CABINET FIFTEEN: THE GOLDEN COCKEREL PRESS III

A.R. Coppard, 
Cresty-Shinhole: A Tale of the Strange Adventure that befell a Butcher of County Clare; The Beauty Spot: A Tale concerning the Childress. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1952. Special Collections PR 6055 OSS 57 1932

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

CABINET SIXTEEN: COMMERCIAL WORK


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: Rod Gey Head, 1936. Special Collections PR 6031 O 97 T9


CABINET EIGHTEEN: WORKS BY ROBERT GIBBINGS


VITRINES

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

REFERENCES:


Martin F. Winter (1989)

Malcolm Yorke, Eric Gill: Man of Flesh and Spirit. London: Constable, 1941

Wikipedia entries on Eric Gill and Robert Gibbings

THANKS TO:

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Exhibition Web Address: otsg.ac.nz/otsg/specialcollections/exhibitions.html
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 (1925-31) and two of John Keats's Lamento (1929). Both these plates were printed at The Golden Cockerel Press, which Gibbings owned from 1925 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 (1933), which was called 'the typographical masterpiece of the 20th century' (John Dryden).

Both Gibbings and Gill were sons of engravers: Gibbings visited New Zealand; Gill's father was born in the South East in 1848; both wrote extensively on a wide range of topics; both were members of the Society of Wood Engravers (founded in 1908); 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 naive. Their bookish collaboration lasted from 1925 to 1931.

Both men 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 tyrical travelogues on places such as Tangs, 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 GIBBINGS

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
Photograph of Robert Gibbings carving in his Tihitan pane, Waltham St Lawrence, 1931

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 NN 360 399 375
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 NN 360 399 375

CABINET THREE: TYPOGRAPHY II


CABINET FOUR: DRAWER TO DITCHLING, SUSSEX

Douglas Pepler, The Devil's Devices, or Central versus Service. London: Hampshire House Workshops, 1915. Special Collections BT 739 7095 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 2557 844 1919
Douglas Pepler, Concerning Dragons. Ditchling, Sussex: [St. Dominic's Press], 1916. Private Collection

CABINET FIVE: DRAWER: POMEGRANITES

Eric Gill, Clothier: An Essay upon the Nature and Significance of the Natural and Artificial Improvements worn by Men and Women.
London: Jonathan Cape, 1931. Special Collections GN 419 G946
Travellers & The Most Precious Ornament. London: Faber & Faber, 1937. Special Collections GT 521 5G2 1937

CABINET SIX: NUBES

Eric Gill, Print Nubis. London: Neville Spearman, 1936. Special Collections NC 228 G55 A4 1944

CABINET SEVEN: RELIGION


CABINET EIGHT: COLLABORATION I

Ernst Clay, Jornette and Verses. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1925. Special Collections PR 3367 AIII 1925
The Flower of Plate. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1930. Special Collections B 379 A5 IV6

CABINET NINE: DETAILS


CABINET TEN: DRAWER: VERITAS

In a Strange Land. Essays. London: Jonathan Cape, 1944. Branch Collection PR 6013 2443 1S

CABINET ELEVEN: COLLABORATION II

The Hundredth Story of A.E. Coppard. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1931. Special Collections PR 600 5SS 1938 1931

CABINET TWELVE: DRAWER: ROBERT GIBBINGS

Photograph of Robert Gibbings, Royal Master Pottlers, 1914

CABINET THIRTEEN: DRAWER: THE GOLDEN COCKEREL PRESS I

A.E. Coppard, Polapea & Other Poems. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1926. Special Collections PR 600 5SS P44 1926
Samson and Dalilah, from the Book of Judges according to the Authorised Version. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1925. Special Collections BS 1803 1925

CABINET FOURTEEN: THE GOLDEN COCKEREL PRESS II

Vellum sheet showing printed extracts of Lammis and Isabella, or The Pot of Basil from John Keats, Lammis, Isabella. The Eve of Saint Agnes & Other Poems. Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire: The Golden Cockerel Press, 1928. Special Collections B 230 GL33