



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Operated several **Komori Litho presses** producing a wide range of printed materials on 2 and 4 colour litho presses.

Established the **pre-press department** quickly developing the skills to convert artwork to press-ready final film resulting in huge productivity gains.

Responsible for **guiding investment in hardware, software and personnel** as the print industry underwent profound change due to the remorseless advance of digital technologies.

Utilised software skills to provide **design solutions** for print clients: **Quark, InDesign, Freehand, Illustrator and Photoshop**.

Mastered **Agfa's Apogee Pre-Press workflow** for driving output for both litho and digital work, paramount for the successful operation of the modern pre-press department.

Operated the **Konica Minolta digital press** which included an online **saddle-stitch finishing unit**, producing both standard and **variable data** printed materials.

Developed the skill-set required for producing **bespoke** web pages: **HTML, CSS, JS, PHP, MYSQL**.

## PROFILE

Self-motivated and largely self-taught individual who made a decisive contribution to the success and development of the - part - family printing business. Over 35 years I had to master a range of disciplines in responding to the challenges and opportunities presented to an industry fast pivoting towards an entirely digital workflow.

But digital has been a double-edged sword for the print industry as more content is consumed online, the last couple of years alone providing ample evidence of our dependence on online technologies. It was this direction of travel that encouraged me to double-down on my web skills, as detailed below.

## CAREER TO DATE

### NORTH WOLDS PRINTERS LTD.

1979 - 2014

#### FULL-TIME LITHO PRESS OPERATOR

I progressed from small offset single colour presses to producing process colour jobs on Komori Sprint(2/4) and Lithrone(4/5) colour presses. For the vast majority of this period, however, I operated a succession of Komori Sprint 2-colour presses and it was on these machines that I truly honed my craft, exposed as I was to a huge variety of work on a diverse range of materials.

The demands of producing accurate four colour work on a two-colour press with purely manual controls can only be underestimated. Within a few short years I was in a position to provide press tuition to new recruits.

#### REPRO OPERATOR | PART-TIME LITHO PRESS OPERATOR

After several years on the presses I was keen to establish a repro department and in due course a darkroom and studio were purposely built and I cut my teeth handling simpler single/spot/halftone work before gaining the confidence to prepare the firm's process colour work.

Strategic partnerships were formed with established repro houses for high-end scanning and proofing services. This was an inherently more client-facing role, I was able to get away from the shop floor as I did my rounds visiting graphic designers and repro houses. As the company's order book grew the department was able to offer an apprenticeship to a former work experience student, who quickly excelled when the digital age dawned.

#### PRE-PRESS MANAGER | MAC OPERATOR | GRAPHIC DESIGN

At Ipex in 1993 the company made its first investment in digital kit. The software we were obligated to learn initially comprised QuarkXpress 3.1, Freehand 3.1 and Photoshop 2.5. This holy trinity of software was beginning to reach maturity, particularly on the Apple Mac platform and rapid turnaround of printed material would soon be a reality. But the brave new world of digital output was fraught with peril and the role of prepress was crucial in ensuring that equally rapid reprints would not eventuate.

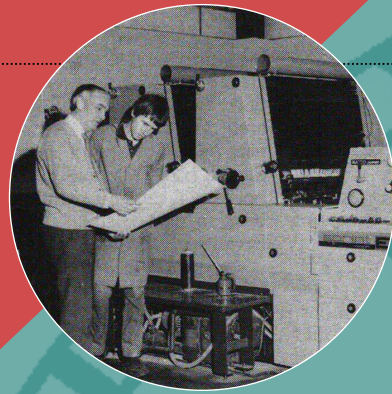
Long story short. In 1998 I benefitted from a brief stint at a design/repro company in North Sydney. The experience encouraged me to better organise job assets and to develop a pre-flight check list primarily to help new repro recruits navigate the minefield of digital output. It is appended to this resume as an historical document.

#### PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR | GRAPHIC DESIGN | CTP OPERATOR

Just before the end of the millennium the firm finally invested in a imagesetter. This paid dividends when we were able to secure a contract to provide a total print solution for a major York based insurance company. The ranks of the repro department swelled and now included two ex-press operators, so whether sending files direct to the imagesetter or occasionally sending pdf files via iSDN for external output, clients could be assured that their files had been subjected to a professional degree of scrutiny.

The general trend towards a pdf workflow culminated in the investment of a computer-to-plate system powered by Agfa's Apogee Pre-Press workflow. For the first time proofs were now produced from the actual ripped data, the department had finally come of age.

Along with the core responsibilities of pre-flighting the department had also, since the advent of digital, been able to provide decent graphic design services across a range of printed products, and when more than one client began expressing an interest for an online presence I soon realised there was whole new order of technologies to explore.



## PRINT DESIGN

I "designed" a variety of items whilst at North Wolds. The following **demonstrate a passing acquaintance** with the Adobe Creative Suite, click to flip/view in **Yumpu**.



## WEB DESIGN

Listed below chronologically in the order I first worked on them. The **BNTHERMIC** site hasn't changed since the summer of 2006.

**POLOAFRICA** and those **ALPACAS** have gone a few rounds of re-factoring, but **modernizr.js** and **underscore.js** are the only dependencies, and some degree of consideration has been extended to senior browsers. **Unlike a broken elevator a broken escalator degrades gracefully to a flight of steps...**



09  
14

## PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR | CTP/ DIGITAL PRESS OPERATOR

A change of premises proved the ideal time to invest in a digital press. It was largely my responsibility to research the options available, but we were unanimous in deciding, within the constraints of the budget, that the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO c6501 gave the most litho-like results, very much a consideration.

I was also determined to exploit the very non-litho-like advantage of the digital press, and invest in a variable data solution. KM offered the entry-level Darwin plug-in for InDesign. It had its limitations, as did digital print in general, but we were now able to offer our clients an exciting new opportunity and the demand was there from the start.

It was also in this period that I made an attempt to upgrade the company website. An upload facility was the first priority. This side-project was my first real venture into programming proper as it soon became apparent that a database-driven website was in order. I had to become familiar with concepts such as database normalisation as I began to grapple with the minute particulars of mysql and php, and although I wouldn't have known it at the time the knowledge of the SQL language would soon prove to be of real practical benefit when it came to preparing the Excel spreadsheets required for our variable data solution.

## REFACTORING

Around 2012 retirement beckoned for one of the original directors and in due course it was decided to initiate the process of selling the business, which was completed in July 2014. I was on holiday at the time and as I suspected, was soon to have a lot more time on my hands.

Several house moves followed as my partner pursued new opportunities in the pharmaceutical industry, one house became our home and I was fortunate to have the leisure to oversee some significant home improvements and decorate the place from top to toe. It wasn't just the dalmatian that benefited from this furlough.

In the meantime I had a few print projects from ex-clients, volunteering my services on occasion but I was primarily interested in upgrading my web skills in particular gaining greater literacy with javascript.

Discovering object-oriented design patterns was a revelation but true eloquence may lay more on the functional side of JS. The only ex-project that would resemble a modern app however was the old upload site, written entirely in php. Significantly refactored it is in a much better state to port over to a JS framework as a further learning exercise.

However much fun that may be it can wait a while. I can hardly afford to be a "gentleman coder" for the rest of my days, it is a new year and high time I did something about my work-life balance. I possess a clean driving licence, I shouldn't be let anywhere near a HGV.

## INTERESTS

I met my partner on a walking holiday, still our favourite kind of trip. Mostly on the continent. The dog is happier on home turf however and we all made it to the Thames Flood Barrier back in May finally completing the 184 mile journey from the source. It has only taken 5 years, or 35 depending on your perspective. Happiness is a chilled white and a plate of oysters within co-ee of an ocean, or quite frankly, the Thames.

I enjoy cooking from scratch most evenings and, though I hesitate to call it a hobby, have long enjoyed stirring or shaking but inevitably imbibing a properly constructed cocktail. My younger self would have been astounded at the ready availability of exotic booze. No longer do I need to contact New York for options on orange bitters or blindly roam the streets of London in a vain attempt to secure a bottle of creme-de-menthe blanc.

## EDUCATION

I left school with O-Levels in Maths, English, History and Geography. About a decade or so later I obtained an A-level in English Literature after attending adult education for a term or two. Just after leaving North Wolds I successfully completed an "Intermediate Level Website Development programme" at the same location.

# NORTH WOLDS PRINTERS STUDIO FORM

DATE ..... JOB. No. ....

CLIENT ..... JOB .....

FINAL PAGE SIZE ..... No of PAGES+COVER ..... PRESS .....

PAPER SIZE/S/PLANNING .....

COLOUR INFO .....

EXTRA INFO .....

.....

.....

## BASIC COLOUR INFO

ONE ..... TWO .....  
OR.....  
PROCESS ..... +SPECIALS .....

## BASIC PLANNING INFO

STANDARD IMPOSITION .....  
ONE SIDE ..... OR TWO .....  
TURN/TUMBLE..... SHEETWORK.....

## DOCUMENT

CONTACT .....  
READERS OR PRINTERS SPREADS? .....  
HARD COPY ?.. MEDIA .....

## PROOF TYPE

FAX/LASER..... PDF .....  
EPSON 5000..... PIXELPROOF ....  
CROMALIN..... MACHINE .....

## DOCUMENT

☐ SIZE/No. OF PAGES/PASTEBOARD....  
☐ ORIGIN POINT CHECK .....  
☐ TRIMS/FOLDS/BLEED/.....

## FONT & PICTURE USE

☐ FONTS..... ☐ IMAGES .....  
☐ STYLISTED/TT/EPS FONTS .....  
☐ IMAGES MODIFIED .....

## TYPOGRAPHY

☐ LINE BREAKS/H&J/OVERFLOW TEXT  
☐ RUNAROUND ON MODIFIED PICS ..  
☐ GRAPHIC ALTS? CHECK STACKING..

## PROOF

CMYK COLOURS .. IMPO CORRECT  
PAPER SIZE ..... PAGE RANGE....  
COLOR MANAGED.. QUALITY .....

## COLOUR SEPARATION

☐ CHECK SPOT ASSIGNED IN DRAW PROG  
☐ TRAP VALUES (inc. EDIT TRAP BOX)  
☐ SPOT COLOUR NAME/VALUE .....  
☐ PROCESS SPLIT DTP/DRAW/IMAGE .....  
☐ APPENDED COLOURS NAME CONFLICT  
TINTS OUT OF SOLIDS/DOUBLE HITS .....  
☐ CUTTER GUIDES ETC TO OVERPRINT  
☐ BLACK DENSITY(RICH K/GRADS/PHOTOSHOP)  
CHECK BEHIND BLACKS INC. RICH K ....  
FORCE BLACK TO KNOCKOUT (99.9%)  
SHADOW TEXT TO KO / TEXT ITEMS ARE KO'D .....

## IMAGES

☐ MODE/COMPRESSION .....  
☐ TIFF/EPS SWITCH PATHS / CHANNELS / RUNAROUNDS  
☐ RESOLUTION/CREATE COMPOSITE? .....  
☐ BLACK GENERATION ETC. ....  
☐ DUOTONES/SPOTS/FLAT COLOURS ..  
☐ TIFFS: OVERPRINT BACKGROUNDS, ETC .....  
☐ RUNAROUNDS:-MODIFIED/REPLACED PICS....  
☐ PICTURE OFFSETS/KEYLINE FIT .....  
☐ RESIZE/RECROP/RESAMPLE\* .....  
☐ \*MULTIPLE SIZE IMAGE CHECK .....

## ILLUSTRATION PROGRAM

☐ **BOUNDING BOX! (BLEED OR NOT)** .....  
☐ CHECK NESTED IMAGES/CREATE COMPOSITE?..  
☐ KEYLINE/ARTWORK MODE CHECK..  
☐ (UN)GROUPING /CHECK STACKING ORDER.....  
☐ TRAPPING & %FACTOR (OVERPRINT COLOURS?) ....  
☐ BLACK DENSITY (RICH K/GRADS) .....  
☐ CREATE COMPOSITE BACKGROUND IMAGES? ..

## IMPOSITION ISSUES ETC...

*PLACING EPS IN QUARK FOR IMPO. (BLEED OR NOT) CHECK BOUNDING BOX TYPE & OFFSETS*  
☐ MERGING OR SPLITTING DOCUMENT\*  
\*LINKS/REFLOW/H&Js/ALIGN/INDENTS ....  
\*AUTO NUMBERING/BASELINE GRID ....  
REDUCING MARGINS:- ITEMS, BLEED & OVERLAP  
CLEAN GUTTERS/TABS .....  
INTRICATE SHAPE CUT-OUT **BLEEDS** ....  
GROUP or EPS ELEMENTS FOR MANUAL IMPO?..  
MERGE-DOC **APPEND** CONFLICTS? .....  
OFFSET DIFFERENT SIZE PAGES FOR BACKUP .....  
READERS OR PRINTERS SPREADS? .....  
ESTABLISH FIRST PAGE IN DOC.....  
LEFT & RIGHT HAND PAGE MARGINS..  
LEFT & RIGHT HAND PAGE BLEEDS.....  
BLEED BOTH SIDES/PERFECT BOUND ..  
CREEP PAGES FOR SADDLE STITCH .....

## FINAL CHECKS

☐ STACKING ORDER .....  
STEP AND REPEAT ITEMS ALTERED? ....  
☐ REG' ITEMS OFFSET TO BACK .....  
DUOTONE/COLOUR NAMES/ANGLES ..  
COLOUR MODE/VALUE/ALL PROGS ....  
CUSTOM TRAPS (SPECIALS/BLACKS/RICH K)..  
CHECK IF READERS OR PRINTERS SPREADS

## PRESS READY

ALWAYS PIXELPROOF SPOT JOBS FOR SEPS.  
IMPOSITION(inc preview) CHECKED (mirror?)  
ALTER TRIMS FOR ROLL FOLD ETC .....  
PLANNING - SHEET SIZE/MARGINS/HEADS ETC  
DOUBLE HITS AS PROCESS SEPS\* .....  
MAPPING SPOT TO PROCESS .....  
PRINTING SPOT AS PROCESS\* .....  
\*CHECK CMYK INDEPENDENCE .....  
INK BARS – SECTION TABS–SPINE MARKS  
COLOUR BARS ON .... OR OFF .....  
JOB/COLOR INFO ON PLATE(BLEED 10MM) ....

## PRINT SETUP

DESTINATION PRINTER .....  
PAGE SIZE.....  
PRINT SIZE .....  
WORK & TUMBLE **DO THE MATH!** ..  
SADDLE STITCH..... PERFECT BOUND  
GRIP .....mm MARGINS.....mm  
GRIND .....mm .....mm  
GRIP HEAD ..... LAY BACK .....mm  
SEPARATIONS ..... COMPOSITE.....  
PAGE SIZE\* ..... ORIENTATION..  
\*MAX FILM AREA 700 x 632mm/CROSSFIELD PREFS  
POS EM DOWN 100% SIZE.... OR:.....  
TRAPPING REQ'D?☐ PRINT ALL COLOURS?☐  
OVERPRINT BLACKS OFF FOR METALLICS/RICH K☐  
COMPOSITE BUT BLACK ONLY FROM PDF etc.....  
CHECK WHITE KO FROM PDF (SEND COMPOSITE?)☐  
PAGE RANGE ..... COMMON COLOUR ELEMENTS?☐  
PAGE RANGE FOR SPREADS OR SIGNATURES..  
PRINT IMPO-LITE SECTION BY SECTION TO CROSSFIELD .....  
DO ITEMS MIRROR, MARGINS FOR GRIP ....  
GRIP: ALL SAME OR LEFT & RIGHT ....  
PIXELPROOF CHECKED\* .....  
ROAM CHECKED .....  
\*ALTS SINCE PROOF ALL SEPS RE-SENT? .....  
\*REPLACED SEPS DELETED.....