



A typographic reminder: a journey through the typographic archive of FT Wimble & Co.

This presentation explores the rich typographic legacy of F.T Wimble & Co., a cornerstone in the history of printing in Australia and New Zealand. Frederick Thomas Wimble, an influential businessman, emigrated from England in 1867 and soon established the first printing ink plant in the Southern Hemisphere. Wimble's contributions went beyond ink production; he became a key figure in type founding, acquiring and renaming typefaces to reflect local identities.

Focusing on the period from the late 19th to early 20th centuries, Clint and Dzintra will delve into Wimble's strategic shift from importing type to casting his own, influenced by both English and American designs. Special focus is given to typefaces with New Zealand connections, such as the Otago Series along with the typefaces Christchurch and Auckland, and the fascinating evolution of the ANZAC Text, which was renamed to Austral Script due to cultural sensitivities.

They will showcase specimen books from the era, highlighting the transition to the American point system and the ambitious expansion of type offerings under Wimble's direction. This includes the renaming of typefaces after Australian and New Zealand places, illustrating the localisation of typographic culture.

The presentation concludes with details of an accompanying hands-on workshop, in collaboration with Graham Judd, utilising his mobile print trailer and an 1850 Albion hand press. Participants will have the opportunity to print contemporary reimagined specimens from Wimble's collection, bridging historical and modern typographic practices.

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Clint Harvey is a Queensland based designer, educator and collector. Following a successful commercial career as a graphic designer he was the Head of School at the Design College of Australia for ten years. He has also taught design at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University and JMC Academy in Brisbane. He founded the Bacon Factory and Strongarm Press as channels to share his passion for historical printing design, typography and processes. Clint regularly exhibits, attends and participates in letterpress events, conferences and seminars including the Hatch Printery in Memphis and the Hamilton Wood Type Museum (both in the USA) and the Museum of Printing in Armidale.

Name: Dzintra Menesis

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Dzintra Menesis is a regionally based professional graphic designer who enjoys the challenge of bridging tradition and innovation in letterpress and printmaking. In 2024 she was the resident artist at the Specialty Printing Activation Module (SPAM) pilot project held at QUT Kelvin Grove in association with the Festival of Type and the ATypl Brisbane international conference hosted by QCA, where she presented a paper on Bovine Pyroglyphics. With a profound commitment to preserving the past and amplifying the voices of past cultures, Dzintra embodies the ethos of respect, intention and collaboration.