

**Jacques Bréjoux,  
'Medieval stampers: their construction and use in pulp  
preparation for hand papermaking'**

**Monday, 21 November 2011, 5.30 to 6.30pm  
Merton College, Fitzjames Seminar Rm I**



The Moulin du Verger papermill was founded in 1539, and is one of the few working papermills still producing handmade paper using traditional methods. On the banks of the Valée des Eaux Claires near Angoulême, the mill buildings date to 1635, and in 2009, after 30 years exploring the craft of papermaking, papermaker Jacques Bréjoux commissioned a full size set of medieval stampers for the mill, to prepare pulp in the traditional manner.

The retting of hemp and linen rags, then processing by stampers, has had a significant effect on the quality of paper produced, showing the clear link between the finished product and techniques of production. Bréjoux will talk about his rediscovery of the importance of stampers to the preparation of paper pulp and the light that this can shed on the study of historic papers and papermaking.

**Biography**

Jacques Bréjoux has been producing handmade paper for conservators, artists, printmakers since 1972. He teaches history of Western hand papermaking at the Institut National du Patrimoine, runs an annual course in paper/boardmaking and limp-paper binding with Christopher Clarkson, and lectures widely, most recently in the USA, at the Dard Hunter Congress in Arrowmont, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the University of Iowa Center for the Book. In 2007, Bréjoux was awarded the honour of Chevalier des arts et des lettres. He is co-owner of the Moulin du Verger de Puymoyen with bookbinder/restorer Nadine Dumain, who has run a private bindery/conservation studio at the mill since 1999.



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