



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS NEWSLETTER

March 2018

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MEETING RECALL

Tony Lloyd: *Influences on perception: how an artwork is influenced by its frame.*

Tony Lloyd is a print-maker and sculptor of considerable talent and it has been this talent, this thoughtfulness that he brought to his consideration of the framing of art-work. He had considered three divisions: the frame itself, the plinth; the space where the piece of art was seen, the gallery; the frame of mind, the expectation of the viewer.

I had heard Tony give this talk before and had enjoyed it quite enough to be happy to hear it again: with a nod to the bookish printers amongst us he had suggested considering Keats' *Endymion*: as a first edition, as the Doves Press edition, as a radio broadcast, as read from a computer screen, as read from the original manuscript: the words would be the same but the experience would surely be different. Some artists have addressed the frame by incorporating it into their art work - painting the frame itself. The 4th plinth in Trafalgar Square had at one time been filled with a mirror perspex image of the plinth itself. Karl Schlegel wrote: 'Each work of art carries its own frame.'

The purpose-built Art Gallery is a relatively new idea: the Uffizi were offices; the Louvre was a 12th C. fortress; the Hermitage was a palace. How was one's anticipation of an art-work influenced by approaching the white cube of a St Ives gallery compared with the extraordinary experience of seeing the George Dickie open itself out in the Mexican dawn. The difference between glimpsing da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa' across a room too crowded with visitors to cross to having the arguably better 'Lady with an Ermine' entirely to oneself in Poland's Czartoryski Gallery. Or how about munching your sandwich on a bench in front of Britain's only sculpture by Michelangelo, the Taddei Tondo in the Royal Academy? I hope the above observations, whilst somewhat disjointed, will serve to give you a flavour of Tony's thesis. An excellent discourse, well with reprising.

A Note from the Membership

Secretary:

A thank you from Christabel. Many thanks to those who have set up standing orders for future membership payment. Please may I encourage more members to follow their lead?

NEW MEMBER SNIPPET

Arthur Green: Book conservator, bookbinder, and some time printer. With a strong interest in the history of the book, I am drawn to the graphic arts. When time allows I enjoy lino-cuts and letterpress printing on my Adana. I have a small studio in Oxfordshire where I spend my time conserving rare books and manuscripts as well as teaching.

GUILD MEETINGS

Please check *Newsletters* for meeting locations, as these are liable to change at short notice; 7:30 for 8:00pm.

24-25 March: Oxford Fine Press Book Fair (see left for further details).

Monday 4 June: Ian Beck: The Photographs of Janet Stone.

Monday 2 July: Alan Brignull: Adanaland.

Monday 3 September : Robin Phillips: The Curwen Press.

TALLBOYS WANTED

Studio B – in search of the elusive double height print cabinet! Studio B (at present) is a tiny space crammed full of letterpress equipment, including a huge Soldan proofing press with aspirations of great things one day. It is run by Carl Middleton, a long time celebrant of letterpress printing and the dark (inky) arts. At the moment its new site is a muddy hole in the ground (still waiting for all this snow to stop falling so building work can begin again) in Milverton, Somerset. The proposal is to run letterpress workshops (preserving the skills and equipment through use and dialogue) alongside art and occupational therapy print workshops. To maximise the space (because of the need for wheelchair access even the new building will be a bit of a squeeze) we have been in search of the double sized type cabinets (sometimes called tall-boys) - if any member has one for sale (or would be happy to gift / sponsor) or you have any equipment which you feel would be of value please get in contact with us. Email: carlmiddleton@neatdesign.org / telephone: 01823 401 302

OXFORD FINE PRESS BOOK FAIR

The Oxford Fine Press Book Fair (which had been postponed from 2017) is being held this Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March. The new venue is the Kassam Stadium Conference and Events Centre, details of which can be found on their website: www.thekassamstadium.com.

The Fair will be open 11:00-6:00 on the Saturday and 10:00-5:00 on the Sunday. Admission is £5 which includes a copy of the programme. There will be around 90 stands, including presses, suppliers, and associated organisations. Refreshments will be available. There will be three lectures and the usual prize and award giving on the Sunday. The Sunday lectures will be as follows:

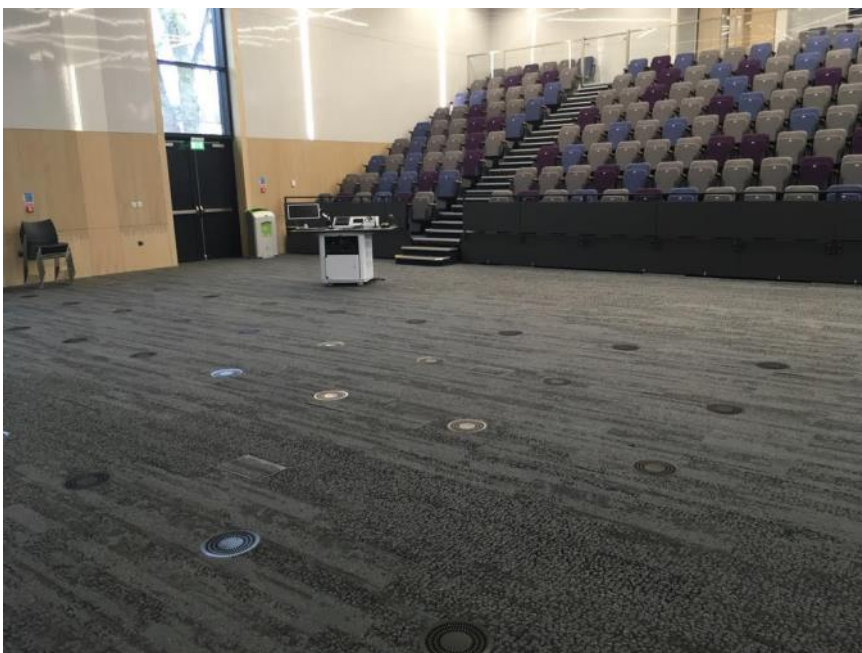
- 11:00am: Alexandra Franklin and Richard Lawrence on the Bodleian Library's Sonnets printing project
- 12:00 noon: Peter Lawrence on 'William Morris and Wood Engraving: The Earthly Compromise.'
- 2:00pm: Ferdinand Ulrich on 'Hermann Zapf, Jack Stauffacher, and the birth of a type.'

OGP PRIVATE PRESS PRIZES

Don't forget that there are three £100 prizes on offer at the Oxford Fine Press Book Fair: 1) the best book, 2) the best single section booklet/book, and 3) the best single sheet of ephemera printed letterpress since November 2015 and costing £50 or less. Submission by post to me or delivered to the Guild table on Saturday 24th March.

WAYZGOOSE TABLES

Saturday 3 November: Oxford Brookes University, from 10:00am to 5:00pm. There are still a few tables available: contact Miles Wigfield. Cost £45 (or £30 if paid before 31.7.2018). Book now to prevent disappointment! The Wayzgoose will be in the newly renovated hall at Brookes University, with free parking and a good bus service.



EPHEMERA

The collection point for your ephemeral contributions is the OGP table at the Oxford Fine Press Book Fair. Please make sure to make your delivery before midday on the Sunday. There is no April meeting, so if you miss Jane at the Fair, please post your ephemera to: Jane Russ, Hare Cottage, 3 Gibbs Way, Westbury BA13 3DT. I have reports of about six contributors so gird up your loins!

MAKE!

The first episode of a new BBC 4 series called *Make! Craft Britain* follows five students as they learn how to create a letterpress poster in Kelvyn Smith's south London workshop. It's available to watch on the BBC website: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09whc5t

BRITISH LETTERPRESS

Looking for inspiration or information? The British Letterpress website may have just what you need:

britishletterpress.co.uk/

As well as a great deal of hands-on advice about printing and presses, there are lists of suppliers, a classifieds section, details of letterpress events and courses, and a blog. The OGP even gets a mention!

If you have an Arab press and haven't done so already, there is a Register of machines which you can sign up to here: britishletterpress.co.uk/blog/2015/06/11/arab-press-register/

MANCHESTER PRINT FAIR

The 15th Manchester Print Fair will take place in the Manchester Cathedral on Saturday 14th April this year. See the website for more details:

www.manchesterprintfair.co.uk/