



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS NEWSLETTER

October 2018

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ROBIN PHILLIPS: OLIVER SIMON AND THE CURWEN PRESS

On 4th September at the Bull Inn pub in Charlbury, Robin Phillips gave a talk on his research into the Curwen Press and the bibliography he has been tirelessly working on for some time, now to be found on a website created with the help of his technologically minded son, Matthew, at www.sinenomine.co.uk/curwen/. This describes books printed by the Curwen Press in Plaistow between 1919 and 1955, the period that Oliver Simon was associated with the Press, and slightly more beyond, such as a record of all printing by Harold Curwen's stencil process.

The development of the site dates to 1963 (or 1952 if one accepts Robin's first visit to the Press as a member of the Whitgift School Typographical Society), when Robin chose the Curwen Press's printed books as the subject for his bibliographic project for a U.C.L. School of Librarianship Diploma. The basis of the list was the library in the boardroom at the Curwen Press, which held over 650 carded records. Since submitting the project, Robin was guided by numerous individuals and additional sources to add to the record. Eventually, Robin found an outlet for his efforts in the form of the internet and as a result is now able to share this resource with us all.

The bibliography is arranged in a novel order, which once one is acclimatised, is not unhelpful. Robin has gone into great detail in each entry and whilst this must have been a laborious task, he must be applauded for such dilatory attention, for it will stand in good stead as a reference tool for others.

In truth, however, the enormity of the challenge with which Robin has tasked himself is an impossible one, due to the vast output of the Press, but this is in part also the excitement of it, as there is always more to do. Others are therefore mightily encouraged to alert Robin to missing items to help him on this journey.

James Freemantle

N.B. Robin reports that his aborted slide show will, in due course, be available on Google for members to view at their leisure.

SOCIETY OF WOOD ENGRAVERS

The Society of Wood Engravers are hosting their 81st annual touring exhibition at The North Wall Arts Centre in Summertown until the 27th October. There are more than one hundred items in the exhibition: wood engravings, woodcuts, and linocuts by artists from as far away as Russia and the United States. Prices start from as little as £50 and there is no admission charge. The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10:00am until 4:00pm and from 12:00 to 4:00pm on Saturdays.

GUILD MEETINGS

Please check the latest *Newsletter* for meeting locations, but meetings are generally at The Bull in Charlbury; at 7:30 for 8:00pm.

Saturday 3 November: Wayzgoose at Oxford Brookes University, from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Monday 3 December: AGM at the Bull in Charlbury. Note that the meeting will start at **7:30pm** and be followed by Dr Miles Wigfield: *Paul Kershaw—his influence on The Reading Room Press*.

Notes from the Chairman

Guild Picnic: A select group of members and their wives gathered at the home of Tony and Ann Lloyd to enjoy a halcyon *al fresco* meal and an interesting tour of Tony's studio. Our thanks to them for their hospitality.

Wayzgoose: Saturday 3 November Oxford Brookes 10:00am-5.00pm. The Wayzgoose is fizzing – almost 60 tables booked and late-comers still knocking on the door. I gather we are on Instagram, plugged by the Society of Wood Engravers & the Private Libraries Association. Perhaps we'll get more punters than table holders! If you would be prepared to man the Guild table for an hour please go to Doodle Poll Link: <https://doodle.com/poll/dry2dhxqaiuh76tk> and put your name down.

Arab DVD: This film, [Director, Cameraman and Best Boy: Brian Clarke and starring Graham Moss] was a box-office smash at the time. More copies, with a letterpress printed cover, will be available at the Wayzgoose. The price, as before, will be £10 or £5 to Guild members.

PRESSING ON: THE LETTERPRESS FILM

Saturday 27 October, 6:00-9:00pm. The St Bride Foundation will host a screening of the feature-length *Pressing on: the letterpress film* followed by a panel discussion chaired by Catherine Dixon with Mick Clayton, Liz Fraser, Simon Goode, Julieta H. Adame, Thomas Mayo and David Vassie. The panel discussion will be followed by an informal chat in the pub. For more information and to book tickets, see the website:

www.sbf.org.uk/whats-on/view/pressing-on-the-letterpress-film/

NB. If there are any members who have yet to see the film, please contact the editor (elizalouisa@gmail.com) and we will look into arranging an OGP viewing.

PRINTER-IN-RESIDENCE

The second Printer-in-residence at the Bodleian's Bibliographical Press, Emily Martin (pictured right), will be running a workshop and giving a public lecture in November. With a background in drawing and painting, Emily started the Naughty Dog Press in 1996 with a focus on sculptural and movable books. She is now Adjunct Assistant Professor in Bookbinding and the Book Arts at the University of Iowa Center for the Book.

Workshop: *The persistence of vision and the scientific purpose of optical toys.* Tuesday 13 November at the Parks Road entrance to the Weston Library from 6:00-8:30pm. The workshop is free, but as places are limited, booking is essential. Please contact Janet Walwyn to express an interest: janet.walwyn@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Public lecture: *Visual metre and rhythm: the function of movable devices in books.* Wednesday 21 November at the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library from 5:15pm. Tickets are free, but places should be registered via the Bodleian's What's On pages at: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcomingevents/2018/november/movable-books>

More information about the events can be found on the website: <http://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/theconveyor/2018/05/03/printer-in-residence-2018-emily-martin/>

REVOLUTIONARY TYPEFACES

Tuesday 13 November, 6:30-8:00pm. Bloomsbury Publishing will collaborate with Cambridge University Libraries for an evening on the revolutionary impact of typefaces on design, art, life, and politics. From the website:

Hear from a unique panel of esteemed designers; Craig Oldham, David Jury, Barbara Brownie and Dennis Duncan as they debate the biggest advances in typeface design across the centuries and the importance of preserving typefaces for future generations of designers all over the world. After all, where would designers be without typefaces that consistently change and evolve over time.

Tickets available: eventbrite.co.uk/e/revolutionary-typefaces

Notes from the Chairman continued

AGM: Please note that the meeting will start at 7:30pm rather than the usual 8:00pm. Please let me know if you would like to be involved on the committee. None of its present members will serve indefinitely!

Ephemera on Show: It may seem a long way off, but please consider contributing to the ephemera bundle next year. Full details will be on the website and in future *Newsletters*.



Wanted at Cleeve Press:

Cleeve Press is looking to consolidate their range of Caslon Old Face; the fount I have is most probably founders type. However, any additions would be welcome. Please contact Nicholas Birchall: cleevepress@gmail.com

Paper for sale:

Martyn Ould has some 330gsm Somerset Radiant White Velvet offcuts for sale. The sheets are 700 x 445mm and are long grain. They make really nice cards, or folded cards, or covers. Packs of 50 sheets: £35 each. He could take to the Oxford Wayzgoose. Email: mao@theoldschoolpress.com or phone: 01297 24689.