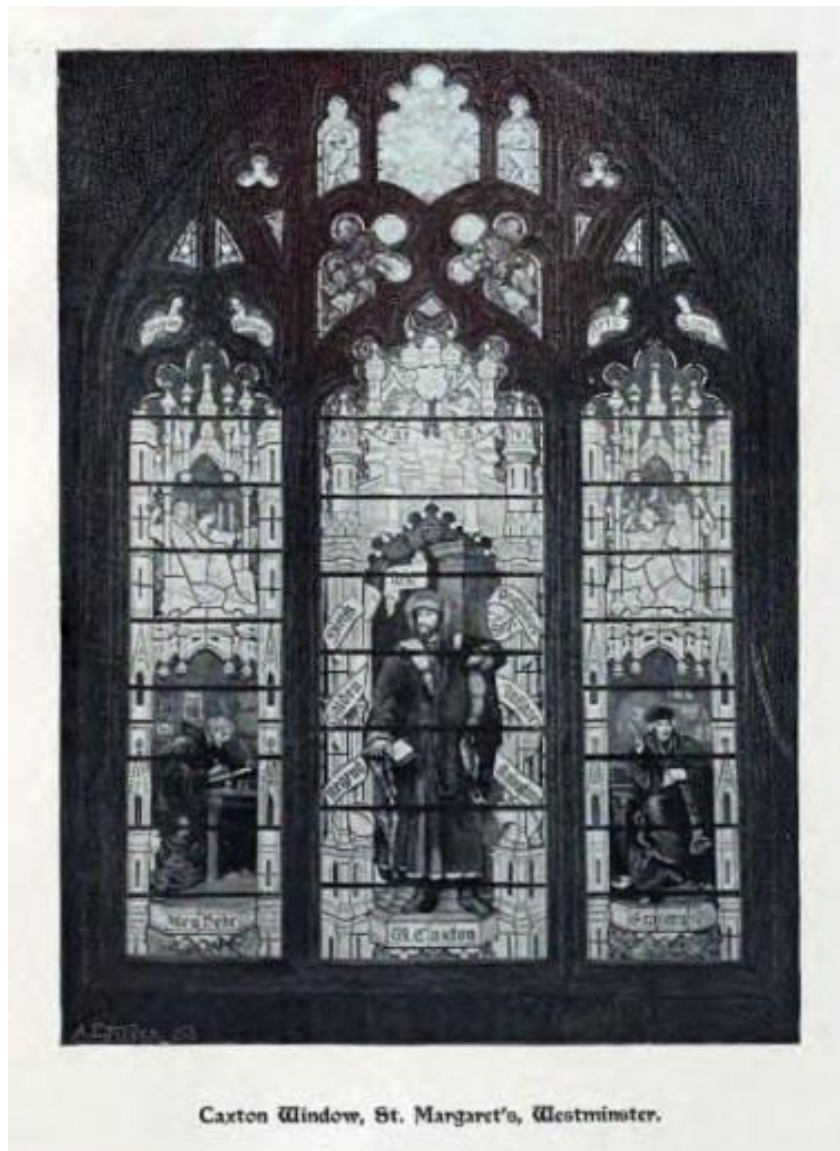


*From Progress in Printing and the Graphic Arts during the Victorian Era*

By John Southward, 1897



Caxton Window, St. Margaret's, Westminster.

“The design of this window, which was unveiled in 1882, was prepared by Mr Henry Holiday. In the central division is a picture representing Caxton standing in front of his press, holding a printed book in his hand. On a scroll are the titles of some of his principal works. The artist, aware that the familiar portrait of Caxton was known to be spurious, has designed an ideal figure. Above is the well-known mark, and the sign of the red pale; while elsewhere are the words “Fiat Lux” and the date 1477, the year when Caxton is supposed to have set up his press at Westminster. In the centre of the tracery are the Arms of Kent, where Caxton was born, and in the panels at the base of the window are the Arms of London, where he made his position in life, of Bruges, where he learnt the art of printing, and of Westminster, where he practised it in England. A part of the canopy work is occupied by figures, representing Religion, Art, Science and Philosophy. On each side of the figure of Caxton are depicted two well-known men, who might be taken as representatives of the Old and New Learning. On the left hand is a picture of the Venerable Bede, habited as a monk, and in the right hand light is Erasmus, one of the great promoters of the New Learning to which printing may be said to have given birth.” (page 96)