

# The Craft, Texture, and Aesthetics of Letter Forms from Antiquity to the Present

University of Cambridge, Faculty of English,  
9 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP  
2 to 4 September 2025

Co-hosted by the Faculty of English, University of Cambridge, Stanford  
SILICON, Stanford University, and the University Library Research Institute

## PROGRAMME



**Images used:** 3D render of Baskerville 'g' punch © Blazej Mikula/Photogrammetry; Mark Box/Cambridge University Library; Close-up of wood engraving © Cardozo Kindersley Workshop; Thomas Betson's Notebook, St John's College MS E.6 f.4v, by permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge.

**Organising committee:** Prof. Marcus Waithe (co-chair), Prof. Orietta Da Rold (co-chair), Dr Jessica Berenbeim, Dr Ruth Abbott, Prof. Elaine Treharne, Prof. Marcos Martínón-Torres, Mr Maciej Pawlikowski, Dr Matteo Seita, Professor Jason Scott-Warren, Miss Eleanor Parmenter, Mr Logan Rivers.

**Sponsors:** Stanford SILICON (Stanford), Faculty of English (Cambridge), University Library Research Institute (Cambridge)



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All sessions will take place in the English Faculty, GR06/07, unless otherwise stated. See directions at end of programme.

## **Tuesday 2 September 2025**

10.30-11.15 Registration and coffee at Faculty of English, 9 West Rd – Foyer

11.15-11.30 Welcome: Orietta Da Rold (St John's College, Cambridge) and Marcus Waithe (Magdalene College, Cambridge)

### **11.00-13.00 Panel 1: *Cambridge Contexts***

Chair: Marcus Waithe (Magdalene College, Cambridge)

Sebastian Carter (Independent practitioner), 'The Tools of the Trade'

Victoria Mills (Birkbeck College, University of London), 'The Letter Forms of a Victorian 'Art-Workman''

Lida Lopes Cardozo Kindersley and Roxanne Kindersley (The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop), 'Lettercutting: A Legacy'

13.00-14.00 Lunch and registration (English Faculty foyer)

### **14.00-15.30 Panel 2: *Materialities***

Chair: Jason Scott-Warren (Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge)

Tom Frith-Powell (The Paper Foundation)

Matteo Seita (St Johns College, Cambridge), 'The Form and Structure of Metals: Divorced in Scale, Married in History'

Farah Hadi (Anglia Ruskin University), 'Modern History of Arabic Type: The Reforming Projects of the Arabic Script'

15.30-16.00 Coffee / Tea Break (English Faculty foyer)

### **16.00-17.00 Panel 3: *Scribal Forms***

Chair: Suzanne Paul (University Library)

Marc Michaels (University of Cambridge), 'Sefer Tagin: Olde Face, Semi-ligatures and Slab-serifs, Ancient Allographs of Letter Forms, Preserved in the Dead Sea Scrolls'

Patricia Lovett (Independent practitioner), 'Quills, Ink, Vellum, Letterforms'

18.00-19.30 **Wine reception and canapés**

Robert Cripps Gallery, New Library, Magdalene College (a Stirling Prize-winning building, with Cardozo Kindersley Workshop inscriptions in the foyer: see map at end programme for directions) [N.B. the Gallery is currently hosting an exhibition of small sculptures by Rachel Whiteread. It is a condition of the loan that no food is consumed in the Gallery and that no photographs are taken of the sculptures. We hope you enjoy the exhibition.]

**Wednesday 3 September 2025**

9.15-10.00 Registration and Coffee / Tea (English Faculty foyer)

10.00-11.30 **Panel 4: *Letters across Time and Space***

Chair: Alessandro Bianchi (University Library)

Elaine Treharne (Stanford University), 'Some Medieval Sources for the Lettering of David Jones'

Audrey Gao (Stanford University), 'Stanford SILICON and Digitally Disadvantaged Languages'

Joshua Fitzgerald (University of Edinburgh), 'Aztec Capital Amplifications: Illuminated Embellishments and New Lettering in the Earliest Christian Scriptures of the Americas'

11.30-13.00 **Panel 5: *Literature and the Letter***

Chair: Jessica Berenbeim (Jesus College, Cambridge)

Nicholas Dunn-McAfee (University of York), 'Painted Words: Letters In, On, For and About the Inaugural Pre-Raphaelite Artwork'

India Oswin (University of Cambridge), 'Gesture, Affect, Line: Alison Bielski's Monogrammatic Letter Forms'

Marcus Waithe (Magdalene College, Cambridge), 'Modelling Character: Stone Inscriptions in the Page World of the Victorian Novel'

13.00-14.00 Lunch (English Faculty foyer)

14.00-15.30 **Panel 6: *Beyond Pen and Type***

Chair: Orietta Da Rold (St John's College, Cambridge)

Susan Hufton (Independent Scholar), 'Weaving Letters'

Craig Eliason (University of St. Thomas), 'Embroidered Samplers Then, Graffiti Throwups Now: The Forces Shaping Lettering Beyond Pen and Type'

Jane Partner (Trinity Hall, Cambridge), 'Embodying Letters: Research and Practice'

15.30-16.00 Coffee / Tea (English Faculty foyer)

16.00-17.30 **Panel 7: *Modernities***

Chair: Ruth Abbott (St John's College, Cambridge)

John Neilson (Independent Practitioner), 'Can't You Carve Straight?'

Paul Stirton (Independent Scholar), 'Rudolf Koch and Jan Tschichold: Modern Letterforms in Weimar Germany'

Humphrey Stone (Independent Practitioner), 'Father and Son: Letterer and Typographer'

19.00-21.00 **Conference Dinner**, Magdalene College, Hall (see map at end of programme for directions)

**Thursday 4 September 2025**

8.30-8.45 Registration (English Faculty foyer)

Note the earlier start and end time, to allow for the walk to the University Library.

9.00-11.00 **Object Display with Visit to Historical Printing Room**

Meeting in the English Faculty by 8.45 at the latest to walk to the location promptly.

11.15-12.45 **Panel 8: *Research Projects***

Chair: Tessa Webber (Trinity College, Cambridge)

Maciej M. Pawlikowski (University Library), Marcos Martín-Torres (University of Cambridge), and Emily Watt (University of Cambridge), 'Crafting Typographic Punches in 18th-Century England: The Small Performances Project'

Riccardo Olocco (Independent practitioner), 'John Baskerville's Type Design and Its Digital Revival'

Catherine Sutherland (Pepys Library, Magdalene College), 'Pepys's Collection of Handwriting and the Fragmentarium Project'

12.45-14.00 Lunch (English Faculty foyer)

14.00-15.30 **Panel 9: *From Calligraphy to Inscription***

Chair: Aaron Koller (University of Cambridge)

Ellis Tinios (Independent Scholar), 'Calligraphy in Print in Early Modern Japan'

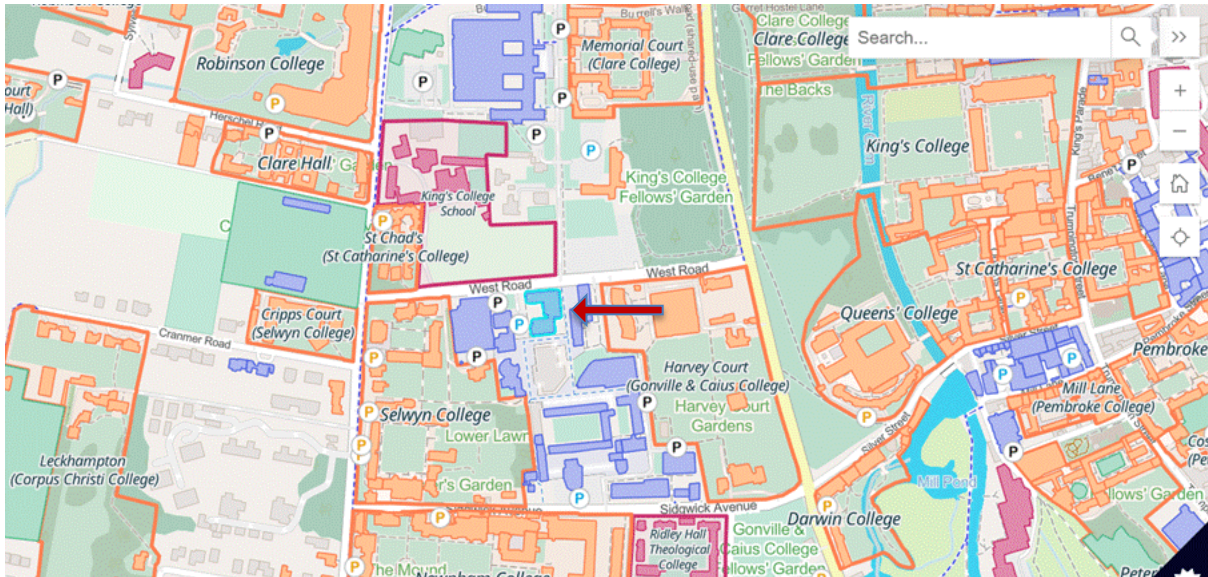
Noam Schechter (Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem), 'Two Critical Flaws in Hebrew Italic Design: Reassessing Direction and Form'

Jessica Berenbeim (Jesus College, Cambridge), 'Prophetic Letters'

15.30-16.00 Coffee / Tea (English Faculty foyer)

16.00-16.30 Closing Remarks: Ruth Abbott (St John's College, Cambridge)

**University of Cambridge, English Faculty: Map and Directions to conference venue**



[Link to University Maps](#)

The entrance to the English Faculty building is on the East side of the building, off of West Road. There will be a member of event staff to greet you in the foyer each morning of the conference.



English Faculty entrance

## **Magdalene College: Map and Directions to Drinks and Dinner**

### ***Directions to Tuesday drinks:***

Walk from Magdalene Street through the main gate of the College and proceed across First Court, passing through the passage to the Second Court; cross Second Court; turn left at the Pepys Building and pass through the corner gate that leads to Garden Court; follow the path around Garden Court to reach the entrance to New Library; turn right in the New Library foyer to reach the Robert Cripps Gallery.

***Directions to Wednesday dinner:***

Walk from Magdalene Street through the main gate of the College and proceed across First Court. The Hall is accessed via the left side of the passage situated between First Court and Second Court.

