



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

July 2011

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Report on the last OGP meeting

On 4 September a select group of OGPs visited the Newsquest printing works at Osney. As well as printing the Oxford Times and Mail, and other Oxon locals, it has a substantial contract printing operation accounting for some 20,000,000 pages a week. We were met by Louisa and Geoff Harvey, who took us to the huge single-storey building that accommodates the news, advertising and admin functions of the Mail and other locals: at 7 pm this building, once the biggest single span in Europe had just four staff!

They were putting Tuesday's Mail to bed, mostly waiting for late sports results. The night editor gave us a brief run-down of the different pieces of software that deal with ads, news management and subbing through page layout (Quark, but not a Mac or lawyer in sight!) through to sending pages off to the platemaking department. We then moved to the manroland press room (older readers think of MAN Roland) via the reel stack looked after by one man and a robot. On to the plate making where some big box with a laser was eating into a mountain of Kodak aluminium pre-press plates which popped out onto a conveyor and got bent and punched so they could only go on the right unit.

The press line was just running up for its first job of the week after weekend maintenance and would then run non-stop until the next weekend. About 700 copies will go to waste on a Monday start-up; from then on each new title will waste little more than 400 copies, with a handful for each reel change. Our guide tells us that the press line has separate, and deeper, foundations than the hall and the floors do not touch the outer walls as the building flexes in high winds and the press line has to remain rigid. From the press conveyors take the papers to the bundling machines in the publishing room and then onto vans to their diverse destinations, wholesalers, or to Bristol for the Evening Post.

The plant is non-union, the lead press man having been trained by MAN and Newsquest since he started as a fork-lift driver on the site. They work 12-hour shifts, but a short week—the shift manager having flown in from France on Sunday and going home on Wednesday. A fascinating view of modern print—it would take a lot of Adanas Colin Cohen

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

Monday 1 August,
Treasures (and treasured memories) of Saint Bride.

Ursula Jeffries will talk on the history and holdings of the St Bride Library, Fleet Street, and evoke her grandfather's period as a trainee 'comp' there at the turn of the last century.

Monday 5 September,
Wiemen He.
Artist in residence at the Ashmolean.
More info next newsletter.

Monday 3 October,
Barry McKay will speak on a subject dear to his heart (which one is yet to be announced).
Monday 7 November, to be announced.

Monday 5 December,
As a pre-Christmas entertainment, Paul W. Nash will present his infamous Impressions of Printers. Nash will attempt to weave an imaginary narrative from the history of the private press movement, accompanied by some of his own 'hilarious' impressions of printers of the past and present.

P.T.O.

OGP August 1st meeting

Since a trek I made in the early eighties, when I went to the Library at St Bride's, to research the likely manufacturers of the rusty platen I had been given, the St Bride's Institute has become ever more present in my consciousness. It may be my growing understanding of the Foundation's wealth of resources, or it may be that the Foundation has been gaining in stature over the intervening years. Certainly, the advent of Ultrabold, their very interesting if somewhat sporadic publication, their annual design conferences and the growing Letterpress workshop and instruction are all very exciting developments. I suspect the St Bride Institute will become more and more important to the printing community and am very pleased that we are able to welcome Ursula Jeffries to come and speak on 1st August.

Louisa Hare



Total Design by Written by Ben Bos, a key member of the studio



Work of Jean Philippe Lenclos.

Two images from an interesting web site www.uniteditions.com
Top image, their publication on the work of Total Design, one of the most important and influential design groups in the history of visual design and below the work of Jean Philippe Lenclos.

I recently bought their Folkways album cover art, a tabloid folded 64 page publication featuring the design work of Ronald Clyne. Full of great typography juxtaposed with image and blocks of colour, somewhat reminiscent of the early work of Wim Crouwel (Total Design).

Worth a look, Brian

Small ads

For all members who find travelling to London for major exhibitions something of a pain.

artybonbon.com have the answer with luxury coaches going to the Miro, (Tate Modern) Degas (RA) and Leonardo Da Vinci (National Gallery) from Upton House (NT) near Banbury.

See artybonbon.com there are also creative courses in Fine Art and printing, study days and workshops.

Other events

Exhibition Room at the Bodleian Library,

Manifold greatness: Oxford and the making of the King James Bible.

Running from 22 April to 4 September 2011

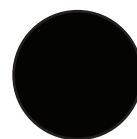
Whittington Press Open Day

which coincides with the village fete, and open Manor House, Whittington Court, Saturday 3rd September 2 p.m.

Tenth annual St Bride Library conference

Critical Tensions

Thursday 10 and Friday 11 November 2011.



For your diary: The 2011 Fine Press Book Fair will be held again at Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane, Oxford, on Saturday 5 (11:00–18:00) and Sunday 6 (10:00–17:00) November. For further details see www.fpba.com.