

CABINET FIFTEEN: THE GOLDEN COCKEREL PRESS III

A.E. Coppard, *Crotty Shinkwin: A Tale of the Strange Adventure that befell a Butcher of County Clare; The Beauty Spot: A Tale concerning the Chilterns*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1932. Special Collections PR 6005 O55 C7 1932

Llewelyn Powys, *Glory of Life*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1934. Private Collection

CABINET SIXTEEN: COMMERCIAL WORK

Robert Gibbings, *Fourteen Wood Engravings*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: Printed by Robert Gibbings at The Golden Cockerel Press, 1932. Special Collections G 540 GD98

Richard Bennett, *The Story of Bovril*. [London]: Bovril Limited, 1953. Special Collections HD 9011.9 B68 BF36

CABINET SEVENTEEN: CONTRIBUTIONS

Llewelyn Powys, *The Twelve Months*. London: Bodley Head, 1936. Special Collections PR 6031 O87 T9

William Shakespeare, *Othello*. New York: Limited Editions Club, 1939. Special Collections PR 2829 A2 F3 1939

John Fisher, *The Midmost Waters*. London: The Naldrett Press, 1952. Special Collections G477 FH38

CABINET EIGHTEEN: WORKS BY ROBERT GIBBINGS

Robert Gibbings, *John Graham, Convict, 1824: An Historical Narrative*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1956. Special Collections G 530 G76 GD97

_____, *Iorana! A Tahitian Journal*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1932. Special Collections DU 870.2 G533 1932

F. D. Robson, as told to Robert Gibbings, *Kiwis in Captivity*. Napier: Hawkes Bay Art Gallery and Museum, 1947. Special Collections QL 696 A63 R638 1947

Robert Gibbings, *A True Tale of Love in Tonga: Told in 23 Engravings and 333 Words*. London: Faber & Faber, 1935. Special Collections PR 6013 I21 T7

_____, *Sweet Cork of Thee*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1951. Special Collections DA 990 C79 GD98

_____, *Blue Angels and Whales: A Record of Personal Experiences Below and Above Water*. London: J. M. Dent, 1946. Special Collections QL 617 GD98

_____, *Coming down the Seine*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1953. Special Collections DC 611 S461 GD98

_____, *Trumpets from Montparnasse*. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co, 1955. Special Collections D921 GD98

_____, *Till I End My Song*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1957. Special Collections DA 690 L825 GD98

_____, *Sweet Thames Run Softly*. London: J. M. Dent & Sons, 1940. Special Collections DA 670 T2 GD98

VITRINES

1. Typography
2. Robert Gibbings
3. Eric Gill
4. Wood Engraving

REFERENCES:

Martin J. Andrews, *The Life and Work of Robert Gibbings*. Bicester: Primrose Hill Press, 2003

Donald Attwater, *A Cell of Good Living. The Life, Works and Opinions of Eric Gill*. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1969

Bibliography of The Golden Cockerel Press, 1921-1949. London: W. Dawson, 1975

Rod Cave and Sarah Manson, *A History of The Golden Cockerel Press, 1920-1960*. London: British Library & Oak Knoll Press, 2002.

Evan Gill, revised by D. Steven Corey and Julia Mackenzie, *Eric Gill, A Bibliography*. 2nd ed. Winchester: St Paul's Bibliographies, 1991

A.Mary Kirkus, Edited by Patience Empson and John Harris, *Bibliography of Robert Gibbings*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1962

Fiona MacCarthy, *Eric Gill*. London: Faber & Faber, 1989

Matrix 9 (Winter 1989)

Malcolm Yorke, *Eric Gill. Man of Flesh and Spirit*. London: Constable, 1981

Wikipedia entries on Eric Gill and Robert Gibbings

THANKS TO:

Martin Andrews, University of Reading; Roderick Cave, Oakham, Rutland; Chris Collins; Lorraine Johnston; John Hughes.

Exhibition Web Address: otago.ac.nz/library/specialcollections/exhibitions.html



EXHIBITION

Black + White + Grey



The Lives + Works of Eric Gill + Robert Gibbings



Exhibition List
5 June to 21 August 2015





The Lives + Works of Eric Gill + Robert Gibbings

In 1946, artist Robert Gibbings (1889-1958) visited his friend John Harris, who was then University Librarian at the University of Otago. Gibbings gave Harris five printed vellum sheets: three of Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* (1929-31) and two of John Keats's *Lamia* (1928). Both these titles were printed at The Golden Cockerel Press, which Gibbings owned from 1924 to 1933. One of the 'Canterbury' sheets contained an important addition: illustrations executed by Eric Gill (1882-1940), sculptor, stone cutter, engraver, and typographer. This vellum sheet is a small representative of the work that Gibbings and Gill did together, including the collaboration that resulted in *The Canterbury Tales*, and *The Four Gospels* (1931), which has been called 'the typographical masterpiece of the 20th century' (John Dreyfus).

Both Gibbings and Gill were sons of clergymen; Gibbings visited New Zealand; Gill's father was born in the South Seas in 1848; both wrote extensively on a wide range of topics; both were members of the Society of Wood Engravers (founded in 1920); both were talented artists; and both were prolific wood-engravers. And importantly for this exhibition, both made and designed books, although at first they were both typographically naïve. Their bookish collaboration lasted from 1925 to 1931.

Both men have had a lasting influence in the artistic world. Gibbings created some outstanding limited edition books through his The Golden Cockerel Press. He also left some marvellously lyrical travelogues on places such as Tonga, Samoa, and Ireland. Gill's legacy is perhaps more evident. His sculptures are found in institutions throughout the world; his line illustrations are frequently reproduced; and importantly, there are his typefaces such as Perpetua and Gill Sans (the typeface used for this exhibition); the latter used by many modern-day book-makers and designers today.

This exhibition is based on holdings within Special Collections. It is an overview, offering a glimpse into the lives and work of these two gifted artists. Please enjoy.

ITEMS ON DISPLAY

CABINET ONE: INTRODUCTION: ERIC GILL & ROBERT GIDDINGS

Photograph of Eric Gill, Pigotts, Buckinghamshire, October 1937

The Four Gospels of the Lord Jesus Christ. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1931. Private Collection

'The Miller's Tale', vellum sheet from Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1929-1931. Special Collections Z 250 GL33

Photograph of Robert Gibbings carving in his Tahitian pareu, Waltham St Lawrence, 1931

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1929-1931; Folio Society facsimile, 2010. Special Collections PR 1865 2010

Eric Gill, *Art & Prudence: An Essay*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1928. Special Collections N 70 GF47

CABINET TWO: TYPOGRAPHY I

'Plate 15' from Edward Johnston, *Manuscript & Inscription Letters for Schools & Classes & for the Use of Craftsmen*. London: John Hogg, 1911 (i.e. 1916). Special Collections NK 3600 J59 1916

Eric Gill, *An Essay of Typography*. Pigotts, Buckinghamshire: Eric Gill and René Hague, 1931. Special Collections Z 246 GF47 1931

'Plate 16' from Edward Johnston, *Manuscript & Inscription Letters for Schools & Classes & for the Use of Craftsmen*. London: John Hogg, 1911 (i.e. 1916). Special Collections NK 3600 J59 1916

CABINET THREE: TYPOGRAPHY II

The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity. London: Printed for 'The Fleuron', No.7 (1929). Special Collections Z 119 FL28

Laurence Sterne, *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy*. High Wycombe, England: Limited Editions Club, 1936. Special Collections PR 3714 S4 1936

CABINET FOUR (DRAWER): TO DITCHLING, SUSSEX

Douglas Pepler, *The Devil's Devices, or, Control versus Service*. London: Hampshire House Workshops, 1915. Special Collections BT 738 PD39 1915

Woes. *Being extracts from the New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as translated from the Latin Vulgate*. Ditchling, Sussex: St. Dominic's Press, 1919. Special Collections BS 2553 R44 1919

Frances Cornford, *Autumn Midnight*. London: Poetry Bookshop, 1923. Brasch Collection PR 6005 O67 A9

Douglas Pepler, *Concerning Dragons*. Ditchling, Sussex: [St. Dominic's Press], 1916. Private Collection

The Guild of St. Joseph & St. Dominic, *Constitution and Rules*. [Ditchling, Sussex: Douglas Pepler, 1922]. Private Collection

CABINET FIVE (DRAWER): POLEMICS

Eric Gill, *Clothes: An Essay upon the Nature and Significance of the Natural and Artificial Integuments worn by Men and Women*.

London: Jonathan Cape, 1931. Special Collections GN 418 GF46

_____, *Trousers & the Most Precious Ornament*. London: Faber & Faber, 1937. Special Collections GT 521 G52 1937

_____, *Unholy Trinity*. London: J. M. Dent & Sons for Hague & Gill, 1938. Brasch Collection PR 6013 I343 U5

_____, *Beauty looks after Herself: Essays*. London: Sheed & Ward, 1933. Special Collections PR 6013 I343 B42

_____, *Unemployment*. London: Faber & Faber, 1933. Brasch Collection HN 16 GF47

CABINET SIX: NUDES

Eric Gill, *First Nudes*. London: Neville Spearman, 1954. Special Collections NC 228 G53 A4 1954

John Rothenstein, *Eric Gill*. London: Ernest Benn, 1927. Brasch Collection NB 497 G55 A4 1927

Eric Gill, *Clothing without Cloth: An Essay on the Nude*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1931. Special Collections N 7572 G5 1931

CABINET SEVEN: RELIGION

The New Testament. Edited with and introduction by M.R. James. Vol. 4. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1934-1936. Brasch Collection BS 2085 1934 L6

E. Powys Mathers, *Procreant Hymn*. Original Version. Llandogo, Monmouthshire: Old Stile Press, 2010. Special Collections PR 6025 A833 P76 2010

Eric Gill, *The Lord's Song: A Sermon*. London: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1934. Special Collections PR 6013 I343 L67 1934

CABINET EIGHT: COLLABORATION I

Enid Clay, *Sonnets and Verses*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1925. Special Collections PR 6005 L48 S6

The Travels and Sufferings of Father Jean de Brébeuf among the Hurons of Canada. Edited and translated from the French and Latin by Theodore Besterman. London: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1938. Special Collections F 1030.7 BT72 1938

Prospectus for Enid Clay, *The Constant Mistress*. London: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1934. Private Collection

CABINET NINE (DRAWER): DETAILS

An Apology for the Life of Colley Cibber, Comedian, and Late Patentee of the Theatre-Royal. Vol. 1. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1925. Special Collections PR 3347 A81 1925

William Shakespeare, *King Richard II*. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1947. Special Collections PR 2820

The Phaedo of Plato. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1930. Special Collections B 379 A5 JV6

CABINET TEN (DRAWER): VERITAS

Eric Gill, *Autobiography*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1940. Brasch Collection NB 497 G55 A2 1940

_____, *Last Essays*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1942. Brasch Collection PR 6013 I343 A16 1942

_____, *In a Strange Land: Essays*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1944. Brasch Collection PR 6013 I343 I5

Letters of Eric Gill. Edited by Walter Shewring. London: Jonathan Cape, 1947. Brasch Collection NB 497 G55 A3 1947

CABINET ELEVEN: COLLABORATION II

Aldous Huxley, *Leda*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Company, 1929. Special Collections PR 6015 U9 L4 1929

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde*. New York: Literary Guild; Random House, 1932. Special Collections PR 1895 KN53 1932

The Hundredth Story of A. E. Coppard. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1931. Special Collections PR 6005 O55 H86 1931

CABINET TWELVE (DRAWER): ROBERT GIBBINGS

The Studio. Vol. 80. (November 1920), p.156. Storage Journal N1 S88a

Photograph of Robert Gibbings, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 1914

Samuel Butler, *Erewhon, or, Over the Range*. London: Jonathan Cape, 1923. Special Collections PR 4349 B7 E6 1923

CABINET THIRTEEN (DRAWER): THE GOLDEN COCKEREL PRESS I

Pierre de Bourdeille Brantôme, *The Lives of Gallant Ladies*. Vol. 1. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1924. Special Collections DC 112 A1 BT438 1924

A.E. Coppard, *Pelagea & Other Poems*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1926. Special Collections PR 6005 O55 P44 1926

Samson and Delilah: from the Book of Judges according to the Authorised Version. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1925. Special Collections BS 1303 1925

CABINET FOURTEEN: THE GOLDEN COCKEREL PRESS II

John Keats, *Lamia, Isabella, The Eve of Saint Agnes & Other Poems*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1928. Special Collections PR 4832 1928

Vellum sheet showing printed extracts of 'Lamia' and 'Isabella, or The Pot of Basil' from John Keats, *Lamia, Isabella, The Eve of Saint Agnes & Other Poems*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1928. Special Collections Z 250 GL33

Robert Gibbings, *The 7th Man: A True Cannibal Tale of the South Sea Islands*. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1930. Special Collections PR 6013 I21 S38