

reviews

Reviews Editor's note

As of this issue of *Art libraries journal* I have assumed the duties of Reviews Editor. The welcome assistance of my predecessor, Barbara Polowy, and the skilled guidance of Gillian Varley, Editor of this journal, have greatly smoothed the path as I prepared my first section of reviews.

I plan to continue Barbara's editorial plan by focusing on core reference works and bibliographies within the visual arts, as well as resources relevant to art librarians and visual resources professionals. I will include electronic resources to the extent that they fit within the aforementioned scope, and also strive to include pertinent foreign-language materials.

Over the past ten years, Barbara has cultivated an outstanding group of contributors whom I will continue to badger with review requests, but I also hope to attract new reviewers from Europe and North America. I invite publishers, art information professionals, and anyone interested in reference resources in the arts to suggest recent publications for review. Please contact me at the address below.

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British map engravers: a dictionary of engravers, lithographers and their principal employers to 1850

Laurence Worms and Ashley Baynton-Williams

London : Rare Book Society, 2011.
744 p. ill. ISBN 9780956942203.
£125.00 (hardcover)

This impressive new work is much more than a dictionary of British cartographers. Its utility will cross many domains, including the study of British printmaking and the British book trade, for where its scope overlaps with notable biographical dictionaries in these kindred studies, it unfailingly offers new and more complete information. With admirable detail, *British map engravers* documents some 1500 members of varied trades involved with the production of maps in the British Isles from the 16th century to 1850. This roster includes *all* the known engravers, lithographers, and globe makers – that is, every individual who ‘put their hands to metal to produce the printed image’. In addition, it provides a judicious *selection* of cartographers,

surveyors, printers, publishers, and printsellers who ‘were of sufficient importance or influence as the employers of engravers ... to merit their own entry’. For the sake of brevity, this review employs the word ‘engravers’ in the same very broad sense as the work reviewed.

In the period covered by this work, there was a great overlap between the field of map engraving and the making of more common forms of prints. Indeed, for many of the engravers included in *British map engravers*, the making of maps was a secondary activity. Some produced but a single map, or a small part thereof. The authors also include engravers for whom no cartographic work survives, but who are known to have been map engravers based on contemporary directories, census returns, or other written records. The length of each entry is well-attuned to the importance of the individual as an engraver of maps. Few merit more than half of a page; the most notable – the likes of William Faden and John Rocque – receive about four pages.

Entries begin with the full name and dates of the engraver, plus the cities of primary activity. This heading is followed by a chronological listing of the engraver's cartographic work. The authors make no attempt at a complete carto-bibliography for each engraver; instead, the selections of works are ‘tailored to reflect the flavour of the extent, date-range and type of material produced’.