

Gill, Eric 1882 - 1940



Arthur Eric Rowton Gill [commonly known as Eric Gill; also known as A.E.R. Gill] was born in Brighton, Sussex on 22 February 1882. He studied at Chichester Technical and Art School in Chichester, England (1898-99), following which he moved to London to be articled to William Douglas Caröe (1857-1938), architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. At the same time he enrolled in Edward Johnston's evening classes in lettering at Central School of Arts and Design.

By 1903 he had abandoned architecture in order to concentrate on lettering. In 1907 he moved to Ditchling in Sussex where he helped to establish a semi-monastic craft community. While at Ditchling he took up sculpting in stone. He held his first exhibition in 1911 at Chenil Gallery. Two years later he entered the Roman Catholic Church. His religious convictions were to have a profound influence on his later work as a designer and from 1913-18 he carved fourteen 5 ft. stone panels depicting the 'Stations of the Cross' for Westminster Cathedral. He also took up illustration, producing woodcuts and wood engraving for 'The Devil's Devices', printed by St Dominic's Press at Douglas Pepler's Hampshire House Workshops in 1915.

Gill was a founder member of the Society of Wood Engravers in 1920. In 1924 he moved to Capel-y-ffin, Wales. Here he designed his first two typefaces - Gill Sans and Perpetua, and produced wood engravings for the Golden Cockerel Press. Four years later, in 1928, Gill moved to Pigotts in Buckinghamshire, where in addition to developing his work as an artist, he produced a series of books and pamphlets in which he outlined his personal philosophy and ideas on art.

Gill was elected a member of the Art Workers Guild in 1904 and an Honorary Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (Hon. A.R.I.B.A) in 1935. In 1936 he was conferred with the title Designer for Industry (DI) [from 1937 known

as Royal Designer for Industry (RDI)] by the Royal Society of Art. He died in Hillingdon, Middlesex on 17 November 1940.

Worked in

UK

Works

See:

Historic England [*link below*]

Wikimedia Commons [*link below*]

British Listed Buildings [*link below*]

Bibliography

Antonoff, Margaret. "This is the only Church he designed" : a study of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church designed by the artist Eric Gill in light of his artistic, liturgical, and social beliefs. M.A. thesis, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley, California, 2015

Armstrong, Barrie and Armstrong, Wendy. The Arts and Crafts movement in the North East of England: a handbook. Wetherby, England: Oblong, 2013

Attwater, Donald. Eric Gill: workman. London: James Clarke, 1941

Bailey, Bede. 'Your Affectionate Son in St Dominic Eric Gill T.S.D.' New Blackfriars vol. 63, nos. 745/746, July/August 1982 pp. 298-304

Brady, Elizabeth. Eric Gill: twentieth century book designer. New York, NY: Scarecrow Press, 1974

Brown, Stephen J. 'Mr. Eric Gill in Ireland'. The Irish Monthly vol. 66, no. 781, July 1938 pp. 454-464

Carpenter, Hilary J. 'Eric Gill'. Blackfriars vol. 21, no. 249, December 1940 pp. 690-693

Catalogue of an exhibition of Eric Gill from the collections of Albert Speirs and others. Stanford, California: Stanford University, 1954

Catich, Edward M. Eric Gill: his social and artistic roots. Iowa City: Prairie Press, 1964

Cleverdon, Douglas. Stanley Morison and Eric Gill 1925-1933. Cambridge: Rampant Lion Press, 1983

Collins, Judith. Eric Gill. The Sculpture. A Catalogue Raisonne. London: Herbert Press, 2006

Commemorating an exhibition of lettering and type designs by Eric Gill. London: Monotype Corporation, 1958 [a special issue of 'The Monotype Recorder' vol.41, no.3]

Cribb, Ruth and Cribb, Joe. Eric Gill and Ditchling: the Workshop Tradition. Ditchling, Sussex: Ditchling Museum, 2009

Cribb, Ruth and Cribb, Joe. Eric Gill: Lust for Letter and Line. London: British Museum Press, 2011

Cribb, Ruth. Workshop practices and the making of sculpture : authorship and collaboration in the work of Eric Gill, 1909 to 1940. Ph.D. thesis, University of Brighton, 2013

Cunningham, Adrian. 'Eric Gill and Workers' Control'. New Blackfriars vol. 63, nos. 745/746, July/August 1982 pp. 304-311

Doyle, James Patrick. Eric Gill and the Medieval Tradition. Ph.D. thesis, Harvard University, 1974

Duchen, Monica. Eric Gill: matter and spirit. London: Gillisan Jason Gallery, 1982

The engraved work of Eric Gill. Compiled by John Physick. London: Victoria & Albert Museum, 1969

Eric Gill. London: Ernest Benn, 1927 (Contemporary British Artists series)

Eric Gill, with a critical monograph by Charles Marriott. London: Cape, 1929

Eric Gill, 1882-1940: drawings and carvings, a centenary exhibition. London: Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 1982 [exhibition catalogue]

Eric Gill 1882-1940: drawings and engravings. London: Wolesley Fine Arts, 2001

Eric Gill 1882-1940: drawings and some other works. London: Piccadilly Gallery, 1979 [exhibition catalogue]

Eric Gill 1882-1940: prints and drawings, a centenary tribute. London: Blond Fine Art, 1982 [exhibition catalogue]

Eric Gill and modern British wood engravers: an exhibition. London: Christopher Drake, 1973 [exhibition catalogue]

The Eric Gill collection of the Humanities Research Center. Edited by Robert N. Taylor. Austin, Texas: Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin, 1982

Eric Gill: engravings. London: Sally Hunter Fine Art, 1989 [exhibition catalogue]

Eric Gill in Ditchling. Edited by Peter Holliday. New Castle, Delaware: Oak Knoll Press, 2002

'Eric Gill in Edinburgh'. Blackfriars vol. 40, no. 477, December 1959 pp. 533-535

Eric Gill: sculpture and drawings. London: Goupil Gallery, 1928

Eric Gill: Work is Sacred. Edited by Martin John Broadley. Manchester: Catholic Archives Society, in association with Kolnonia Press, 2013 [Reviewed by Nick O'Brien in New Blackfriars vol. 96, no. 1061, January 2015 pp. 114-116]

Faulkner, Peter. William Morris and Eric Gill. Tisbury, England: The Compton Press, 1975

Feeney, Joan Bronwen. The revival of calligraphy and its influence on three typefaces designed by Eric Gill. A.L.M. thesis, Harvard University, 1990

Gill, Eric. Autobiography. London: Jonathan Cape, 1940

Gill, Eric. Letters of Eric Gill. Edited by Walter Shewing. London: Jonathan Cape, 1947

Gill, Evan R. Bibliography of Eric Gill. London: Cassell, 1983

Gill, Evan R. The inscriptional work of Eric Gill: an inventory. London: Cassell, 1964

Goold, Madeline. A little revolution : direct carving revived : the stonecarving methods of Eric Gill and Jacob Epstein 1907-1925. M.Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1989

Gray, A. Stuart. Edwardian architecture: a biographical dictionary. London: Gerald Duckworth & Co., Ltd., 1985

Hamilton, Alec. Arts & Crafts Churches. London: Lund Humphries, 2020

- Harling, Robert. *The Letter Forms and Type Designs of Eric Gill*. New York, NY: The Typophiles, 2000
- Holman, William R. 'Eric Gill, master of letter forms'. *Library Chronicle of the University of Texas in Austin, new series*, no.2, Nov.1970, pp.15-26
- Hoyland, Anthony. *Eric Gill: Nuptial of God*. Maidstone, Kent: Crescent Moon Publishing, 2012
- Huxley, Sophie. *Eric Gill in Oxford*. Oxford: Huxley Scientific Press, 2011
- Jones, David. 'Eric Gill as sculptor'. *Blackfriars* vol. 22, no. 251, February 1941 pp. 66-74
- Kelly, Bernard. 'Eric Gill's social principles'. *Blackfriars* vol. 22, no. 251, February 1941 pp. 82-87
- Kelly, M. James Therese (Sister O.S.U.). *An examination of Eric Gill's philosophy of art*. Ph.D. thesis, University of Notre Dame, 1962
- Kelly, Michael. 'Eric Gill and the Contemporary'. *New Blackfriars* vol. 63, Nos. 745/746, July/ August 1982 pp. 311-317
- Kindersley, David. *Mr. Eric Gill*. New York, NY: The Typophiles, 1967
- Kirk, Michael Daniel. *The esthetics of Eric Gill*. M.A. thesis, Loyola University, Los Angeles, 1959
- The life and works of Eric Gill: papers read at a Clark Library symposium, 22 April 1967*. Los Angeles, California: University of California Los Angeles, 1968
- Lippmann, Irvin Michael. *Engravings of Eric Gill : the study of a twentieth-century hieratic art*. M.A. thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1975
- MacCarthy, Fiona. *Eric Gill*. London: Faber & Faber. 1989
- MacCarthy, Fiona. *In Search of Eric Gill: An address given to the Wynkyn de Worde Society at its meeting held on Thursday 18th May 1989*. London: Wynkn De Worde Society, 1989
- Miles, Jonathan. *Eric Gill and David Jones at Capel-y-ffin*. Bridgend, England: Seren, 1992
- Morris, Sallie Jane. *Montotype and Eric Gill : a study of the design and production of Gill's hot-metal typefaces*. Ph. D. thesis, University of Reading, Department of

Typography & Graphic Communication (School of Arts and Communication Design), 2015

O'Neill, Vincent. An indexed synthesis of the critical thought of Eric Gill. M.A. thesis, DePaul University, 1954

Pepler, Conrad. 'A study in integrity: the life and teaching of Eric Gill'. Blackfriars vol. 28, no. 326, May 1947 pp. 198-209

Pepler, H.D.C. A letter about Eric Gill. Chicago, Illinois: Cherryburn Press, 1950

Rau, Mary James. Some phases of the social thought of Eric Gill in the light of papal encyclicals. M.A. thesis, Catholic University of America, 1949

Rich, Jennifer Ann. The artist as servant of God : the place of art in life, according to Eric Gill. M.C.S. thesis, Regent College, Vancouver, BC, 1993

Shewring, Walter. 'Eric Gill: a reply'. Blackfriars vol. 29, no. 341, August 1948 pp. 385-387

Shewring, Walter. 'Eric Gill and Eastern thought'. Blackfriars vol. 22, no. 251, February 1941 pp. 87-89

Simplicity or Splendour. Arts and Crafts Living. Objects from the Cheltenham Collection. Edited by Annette Carruthers and Mary Greensted. London: Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums in Association with Lund Humphries Publishers, 1999

Skipworth, Peyton. 'Eric Gill sculpture. London, Barbican'. The Burlington Magazine vol. 135, no. 1078, January 1993 pp. 43-45 [Review of an exhibition of Gill's sculptures at the Barbican, London in 1993]

Speaight, Robert. The life of Eric Gill. New York, NY: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 1966

Tehan, Rose. The Social Thought of Eric Gill. M.A. thesis, St. John's University, 1947

Thirties: British Art and Design before the War. Thirties: British Art and Design before the War.

A typographical masterpiece: an account by John Dreyfus of Eric Gill's collaboration with Robert Gibbings in producing the Golden Cockerel Press edition of 'The Four Gospels' in 1931. San Francisco, California: The Book Club of California, 1990

Wood-engravings: being a selection of Eric Gill's engravings on wood. Ditchling, Sussex, England: S. Dominic's Press, 1924

York, Malcolm. Eric Gill: man of flesh and spirit. London: Constable, 1971

Links

- Fiona MacCarthy, 'Gill, (Arthur) Eric Rowton (1882–1940)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography [Subscription service] <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/33403>
- Stephen Stuart-Smith. (Arthur) Eric (Rowton) Gill. Grove Art Online. Oxford Art Online [Subscription service]

<http://www.oxfordartonline.com/subscriber/article/grove/art/T032249?q=Eric%20Gill&search>

- Benezit Dictionary of Artists. Oxford Art Online [Subscription service] <https://doi.org/10.1093/gao/9781884446054.article.T032249>
- Artist Biographies [Subscription service] <https://www.artbiogs.co.uk/1/artists/gill-arthur-eric-rowton>
- Harry Ransom Center, the University of Texas at Austin. Eric Gill Collection <https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/guides/EricGill>
- The Eric Gill Society <https://www.facebook.com/Eric-Gill-Society-193000130721141/>
- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Gill
- Wikimedia Commons https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Eric_Gill
- Identifont. Contains examples of fonts designed by Eric Gill <http://www.identifont.com/show?12W=>
- Artcyclopedia - includes a list of galleries and museums that own examples of Gill's work. http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/gill_eric.html
- The text of 'Written in stone' an article by Fiona MacCarthy from 'The Guardian' 22 September 2006 - one of the most informative sources on Eric Gill <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2006/jul/22/art.art>
- Tate <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/eric-gill-1168>
- Linotype <http://www.linotype.com/391/eric-gill.html>
- National Art Library Catalogue <https://nal-vam.on.worldcat.org/search?sortKey=LIBRARY&databaseList=&queryString=eric%20gill&>
- artnet <http://www.artnet.com/artists/eric-gill/>
- RKD Netherlands Institute for Art History <https://rkd.nl/en/explore/artists/record?query=eric%20gill&start=0>
- Historic England - over 120 records on Eric Gill <https://historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch?searchType=site&search=%22Eric%20Gill%22&searchType=site>
- British Listed Buildings [130 entries on Eric Gill] <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=%22Eric%20Gill%22>
- UK Modern House http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Eric_Gill.html
- YouTube. The Art of Eric Gill <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FimUEssNMC4>

- YouTube. Art in Isolation: Episode Four 'A Man of Letters' Eric Gill
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7jgS52U9JU>
- YouTube. Eric Gill, Sans-Serif and the Flying Scotsman
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8A0Nq_TFWk
- YouTube. A History of Eric Gill and His Typefaces
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RD6t2GuCDI
- My Fonts. Creative Characters. The faces behind the fonts: Eric Gill
<https://www.myfonts.com/pages/newsletters-cc-20090401>