



Bodleian Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Bodleian Libraries Printer in Residence

The Bodleian Libraries invite applications from experienced printers and book artists for a residency of one month, to take place during the University of Oxford academic year 2019-20.

The Bodleian Libraries are fortunate to have a printing workshop housing several hand-operated platen presses, a proofing ('Vandercook type') press, and a rolling (etching) press. The workshop, located in the Old Bodleian Library, is used for teaching the history of printing and the craft of letterpress and relief printing to University students, visiting classes, schools, and the public, and has a strong connection to engagement and outreach from within the Libraries, especially to the Exhibitions and Education programmes. There is also a replica common press located in the Weston Library for Special Collections, which is used for printing by the public.

There is a close link between the Bodleian Bibliographical Press and Faculties in the University, especially the Faculties of English and Medieval and Modern Languages. Collections and staff of the Bodleian support teaching about the physical form and making of printed books from Gutenberg to the present.

The Printer-in-Residence programme was inaugurated with the residency of Russell Maret during October 2017, followed by Emily Martin in October 2018.

The residency is intended to increase awareness of the Bibliographical Press facility and its connection to the Special Collections of the Bodleian Libraries, to contribute to the Libraries' academic and public-facing programmes which use the workshop, and to encourage a creative spirit in the book arts within the University.

Applications are invited from letterpress printers or creative book artists who have created a body of work of high quality and also are demonstrably able to make use of the Bodleian's Bibliographical Press workshop and materials. Applicants are advised to note the equipment available at the Press, including the range of type available, and to describe how they would provide any additional materials required for their work during the residency.

The deadline for applications is Friday, 5 April 2019, and the Library will expect to extend an invitation to the selected applicant by the end of April 2019.

For an informal introduction to the workshop and discussion of the history of this residency programme, please contact Alexandra Franklin, Co-ordinator of the Centre for the Study of the Book (alexandra.franklin@bodleian.ox.ac.uk), or Chris Fletcher, Keeper of Special Collections (chris.fletcher@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

Terms of the award

Funds of £2,000 are available to support accommodation and living costs during the residency. The Library can forward recommendations for finding accommodation.

An invitation to take up the award is dependent on agreement on the dates of a residency of one month within **either** the University of Oxford Michaelmas or Hilary (autumn **or** winter) term in 2019–20. [[See information](https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term?wssl=1): <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term?wssl=1>].

It is the responsibility of any candidate who is invited to take up the residency to secure any necessary UK visa to enable the period of residence required in Oxford.

Two copies of the publication produced (see below) will be donated to the Bodleian Libraries and other copies may be retained by the printer.

Technical abilities

Candidates must have proven knowledge and practical skills of using flat-bed and/or cylinder printing presses, and will be expected to use the equipment and type available in the Press (described below) as well as any materials they may supply.

The residency provides:

- Support, up to a maximum of £2,000, for a one-month residence in Oxford, to cover accommodation and subsistence costs. The details are to be arranged by agreement with the Library.
- Access to the Special Collections of the Bodleian Libraries as a reader, subject to Admissions procedures.
- Use of the Press workshop (contents described below). Standard quantities and qualities of paper and ink will be provided.

Programme, to be agreed with the Library

The Printer-in-Residence will be asked to immerse themselves in the academic and public-facing activities of the busy and lively Bodleian Bibliographical Press and the Weston Library. They should plan during the residency to produce a printed publication at the Bibliographical Press; to deliver a public lecture; to engage with graduate-level students of the University through a workshop or teaching session, and also to lead a workshop open to the public. There may be opportunities to display their work, by agreement with the Library as part of the programme.

Applicants should note that (based on previous experience) up to 25% of the residency time may be occupied with demonstrating and contributing to post-graduate teaching. The Press is used for teaching to postgraduate students in English, and so may be unavailable for certain timetabled hours during the week.

How to apply

Applications should be sent by email or file transfer to fellowships@bodleian.ox.ac.uk by 5 April 2019, and must include:

- The application form
- A cover letter outlining your history as a printer or book artist and your aims for the residency.

- A *curriculum vitae* indicating work completed and displayed, teaching and lecturing experience, and expertise in the use of printing equipment relevant to the Bodleian Bibliographical Press workshop contents.
- An outline (up to 1,200 words) of plans for the residency. This should describe: the planned publication, the public lecture, a workshop open to students, and a workshop for the public, with a title and brief description of each of these elements.
- A portfolio of work, in the form of digital images sent by email or file transfer, or reference to a website, or other format by agreement with the Library. NO samples of work should be posted to the Library. Original work received will not be returned.

Equipment of the Bodleian Bibliographical Press

PRESSES

John & Jeremiah Barrett Albion Press of 1835 (ex-Daniel Press). Platen 17¾" x 24". Belonged to Charles Henry Olive Daniel (1836–1919) Provost (1903–1919) of Worcester College.

Miller & Richard Albion Press of 1898 (ex-Moss Press). Platen 12" x 18".

Harrild & Sons Albion Press of 1877 (ex-Leonard Baskin). Platen 11" x 16". Belonged to Leonard Baskin (1922–2000), who founded the Gehenna press in 1942 (the name coming from a line in Milton's *Paradise Lost*: "And black Gehenna call'd, the type of Hell"). The archive of the Gehenna Press was acquired by the Bodleian Library in 2009.

Frederick Ullmer Albion Press of circa 1900 (ex-Samson Press). Platen 7" x 12". The Samson Press was a private press run by Joan Mary Shelmerdine (1899–1994) and Flora Margaret Grierson (1899–1966). The press began in 1930 in Warlingham, Surrey and moved to Woodstock, Oxfordshire in 1937, where the business continued until 1967 when Joan Shelmerdine gave the archive and the printing equipment to the Bodleian.

(Miller & Richards?) Columbian Press of circa 1860 (ex-Samson Press, see above). Platen 18"x 25¼".

Star-wheel Hughes & Kimber etching press, 19th century. 13" roller x 30" bed (ex-music printing).

Western ("Vandercook" type) proofing press (ex-Vivian Ridler, on loan from The Story Museum, Oxford); 24" x 16" bed.

TYPE

Wood type, mostly 20th century, in a range of sizes from 30-line to 6-line

Caslon type (12–48 point), Caslon Italic (12–42 point), Caslon small capitals;

Bell type (8–36 point)

Ancient Black (12–18 point)

Perpetua type (12, 14, 18 pt)

4 cases of Fell italic [from C.H.O. Daniel]

One case each of Greek, Hebrew

15 cases of Centaur, Arrighi and other faces from the Moss donation. Two cases of ornaments.

Half-tone and line blocks from the Samson Press

Half-tone and line blocks from the Bodleian Quarterly Record