

Ken Spelman Books Ltd
Member of ABA, PBFA, ILAB,

The Celtic Cross Press

A virtually complete collection of work.



THE CELTIC CROSS PRESS
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Lastingham
York YO6 6TJ

Catalogue 119 - June 2023

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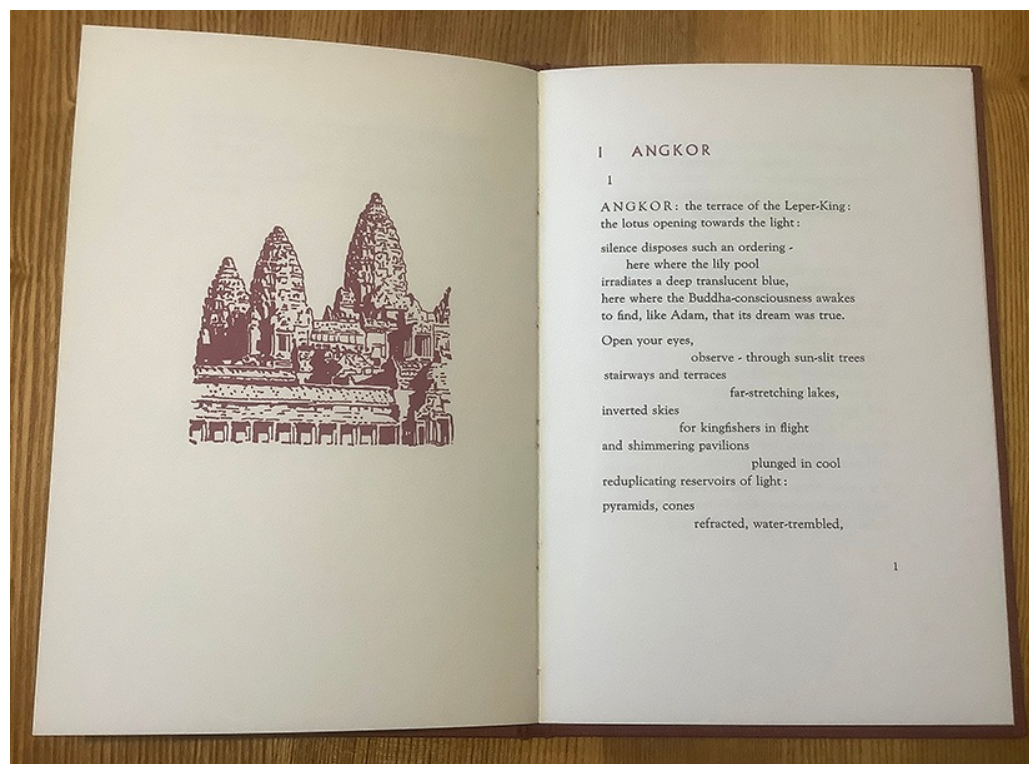
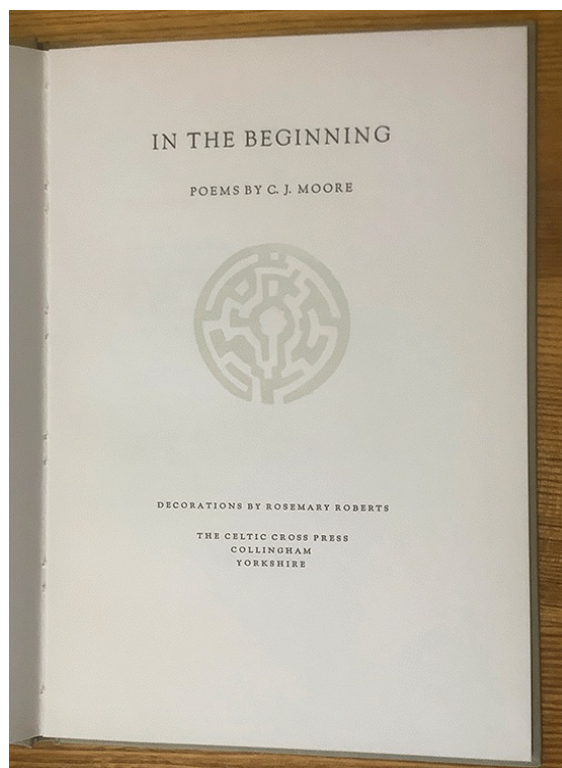
The Celtic Cross Press, based in the small North Yorkshire village of Wass, near the ancient ruins of Byland Abbey, was founded in 1984 in Collingham, and then Lastingham, Yorkshire, by the artist and printer Rosemary Roberts. Over nearly 40 years they published around twenty five limited editions of works of poetry or prose, mainly with illustrations by Roberts. Typeset predominantly on a Vandercook Universal Press, and bound by Ludlow Bookbinders, The Fine Bindery, as well as the Yorkshire firm of Smith Settle.

A particular interest was in the work of the Scottish poet George Mackay Brown (1921-1996), the press issuing fourteen of his titles between 1989 and 2013. His poem *Havard - Seven Choruses* (2013), won The Oxford Guild of Printers' Prize.

These books, from the library of a friend of Rosemary Roberts, and a subscriber to the Press, form a virtually complete collection of the Press's output of books. As far as I can trace, the only one missing is the limited edition of 75 copies of *Angels*, originally published at £460.00, and for which the original prospectus is here present, together with the signed paperback issue of the work. For many items the original prospectus is present, and there are also a number of specially produced Christmas gift pamphlets, sent to supporters.

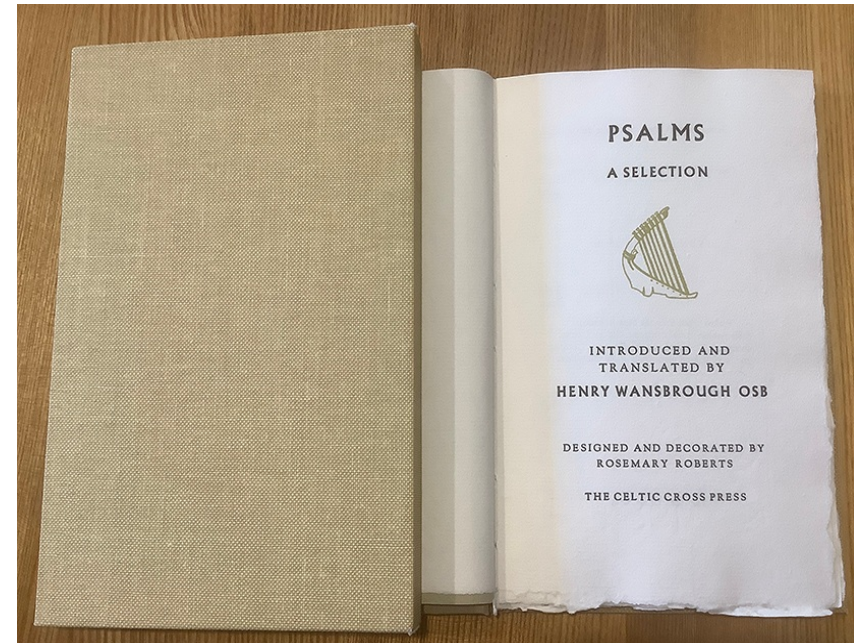
As this is so complete it is initially being offered as a collection at £1,000.00 net.

Orders for individual items may of course be placed, in the event that the items are sold separately.



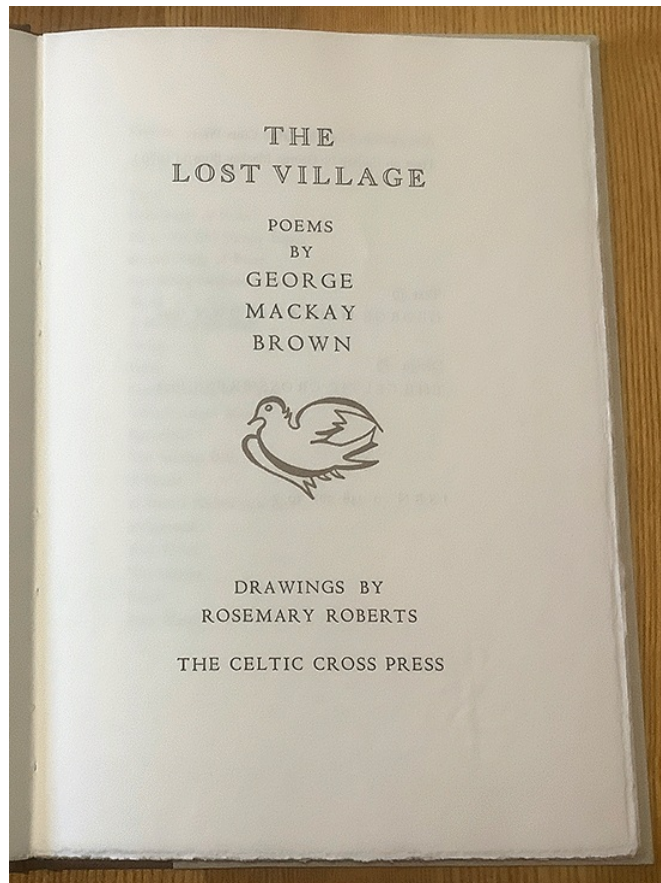
1. MOORE, C.J. *In the Beginning*. Poems. Decorations by Rosemary Roberts. Number 25 of 175 copies signed by the author. *44pp.*, *decorations printed in pale grey*. A fine copy in grey cloth, with gilt lettered spine. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1986. £30.00

2. DAVIE, Ian. *Angkor Apparent*. Illustrated by Rosemary Roberts. Number 45 of 110 copies signed by the author. *26pp.*, *title-page vignette*, *8 illustrations in the text*, and *press-device on colophon*, all printed in mauve. A fine copy in original gilt lettered cloth. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1988. £20.00



3. BROWN, George Mackay. *Tryst on Egilsay. Hakon & Magnus, Seven Poems*. Decorations by Rosemary Roberts. Number 26 of 130 copies signed by the author. 36pp., *text decorations in pale blue*. A very good copy in blue cloth, with a letter from Rosemary Roberts loosely inserted. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1989. £80.00

4. PSALMS, a Selection. Introduced and Translated by Henry Wansborough OSB. Designed and decorated by Rosemary Roberts. Number 67 of 145 copies signed by the translator. 42pp., *text decorations throughout*. A fine copy in sand coloured cloth, with matching slip-case. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1990. £40.00

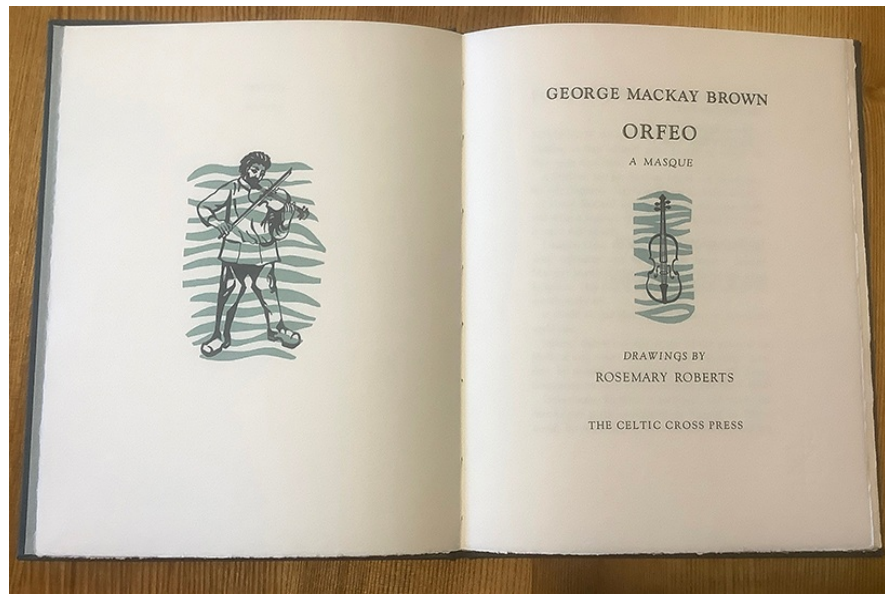
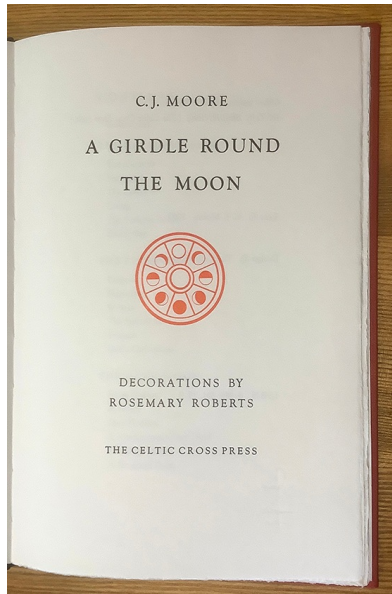


5. BROWN, George Mackay. *The Lost Village*. Poems. Drawings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 91 of 185 copies signed by the author. 28pp., title-page vignette, 20 illustrations in the text, and press-device on colophon, all printed in light brown. A fine copy bound in original brown and grey cloth boards, with gilt device on the upper cover, and gilt lettered spine.

8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1992.

£80.00

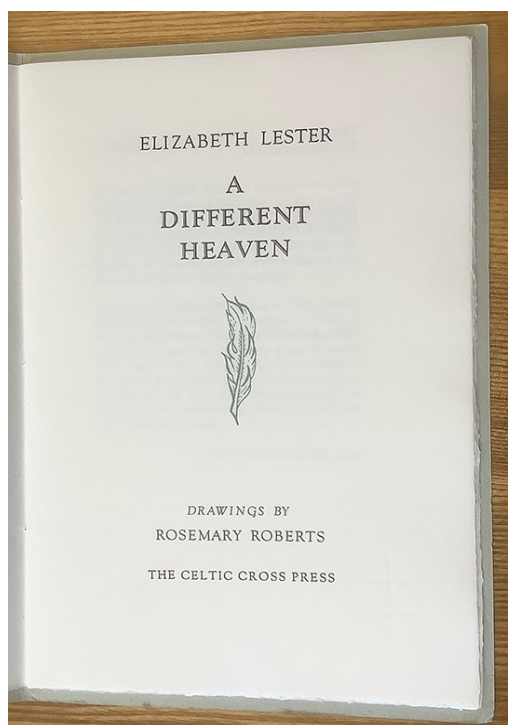
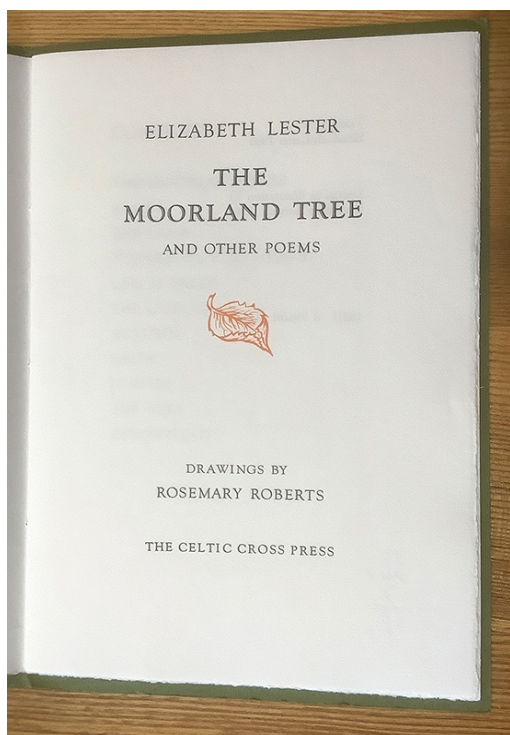
~ 'A few years ago someone sent me a copy of Picasso's dove of peace. It seemed a beautiful and powerful image. A nuclear war is so unthinkable that I wondered if it was possible to write a group of verse equivalents of Picasso's dove. I imagined a village in a fold of some remote range of mountains – the Pyrenees or the Caucasus or the Himalayas – where the remnants of a people ravaged by war have been settled for centuries. There, they live very much like villagers the world over, except that the "heroism" and "romance" of war are, for them, taboo subjects. Can "the global village" come to inherit the innocent joys and sorrows of our lost village among the mountains? It is a dream. May the nations of earth wake up and find that the dream is true.' [Preface].



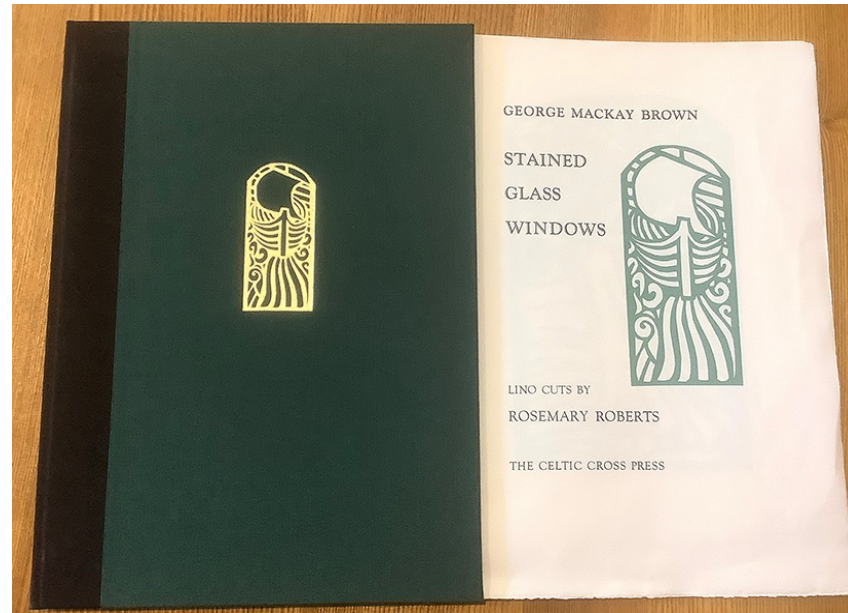
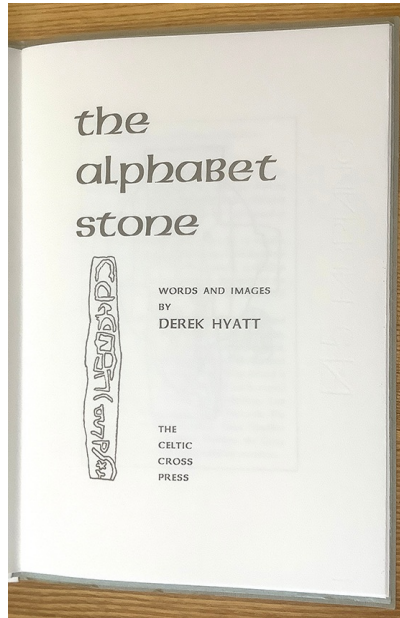
6. MOORE, C.J. *A Girdle Round the Moon*. Decorations by Rosemary Roberts. Number 52 of 125 copies signed by the author. 32pp., title-page vignette, 24 illustrations in the text, and press-device on colophon, all printed in red. A fine copy bound in original red and black cloth boards by The Fine Bindery, gilt device on the upper cover, and the spine lettered in gilt. A review of the book is loosely inserted. large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1993. £30.00

7. BROWN, George Mackay. *Orfeo. A Masque*. Drawings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 31 of 175 copies signed by Brown and Roberts. 28pp., frontispiece, title-vignette, 11 illustrations in the text (2 full-page), and press-device on colophon, all except the press-device are printed in 2 colours. A fine copy bound in original full dark blue cloth by The Fine Bindery, gilt design to the upper cover, and the spine lettered in gilt. With the original 4pp prospectus loosely inserted. Dedicated to Peter Maxwell Davies. 4to. The Celtic Cross Press. 1995. £95.00

~“The Orcadian poet, George Mackie Brown tells a sea-tale of frustrated love, loyalty and sadness. The verse is spare and haunting, full of music, and beautiful in its simplicity.” [Prospectus].



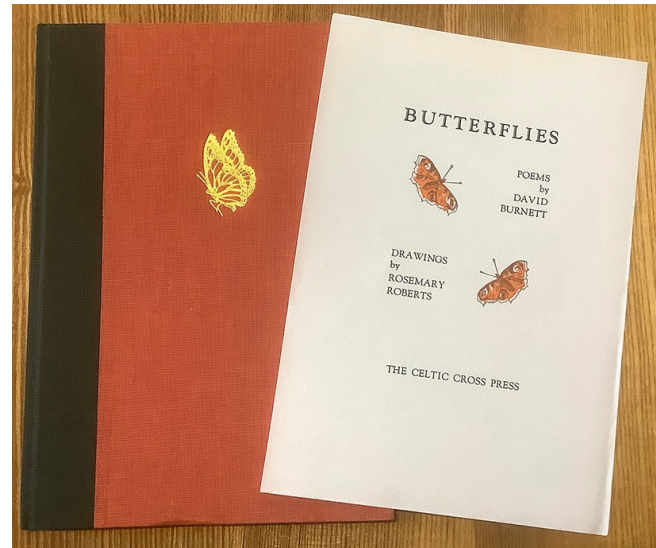
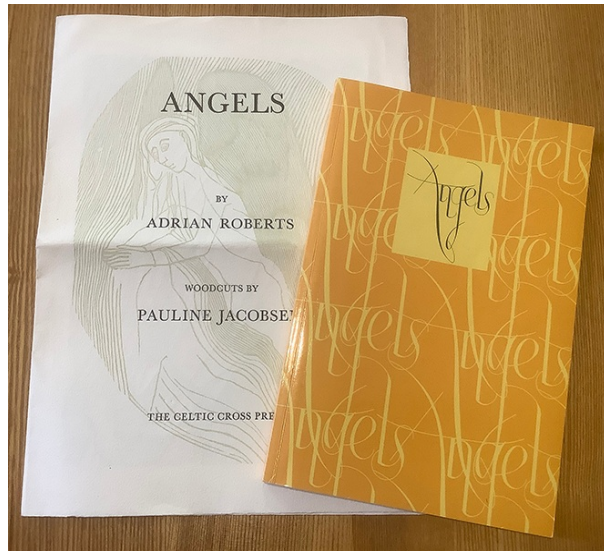
8. LESTER, Elizabeth. *The Moorland Tree and other Poems*. Drawings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 48 of 130 copies signed by the author and illustrator. *16pp., with text drawings printed in orange*. A fine copy in original card covers, with 2pp prospectus loosely inserted. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1996. £15.00
9. LESTER, Elizabeth. *A Different Heaven*. Drawings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 47 of 130 copies signed by the author and illustrator. *16pp., with text drawings printed in green*. A fine copy in original card covers, with 2pp prospectus loosely inserted. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1996. £15.00



10. HYATT, Derek. *The Alphabet Stone. Words and Images.* Number 56 of 200 copies signed by the author-artist. *16pp., with drawings printed in one colour.* A fine copy in original card covers, with two copies of the 4pp prospectus loosely inserted.
large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1997. £30.00

11. BROWN, George Mackay. *Stained Glass Windows.* Lino Cuts by Rosemary Roberts. Number 81 of 150 copies signed by the artist. *60pp., title-page vignette, 12 lino-cut text illustrations (10 full-page), and press-device on colophon, all printed in light green.* A fine copy in black and dark green cloth boards by The Fine Bindery, upper board has a gilt device, and with the spine lettered in gilt. Loosely inserted are two copies of the 4pp prospectus.
large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1998. £45.00

~“These twelve poems, beautiful tales of various saints, were written by George Mackay Brown over a number of years and gathered together by him late in 1995, some six months before he died.” [Prospectus].

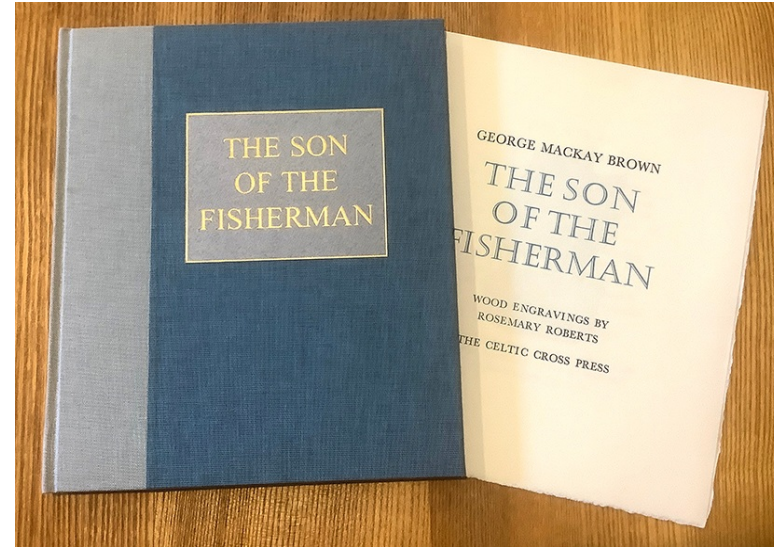
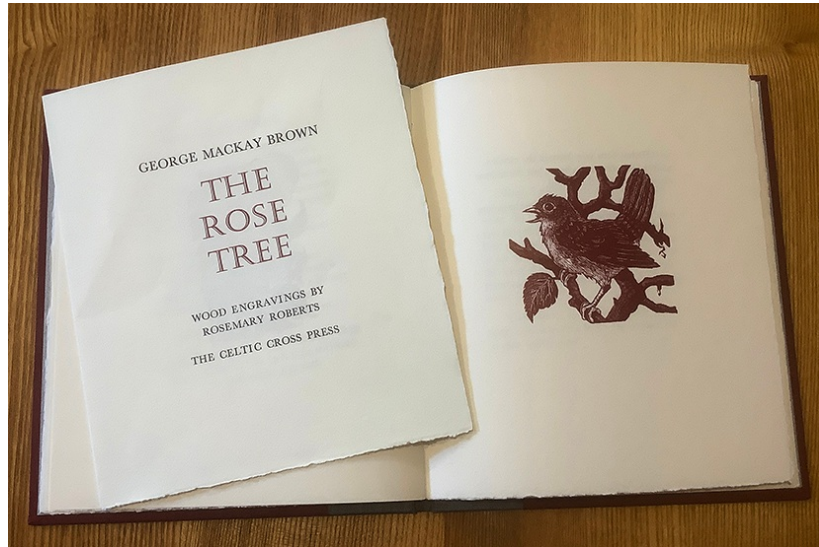


12. ROBERTS, Adrian. *Angels*. Woodcuts by Pauline Jacobsen. 78pp., *colour illustrations*. Signed by the author. A very good paperback copy. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1998. £10.00

~ First published in a limited edition of 75 copies at £460.00, for which the original prospectus is here present.

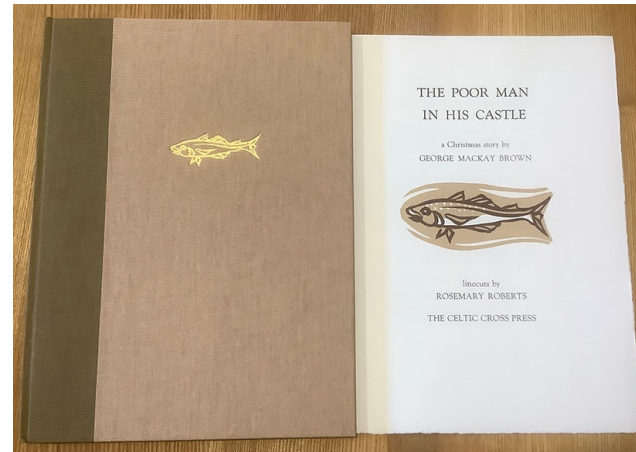
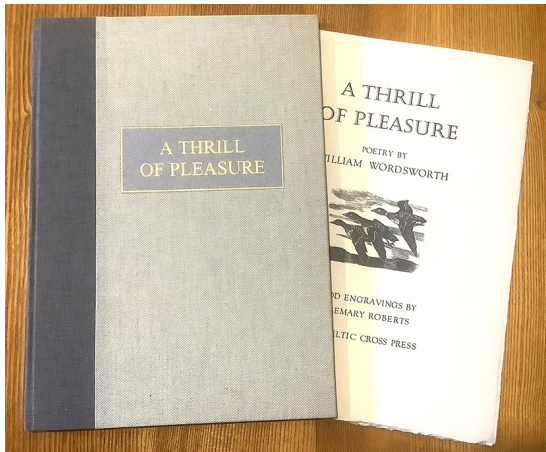
13. BURNETT, David. *Butterflies*. Poems. Drawings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 56 of 230 copies signed by the author and artist. 48pp., *Title-page vignette and 8 full-page text illustrations printed in 2 colours, press-device on colophon*. A fine copy bound in black and brick red cloth boards, upper board with small gilt butterfly motif, and the spine lettered in gilt. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 1999. £30.00

~ 'This new collection of 51 one-verse poems by David Burnett celebrates the beauty and unique characteristics of butterflies. Each poem is complete in itself but related to the others'. [Prospectus].



14. BROWN, George Mackay. *The Rose Tree*. Wood engravings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 82 of 165 copies signed by Roberts. 28pp., 6 wood engravings printed in colour. A fine copy bound in quarter grey cloth spine and maroon cloth boards, with gilt lettered paper label to the upper cover, and gilt lettered spine. With the original 4pp prospectus loosely inserted. small 4to. The Celtic Cross Press. 2001. £50.00

15. BROWN, George Mackay. *The Son of the Fisherman*. Wood engravings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 82 of 165 copies signed by the artist. 20pp., 5 illustrations, and press-device on colophon all printed in blue. A fine copy bound in quarter grey cloth spine and blue cloth boards, with gilt lettered paper label to the upper cover, and gilt lettered spine. With the original 4pp prospectus loosely inserted. small 4to. The Celtic Cross Press. 2002. £50.00

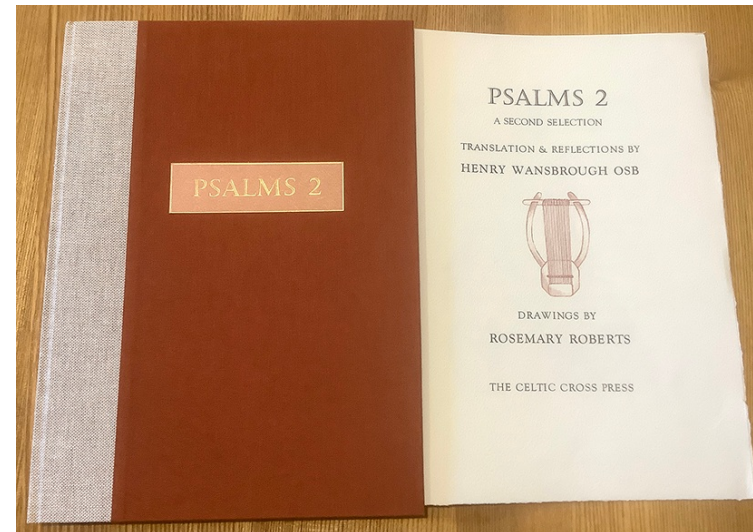
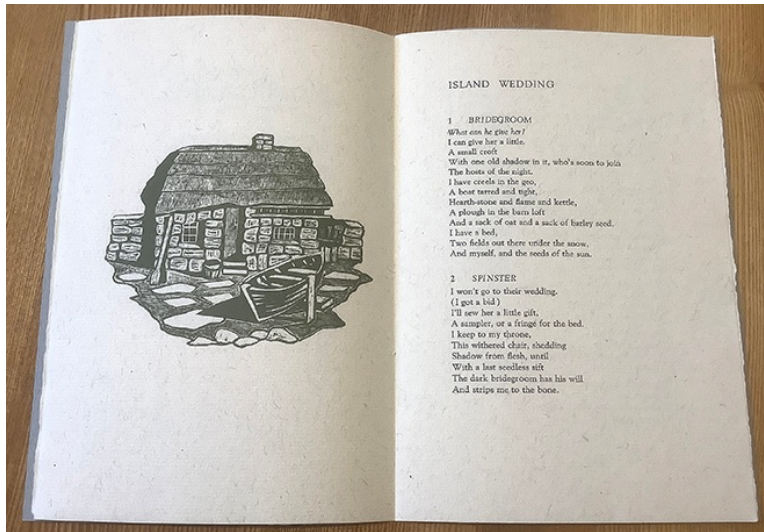


16. WORDSWORTH, William. *A Thrill of Pleasure*. Wood engravings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 30 of 130 copies signed by Rosemary Roberts. 32pp., wood-engraved title-page vignette, 7 wood-engraved illustrations in the text (4 full-page), and a wood-engraved press-device on colophon, all printed in dark grey. A fine copy in original hessian cloth, with paper title-label lettered in gilt on the upper cover, and the spine lettered in gilt. With the original 4pp prospectus loosely inserted.
4to. The Celtic Cross Press. 2003. £45.00

~ ‘This selection of [Wordsworth’s] poetry, taken from an early edition of the complete works, concentrates on his treatment of the significance of the natural world, as Wordsworth saw it. The book includes an introductory essay by the landscape painter, Derek Hyatt. 19 of Wordsworth’s shorter poems and sonnets are in this volume, together with a short extract from ~ *Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey*.’ (prospectus).

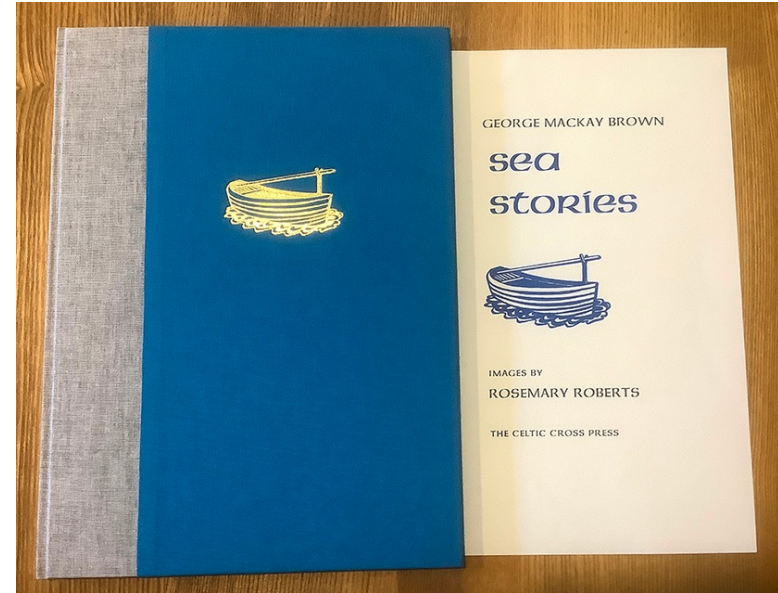
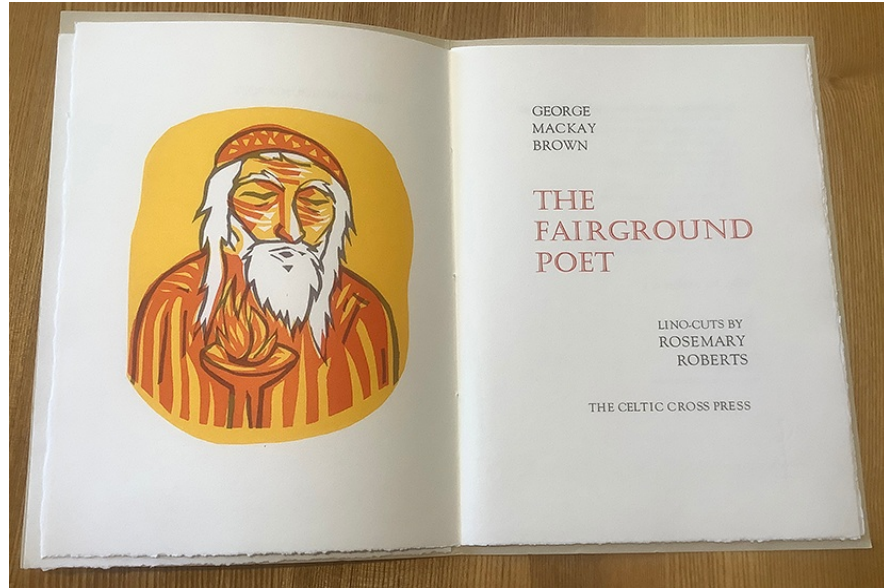
17. BROWN, George Mackay. *The Poor Man in His Castle*. A Christmas Story. Linocuts by Rosemary Roberts. Number 52 of 135 copies signed by Rosemary Roberts. 26pp., with linocuts printed in two colours from the original blocks. A fine copy in original hessian cloth bound at the Abbey Bookbindery. With the original 4pp prospectus loosely inserted.
4to. The Celtic Cross Press. 2004. £45.00

~ “George Mackay Brown was working on this his last Christmas story, at the end of October 1995, six months before his death in April 1996. It is printed here with the kind permission of John Murray (Publishers) Limited.”



18. BROWN, George Mackay. *Island Wedding*. Wood engraving by Rosemary Roberts. Number 14 of 145 copies signed by Rosemary Roberts. 12pp., full-page wood-engraved text illustration, and a press-device on the colophon, both printed in green. A fine copy in the original sage-green printed wrappers. Printed on the occasion of the 21st birthday of The Celtic Cross Press, with a compliments slip from the Press loosely inserted. large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2005. £35.00

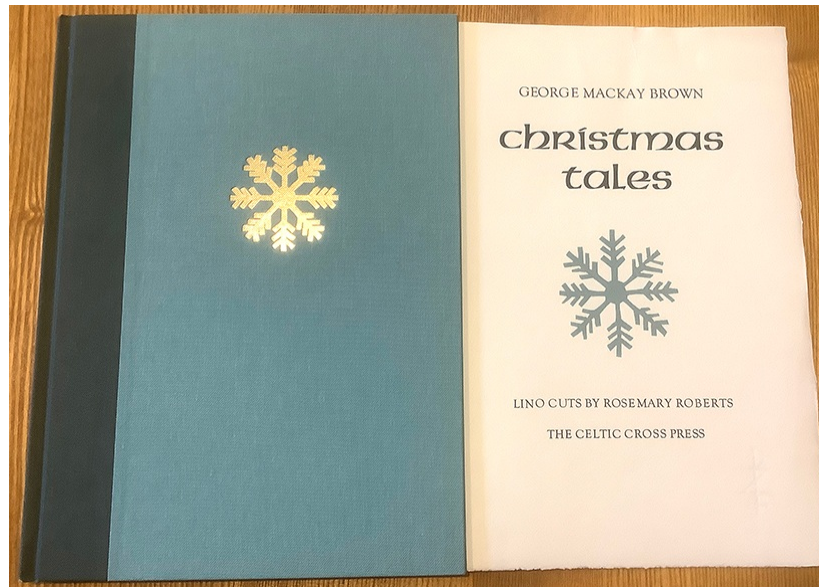
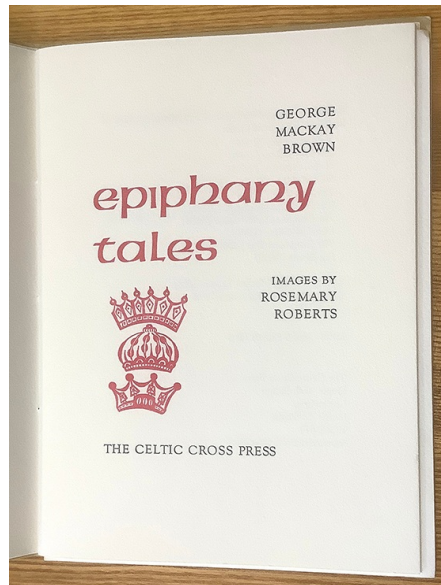
19. PSALMS 2, a Second Selection. Translations & Reflections by Henry Wansborough OSB. Drawings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 30 of 120 copies signed by the translator and artist. 50pp., text decorations throughout. A fine copy in brown and dark orange coloured cloth, with paper title-label lettered in gilt on the upper cover, and the spine lettered in gilt. With the original 4pp prospectus loosely inserted. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2006. £40.00



20. BROWN, George Mackay. *The Fairground Poet*. Lino-cuts by Rosemary Roberts. Number 56 of 140 copies signed by the artist. *16pp, with lino-cuts in three colours*. A fine copy in original card covers, with 2pp prospectus loosely inserted. large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2007. £35.00

~ An unpublished short story, written in August 1977.

21. BROWN, George Mackay. *Sea Stories*. Images by Rosemary Roberts. Number 67 of 125 copies signed by the artist. *22pp., with drawings in colour*. A fine copy bound at the Abbey Bindery in blue and grey cloth, with gilt device to upper cover, and gilt lettered spine. 2pp prospectus loosely inserted. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2008. £50.00

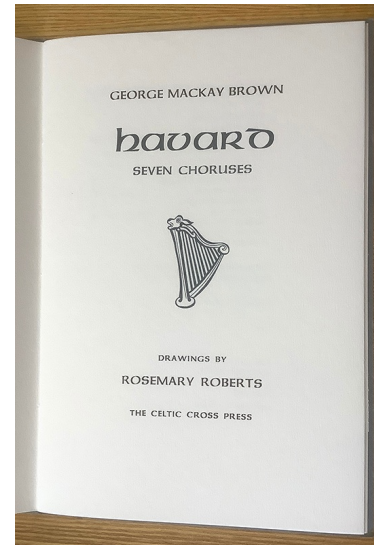
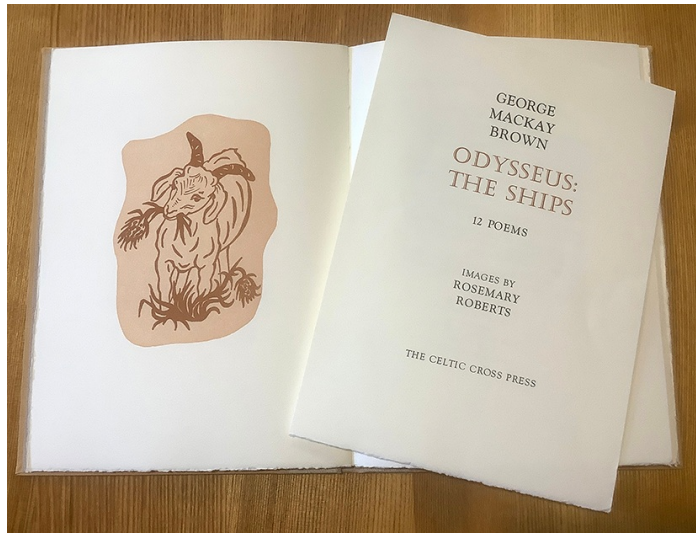


22. BROWN, George Mackay. Epiphany Tales. Images by Rosemary Roberts. Number 64 of 145 copies signed by the artist. *20pp. with drawings printed from metal line blocks.* A fine copy in original card covers, with 2pp prospectus loosely inserted. 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2009. £35.00

~ The two stories, The Seller of Sea Winds, was previously unpublished, and The Tryst of the Kings only previously published in the Glasgow Herald newspaper.

23. BROWN, George Mackay. Christmas Tales. Lino Cuts by Rosemary Roberts. Number 46 of 125 copies signed by the artist. *32pp., with lino cuts in two colours printed directly from the blocks.* A fine copy bound by Ludlow Bookbinders in quarter grey cloth spine and blue cloth boards, with gilt lettered paper label to the upper cover, and gilt lettered spine. With the original 2pp prospectus loosely inserted. large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2010. £50.00

~ The three stories, written between 1984 and 1994, were previously unpublished in book form.



24. BROWN, George Mackay. *Odysseus: the Ships*. 12 Poems. Images by Rosemary Roberts. Number 54 of 100 copies signed by Roberts. 26pp., designs printed in two colours directly from the blocks. A fine copy in original hessian cloth by Ludlow Bookbinders, gilt device on the upper board, and gilt lettered spine. With the original prospectus, and a Christmas card from Nigel and Rosemary [Roberts] loosely inserted. large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2011. £50.00

25. BROWN, George Mackay. *Havard, Seven Choruses*. Drawings by Rosemary Roberts. Number 68 of 125 copies signed by the artist. 16pp., line block text drawings printed in blue. A fine copy in original grey card covers, with 2pp Prospectus loosely inserted. large 8vo. The Celtic Cross Press. 2013. £30.00

~ The final book published by the press, which was awarded The Oxford Guild of Printers' Prize.



26. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Five publications sent as Christmas gifts to supporters of the Press.

Omea Cella, 1987; *The First Miracle of Christ*, 1992; *Saint Ovin*, 1994; *Extracted from the Treatyse of Fysshynge*, undated; *A Dream of Christmas*, signed, 1996. All in original wrappers, that for 1996 is a folded card.

£50.00