



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

September 2012

Editor Liz Adams 07813 807453

Chairman
Miles Wigfield 01285 750662

Vice-Chairmen
Colin Cohen 01869 337040
Richard Lawrence 01865 424594

Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Michael Daniell 01865 510378

Bob Wakefield and the Chevington Press

For some time Miles had been trailing this talk as 'not be missed' and those of us at the meeting on 3 September were not disappointed. The books Bob Wakefield put on display could have talked for themselves: ambitious combinations of coloured etchings and letterpress in unusual formats and with striking colourful bindings. But there was also the story: how Bob had tumbled into print with the sculptor Leonard Baskin who ran the Gehenna Press in the USA before coming to Devon to work with Ted Hughes. Leonard and Bob collaborated on Ted Hughes' *A Primer of Birds*. Then in 1980 Bob started The Chevington Press and an early publication included *The Art of Trout Fishing on the Rapid Streams*, a book chosen by the Guild of Book Workers in the USA and subsequently exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Those of us who know little about etching, suspected that in hearing Bob talk we were listening to a master. He showed us the zinc alloy plates that he uses, and described the technique of applying sandpaper to provide the rough ground that makes the texture of his prints exceptional. He talked of taking up to twenty proofs as he developed an etching. When we saw the results in his books, they seemed to leap off the page. He also spoke of his care in matching type to illustration, preferring to use a smaller type size than might have been expected for the format so as to provide a better match with the detail of the illustrations. He also spoke with pride of the density of the blacks in his etchings. Throughout the evening we had the sense that Bob was deeply involved in every stage of the production of his books; from providing the text – I enjoyed his ironic style – the etchings, the superb press work, and many aspects of the binding, in every part knowing what he wanted and enjoying achieving it.

Michael Daniell

Guild meetings

Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held at The Bell in Charlbury, 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. If you would like to order food in advance to avoid the rush, please contact Lidia Dhorn on 01608 810278.

Saturday 13th October

Waygoose at Oxford Brookes University on Saturday the 13th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Monday 5th November

The Painful Adventures of Pericles, Prince of Tyre ~ Simon Brett, renowned wood engraver will talk about his experience of illustrating this magnificent book, published by the Barbarian Press last year. (NB This replaces the now cancelled visit later that week to the Banbury Historical Society.)

P.T.O.



From the Chairman

The Guild will have a table at the Wayzgoose in October. I would like to hear from members who are prepared to **volunteer** for an hour, perhaps, to look after this table. It should not be too onerous: promoting the OGP, explaining away the chaos of the Wayzgoose itself and even, perhaps, selling the odd piece of OGP stock.

Dr Simon McMinn

Many of you will have already heard of the sad news of Simon's death in August, barely a month after a diagnosis of cancer. A member of the Guild and a long-time and staunch supporter of the private press movement, he was a good friend to many of us and his wry sense of humour, generosity and enthusiasm for the work of letterpress printers and wood engravers will be missed. Bibliomane to the last, he was supervising the design of new bookcases in his magnificent library a week before he died. We offer our condolences to his family and, in particular, his wife Gill.

There will be a memorial service on Friday 3rd October at 3pm at St Stephen's Church, Cheltenham, GL52 6HN.

A note from Martyn Gould

I have some script founts that I want to dispose of. The Stephenson Blake (SB) founts are on a sloping body, Monotype on a square body with twisted head. The part-founts of SB could possibly be used to strengthen an existing fount.

12pt Society Script (SB): a useful case with about 60e
14pt Society Script (SB): a useful case with about 80e
18pt Society Script (SB): no e t B S R, the rest could be a bit pied
24pt Society Script (SB): no e L
30pt Society Script (SB): a useful case BUT only 10e 3r
14pt Palace Script (Monotype): a full case with about 80e
18pt Palace Script (Monotype): medium-sized usable fount BUT only 10e

I can email photos or more accurate assessments to anyone interested. If I get any positive interest in any of these before the Wayzgoose I will go to the trouble of moving it into spare cases and bringing it along.

Monday 3rd December

The AGM will be followed by a light-hearted talk about the illustrators of *The Hunting of the Snark* together with a browse through his modest collection by The Chairman. He will be aided and abetted by his guest, the renowned Snarkophile, Dr Selwyn Goodacre, (*All the Snarks* ~ Inky Parrot Press 2006) who will consider the variant bindings of the first edition—and, if you're lucky, a whole lot more.

4th February 2013

Victoria Stevens from the Oxford Conservation Consortium will speak to us about "a recently completed conservation project on a wonderful printed anatomical text book, Remmelin's *Catoptrum Microcosmicum*, dating from 1619."

Members' notes

Alan Isaac, who will have a stall at the Wayzgoose next month, would like to draw Members' attention to his recently finished website (www.aibooks.co.uk) and email (alan@aibooks.co.uk).

Colin Franklin has recently published a memoir: *Obsessions and Confessions of a Book Life*. He will be present at October's Wayzgoose for the first hour or so signing copies at the Alan Isaac Rare Books table.

A note from Paul W. Nash

Book Fair catalogues seeking homes: I still have a small stock (about 50 copies) of the catalogue from the Fine Press Book Fair which the Guild held in Kidlington on 22 October 1994. The contact details it contains are somewhat out of date, but there are listings of press books and lots of good reproductions of wood-engravings etc. If any member would like a copy, just let me know and I will bring copies along to the next meeting. If any book-sellers among members would like a small stock, I will be glad to send some for the cost of postage. I may also try to sell a few copies on eBay (massive profits will go to the Guild).

A note from the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

We are currently looking for a treadle powered printing press, ideally dating from the late nineteenth century, to complement the existing collection of working machines at Blists Hill Victorian Town. We require a complete machine with a printing area of approximately 9 x 14 inches complete with roller stocks and bearers and in working condition. We also would require the machine to have at least two machine chases to accompany it. Any machines would be considered, including Cropper, Jarrold, Arab, Minerva and Heidelberg.

If you can help please contact Gillian Crumpton, Curatorial Officer for Coalbrookdale, Central Ironbridge and Jackfield Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7DQ.

E-mail: gillian.crumpton@ironbridge.org.uk

Tel: 01952 435900. Fax: 01952 435999.

A note from Bob Howe

Bob Howe's stall at the Wayzgoose will include the following type:

30 pt Baskerville Italic	30 pt Headline Bold Italic
18 pt Madonna Ronde	48 pt Caslon Old Face Bold
30 pt Light English x2	24 pt Windsor Bold Condensed
8 pt Egmont	36 pt Playbill
18 pt Broadway Engraved	
48 pt Old Style Grot (looks 1920s), Miller & Richards	
12 pt Bodoni Heavy Italic (lower case & figures only, unused)	

New member snippets

From Peter Bruce of Lyme Bay Press

Lyme Bay Press produces traditional printing commercially but our main focus is to provide a range of press-room supplies for the letterpress community. We also offer photopolymer plates (KF152), Vanson Rubber Based Inks and we're currently expanding our manufacturing to include roller gauges & gauge pins. We also help new enthusiasts (and even some litho shops) to produce letterpress work successfully.

From Mike Magee

I did run a press in the mid 1970s – Khephra Press – I no longer do so but remain interested in the whole interesting matter.

From Phil Treble

I studied Typography & Graphic Communication at Reading University in the early 90s but rejected the opportunity to take advantage of the letterpress facilities whilst I was there, in favour of the emerging digital age.

I have been a typographer for twenty years now, and a letterpress printer for just two. Starting off with an Adana HS3 in my spare room at home, I now run an Arab foolscap folio press in my converted garage workshop. My printing venture is called Muttons & Nuts and I intend to produce books and ephemera, or whatever I fancy. I still work as a freelance book designer and web coder to pay the bills, but my passion now is with metal, ink and paper.

Alan Isaac Rare Books – Oxford Bookbinders

As a business we have been established in Oxford as Bookbinders, Restorers and Paper repairers for close to 10 years, but have recently re-styled ourselves, Oxford Bookbinders. We have undertaken College work and serviced the libraries of academics, current and retired, as well as those of collectors, near and far. We have also added an old, rare, and newly published book-selling arm to our business, Alan Isaac Rare Books, which focuses on bibliography, with an emphasise on binding, but which encompasses all aspects of the printed book. Additionally we offer, and buy, books on or of the county of Oxfordshire and the surrounding area, together with maps, prints and interesting ephemera.

Alan & Belinda both trained and practiced as lawyers, and Belinda continues to do so as a copyright and intellectual property specialist. Alan studied Fine Binding and Paper Conservation as a full-time student at Guildford College and has many years experience in the craft at several institutions. We have attended, and Belinda has spoken at, OGP events for a number of years, have exhibited at past Wayzgoose events at Woodstock and Witney, and will do so again in October when we look forward to meeting and talking to members.

