

*Red Hydra Press is pleased to announce publication of  
the new and definitive biography of a legendary figure in  
the Arts & Crafts Movement and the Art of the Book*

*1 January 2000*

**BY HIS OWN LABOR:  
THE BIOGRAPHY OF  
DARD HUNTER**

**Cathleen A. Baker**

*Young Dard was in many ways the quintessential Roycrofters. Like many of Elbert Hubbard's craftsmen, he accepted the opportunity to test his skill in several different Roycroft shops. Unlike any other, however, he mastered each enterprise to which he applied his head, heart, and hand. Whether the medium was wood, copper, ceramic, glass, leather, or paper, Hunter's marvelous sense of design rendered objects more beautiful, more graceful, and more inventive than any others bearing the Roycroft cross and orb... His legacy is a living one, and through this first comprehensive biography of his life and career, we can at last discover the full meaning of the work he so lovingly produced by his own hand. Marie Via*

*Dard Hunter achieved more in one lifetime than most of us could in our wildest dreams. By the time he reached thirty, he had mastered metalworking, jewelry making and stained glass. He had also designed some of the most beautiful books of the American Arts & Crafts Movement. But he was just hitting his stride. He went on to become the authority in papermaking and its history. For his Mountain House Press, he used type he designed, cut, and cast by hand, printed with a Washington hand press, and distributed the books he had written. It is no wonder that accounts of his life until now have been more hagiography than biography. The man Hunter was hidden behind the legend. It is to Cathleen Baker's great credit that she is presenting us, in this passionate yet critical study, the Hunter few people knew. Baker gives us the human being with his flaws and blemishes, as well as the genius and the multi-faceted artist. Jean-François Vilain*

*Dard Hunter realized, long before anyone else, the enormousness of paper's contribution to humankind, its tremendous range of character, and its central role in the quality of a book, drawing, or print. More important than anything else, Hunter came to understand how a single piece of paper could bring alive the moment of its own making and the presence of its makers.... In his life and work, he found a way to pay homage to the craft and to honor those who practiced it. Almost out of thin air, he gave us a sense of the heritage of the craft, and for this, we will always be in his debt. Timothy D. Barrett*

Dard Hunter (1883-1966) is best known as the paper historian whose writings form the cornerstone of our knowledge about paper history, technology, and materials. In order to gather firsthand knowledge about the making of paper, he traveled the world collecting tools, equipment, raw materials, and paper specimens, which comprise the Dard Hunter Collection at the Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking in Atlanta. At his Mountain House Press, he published a number of important limited edition, handmade volumes on papermaking. ¶ In addition to his scholarly achievements, Hunter was a consummate craftsman and designer in the American Arts & Crafts Movement, whose lifelong philosophy was to make things by hand, striving for the highest craft standards.

Cathleen Baker's past experience as a paper conservator and educator in both England and the United States amply qualify her to write a book about a man who devoted most of his life to the study of paper. At the invitation of Dard Hunter III, she lived in Mountain House in Chillicothe, Ohio, for two and a half years, during which time she sorted and read the extensive—and previously unknown—Hunter archive, and wrote the manuscript. She also conducted research across the United States and abroad in London and Vienna. In addition to an impressive list of internationally-published articles about paper conservation spanning the last twenty years, Baker is also the author of “The Typefaces of Dard Hunter, Senior and Junior” in *American Proprietary Typefaces* (New York, 1998) and “The Lonhuda Art Pottery at Steubenville,” *Style: 1900* (spring/summer, 1999).

*What makes this book unique?* Dard Hunter wrote his autobiography, and Dard Hunter II told the story of his father's life, both emphasizing certain aspects and leaving others unexplored. *By His Own Labor* is comprehensive in its investigation of his life and authoritative in its evaluation of his work and legacy. It includes a moving account of the trials, successes, and legacy of a larger-than-life artist, craftsman, and scholar, richly embroidered with Hunter's extensive correspondence with family, friends and colleagues. ¶ A description and critical evaluation of Hunter's major Roycroft design projects. ¶ A descriptive bibliography of all of the limited edition books printed and published by Hunter. ¶ A comprehensive description of paper-making moulds and watermarks associated with Dard Hunter. ¶ Extensive endnotes containing bibliographic and supplemental information, plus an index. ¶ A chronology of Hunter's life and work. ¶ An accompanying volume of illustrations from various books, original drawings, and family photos, many of which have never been published. ¶ Introductions by Timothy D.

Barrett, celebrated American papermaker and author of *Japanese Papermaking*, and Marie Via, curator of the influential exhibition *Head, Heart and Hand: Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters*, and co-editor of its catalog.

### A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Cathleen Baker and I began discussing publishing *By His Own Labor* in 1993. I immediately knew, strongly and instinctively, that it would be a worthy and important book to undertake. This has been a massive undertaking in the world of limited edition, handmade books. Fortunately, at every juncture, people helped to make this book happen. Most especially, I am talking about Ms. Baker's many loyal supporters, and the fellow makers who believe in the book and zestfully collaborated on it—type founder, papermakers, punch cutter, wood engraver, printer and devil, and bookbinder. This is a very special book created after studying Dard Hunter's life and work: to bring the man alive through the author's words and through the materials and traditional means of production. To honor Dard Hunter's spirit of craft, this limited edition embraces the finest materials, artists, and craftspeople, to create a timeless work of art.

¶ The Dante Monotype was cast by Michael & Winifred Bixler at their foundry in Skaneateles, New York. ¶ R. Stanley Nelson of the Smithsonian Institution cut punches for Hunter's monogram and hand-cast them for inclusion in the text and endnotes. ¶ *By His Own Labor* was printed by hand, two pages at a time on a Vandercook 4 Proof Press, using traditional oil-based printing inks. ¶ The luxurious handmade paper, dampened for printing, was created especially for this project by Kathryn & Howard Clark, Twin-rocker Handmade Paper in Brookston, Indiana. ¶ Dard Hunter III pulled the endsheets by hand at Mountain House, using his grandfather's watermarked mould and deckle. ¶ This past winter, at age 85, John DePol cut a gorgeous two-block wood engraved portrait of Dard Hunter, which appears before the title page, and is printed from the wood. ¶ The biographical volume is comprises 368 pages, 7½ by 11 inches, in an edition of 155 press-numbered or lettered copies, signed by the author, of which 125 are for sale. ¶ The book is quarter-bound by Gray Parrot in a stunning green leather, with the title tooled in gold, protective vellum tips, and our own printed pattern side papers. ¶ 124 black-and-white and color plates of the life and work of Dard Hunter are reproduced in an accompanying volume, printed by Meriden-Stinehour in Vermont to the highest quality specifications, and cloth bound by Gray Parrot. ¶ Both the biography and its illustrations are housed in an elegant clamshell box with spine labeling.

## *Red Hydra Press*

11404 Saint James Court, Northport, AL 35475

205.339.1220



Steve Miller, proprietor

¶ The publication date is 1 January 2000. Of an edition of 155 press-numbered or lettered, and signed, copies, 125 are offered for sale at \$1,800. ¶ We will offer a pre-publication price of \$1,500 from 1 September through 31 October 1999, with delivery in January. ¶ We will offer a very special full leather design binding by Gray Parrot, only during this pre-publication period, at \$2,500. These copies are lettered in the press. ¶ Please include \$15 for insured domestic shipping, or \$35 for foreign airmail book rate, and enclose payment in US\$ or P.O. with your order. ¶ [INFO@REDHYDRA.COM](mailto:INFO@REDHYDRA.COM) [WWW.REDHYDRA.COM](http://WWW.REDHYDRA.COM)