



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

Flaming June 2011

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Meeting recall

On Monday 6 June a large contingent of nearly thirty Guild members converged on Stonehouse in Gloucestershire to visit John Grice's Evergreen Press, Tom Mayo's printing office, and Stan Lane's Gloucester Typesetting. There was a great deal to see. John showed us his recently-acquired Britannia press, a massive iron hand-press of mid-nineteenth-century manufacture; he now has six presses of various sizes, which he uses to produce work of all sorts, from small cards to thunderous books. His largest recent project, the 'Sark Book', was under wraps on Monday evening, at the publisher's request (though some members may have seen it on the Fine Bindery visit last year). There was much on view, however, including beautiful work for the Edward Thomas Society (a collection of his poetry illustrated with wood-engravings), for Hilary Paynter (editioned prints of her wood-engravings), a volume of poems by Swami with illustrations printed at the Curwen Studios, and a lovely selection of pamphlets printed for Anthony Baker's Gruffyground Press and Mark Askam's Chestnut Press (bound in subtle shades of Canadian hand-made paper).

Tom Mayo, though barely moved-in, made us very welcome in his new studio and showed members the fine display of letterpress posters on his walls, mostly printed with wood-type. Some were his own work, others were by friends and heroes, including a friend in Zurich with whom he works. Also on display was *A vision of order*, a book of Andrew Anderson's linocuts which Tom spent the best part of a year working on for John Randle at Whittington (one of the Press's most ambitious and spectacular projects to date). For his part, Stan Lane had two Monotype casters up and running to the delight and interest of all. There is nothing quite like the sight, smell and racket of a caster in full flight, turning out line upon line of shining type. The Chairman's guests, one of whom was a past President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, seemed particularly enthralled. Stan moved from the casters to the Monotype keyboard, where he answered questions on keyboarding and justification and explained how the three adjustable parts of the keyboard have to be changed for each font. It was all quite straightforward, he

Guild meetings

Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held at The Bell in Charlbury, at 7:30 for 8:00 p.m.

Monday 4 July, *Visit to the Printing Works of the Oxford Times*. Meet at Newsquest House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ at 7:00 p.m. (nearest pub: The Punter). The visit will be limited to ten members, so if you would like to attend please contact Louisa Hare on 01608 685924 to book a place.

Monday 1 August, *Treasures (and treasured memories) of Saint Bride*. Ursula Jeffries will talk on the history and holdings of the St Bride Library, Fleet Street, and evoke her grandfather's period as a trainee 'comp' there at the turn of the last century.

Monday 5 September, to be announced.

Monday 3 October, Barry McKay will speak on a subject dear to his heart (which one is yet to be announced).

Monday 7 November, to be announced.

P.T.O.



assured us, as long as you have all the parts. The members arrived at 6:00 p.m. and spent a good three hours enjoying the delights of Stonehouse. The Guild is most grateful to John, Tom and Stan for hosting such a fascinating and informative evening.

New book

Do you want it good, or do you want it Tuesday? The halcyon days of W.S. Cowell Ltd, printers by Ruth Artmonsky. Designed by Brian Webb, this study of one of England's great printing houses of the last century has been published by the author's Artmonsky Press. The text concludes with essays by Geoffrey Smith on autolithographic progress and plastic film, and by Noel Carrington on autolithography using plastic plates. Available from the publisher or from Barry McKay Rare Books (017683 52282, barry.mckay@virgin.net) at £15.00 plus postage. 500 copies. Paper covers, 175 × 215 mm, 106 pages with 91 colour and 17 monochrome illustrations.

Small ads

Type cabinets for sale. Ken Wilson writes: 'I have three type cabinets, complete with drawers available for sale. Dimensions are: two at 38 inches wide by 22 inches deep by 68 inches high; and one at 38 inches wide by 16 inches deep by 76 inches high. The smaller ones have 33 cases each. The taller one holds 40 cases. All are

old but in good condition. A little cleaning is needed. Buyer collects from Berwickshire in Scotland'. Offers Please to Ken Wilson at kennethblueswilson@gmail.com.

Albion and paper for sale. A crown (15 × 20 inch platen) Albion press made by Harrild and Sons (pictured below). It is well-maintained and in excellent condition, complete with a tympan, frisket, two book-chases and a two-handled roller. Offers in the region of £2,500 to Dr Derek Nuttall on 01244 660501 or e-mail nuttall.r.d.n@btinternet.com. The press is in Chester, and the buyer will need to organize transport. Also available: a range of papers, hand- and mould-made, offered at modest prices. Please contact Dr Nuttall for further details.



P.S. Thank you

Thanks to John Grice for printing the invitation to last month's meeting at Stonehouse.

Monday 5 December, As a pre-Christmas entertainment, Paul W. Nash will present his infamous *Impressions of Printers*. Nash will attempt to weave an imaginary narrative from the history of the private press movement, accompanied by some of his own 'hilarious' impressions of printers of the past and present.

Other events

Manifold greatness: Oxford and the making of the King James Bible. Running from 22 April to 4 September 2011 in the Exhibition Room at the Bodleian Library, the summer 2011 exhibition tells the story of the most frequently printed book in the English language, the 'King James' Bible. Exploring the political, religious and intellectual context of its time, the exhibition looks at the events and conditions that led to and shaped this translation enterprise.

Commissioned by King James I of England and VI of Scotland, the translation was the outcome of the labours of forty-seven scholars located in Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster. The exhibition shows the contribution of the Oxford translation committees, and has been organised by the Bodleian in association with the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC. Admission is free. For further details, including library opening hours, please see www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk.