TYPOGRAPHIC TECHNICAL SERIES FOR APPRENTICES, PART VIII, NO. 53; A BRIEF HISTORY OF PRINTING IN ENGLAND: A SHORT HISTORY OF PRINTING IN ENGLAND FROM CAXTON TO THE PRESENT TIME

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649419883

Typographic Technical Series for Apprentices, Part VIII, No. 53; A Brief History of Printing in England: A Short History of Printing in England from Caxton to the Present Time by Frederick W. Hamilton

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

FREDERICK W. HAMILTON

TYPOGRAPHIC TECHNICAL SERIES FOR APPRENTICES, PART VIII, NO. 53; A BRIEF HISTORY OF PRINTING IN ENGLAND: A SHORT HISTORY OF PRINTING IN ENGLAND FROM CAXTON TO THE PRESENT TIME

Trieste

TYPOGRAPHIC TECHNICAL SERIES FOR APPRENTICES — PART VIII, NO. 51

A BRIEF HISTORY *of* PRINTING IN ENGLAND

A SHORT HISTORY OF PRINTING IN ENGLAND FROM CAXTON TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY

FREDERICK W. HAMILTON, LL.D.

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR
UNITED TYPOTHETÆ OF AMERICA

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
UNITED TYPOTHETAE OF AMERICA
1918

Composition and electrotypes contributed by
J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
Philadelphia

PREFACE

THE treatment of the material used in this volume will be found somewhat different from that adopted in the two preceding. The narrower field of inquiry makes possible a closer following of the ordinary chronological method of arrangement rather than the topical method of the other volumes. An attempt is made to trace the history of printing in England through the centuries from Caxton to Morris and to include some insight into legal regulations, trade conditions, and industrial development generally. As before, it is to be remembered that this is a primer, a book of introductions. No attempt, therefore, is made to go far into details or to discuss disputed points or to include any considerable amount of technical detail. It is hoped that the reader will get a comprehensive view of the subject, will feel its human interest, and will catch some glimpse of its larger relation to the general history of the time.

The writer has consulted a considerable range of authorities, a few of the more accessible of which are cited in the short list of books for supplementary reading. Mention should be made of the very excellent study of John Baskerville, privately printed by Col. Josiah H. Benton, of Boston. This book may perhaps be found in the larger public libraries. Here, as always, it is to be regretted that although much has been written on the subject of printing and of the history of printing a good general history of the subject is still greatly to be desired.

CONTENTS

PRINTING IN ENGLAND

CHAPTER I

The English Pioneers

ENGLAND was slow to take up printing and slow and backward in the development of it. It was 25 years after the invention of printing before any printing was done in England. It was many years after that before the work of the English printers could compare with that done on the continent. The reason for this is to be found in the conditions of the country itself. Although the two great universities had long been in existence, Oxford dating back to 1167 and Cambridge to 1209, England as a whole was a backward country. In culture and the refinements of civilization, as well as in many more practical things, England was not so far advanced as the rest of Europe nor was it to be so for many years to come.

England at this time was an agricultural and grazing country. A colony of Flemings had been brought over to start the cloth industry. There was still, nevertheless, a large export of wool to Flanders, which was there woven and sent back as cloth. The English nobles lived largely on their estates, looking after their tenants, hunting for diversion, and doing a little fighting occasionally when life became otherwise unbearably uninteresting. They were not an educated class and the peasantry were profoundly ignorant. The cities which, as always, depended upon manufacture and commerce were just beginning to grow, with the exception