



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

November 2010

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Editorial

The Guild's Annual General Meeting will be held on 6 December at The Bell in Charlbury. Do come along, if you can, and participate in the decision making for the coming year. If you would be willing to help with running the Guild, please let us know, either in advance or at the meeting. We need the involvement of our members to keep the society active and vibrant. However, no arms (or ears) will be twisted at the meeting.

After the business, members are invited to pass round a few favourite examples of their own, or others', Christmas printing. If you have nothing suitable to bring, then please come along anyway and enjoy the specimens brought by others. The Bell will be supplying seasonal pleasures in the form of mince pies and mulled wine.

Meeting recall

On Monday 1 November the meeting room at The Bell in Charlbury was bursting with printers, there to enjoy the good food and drink on offer and, more importantly, to hear John Purcell talk about his love of fine paper, and his life as a top-notch paper-merchant. John shared his enthusiasm for hand- and mould-made papers, and talked of their manufacture and of the various mills that supply his emporium, mostly in Europe, but also in the far east. He brought with him a number of specimens of fine papers from around the world, and some of the books that had been printed on them. Among the most impressive were examples of the Folio Society's *Letterpress Shakespeare* series, printed by Phil Abel, the same publisher's facsimile edition of the Kelmscott Chaucer, printed on a specially-laminated double-sided paper, and a remarkable portfolio of prints by Royal Academicians. John also brought with him a selection of reference books, which were eagerly thumbed by the assembled printers. The Chairman, Miles Wigfield thanked the speaker warmly, not only for his excellent presentation, but for his willingness to supply printers of all sizes (from the dwarf to the giant) with equal kindness, enthusiasm and flexibility. The sentiment was echoed by the applause of inky hands.

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 6 December *Annual General Meeting and Christmas show-and-tell.* For details see the editorial.

Monday 3 January It has been proposed that we have our break in January, rather than in August, so there will probably be no January meeting. Further details will appear in the December *Newsletter*.

Monday 7 February *Film Night - 'Proceed and be Bold'.* Details to follow soon.

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

P.T.O.

Monday 4 April *Typecasting*. Talk and demonstration by Geoff Hulett, formerly of the Monotype Corporation.

May meeting (date to be announced) *The Pen and the Quill*. Calligraphy in performance by Paul Antonio.

The Guild now has a full programme of events at the planning stage, and would be very glad to receive suggestions for any future talks and visits.



Vinyl-engraving by the late Bill Taylor from his Musical Shapes (Palliser Press, 2004), reprinted from Private Press Books (see below)

Other events

Designer Bookbinders' Competition Exhibition

An exhibition of the entries in the latest Designer Bookbinders' competition will run at the John Rylands Library, Deansgate, Manchester from 5 to 23 December 2010 and 4 January to 13 February 2011. Opening hours: Monday 12:00–5:00, Tuesday–Saturday 10:00–5:00, Sunday 12:00–5:00.

Exhibition: Reverting to Type

The Standpoint Gallery, 45 Coronet Street, London N1 6HD, says of their new exhibition: '*Reverting to Type* aims to highlight the pioneers at the helm of the current resurgence of interest in letterpress; from computer-based designers with a desire to ply a craft with a tactile immediacy that has been lost with modern technology, to traditional presses finding new ways to revitalise their design output.' The exhibition is open from 10 to 24 December, from 10:00–6:00 every day.

Letterpress conference at St Bride Library

Forward thinking. A one-day letterpress conference will be held at St Bride Library on Friday 19 November 2010. Tickets cost £75 (£60 for

Friends of St Bride), concessions at £30 (£25 for Friends). The day will be packed with talks, demonstrations and discussion, celebrating new ideas and practice.

The following is from the St Bride website: 'Letterpress, we were once told, was a thing of the past. Yet, now it is very clearly the focus of renewed enthusiasm. Interest in setting types by hand continues to grow, with an increase in letterpress activity further fuelled by an ongoing concern with visual authenticity. For many, letterpress offers something beyond straightforward graphic reproduction. It offers the means to create hand-made objects of worth. But to what extent are we still looking backwards rather than forwards? In the midst of all the nostalgia, there are people who offer alternatives to this potential dead-end, reinventing their practices and working in more exploratory ways.' For further information and booking please see the website at www.stbride.org.

St Bride printing classes

The St Bride library will begin a series of printing classes and workshops later this month. Further details will soon be available at the Library's website (stbride.org). The Library is still seeking randoms and tallboys to contain, and make accessible, some of the many hundreds of cases of type they have. If you can

help, please contact Richard Lawrence on 01225 313494 or by e-mail on ZRLawrence@aol.com.

Visit to Sweden. Leif Linden and Gustaf Holgersson have come up with a proposed bookish tour of Stockholm for the period 12 to 15 March 2011. The tour takes in the Hagströmer Library and Skokloster, Stockholm University Library, the Biological Museum, a paper conservator, a papermaker and a visit to Runmarö in the archipelago to visit Johanna Røjgård, Sweden's best bookbinder. The programme will be arranged by Leif and Gustaf, but participants will need to book their own travel and accommodation. If you are interested, please contact the President, Miles Wigfield, on miles.wigfield@btopenworld.com or on 01285 750662.

Small ads

Private press books 2004–2007 is now available. It consists of 221 pages describing more than 500 books and 180 secondary sources, with a full index and 37 reproductions of images or pages from the books described (one is reproduced above). Copies are available from the editor, Paul W. Nash, at £10 for Guild members (copies will be on sale at the next few Guild meetings, fingers crossed).