



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

November 2013

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Notes from the Chairman:

Fine Press Book Fair: This seemed to be its usual rollicking success. I counted 18 members with tables; the Guild table did a brisk trade in Graham Moss's Arab DVD, the remnants of the Silver Jubilee Compendium, and new members (these seem to fetch better prices than old members) and the inaugural Private Press Prize, which seemed to be well received. My thanks to those who volunteered to man the Guild table, particularly David Bolton, to the volunteer judges, Liz Adams, Susan Allix and Christabel Hardacre and, indeed, to all who submitted work for consideration.

Annual General Meeting: This takes place at our next meeting. Regarding 'Election of Officers' I have not heard yet of any committee member unwilling to stand for re-election. I would, however, urge the membership to consider whether they might be prepared to consider themselves for office. For my part I am prepared to continue as Chairman but there is an argument that the longer I do, the more pertinent it becomes for new blood to take over.

My wife has hinted that she might make some mince-pies.

Any of you who choose to remain in the bar waiting for Michael Daniell's talk rather than attend the AGM will be censured.

Ephemera on Show: Peter White has agreed to co-ordinate this project again (see below). I do hope as many of you as possible will contribute; the more who do, the fatter and more fun the bundle. Let Peter know if you will be contributing, please.

OGP Private Press Prize:

The Guild's first Private Press Prize attracted a healthy amount of interest, with the judges retiring to the Lecture Theatre clutching more than two dozen entries. After an initial run through the serious business of whittling down the competition began. We considered each entry according to a number of elements including the quality of the printing, the design and layout, the binding, the materials used and, not least, the content itself. Whilst admiring the many hours of work put into each entry, we were pleased to give the prize to Rosemary Roberts of The Celtic Cross Press. We hope next year to repeat the process, and will be asking members to volunteer to judge the prize. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

Liz Adams

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.

2nd December

The AGM will be followed by a talk by Michael Daniell, *Any Old Iron?* in which he will salvage memories of letterpress, particularly those who offered advice when he bought his first press.

3rd February

Tim Honnor of the Piccolo Press. Details to follow.

Monday 3rd March: Peter Baldwin: The Delos Press and Philippe Jaccottet.

Monday 7th April

Martin Andrews: Fox Talbot Photographer.



"Ephemera* on Show" – call for entries for 2014

We are repeating this initiative and active Guild members are requested to start making- ready now. An example of your printing offers an opportunity to share your printing enthusiasms with fellow members.

The size should be a single leaf to fit an A5 envelope; there is no topic or restriction on content. One hundred copies need to be delivered to me by February 28th; they will then be circulated to all members with the April Newsletter. There is no competitive element; it is an opportunity to display that favourite font or illustration and to generally make a good impression.

Please advise me in advance if you expect to participate – it will be very helpful to have numbers in advance.

Peter White, Bouncing Acre Press, 68 Cross Oak Rd,
Berkhamsted, HP4 3HZ. Email: whitepj@btconnect.com;
telephone: 01442 866223.

*Ephemera, defined by Maurice Rickards, are “the minor transient documents of everyday life”.

An exhibition and workshop at Christ Church Library:

From Scriptoria to Printing House:

This exhibition, curated by Cristina Neagu, together with Rowena Archer and David Rundle, highlights the process of creating new books during the period of transition from manuscript to print. Open until 29 November in the Upper Library, Christ Church College, Oxford. Fridays: 9:30-1:00 pm; 2:00-4:30 (provided there is a member of staff available in the Upper Library). The exhibition features a fully functional 'one-pull press' created by Alan May for a BBC4 documentary featuring Stephen Fry. In addition to the exhibition, there will be a workshop on the history of early printing on Monday 25 November at 5.15 pm, during which participants will have a chance to cast metal type and print a page of the Gutenberg Bible on the 'one-pull press'.

New member snippet:

Kate Penrose:

I've worked as a Primary Schoolbooks Designer at Oxford University Press for a number of years now. My interest in letterpress really took off a few months ago when I acquired an 1893 Arab. It's taken me several months to clean-up and put together, but is now almost ready for action and I'm really looking forward to finally being able to experiment with some actual printing.

New member snippet: Rob Kendrew of Paperwallah

Based in Bradford on Avon, by day I am a Production Director for a children's book creator liaising with printers in China. I am also something of a hobby bookbinder (making handmade bespoke notebooks and stationery) and am slowly getting into letterpress printing. A friend (who by day is Operations Director at Wheatons in Exeter) and I are gradually acquiring various bits of kit and have just got to a state where we can start to print. As well as the Arab, we've got a Cropper and Charlton Improved Peerless 8x5 which is now turning over nicely and are on the lookout for a proofing press but prices are beginning to rise quickly (I narrowly missed out on one tonight on eBay which went for what I consider silly money). We've got hold of 7 cases of wood type and I am also collecting hot metal type by font.

Hatch Show Print in London:

Fans of Nashville's *Hatch Show Print* will want to get to London before the 14th of December to view an exhibition of stunning posters, *Nashville Calling: Hatch Show Print* has been in the business of letterpress printing for more than 130 years and is still a thriving business. Drawing on archival material as well as recent works, the exhibition is on at Chelsea Space, 16 John Islip Street, London SW1P 4JU (Tuesday to Friday 11:00-5:00, Saturday 10:00-4:00).