

Announcement from The Old School Press



THE FELL REVIVAL

THE STORY OF THE REVIVAL OF THE USE OF THE
FELL TYPES

BY THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, OXFORD AND OTHERS SINCE 1864

BY MARTYN OULD & MARTYN THOMAS



THE Fell types are widely acknowledged as some of the finest typefaces extant. The grandeur and unique character of the larger sizes in particular have attracted some of the greatest modern typographers, including Stanley Morison, Bruce Rogers, Francis Meynell, Harry Carter, and C. H. St. J. Hornby. The rediscovery of the seventeenth-century punches and matrices at Oxford University Press in 1864 and the gradual revival of their use led to a remarkable number of the finest books published in the twentieth century.

The authors of this new book started with the modest aim of cataloguing titles printed in Fell during that revival. However, as their researches progressed in the O.U.P. archives, at Worcester College, in the Morison and Meynell archives in Cambridge, and at the Bodleian Library, they found themselves uncovering a fascinating story of the problems faced by the O.U.P. Type Foundry in casting new type from the ‘ancient’ and often faulty matrices, of the use of the types by the ‘amateurs’ Daniel and Hornby and some other surprising names, of the impact of Horace Hart’s management of the operation of the Press, of the Press’s dealings with other publishers, and of life at the Press around the end of the nineteenth century. Before long, the intended handlist with short introduction had become a major book with a list of over 280 titles as an appendix.

The story ranges across that list, from the magnificent *Yattendon Hymnal* to the less so *Book of Happy Gnomes*, and features en route a talented amateur Reverend Provost-Printer, an unauthorised use of the types, a clash between typographer and artist, and a tragic suicide. The book documents for the first time an important chapter in the history of one of the greatest English presses, and highlights several intriguing mysteries, which the authors hope readers may help to solve.

This is a book for both scholars and amateurs of typography, printing history, and the fine press movement in the UK and the USA. Researchers will value its detailed references to original sources, and collectors the handlist and its identification of both scarce and surprisingly inexpensive examples of the use of the magnificent FELL TYPES.

THE FELL REVIVAL

THE book is printed litho at BAS Printers in 11.5/15 pt. ITC Galliard CC on demy quarto Mohawk paper. (This announcement is on the same paper and in the same type, and is the same size as the book.) There are 350 copies for sale, each of which contains eight tipped-in type samples printed at The Old School Press on hand-made papers from pre-1989 Oxford University Press stocks using the remaining founts of Fell type, together with 18 pp. of reproductions of archive materials. 200 pp.

EDITION A

ISBN 1 899933 07 7

FIFTY copies are bound in quarter-leather, the boards covered with paper marbled by Ann Muir in a seventeenth-century style but with a twentieth-century flavour. Each copy contains an additional portfolio of original material in Fell and type facsimiles printed using Fell type, including displays of the remaining Fell flowers; all facsimiles are printed at The Old School Press, except one from a Daniel Press book which is printed by the authors at the Bodleian Library on Daniel's hand-press. Book and portfolio come in a slip case.

£180 (US\$300)

EDITION B

ISBN 1 899933 06 9

TWO-HUNDRED and fifty copies are bound in full blue cloth and numbered 1 to 250, with a dust jacket and spine label both printed letterpress at The Old School Press.

£75 (US\$130)

Fifty further copies, numbered 251 to 300, are reserved for binders in folded and collated sheets, with the tip-ins loose.

£45 (US\$80)

BOOKS are sent parcel post in the UK, and printed papers air mail outside the UK. Postage and packing are added at cost (p&p for a single copy of Edition B is about £4.50 to a UK address, and about US\$20 to an address in the Americas). Trade discount is one quarter on Edition A and one third on Edition B.

PLEASE do not send money with your order—we will invoice you. Orders should be sent to Martyn Ould, The Old School Press, The Green, Hinton Charterhouse, Bath BA3 6BJ, UK, or e-mailed to press@ould.org.

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