

British Printing Society

www.bpsnet.org.uk



Prospectus

Publishing Group

A Publishing Group was formed within the Society in 1958. It was started because even at that time the number of members was becoming so large that not all those who wished to publish items within the Society were able to produce the number of copies required. Publications, which are circulated to members of the Group, have included limited editions of good private press quality, magazines for churches and schools, small literary magazines, booklets, leaflets and cards. Membership of the Group, for which a small supplementary subscription charge is made to cover the cost of the additional mailings, is restricted to those with a genuine interest in its purpose.

Enquiries

In general, enquiries should be addressed to the appropriate Officer and a brief list of responsibilities will be found inside the Membership List. Although all officers will help with questions relating to their own responsibilities, problems of a more general nature should be addressed to the Enquiries Officer who will then approach a specialist in the particular subject.

No charge will be made for assistance, but all written enquiries should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

Awards and Trophies

Several awards are presented annually at the Society Dinner. These are awarded either in recognition of service to the Society or for especially meritorious examples of printing.

Library

The Society owns a large collection of books relating to printing and other items such as manuals for presses and other equipment. These may be borrowed by members at no charge provided each-way postage is paid. A list of books and other items is available from the Librarian.

Website

The Society has its own website at www.bpsnet.org.uk. The website contains details of interest to members and others, and various links to other areas of printing interest.

Objects

The objects of the Society are to engender and maintain an interest in printing in any of its forms.

Brief History

The Society was founded in 1944 by William Brace. Initially it was known as the *Amateur Printers' Association*. In 1948 it was re-named the *International Small Printers' Association* and it retained this name until 1965, when it became known as the *British Printing Society*.

William Brace visualised an organisation that would enable printers to exchange views and experiences, pass on hints and tips, and generally promote a spirit of craftsmanship and friendliness. As well as a society of printers, he intended that it should also be seen as a 'Society of Friends'.

The Society has grown over the years and at the time of the Jubilee in 1994 the membership reached a peak of 1300 from all parts of the British Isles and, indeed, from various countries throughout the world. Its many activities show that those ideals proposed by William Brace have not been forgotten.

Outline of philosophy and culture

The Society is open to all who have an interest in printing, whether on an amateur or professional level. Administrative affairs of the Society are managed by the Executive Council. The Society has no paid employees and all officers give their time voluntarily. It owns no premises and all meetings are held either in members' homes or in venues hired for the occasion.

Executive Council

The Executive Council (EC) is elected annually at the AGM by and from the membership, and it is responsible for running the administrative and other formal affairs of the Society. The Executive Officers are shown below together with a brief description of their function:

The **President** represents the Society at outside functions and chairs meetings of the EC and AGM.

The **Vice-President** deputises for the President as necessary.

The **Secretary** is responsible for the administrative affairs of the Society.

The **Treasurer** is responsible for all financial aspects.

A **PG Councillor** represents the interests of the Publishing Group on the EC.

A **Convention representative** represents the Branch organising the current Convention.

Additionally, three councillors represent the general membership.

All posts are held for twelve months and are subject to re-election at the Annual General Meeting, which takes place at the Convention. Any member of the Society may be elected to any post, after his or her initial year of membership, if a proposer and seconder can be found. However, no one person may hold more than one executive post simultaneously. Meetings of the EC are held at regular intervals.

In addition there are non-executive officers who do not appear on the EC:

Advertising Manager	Librarian
Block Librarian	Mailer
Enquiries Officer	Membership Secretary
Editor	Sales Secretary
Historian	Webmaster

These officers are appointed by the Executive Council and vacancies are advertised in *Small Printer* as they occur.

Rules

A copy of the Society Rules and of the current Membership List is supplied to each member upon joining.

Membership

There are two classes of membership: full membership and group membership. The former is held by an individual and covers members of his or her family living at the same address; the latter may be held by a number of people such as in a school, church, hospital, etc.

A new member will pay a full year's subscription at the prevailing rate upon joining and renewal will be due on the anniversary of that date.

The subscription rate is reviewed annually and is published in *Small Printer*.

Small Printer and bundle items

Small Printer, the magazine of the Society, is printed monthly and distributed free to all members each month. Contents include articles and letters written by

members, commercial news, Branch reports and minutes of Society meetings. Contributions, whether of a technical nature or otherwise, from members are encouraged.

The Society operates a system whereby members can advertise articles wanted and for sale. Together with the magazine, members also receive 'the bundle', which may include items such as examples of members' work, forewarning of Branch Open Days, and other items of interest. Members are encouraged to produce their own items for inclusion in the bundle and there is no charge for this unless the item contains advertising. Co-operative publications are occasionally produced either by Branches or informally by a number of members working together.

Branches and Open Days

There are several Branches of the Society distributed throughout the country. Although these are recognised and encouraged by the Society it is the Society's policy to allow members the maximum freedom to run their Branch in whatever way seems most suitable. No two Branches, therefore, will be quite the same.

Members are encouraged to form a local Branch if there is none close to them, and help in doing so will be provided by the EC. Some Branches hold an annual Open Day at which members and non-members meet to exchange equipment and ideas. Membership of a local Branch is by no means mandatory but it provides an excellent opportunity to meet other printers.

Conventions and the AGM

A Convention is held annually during the second quarter of the year and it represents the highlight of the year's activities. The programme and location varies from year to year and it is usually hosted and organised by one of the Branches, although if no offers are forthcoming it is run by the EC. It traditionally takes place over a weekend, starting Friday afternoon and finishing on Sunday after lunch. The main events at the Convention are the Annual General Meeting of the Society, at which elections are held, and the Society Annual Dinner on Saturday evening. The Publishing Group AGM is also held during the weekend.

Other events generally include a bring-and-buy sale, an auction, and various trade stands. There are usually several talks and demonstrations and plenty of opportunity to meet other members. Depending on the venue visits to places of interest to printers may be arranged.