



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

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# NEWSLETTER

May 2013

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## Meeting recall:

**Vance Gerry & The Weather Bird Press - John Randle.** John had given a talk of the same title as The Alan Hancox Memorial Lecture at last year's Cheltenham Literary Festival. This was the 20th in a series which has delivered a veritable cornucopia of all that's best in the book arts. Alan was a bookseller, a lovely man and one-time director of the Festival. He was a staunch supporter of the Whittington Press and the fact that he is still remembered in this way, over 20 years after his death, would please him.

Vance Gerry clearly became a close friend of the Randles and this was apparent in John's warm and perceptive description of the man and his work. As well being a private press man — he started at the Castle Press — he was renowned as an illustrator particularly with pochoir of which he was a (the) master. Examples of this work were seen in *Madeleine* and *Jazz*, the latter now a £900 book. He described the pochoir process in Matrix 8 and 'Mistress Mary', from his Nursery Rhymes appeared in Matrix 23.

In 1993 he published *25 Years of the Weather Bird Press* which included an aerial sketch of the press. This prompted Miriam Mac-gregor to copy the idea with an overview of the Whittington Press, a crib for which John later apolo-gised. "Don't worry!" replied Vance "I got the idea from your *Boy at the Hogarth Press!*" He was clearly a free spirit (when he wasn't being consulted by the Disney Corporation) as evinced by his drawing captioned 'Distributing Type or the Art of Just Throwing It In'. As John said: "the thought of him having an office was just absurd".

John has an endearingly hesitant manner of delivery which allows consideration of his every word. What he had to say about this remarkable printer and illustrator was illuminating and a delight. Afterwards we were lucky enough to handle a deal of Weather Bird material brought along both by John and David Butcher.

## 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.

### Thursday 30th May

Visit to the Wormsley Library, arranged by the late Dr Simon McMinn. The list is now **full**. Don't forget to let Miles Wigfield know if you're coming to the pub for lunch and what you want to eat.

### Monday 3rd June

Martyn Ould (Old School Press): 'Banging out the Bibles: printing Bibles by the million at OUP in the 1770s'.

### Sunday 4th August

OGP Picnic

### Monday 7th October

Anthony Eyre of The Letter Press, Cirencester

*P.T.O.*

## From the Chairman:

### OGP Picnic: Sunday 4th August

Liz & Oliver Adams have kindly agreed to host this inaugural gathering at their boat house in the centre of Oxford. The idea will be just to meet and chat – about type, ink and paper no doubt – over a picnic lunch. If people bring things that can be shared it will add to the conviviality of the occasion. More details nearer the time.

### Chipping Campden Wayzgoose

The Wayzgoose was organised by Louisa Hare as part of the Literary Festival. This is the third or fourth time I've attended this event and for once one could confidently estimate the visitors outnumbering the exhibitors. Indeed, at one point one could barely move. The usual suspects were in there: conviviality again and both interest and enthusiasm from the public. The Guild recruited at least seven new members. An excellent day: thank you and well done Louisa.



## Fine Press Book Fair Announcement:

### Oxford Guild of Printers Fine Press Book Fair Prize.

This OGP prize will be awarded at the Fine Press Book Fair 2013, a cheque for £100 for a book printed using letterpress, costing £50 or less and published since the last Oxford Fair in 2011. The judges will consider aspects of design & typography, quality of printing, originality and interest of content. Contenders will not need to have a stand at the Fair; it is intended to ask for submissions (returnable) to be delivered on the Saturday morning of the Fair for judging the same day. A 'book' will be defined as at least eight printed pages. Further details to follow.

## A note from the Editor:

### A request to new and old members

The editor invites new members to write a paragraph about themselves and/or their presses for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. Old members are also encouraged to send in snippets about anything letterpress-related in which other members may be interested. Please send text by email: [juxonpress@gmail.com](mailto:juxonpress@gmail.com)

### Oxfordshire Artweeks

This is the final week of the 2013 Oxfordshire Artweeks. The website has all the details.