

## D & J Greig

Lothian Road, Edinburgh ( on casting)



**Height** to top of side stand 50 inches (127cms)

**Width** (excluding detachable handles) 19 inches ( 48.5 cms)

**Length** (front to back 44 inches ( 1102 cms)

**Weight** (557 Kilos approximately) 11 cwt

Breaks down to number of pieces. 9 in total.

2 joining frames (side to side) Cast Iron.

2 side frames (front to back, largest pieces) Cast Iron and heaviest.

2 Levers- Cast Iron with wooden handles.

1 Roller Milled steel. 1 levitator Milled steel

1 bed Wood, leather tympan hinged. Sheet steel.

Bed size, wooden 16 x 25 inches (405 x 635mm)

**There are no lithographic stones with this press.**

Top lever lithographic hand press.

D. & J. Greig, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. c.1844-1861. 24 x 17 in.

GREIG, David & John *printing and copying press makers* Edinburgh  
Lothian Road 1844-61

Manufactured by D. & J. Greig, Edinburg, this press embodies all the principles of a typical scraper-style press. Early lithograph presses attempted to employ a cylinder for impression such as had been in long use on copperplate presses, but these early cylinder presses had a tendency to break the stones. The scraper press is a continuation of Senefelder's earliest attempts at lithography. By 1850 the lithographic hand press was perfected, and all innovative efforts were devoted to the development of powered lithography. Today hand presses survive as artist's tools for fine lithography.

I have owned this press since 1980, bought from a printmaker who had just purchased a more modern press and needed the studio space. Removed and brought back to my workshop, moved again in 1987, the press had obviously been painted several times in a variety of colours, the most recent being light blue, then with black over it. The press was wire brushed to remove old paint and repainted with (rust inhibiting) metal black gloss smooth paint.

All runners greased, handle stripped and re-stained and varnished. Leather tympan had several coatings of leather enhancer. All bolts cleaned, one replaced, greased and reassembled. I have never used the press myself, as I do mainly etchings and lino prints.

Below being some photographs of the assembled press. It will then be taken apart and put back into storage. During assembly I have noticed the following.

1. Tympan has signs of wear and tear.
2. Tapered pins to hold on both handles missing.
3. Incorrect levitator stop (it's now a right angled piece of steel), presume it should have been something a little more decorative. Possibly a tapered bolt?
4. New bolts to hold top yoke in place.











Note levitator stop is now a right angled piece of steel.



