



HEYWOOD HILL

MAYFAIR

The Dartington Hall Bindery

Offered here are 3 books by Mary Bartlett printed and bound at Dartington together with her history of letterpress printing and bookbinding at Dartington Hall.

Dartington Hall in Devon boasts a rich history spanning over a thousand years, beginning from its Roman roots to its present-day cultural significance. Over the centuries, it has been home to influential figures, from royalty to radicals, shaping the estate's legacy.

In 1925, Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst revitalised Dartington as a hub for arts, education, and rural regeneration, founding the Dartington Hall Trust in 1932. The estate attracted key figures in the arts and politics, including composer Imogen Holst and musician Ravi Shankar.

The estate's commitment to artistic innovation led to the establishment of Dartington College of Arts in 1961, a pioneering institution in UK arts education. For nearly 50 years, the college flourished on the Dartington Estate before relocating to Falmouth in 2010.

In 1991, Schumacher College was founded at Dartington in The Old Postern, becoming a renowned centre for ecological studies. Focusing on sustainability, community, and the preservation of the earth's fragile resources, the college continued to offer higher education here until 2024.

In addition, the Trust has hosted its internationally acclaimed Music Summer School and Festival for over 70 years, providing emerging musicians with the opportunity to learn from world-class professionals.

Printing was considered an important early priority by the book-loving Elmhirsts and an Albion Press was acquired in 1935. It is thought that bookbinding began to be taught soon after under the supervision of Charles McNally.

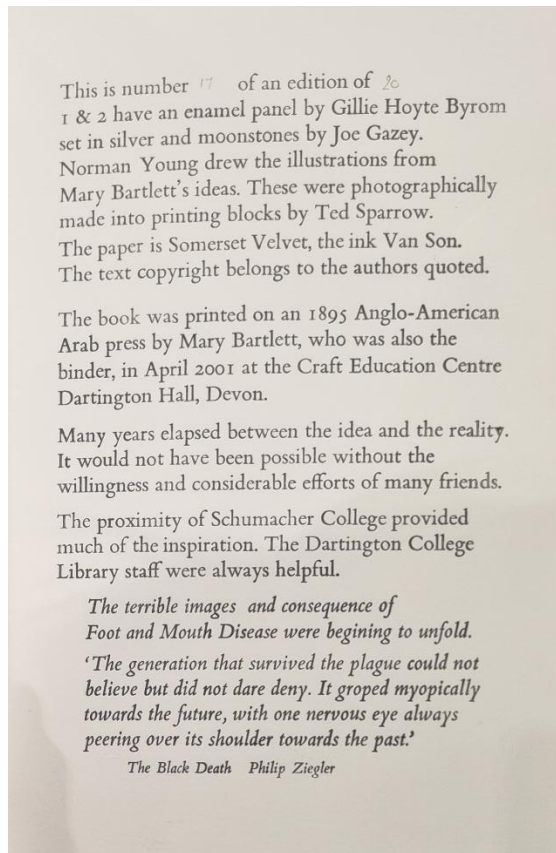
Mary Bartlett took over the running of the bindery in 1986 after McNally's death.

Bartlett, a celebrated horticulturist and bookbinder, had worked at Dartington Hall firstly in the gardens before joining the Hall's bindery under Eric McNally. "I joined his classes in 1974 and gradually developed my skills. When Mr McNally died in 1986, I said I'd keep it going. Almost 40 years later I'm still in charge of the workshop. I'm proud of the fact that over the 90 years of the bookbindery's life I'm one of only three people to have run it." (From an interview with Mary Bartlett by Peter Marsh at the Dartington centenary celebration in July 2025).

"It is noticeable in the story of the Dartington Bindery that there might at one time or another have been a small fine art press on the Estate to match *Gregynog*, *The Golden Cockerell*, *Circle or Coracle* or any of the dwindling company of modern equivalents. But the preference was generally for something simpler more practical and more affordable, in the service of the bigger social and educational experiment. Mc [Eric McNally] was an underachiever in that respect; but he had the gleam of the master craftsman in one eye and of the Socialist in the other" (*Inky Rags. Letterpress Printing & Bookbinding on the Dartington Hall Estate 1935-2010* by Mary Bartlett)

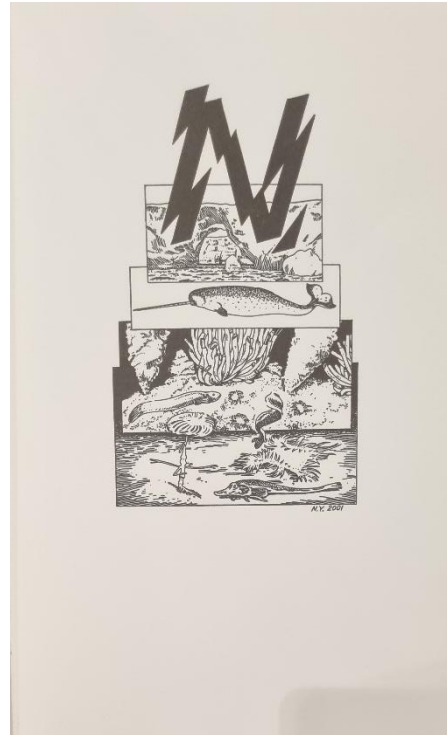
1. BARTLETT, Mary A **A Modern Alphabet for Unicorns.**

Dartington Hall Unicorn Moon 2001



First edition. Limited edition of 20 numbered copies. Illustrated by Norman Young from Mary Bartlett's ideas.

Folio, original full blue morocco lettered in gilt on spine. Upper board with an onlay panel illustration of unicorns by Gillie Hoyte Byrom. A fine copy.



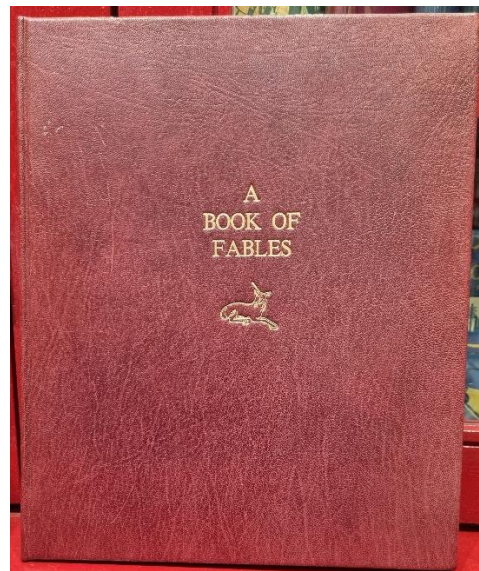
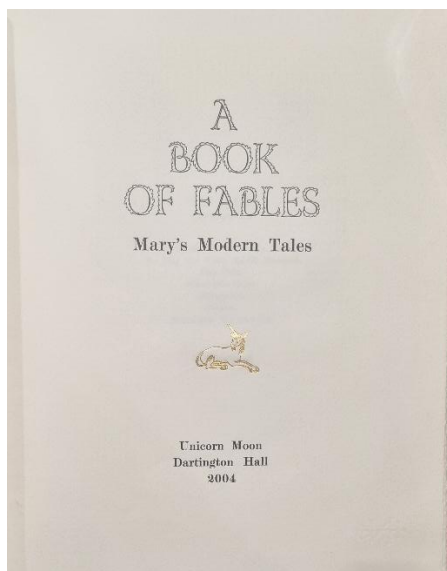
"*A Modern Alphabet of Unicorns* reflects ideas and issues in our world. Unicorns have many symbolic interpretations and their imagery exists across many cultures. In the medieval period they illustrated manuscripts, were woven into magnificent tapestries and portrayed on many artifacts. Unicorns have always had to adapt to being hunted and killed for their magical horn or the precious jewel beneath. This alphabet finds them with mixed fortunes but they have been remarkably resilient."

The book was commended in the Society of Bookbinders competition and the Fine Press Association (2002)

[39232] £495

2. BARTLETT, Mary **A Book of Fables. Mary's Modern Tales**

Dartington Hall Unicorn Moon 2004



First edition. Limited edition of 20 numbered copies. "The book was written, designed, printed and bound by Mary Bartlett".

"Hand printed on an 1895 Anglo American Arab platen press. Hazel Brown drew the illustrations from which Ted Sparrow made photographically produced blocks."

Folio, original full burgundy morocco, lettered in gilt on upper board with gilt unicorn block on upper board. The unicorn block is also printed in gilt on the title-page. A fine copy.

A collection of 7 modern-day fables.

[39231] **£495**

3. BARTLETT, Mary **Inky Rags. Letterpress Printing & Bookbinding on the Dartington Hall Estate 1935-2010.**

Buckfastleigh Itinerant Press 2010

First edition. Limited edition of 75 numbered copies, signed by Mary Bartlett, this one of 10 copies bound in card by Philip Kuhn.

Square 8vo., original card wrappers. A fine copy.

"In compiling this book I have drawn mainly on my own memories supported by documents in The Dartington Hall Trust Archives. The scope is quite modest: to offer a brief history of letterpress printing and bookbinding as they have flourished under the auspices of The Dartington Hall Trust. My aim has been to suggest how a number of different strands came together in the life of the Dartington Bindery and to lay some reliable foundations for further research."

Included as an Appendix is a brief article by Rigby Graham discussing John Mason and George Percival.

[39233] **£150**

4. BARTLETT, Mary **The One O'Clock Train. A Memoir of People, Plants, Books, and Unicorns**

Dartington Hall The Letter Press 2024

First edition of Mary Bartlett's autobiography signed by the author.

8vo., original cloth lettered in gilt on spine and upper board. A fine copy.

[39234] **£95**

Mary Bartlett

The one o'clock train



A memoir of people, plants, books and unicorns

Inky Rags

Letterpress Printing & Bookbinding

On the Dartington Hall Estate

1935-2010

by

Mary Bartlett