



Birkbeck Staff Development Day 2012

Illustrating the Printed Word

Anne Welsh

**Lecturer in Library and Information
Studies**

Genny Grim

Cataloguer, SSEES Library

Summary

This talk will discuss the ways in which decorative matter has been used to illustrate books, from the early days of the printing press to desk-top publishing. When is an illustration not an illustration? Does being part of a book or a pamphlet affect the way we appreciate a print? What can book-jackets tell us about the book they cover? And what happens when the Art subsumes the text, as is the case in many artists' books today?

Agenda

- What is an illustration?
- Kinds of illustration
- Images and words

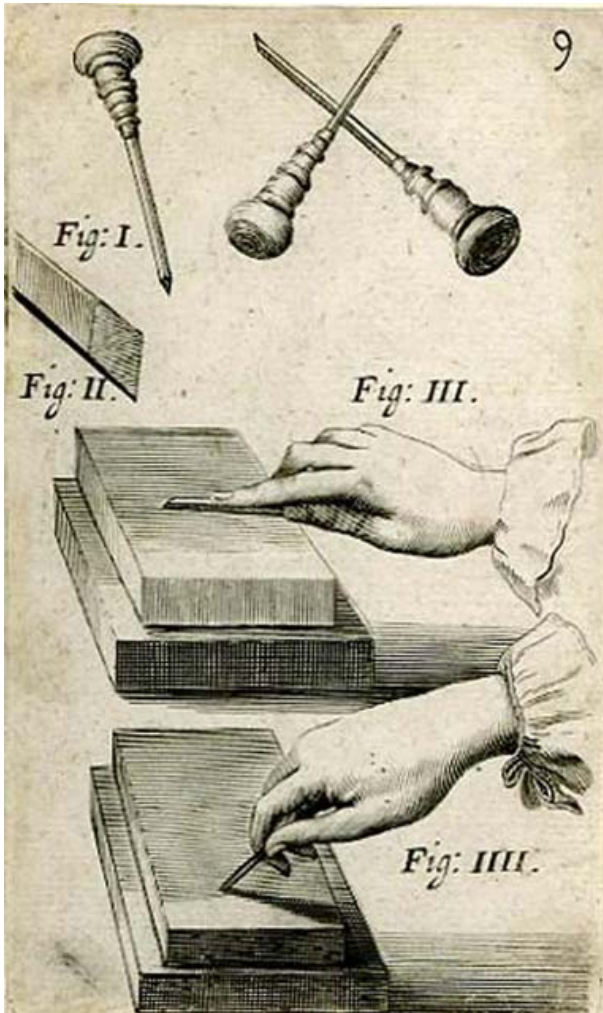
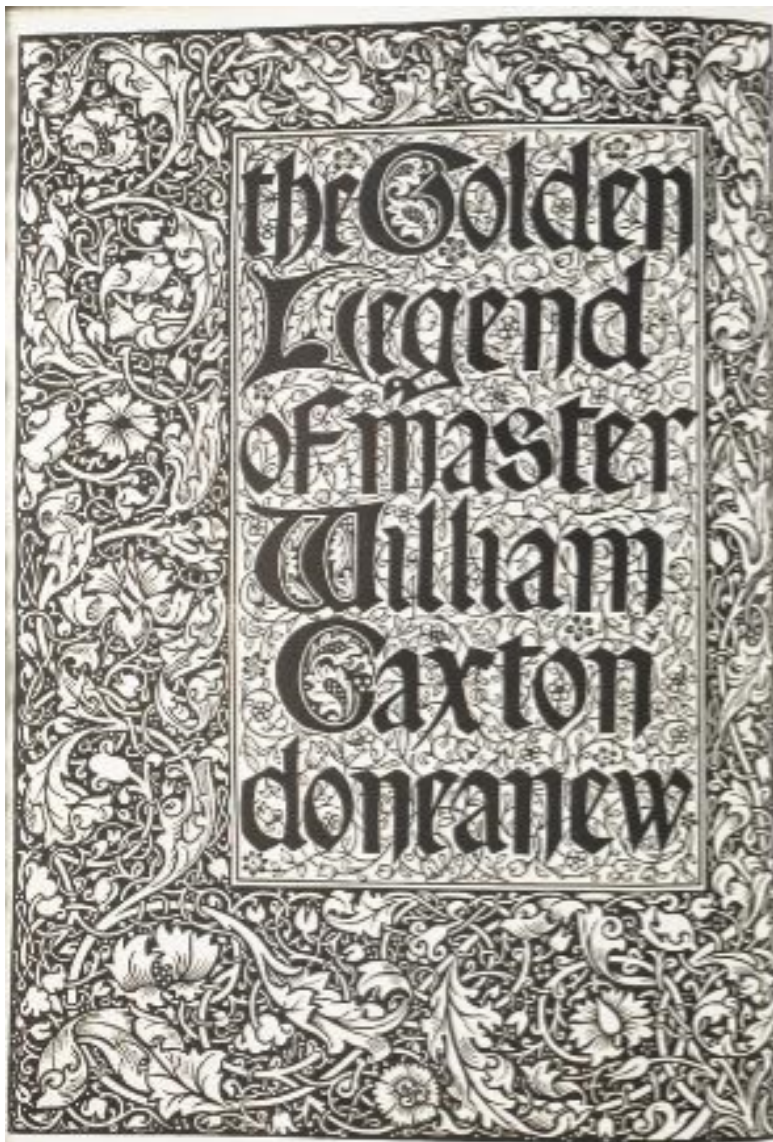


Image: Plate 9 to William Faithorne, *The art of graveing and etching* (London, 1662).

<http://www.bpi1700.org.uk/jsp/image.jsp?image=502730>



Decorated Initial



Image: Initial capital 'M', behind which stands David in light armour, holding the severed head of Goliath; tree to the left. c.1690-1720

<http://www.bpi1700.org.uk/jsp/image.jsp?image=152631>

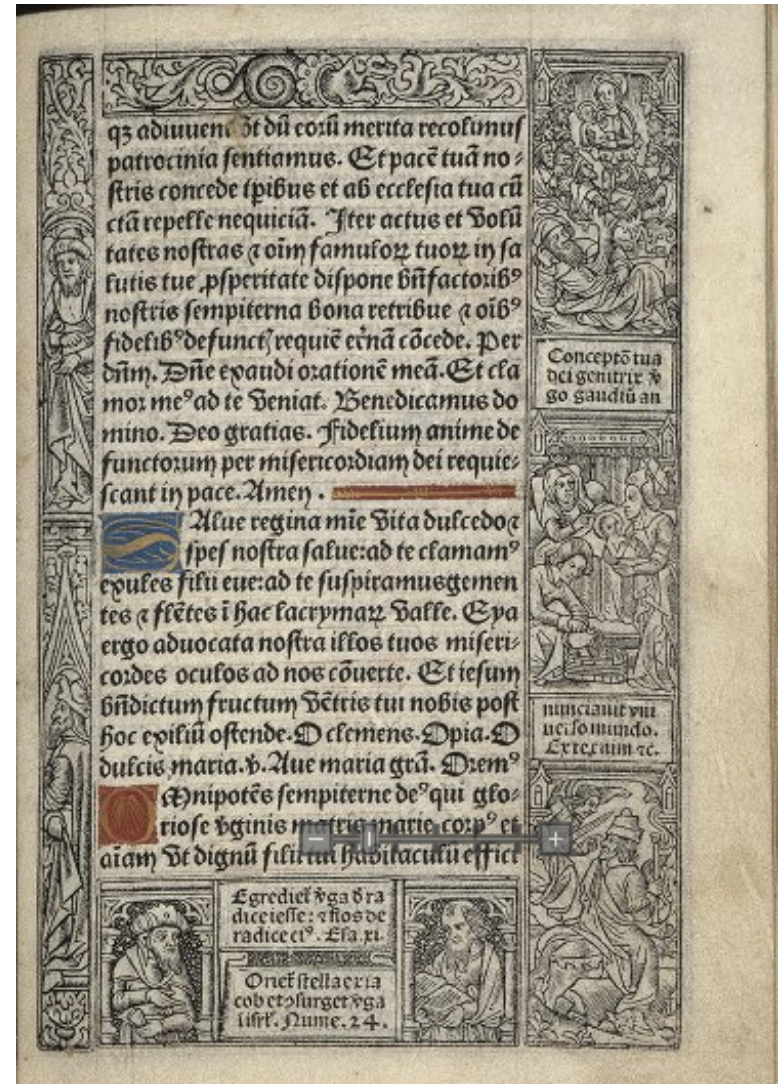
Decorated / Illustrated Border

Image: Birth of the Virgin from *Horaie ad usum Romanum* (Paris: Thielman Kerver, 1498). Manchester John Rylands

<http://enriqueta.man.ac.uk:8180/luna/servlet/detail/>

Manchester~91~1~6186~100460:Birth-of-the-Virgin?

qvq=q:horae;lc:Man4MedievalVC~4~4,ManchesterDev~93~3,ManchesterDev~95~2,Manchester~91~1&mi=23&trs=105&embedded=true&cic=ManchesterDev%7E95%7E2%2CManchester%7E91%7E1%2CMan4MedievalVC%7E4%7E4%2CManchesterDev%7E93%7E3&widgetFormat=javascript&widgetType=detail&controls=1&nsip=1





PSYCHE BORNE OFF BY ZE-
PHYRUS, DRAWN BY EDWARD
BURNE-JONES & ENGRAVED
BY WILLIAM MORRIS

**NOTE BY WILLIAM MORRIS
ON HIS AIMS IN FOUNDING
THE KELMSCOTT PRESS, & &**

IBEGAN printing books with the hope of producing some which would have a definite claim to beauty, while at the same time they should be easy to read and should not dazzle the eye, or trouble the intellect of the reader by eccentricity of form in the letters. I have always been a great admirer of the calligraphy of the Middle Ages, & of the earlier printing which took its place. As to the fifteenth-century books, I had noticed that they were always beautiful by force of the mere typography, even without the added ornament, with which many of them are so lavishly supplied. And it was the essence of my undertaking to produce books which it would be a pleasure to look upon as pieces of printing and arrangement of type. Looking at my adventure from this point of view then, I found I had to consider chiefly the following things: the paper, the form of the type, the relative spacing of the letters, the words, and the

William Morris. *The Art and Craft of Printing.*

Available online from <http://manybooks.net/titles/morriswi3159631596-8.html#>

[Images removed for copyright reasons]

The Life of Saint David
Ernest Rhys. [Gregynog]:
Gregynog Press, 1927

The Fables of Esop
Aesop; trans. by William Caxton
Gregynog Press, 1931

Kinds of Printing

- Making a woodcut:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgCYovIFRNY>

- Intaglio engraving on copper:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD8B51okybE>

- Etching:

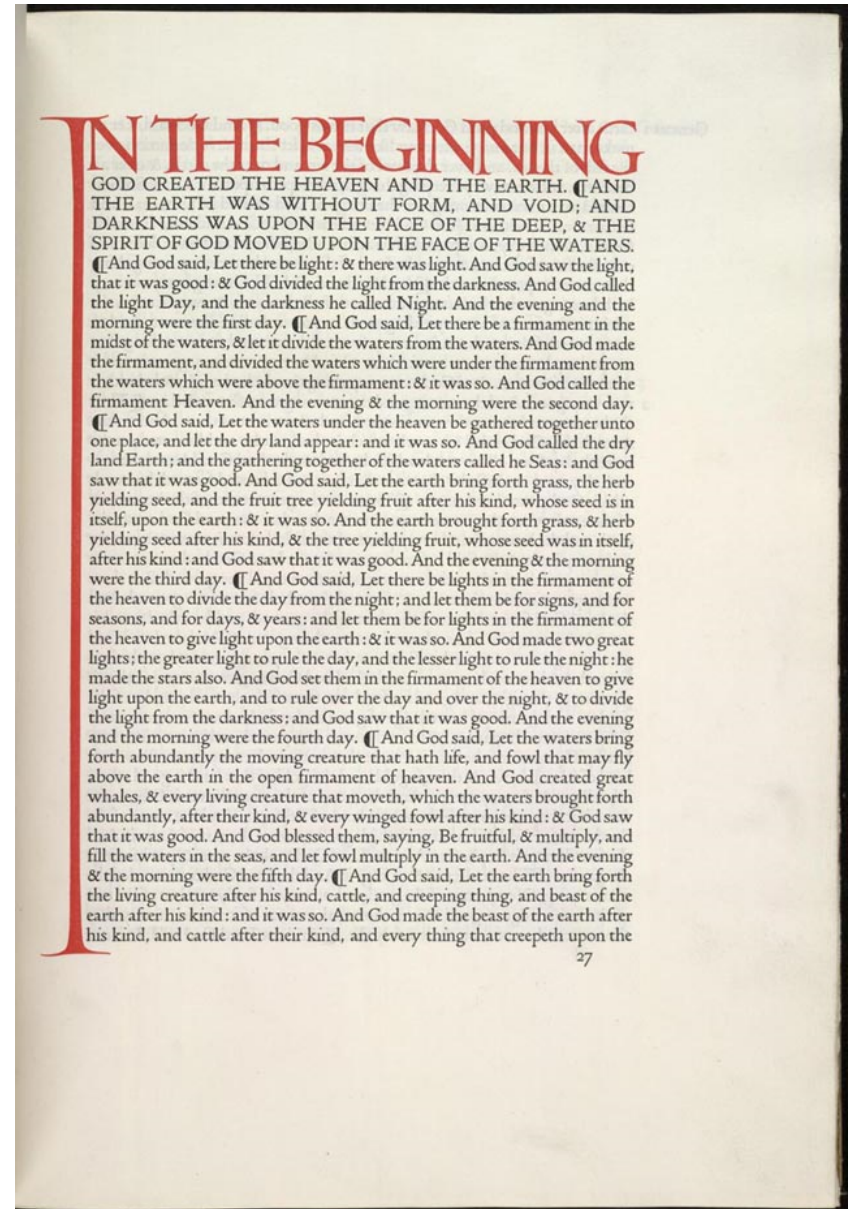
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md6Zb8xMmks>

- Lithography:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUXDItQfqSA>

“This elongated initial letter and bold rendering of "In the Beginning" in red ink make this one of the most powerful and evocative title pages in printing history. T.J. Cobden-Sanderson, the founder of the Doves Press, commissioned Edward Johnston to design the first page of this typographical masterpiece. The Doves Press Bible is one of the monuments of the Arts and Craft Movement that swept Great Britain and America at the end of the nineteenth century.”

~ World Treasures of the Library of Congress,
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/world/world-intro.html>



Everyman's Library

[Images removed for copyright reasons]

Bindings



Everyman's Library

[Image removed for copyright reasons]

Gollancz

[Images removed for copyright reasons]

Faber & Faber

[Images removed for copyright reasons]

Penguin

[Images removed for copyright reasons]