



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

# NEWSLETTER

December 2011

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## Annual General Meeting review

The AGM was the usual succinct affair, the membership eager to brook as little delay as possible before Dr Paul Nash's entertainment 'Impressions of Printers'. The book suggests that eighteen members were present though the Chairman was disappointed that a few preferred to stay eating their suppers in the bar rather than join the cut and thrust of debate. § The Chairman referred to the sixteen Guild members who were represented at the Oxford Fine Press Book Fair in November, including John Randle and Tom Mayo who collected one of the Judges' Choice Awards for *A vision of order* and Dennis Hall's sponsorship of the £500 Parrot Prize for the best illustrated book. He announced the programme of speakers for the first half of the year starting with Sebastian Carter on Monday 6 February. § Michael Daniell submitted his Treasurer's report (see page [2]). He has been able to hold membership subscriptions unchanged; his proposal to dispense with the August newsletter was adopted. § The Committee was re-elected with Liz Adams assuming Paul Nash's role of Co-editor, the Chairman taking over – with considerable trepidation at a hard act to follow – Louisa Hare's job of Events Secretary. Christabel Hardacre had kindly agreed to assist Michael Daniell with membership matters. The committee now stands thus:

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairman                  | Miles Wigfield                  |
| Vice-Chairmen             | Colin Cohen<br>Richard Lawrence |
| Treasurer                 | Michael Daniell                 |
| Membership assistant      | Christabel Hardacre             |
| Events Secretary          | Miles Wigfield                  |
| <i>Newsletter</i> Editors | Liz Adams<br>Brian Clark        |
| Ex officio                | Paul W. Nash                    |

AOB: It was agreed to hold the OGP Wayzgoose 2012 at Oxford Brookes University in October. Date to be confirmed. It was further agreed to sponsor a prize for the best low-cost letterpress book at the next Fine Press Fair at Oxford. Details to be confirmed and acceptance negotiated. § The meeting ended amidst waves of relief as Paul Nash took the floor.

## Guild meetings

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

**Monday 6 February** *Singing school and studying monuments: the afterlife of the Rampant Lions Press* by Sebastian Carter (for further details please see page [2]).

**Monday 5 March** *Parson's son and printer's devil* by Richard Russell, who will pass round some interesting pieces of printing from his fifty years in the trade, from schoolboy to Assistant Printer at the OUP.

**Monday 2 April** Peter Lawrence, ODI, will speak on a subject related to wood-engraving and printmaking (details to be confirmed).

**May** (date to be confirmed) Sue Bradbury, Editor-in-Chief at the Folio Society will speak on the work of the Society (title and details to be announced).

There will be no event or *Newsletter* in January (our winter holiday).

## Other events

**Treasures of the Bodleian.** Exhibition running 30 September to 23 December at the Bodleian Library. For details see the October and November *Newsletters*.

**Christmas craft exhibition** at West Oxon Arts Gallery, Town Hall, Market Square, Bampton OX18 2JH,

P.T.O.

## Treasurer's report

There are currently 85 members, including four honorary. Subscription income in 2011 slightly exceeded running expenses so it has been possible to hold the subscription at £15.00 for a further year. Capital accumulated will be used to underwrite the October Wayzgoose and to complete the payments due for the short story competition prize. *Michael Daniell*

## Meeting recall

Paul W. Nash 'gave us' his impressions of printers as an entertainment after the AGM. Despite attempts to imply that he would be impersonating persons, it transpired that these 'impressions' were merely typographical, as Nash took us through his 2006 spoof *Private Library* article about the dubious Christopher Larkspvr and his even more dubious (but strangely familiar) publications. The speaker was accused of childish innuendo, despite the fact that, when he found a *double entendre* in his script, he immediately whipped it out. The audience laughed, and groaned, in most of the right places, which was most obliging of them. I can only assume they were reasonably, and reasonably seasonably, entertained. *Paul W. Nash*

## Ruth Bader Gilbert

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death on 15 November of Guild member Ruth Bader Gilbert. She was a sculptor and printmaker and some of her work can be seen at [www.ruthbadergilbert.net](http://www.ruthbadergilbert.net).

## Meeting preview

On Monday 6 February Sebastian Carter will speak on *Singing school and studying monuments: the afterlife of the Rampant Lions Press*. W. B. Yeats wrote in *Sailing to Byzantium* that for the soul in old age, 'Nor is there singing school, but studying / Monuments of its own magnificence'. Sebastian Carter, after the closure of the Rampant Lions Press workshop at the end of 2008, is trying to prove Yeats wrong by combining the two, compiling a descriptive catalogue of the Press's books, totaling 321, and (the singing school part) producing a new book without letterpress – or, indeed, many words. In his illustrated talk he will describe both activities.

## Abete atque valete

This will be my last *Newsletter* as Editor (for the time being, at least), and I should like to thank Miles, Michael, Louisa, Richard, Colin and Brian for all their help and support, and to join them in welcoming Liz Adams as my successor. I would like to end by wishing all readers of the *Newsletter* a very happy Christmas, Hanukkah, Saturnalia etc.

Saturday 26 November to Sunday 18 December (Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.). Admission is free. Items available include contemporary jewellery, ceramics, textiles, glass, woodwork, handmade books and original prints.

**Troubadour.** An exhibition of prints and sculpture by Adam Bridgland and Lucy Gough at Hemingway Art, Pennwood House, Pound Lane, Cassington, Oxford OX29 4BN, runs until Sunday 18 December, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. The gallery describes this as 'An Exhibition of striking and contemporary limited-edition prints and sculptural works, showcasing a number of new editions and unique pieces. The artists continue to gain widespread recognition in the art and design world, and exhibit both nationally and internationally'.

## Small ads

**Micrometer wanted.** Paul Collier, Letterpress Technician at Plymouth University, is looking for a type-high micrometer manufactured by Cornerstone for measuring block-mounted images prior to printing. He would like to buy, or borrow. If you can help please contact him at [paul.collier@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:paul.collier@plymouth.ac.uk).

**Monotype recorders wanted.** John Trevitt is compiling a catalogue of the *Monotype recorder* in and since the era of Stanley Morison and would be interested to buy any issues from number 187 (January–February 1922), and then sell any duplicates. He sells secondhand books through Abebooks, trading as 'typographia', and can be reached via e-mail at: [jj@trevitt.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:jj@trevitt.freeseve.co.uk) or by post at Rose Cottage, Church Road, Weobley HR4 8SD. Telephone: 01544 318388.

## Subscriptions

A subscription renewal form is enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter*. The Treasurer would greatly appreciate expeditious payment. Thank you.