



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

August 2011

This month's editor Paul W. Nash 01608 654349
Next month's editor Brian Clarke 01295 738535

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

Short Story Competition

After the last AGM the Guild decided to persist with its attempt to sponsor a short story competition. Dr John Ballam, Director of the Department of Creative Writing within the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education proved an enthusiastic ally: they promoted the competition, open to all students of past creative writing courses and of the University itself, who had not previously published fiction. The winner is to have their story printed letterpress in a limited edition. I believe John Grice has agreed to tackle this job on our behalf.

The closing date for entries was the end of May. I had agreed to receive all submissions and forward them, anonymised, to the judging panel. 128 entries arrived from all over the world although UK entrants predominated; disappointingly there were only two entries from the University itself. They arrived, GPO, Fedex, DHL and even by hand. My postman deserves something more than a tangerine in his Christmas box! I read them all – there were some extremely good stories – and confess I found myself a little frustrated not to have been part of the judging process.

The winner was a clear favorite amongst the three judges: *It's Unfortunate for the Ants* by Louise Watts who lives in Chip-ping Norton. I understand the OUDCE have plans for some sort of ceremony and even publicity in due course. I will keep members notified.

Miles Wigfield

September Meeting

For our September talk we are lucky enough to welcome Weimin He. He is a brilliant Chinese artist who is currently artist in residence with the Ashmolean. He works across the printmaking field in different media, as well as in pen and ink, some brilliant examples of which you may have spotted around Oxford. His talk on 5 September will concern itself with contemporary Chinese woodcuts, from 1950 to the present day, covering the history, methods and background, with lots of wonderful slides. Happily this coincides with an exhibition of Chinese prints, of which the Ashmolean has such an enormous holding they have had to divide the show

Guild meetings

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

Monday 5 September, *Contemporary Chinese woodcuts: art and technique* by Weimin He (see below).

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

Monday 7 November, *Film-night: 'Making Faces'*. The story of Jim Rimmer's new type-face *Stern*, the first designed for simultaneous release as a digital and a metal fount. More details will follow in a future *Newsletter*.

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.

P.T.O.

into two halves, the second being in progress until October. I am sorry there is no invitation this time but it is hoped there will be a Keepsake. Please try to come to this talk. I am certain it will be very good. (Further details, and reproductions of the artist's work, can be seen at www.heweimin.org)

Louisa Hare

Meeting Recall

On a balmy August evening a large group of Guild members met at The Bell to hear Ursula Jeffries speak about the history of the St Bride Foundation Institute and its famous library (once known as the 'Printing Library'). The Institute was founded near the 'Printer's Church' of St Bride in the late nineteenth century with philanthropic intentions, as a place where printers could come to improve their minds and bodies, as well as to learn their trade. A new building was erected and fitted out with presses and type so that the arts of presswork and composition could be taught. There was also a swimming pool, a gymnasium and, of course, a reference library for the student-printers to use. The Library grew apace, absorbing the great collections of William Blades (1824–1890) and Talbot Baines-Reed (1852–1893), despite the objections of some parts of the trade press, which thought these collections too good for the library of a mere institute. The teaching of printing continued only until the 1920s, when it was transferred to the London College of Printing. But the the philanthropic work of the Foundation continued, and the Library became the wit and memory of Fleet Street's newspaper industry. Even when that industry moved away, the Library survived and, despite not receiving any national or civic financial support for some years, remains freely open to all students of printing and allied subjects. And, after some ninety years, printing is again being taught at St Bride (see below). Ursula ended her excellent talk by reminding us of the existence of the Friends of St Bride, an organization which helps to fund the Library (Friends receive the biannual magazine *Ultrabold* and the quarterly *Printing History News*). Further details may be found at the website www.stbride.org.

St Bride Printing Workshops

Gutenberg Weekend with Dr Claire Bolton. 17–18 September 2011 (11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Sunday). Maximum class size six. *Fees*: £245 (£195 for over 60s and full time students). For further details please see the website at www.stbride.org.

Special Thanks

To Michael Daniell for compiling, and to Bob Elliott for designing and typesetting, the latest list of Guild members (which all current members should now have received: — if you have not had one, please contact the Treasurer).

Small ads

Wanted. Adana HQ roller arms etc. If anyone has a spare pair of roller arms for an Adana HQ (flatbed) press I would be happy to buy them from you. I am also looking for any useful printing sundries, including a chase for the Adana, a composing stick, ink etc. Christina Kingsmill, 01386 840278 or sixhq@mac.com.

Type and press for sale. For reasons of 'down-sizing', I have the following for sale. To view or for further information, please contact me, Jean-Claude Peissel, on 01295 738117 or jeanclaude.peissel@btinternet.com. **Press:** Model No. 3 treadle press (formerly belonging to Jonathan Stephenson). Complete with fly-wheel, paper tray, two inking plates, rollers, but lacking the treadle. It needs a little care and adjustment but is in working condition. Offers around £400, buyer to collect. **Type** in case: 10-pt Gill Sans U/lc; 10-pt Gill Bold U/lc; 30-pt Van Dijk U/lc (full case); 30-pt Van Dijk Italic U/lc (full case). Small fonts of: 10-pt Black letter U/lc ('z' missing); 12pt Spartan 2 & 4 caps & small caps; 12-pt Classical caps & small caps; 10-pt Cheltenham Bold U/l.c.; 12-pt Cheltenham U/lc; 12-pt Cheltenham Bold U/lc; 18-pt Cheltenham Bold U/lc; 18-pt Cheltenham caps; 36-pt Cheltenham Italic caps; 12-pt (Gill?) condensed caps; 24-pt Grot caps; 36-pt Grot caps. **Empty type cases:** 3 × caps cases; 2 × l.c. cases; 1 × jobbing ('California') case.