

Curriculum Vitae

Rachel A. H. Beckett

Summary

- ▶ **Published writer and illustrator:** Brown, Grolier, Larousse, Macmillan, Shire
- ▶ **Exhibited artist:** with Society of Wood Engravers at venues including Bankside Gallery, London; Royal West of England Academy, Bristol; Royal Birmingham Society of Artists; also regional venues
- ▶ **Extensive publishing experience:** design (Adobe, Quark), editing, copy writing, commissioning, project management
- ▶ **Excellent educational record:** see below

Personal Details

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Academic Qualifications

MA in History of Art and medieval languages, St John's College, Cambridge (1985-9)

MA in Printmaking and Illustration, Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College (2002-5)

A Levels in German, French, Pure Maths and Art (all grade A, 1985 vintage)

O Levels in Maths, English, German, French, Art, Geography, Chemistry, Biology, Statistics (all grade A, 1982-3)

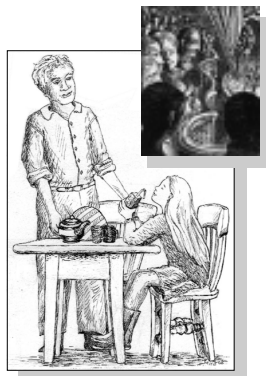
Career Overview

Current illustration and writing projects explore a range of media and draw on many years' creative experience, following an MA in Printmaking and Illustration which afforded new opportunities to exhibit and sell work. My other current work, as a Technical Author, builds on experience in reference editing and design. Freelance work (part-time, while raising a family) has included a range of illustration and writing commissions, from Christmas cards through to writing a book on medieval art for children (published 2008). My earlier full-time career spanned many aspects of publishing, in the fields of nonfiction and reference; see details below.

Career History

2005 onwards (now 1½ days a week): Freelance Illustrator, Writer and Editor

- ▶ children's story book ideas in the pipeline; also a short story with 14 wood engravings
- ▶ illustrated and co-published *Crafty Old Crow* (2007)
- ▶ wrote *Medieval Art* for BCS Publishing (Oxford), part of an eight-volume encyclopedia for young people published by Brown (2008)
- ▶ designed a memoir of the Great War, to be published by the History Press in 2009
- ▶ edited key documents in Laing Rail's successful bid for the London Rail Concession



2006 onwards: Technical Author (Lister Petter Ltd, Long Street, Dursley, Glos)

- ▶ publish technical data sheets and range guides in co-operation with in-house engineers
- ▶ compile handbooks and manuals for engines, generating sets, biodiesel reactor
- ▶ work with Adobe Indesign, Photoshop and Acrobat; also MS Office

2002-5: MA in Printmaking and Illustration

- ▶ developed expertise in a range of printmaking techniques, especially wood engraving
- ▶ produced a series of illustrations inspired by poetry and travel
- ▶ exhibited four times with the Society of Wood Engravers
- ▶ exhibited with the Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, and a gallery in Aylesbury
- ▶ was awarded a distinction for my 10,000-word dissertation

1996-2002: part-time Freelance Editor and Illustrator

- ▶ produced a recycling directory for the local council/Friends of the Earth
- ▶ wrote entries for an *Encyclopedia of Women* (Market House Books/Grolier)
- ▶ updated the arts volume of an encyclopedia (Market House Books/Larousse)
- ▶ edited and proofread books for Shire Publications Ltd
- ▶ edited a book on colour and architecture (Academy Editions)
- ▶ designed Christmas cards and other items
- ▶ painted and exhibited pictures

1994-6: Volume Editor (Market House Books/Larousse)

- ▶ commissioned and edited the arts volume of a general encyclopedia for teenagers
- ▶ scheduled and managed the project
- ▶ liaised with authors and picture researchers
- ▶ edited the text and designed the layouts

1992-4: Desk Editor (Macmillan)

- ▶ edited numerous articles for the Macmillan 35-volume *Dictionary of Art*
- ▶ investigated/researched queries, using sources in English and German

1989-92: Design Editor (Shire Publications Ltd)

- ▶ designed over 100 books for one of England's smallest and most original publishers
- ▶ proofread books
- ▶ designed catalogues, leaflets and advertisements

Voluntary Work

Over the past couple of decades I have been involved in several campaigns and voluntary activities in the areas of environmental protection and social justice. As a campaigner for ethical trade I chaired the Members' Council of Out of this World (2002-3), which runs a chain of ethical grocery stores in the midlands and north. I remain a member and supporter of OOTW, the Midcounties Cooperative, the New Economics Foundation, Triodos Bank and the Ecology Building Society, as well as a number of charities.

In the 1990s I successfully campaigned to save an area of wildlife-rich meadowland in Buckinghamshire from development, which involved giving evidence at a Public Inquiry.

For several years, until 2005, I served on Aylesbury Vale District Council's environmental advisory committee and assessed applications for environmental awards and grants.

Leisure

For the past four and a half years I have been learning shotokan karate, in which I am now 1st Kyu (brown belt). Other leisure activities include languages, popular science, choral singing, theatre visits, walking and — last but not least — spending time with my friends and my children.

Referees: details supplied on application