt Script with kerning capitals; 48-pt Script; 24- and 36-pt Perpetua italic (angled body); 24- and 48-pt; Perpetua italic; 12- and 14-pt Perpetua bold titling; 12- and 14-pt Perpetua Bold Titling; 12- and 18-point Perpetua Titling; 18-pt Old

English; 12-, 14- and 18-pt Bodoni; 18- and 30-pt Berkely Script; 12-, 14-, 18- and 24-pt Madonna Ronde; 36-pt Madonna Ronde (missing upper case H); 24-pt Grot; 24-pt Grot Bold; 30-pt Grot Bold Condensed (missing A, N, c, r, s, v, x, y); 10-pt Goudy Old Style; 12-pt Univers Bold Condensed; 14/16-pt Univers Extra Bold; 48-pt Pica condensed; 12/18-pt Goudy Text. *On galleys:* 36-pt Dorchester script; 36-pt Goudy italic; 30-pt Baskerville italic; 24-pt Frenchwood Ronde; 18-pt Flash; 18-pt Univers Medium; 30-pt Bodoni condensed; 30-pt Ronde Medium; 12-pt Script; 18- and 24-pt Old English. *In boxes:* 36-pt Perpetua (two founts, brand new); 10-pt Times Italic; 18-pt Bodoni Heavy Italic; 18- and 24-pt Palace Script; 30-pt Madonna Ronde; 36-pt Univers Bold; 14-pt Flash; Broadway in various sizes. *In small trays:* 14- and 18-pt Perpetua italic; 18- and 36-pt Perpetua Bold; 10-pt Clarendon; 10-, 16- and 36-pt Dianne; 24- and 36-pt Dorchester Script; 24-pt Old English Text (caps only); 24-pt Times Extra Bold; 30-pt Madonna Ronde. *Also available:* 10-pt calender type; boxes of square ornaments 14-, 18-, 60- and 72-point; various ornaments; wood type; Resalite furniture; boxes of brass rule; numbering boxes; wood/lead racks; galleys; composing sticks; a lead-cutter; a three-section galley rack in good condition; a large bookpress with central wheel; a quantity of blocking foil.

---

---

Please send contributions for the next *Newsletter* to Brian Clarke ([brian@balscotepress.com](mailto:brian@balscotepress.com))

---

---

Highlights include the thirty-two books printed by Lucien and his wife Esther at their home in London, with paintings by his father, Camille Pissarro, letters and family photographs from the Pissarro Family Archive, held at the Ashmolean.

*At the cutting edge: the history and current practice of wood engraving.* Lecture by Peter Lawrence, to be held at the Ashmolean Museum on Saturday 5 March from 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. Admission is free, but pre-booking online is required. This is a re-run of the talk originally given on 29 January, which several Guild members attended and reported favourably upon, and is being run in conjunction with the current Ashmolean exhibition on Lucien Pissarro (see above).

*Brought to book: book history and the idea of literature.* Lecture by Professor Paul Eggert (Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow, University of New South Wales). This, the 16th annual D. F. McKenzie Lecture will be held on Wednesday 2 March at 5:00 p.m. in Lecture Theatre 2 at the St Cross Building, Oxford. All are most welcome!



The crude wood-engraving reproduced above is from *A popular dictionary of facts and knowledge* (5th edition, 1838), where it accompanies the entry on TYPEFOUNDER, which reads only 'an artisan who casts type with great rapidity'. What more does one need to know (except, perhaps, where to buy the natty hat)?