

René Hague Biography



1905-1981

René Hague was a printer and scholar born in London to Irish parents, and educated at the Benedictine Ampleforth College, Yorkshire. At 19 Hague was tentatively attached to the Cistercian monks on Caldey Island in Wales. This attachment was brief, and whilst living in Abergavenny he met and became friends with Eric Gill and David Jones.

In 1930, alongside Gill, Hague founded the 'Hague and Gill' press at Pigotts. That year in

November, Hague also married Joan Gill (Gill's youngest daughter), much to Gill's disapproval.

Hague and Gill's partnership at the Pigotts press continued until 1932, when Gill signed it fully over to Hague. Under Hague's sole leadership, it ran until 1956. The press printed David Jones's *In Parenthesis* in 1937 and Hague remained a supporter and admirer of Jones's work throughout his life. He wrote *A Commentary on The Anathemata of David Jones* (1977) and *David Jones* (1975) for the Writers of Wales series, as well as edited *Dai Greatcoat: a self-portrait of David Jones in his letters* (1980).

Rene moved with Joan to Cork, Ireland, in 1963 and remained there until his death in 1981, just a few weeks after Joan had passed in 1980.