

typographic particulars [...] encode and transmit connotations, histories, and the scars of social conflict.”

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5 Introduction

Gill Partington and Adam Smyth

Inscription: the Journal of Material Text – Theory, Practice, History
Inscription combines imaginative thinking and critical rigour to take the study of material texts in new directions. *Inscription* is at home equally in the first century and the twenty-first, as well as all points in between, and features work by practitioners – book artists, printmakers and writers – alongside academic discussion. *Inscription*'s focus is not just on the meanings and uses of the codex book, but also the nature of writing surfaces (paper or otherwise), and the processes of mark-making in the widest possible sense: from hand-press printing to vapour trails in the sky; from engraved stones to digital text. The journal's theoretically aware, trans-historical, and cross-disciplinary remit will break with the conventions of academic ghettoization, creating connections between areas that have much to say to one another – bibliography, media theory, conservation, the history of the book, museum studies, and artist's book studies, for instance – enabling wide-ranging conversation and unexpected juxtapositions. *Inscription* promises not only to add to the field but to set new agendas for the next phase in the study of material texts.



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