

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MAKING OF THE
Oxford Lectern Bible

BY BRUCE ROGERS

THE mental processes involved in book designing vary so widely with the varying problems that, short of writing a book about it, it seems futile to try to formulate any general method of approach to those problems. In many years of designing books I cannot recall ever having written anything about 'how it was done'; and it is only at the urgent request of my friend, Mr. Best of the Monotype Company, that I attempt to do so now, in relation to the Oxford Lectern Bible. Of that book I will try to give a straightforward account without too many technicalities; but it must be remembered that it is more than six years since the work was begun and my recollection of the details may be faulty in minor particulars.

(The project of making a new folio Bible originated in (or at least was precipitated by) the quest of Mr. O. F. Morshead, Librarian at Windsor Castle, for a Bible that should make a fitting present from King George to the Memorial Church at Ypres. On visiting the three English Bible printing houses he expressed the opinion that none of the folio Bibles shown him were handsome enough for that purpose. (He eventually chose one printed some years ago, of which a copy was still in stock at one of the presses.)