

= John Day (printer) =

John Day (or Daye) (c . 1522 ? 23 July 1584) was an English Protestant printer . He specialised in printing and distributing Protestant literature and pamphlets , and produced many small @-@ format religious books , such as ABCs , sermons , and translations of psalms . He found fame , however , as the publisher of John Foxe 's Actes and Monuments , also known as the Book of Martyrs , the largest and most technologically accomplished book printed in sixteenth @-@ century England .

Day rose to the top of his profession during the reign of Edward VI (1547 ? 1553) . At this time , restrictions on publishers were relaxed , and a wave of propaganda on behalf of the English Reformation was encouraged by the government of the Lord Protector , Edward Seymour , 1st Duke of Somerset . During the reign of the Catholic Queen Mary I , many Protestant printers fled to the continent , but Day stayed in England and continued to print Protestant literature . In 1554 , he was arrested and imprisoned , presumably for these illicit printing activities . Under Queen Elizabeth I , Day returned to his premises at Aldersgate in London , where he enjoyed the patronage of high @-@ ranking officials and nobles , including William Cecil , Robert Dudley , and Matthew Parker . With their support , he published the Book of Martyrs and was awarded monopolies for some of the most popular English books , such as The ABC with Little Catechism and The Whole Booke of Psalmes . Day , whose technical skill matched his business acumen , has been called " the master printer of the English Reformation " .

= = Early career = =

Day 's origins and the events of his early life remain obscure . Scholars have assumed that Day was born and raised in Dunwich , but there is no direct evidence that proves this claim . He may have been in London by 1540 , as his name is mentioned in a city deposition as being a former servant of the printer and physician Thomas Raynalde . In 1546 , he was probably one of twenty men who were granted the freedom of the city by redemption to work for the Stringers ' Company of London .

The next year , he began printing with a partner , William Seres ; the two based their operations at the parish of St Sepulchre in London . Day and Seres specialised in religious works , such as those by Robert Crowley , which were largely related to theological controversies of the time . The Protestant Reformation was advancing rapidly , and the laws against the publication of heretical works were being relaxed . In 1548 , ten of the twenty works that the two men published were devoted to criticizing the Catholic belief of transubstantiation . One of those publications , a satirical poem by Luke Shepherd titled Iohn Bon and Mast Person , almost landed Day in jail . Day and Seres also translated important works of Continental Protestantism for the English market , notably Herman von Wied 's A Simple and Religious Consultation in 1547 .

In 1549 , Day opened a new shop in Cheapside , and the next year , he and Seres were successful enough to amicably separate their businesses . Day set up his new home and printing establishment at Aldersgate in the parish of St Anne and St Agnes and transferred from the Stringers ' to the Stationers ' Company . Day found Aldersgate 's foreigner @-@ friendly attributes helpful in attracting skilled Dutch workers , whom he relied on throughout his career . He soon established himself as a quality printer , and in 1551 , he reprinted an elaborate edition of the Bible that he had previously produced with Seres . The next year , he secured a valuable patent to print the works of John Ponet and Thomas Becon . This enraged one of his competitors , Reginald Wolfe , who already held a patent to print Ponet 's Catechism in Latin . Eventually , a compromise patent was issued which allowed Wolfe to continue printing the Catechism in Latin and Day to print the work in English . Day reaped more benefits from the deal than Wolfe : the English printings were used far more extensively than the Latin ones , and the ABC was eventually appended with Ponet 's Catechism .

With a reputation for Protestant godliness and connections to people like John Dudley , William Cecil , and Catherine Willoughby , a successful career seemed assured for Day . Unfortunately for Day , Queen Mary ascended the throne in 1553 and the entire religious climate of the country

changed . For years , it was thought that at the accession of Mary , Day fled to the Continent to avoid persecution . However , typographical and other evidence has convinced scholars that Day set up a clandestine press in premises connected to William Cecil in Lincolnshire , and that he continued to print Protestant polemical works under the pseudonym Michael Wood . The " Michael Wood " pamphlets included Protestant writings by Lady Jane Grey , John Hooper , and Stephen Gardiner , and attacks on Mary and her advisors .

On 16 October 1554 , according to the diary of Henry Machyn , Day was caught and sent to the Tower of London for printing " naughty books " . In the Book of Martyrs , Foxe records statements made in prison to Day by the future martyr John Rogers , " spake being then in prison , to the Printer of this present booke , who then also was layd up for lyke cause of religion " . Perhaps because the flight of foreign Protestant workers under Mary was causing a shortage of printers , Day was released the next year and allowed to work again , but only as a jobbing printer . He reunited with Seres (also recently released from prison) to produce works of Catholicism for Catholic printer John Wayland , a far cry from the Protestant polemics he printed prior to imprisonment . He also served as the official printer of the City of London for two years .

= = Elizabethan period = =

With the death of Mary and the accession of Elizabeth I in 1558 , Day 's business blossomed once more . Day was already close to Cecil , who had now become one of the new Queen 's top advisors . Through Cecil , Day was awarded the valuable monopoly on printing ABCs . He also befriended Robert Dudley (son of John Dudley) , another of Elizabeth 's favorites . With the help of his connections , Day was able to obtain a lucrative patent to print William Cuninghame 's Cosmographical Glasse . He produced the first edition in 1559 using a new italic font of the highest quality (probably cut by François Guyot) and a large number of impressive woodcuts . Day absorbed the high production costs himself , since he knew the work would solidify his reputation as a master printer . Day 's patent to print Cuninghame 's first under Elizabeth ? gave him exclusive rights to the work for life ; it also allowed him to retain a monopoly for seven years on any other original works that were not covered by other patents , were " compiled at Day 's expense " , and were " not repugnant to Holy Scripture or the law " . This stipulation would be an important source of income for the rest of his life .

Day took advantage of the monopoly clause , reestablishing his Edwardian patent for The ABC with Little Catechism . In 1559 , he obtained a patent for The Whole Booke of Psalmes , Collected into English Meter , a metrical psalter , compiled mostly by Thomas Sternhold and John Hopkins , that Day first published in 1562 . The Stationers ' Company guaranteed Day the right to print all " psalmes in metre with note " , in other words , psalms with music . Despite the fact that psalmes had usually been learned by rote , the business proved lucrative , reflecting a rise in musical literacy during the period . The Whole Booke of Psalmes became the period 's best @-@ selling book and the standard English psalter of its time . Day 's monopolies on these perennially popular works would be the basis of great wealth over the years and a good deal of conflict between him and his fellow stationers . In legal proceedings towards the end of Day 's life , it was estimated that these particular patents were worth between £ 200 and £ 500 per year .

= = = Actes and Monuments = = =

In 1563 , Day undertook the work for which he is best known , John Foxe 's Actes and Monuments (also called The Book of Martyrs) . Day and Foxe probably met through Cecil , and the two became close collaborators . Foxe was among those who seized on the advances in the printing trade as a tool for the spread of the Protestant Reformation . There is a tradition that Foxe , who revised and added material while the book was being set in type , actually lived at Day 's shop at Aldersgate during the production of the book ; he certainly received correspondence there and visited regularly . Day heavily invested time and money in the production of Foxe 's book , the largest publishing project undertaken in England to that time , and he took an active part in the compilation of the

material . Day used changes in type sizes or fonts to distinguish Foxe 's editorial insertions from texts of his sources . The resulting lavish folio filled with woodcuts was an expensive luxury item , but it sold well and Day profited from his investment .

Day continued to take on challenging and difficult projects . He had already printed the first English book of church music in 1560 . In 1567 , Matthew Parker , the Archbishop of Canterbury , commissioned Day to print a collection of writings attributed to the tenth @-@ century Aelfric of Eynsham . For this work , Day , known for his fine and varied fonts , had the first @-@ ever font of Anglo @-@ Saxon type cut . The cost was borne by Parker , perhaps Day 's most important patron . The font may have been designed by François Guyot , a French type @-@ founder known to have worked for Day and lived in his household . Day used the same font to print Lambarde 's Archaionomia (a collection of Anglo @-@ Saxon laws) in 1568 . In 1570 , he printed Billingsley and Dee 's English Euclid , which included folding and movable diagrams ? one of the first printed books ever to do so . In the same year , he printed Ascham 's Scholemaster .

Day and Foxe completed a second edition of the Book of Martyrs in 1570 . It was even larger than the first ? a total of 2 @,@ 300 pages in two enormous folio volumes ? and at one point , Day ran out of paper (which he imported) and had to paste smaller sheets together to make do . This edition received official recognition : William Cecil and the Privy Council directed the church to ensure that copies were available to parishioners , and in 1571 , the Convocation ordered that every cathedral church and the household of every senior member of the clergy should own a copy . The edition has been recorded as costing sixteen shillings , roughly equivalent to two months ' wages for a skilled London clothworker at the time .

= = = Final years = = =

By the late 1570s , there was open discontent among the less wealthy members of the Stationers ' Company about Day 's extensive patents . He was compelled to go to court against printers who pirated works to which he owned the rights . Among those brought to trial was Roger Ward , who admitted to pirating 10 @,@ 000 copies of ABC with Catechisms in a font which imitated Day 's . Day 's former apprentice and sub @-@ contractor John Wolfe admitted in court that he had pirated The Whole Booke of Psalmes but justified his actions on the grounds that Day 's monopolies were a restraint of trade . It was Wolfe who led a group of " poor printers " , as they called themselves , in a campaign against the patents in the late 1570s . As a result of an official investigation , Day was eventually obliged to concede certain titles to the Company for the benefit of the poorer printers , but he kept the titles he printed most .

In 1580 , Day became Master of the Stationers ' Company , and focused vigorously on defending the industry against piracy . His official powers included the right of " search and seizure " , which he did not hesitate to exercise on behalf of the trade or to further his own interests . In 1584 , he sent men to break into Wolfe 's premises and destroy any materials relating to suspected piracy . Four years before , he had even destroyed his son Richard 's printing equipment after Richard had printed the ABC and the Psalmes without his permission . Though Richard was technically co @-@ patentee of these titles , John Day pursued him into the courts and all but destroyed his printing career .

In 1582 , Day 's health began to deteriorate quickly . Though weakening , he raced to complete another edition of Actes and Monuments in 1583 , printing it on at least four presses . It was unusual for books of this size and ambition to go beyond one or two printings . Holinshed 's Chronicles , the only book of the time to rival the Book of Martyrs in scope and reputation , never went into a third edition .

Day died in 1584 at Walden in Essex . He married twice and fathered thirteen children in each marriage . Day 's printer 's device showed a sleeper awakening , with the motto " Arise for it is Day , " both a play on his name and an allusion to the new era of religious reform , in which he was a significant figure .