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## Thomas Battam's Account of Hot Press Printing 1851

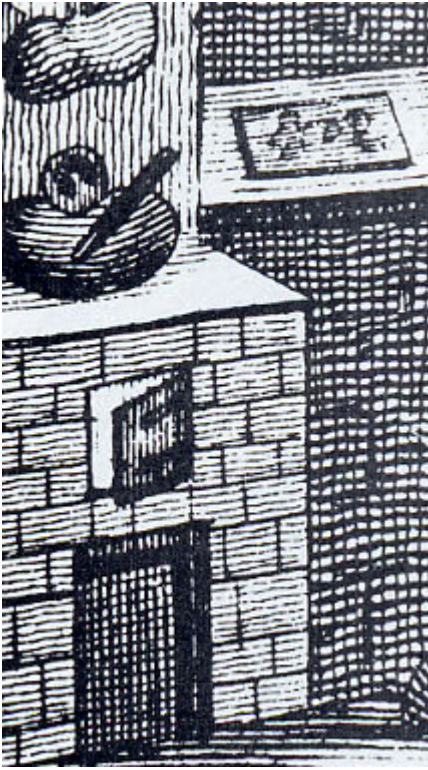
Thomas Battam worked as Art Director for Copeland's (the manufactory that was once Spode). In 1851, he authored *The Guide to the Great Exhibition of 1851*, held at Crystal Palace. In the publication he described the engraving and transfer printing process extensively. It remains one of the best descriptions in print. Battam wrote:



*Engraving designs on Copper Plates, for producing the much admired 'blue printed pots': &c.*

*Printing on thin paper, impressions transferred to the fired ware, and paper washed off.*









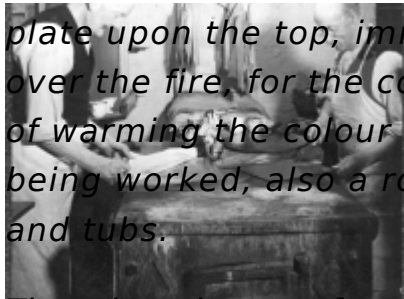




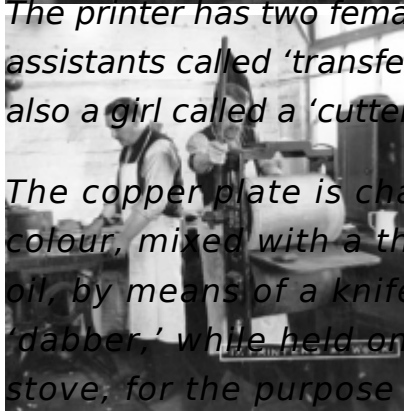
*The engraving is executed upon copperplates, and for 'press' printing is cut very deep, to enable it to hold a sufficiency of colour to give a firm and full transfer on the ware.*



*The printer's shop is furnished with a brisk stove, having an iron plate upon the top, immediately over the fire, for the convenience of warming the colour while being worked, also a roller, press and tubs.*



*The printer has two female assistants called 'transferrers' and also a girl called a 'cutter.'*



*The copper plate is charged with colour, mixed with a thick boiled oil, by means of a knife and a 'dabber,' while held on the hot stove, for the purpose of keeping the colour fluid; and the engraved portion being filled, the superfluous is scraped off the copper with the knife, which is further cleaned by being rubbed with a 'boss,' made of leather.*

*A thick firm oil is required to keep the different parts of the design from flowing into a mass, or becoming confused, while under the pressure of the rubber in the process of transferring. A sheet of*

