



NEWS - LETTER

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Inside this issue

Greenland's First Newspaper · 2

New and returning members · 3

Maret Reprises Lieberman Lecture · 3

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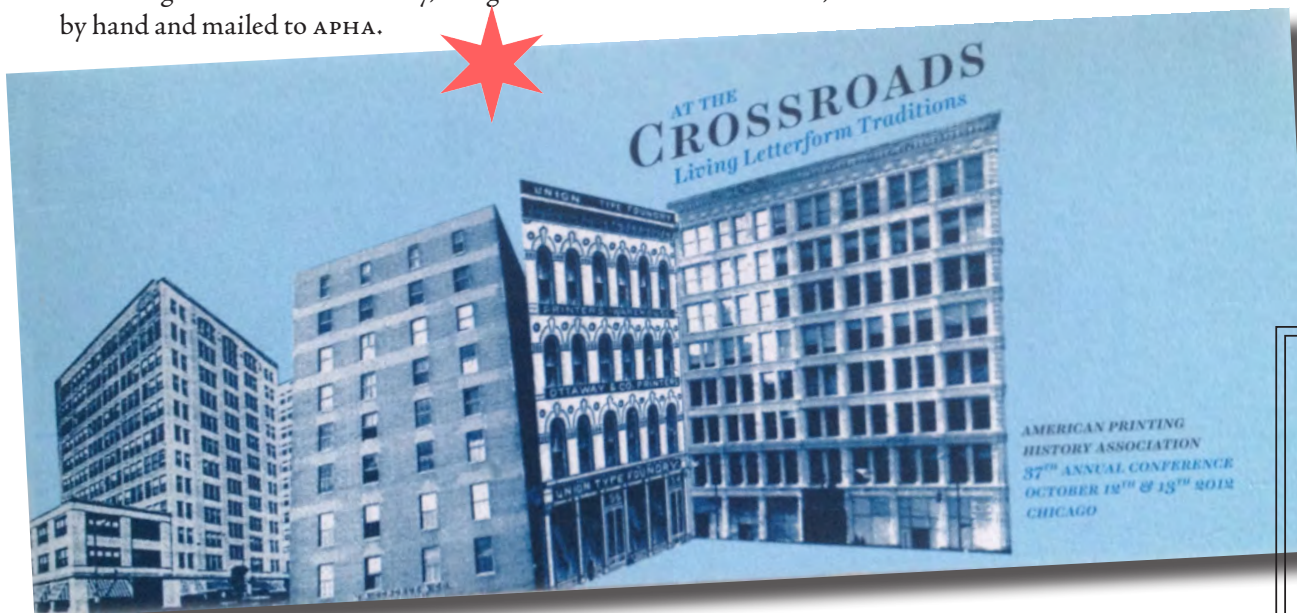
Registration Underway for the 2012 Annual Conference

By now all members of the American Printing History Association should have received a copy of the conference program booklet in the mail. It provides important details about the events at the 37th annual conference "At the Crossroads: Living Letterform Traditions" to be held October 12-13 in Chicago at Columbia College.

Conference information can also be found on the APHA website with links to online registration. Alternatively, a registration can be downloaded, filled out by hand and mailed to APHA.

We anticipate an exciting conference headlined by keynote speaker Rick Valicenti, the distinguished design director of the communication design firm Thirst. Presentations will also be given by Russell Maret, APHA's 2012 Lieberman Lecturer, Paul Shaw, a past winner of APHA's Mark Samuels Lasner Fellowship in Printing History, along with walking tours lead by Paul Gehl, Vice President of the new APHA Inland Chapter. Other expert speakers include Nancy Sharon Collins, Craig Eliason, Tom Greensfelder, Mary Catharine Johnsen, Alastair M. Johnston, Stan Knight, Steve Matteson, Bill Moran, Paul Moxon, David Peat, Frank J. Romano, and Philip Weimerskirch. Optional events are planned for October 11 and 14; details are on the website.

APHA members who register by September 15 pay only \$100 (the cost jumps to \$125 thereafter). Be sure to join us for the Friday night dinner for an additional \$20 per person.



Conference Reporters Needed

APHA MEMBERS attending the 2012 conference are encouraged to write summaries and to photograph the panels and events. To volunteer, email: newsletter@printinghistory.org

Atuagagdliutit: Greenland's First Newspaper

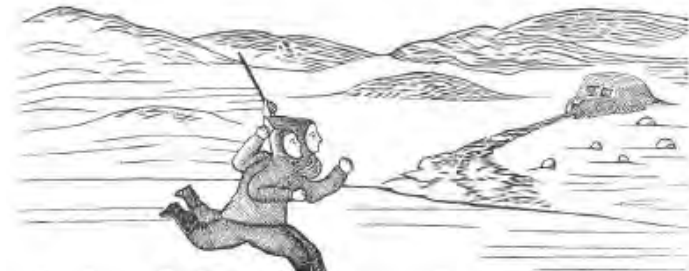
THE INUIT, skilled at fashioning complex tools from sparse materials, might have altered bibliographic history had they felt impelled to invent a means for the mechanical reproduction of words. But there was little need for printed texts in the Arctic, since information was transmitted orally through singing and storytelling. These traditions were threatened by colonization, but ironically a printing press belonging to a Danish settler became a beacon for Greenlandic culture.

In 1855 Dr Hinrich Rink (1819–93), the royal inspector for South Greenland, acquired an 18th-century press, the relic of Greenland's first printer, Jesper Brodersen (a shadowy figure, whose only known output is a pamphlet dated 1793). Initially Rink printed ephemera like his predecessor, but with a new press imported from Copenhagen in 1857, he produced the first book printed in Greenlandic. *Pok* is the historical narrative of a journey to Copenhagen by two Greenlanders, Pok and Qiperok, in 1724.

In 1861 Rink founded the newspaper *Atuagagdliutit* to keep Greenlanders informed about international affairs, and to preserve Greenlandic language, history and mythology. From the beginning, the publication was characterized by the cooperative working of a small, high-spirited team. *Atuagagdliutit* was edited by Rasmus Berthelsen, who was also pressman, translator, author and artist. A teenage apprentice, Lars Møller showed such promise that Rink took him to Copenhagen in 1861 to improve his knowledge of printing, bookbinding and lithography. Møller became editor in 1874, serving until 1921.



Detail from the Atuagagdliutit banner depicting, 'The church, the teachers' college and the new governor's residence at the colony of Good Hope [Nuuk]'.



Running figures from of a series of illustrations to Greenlandic myths.

The production of a newspaper in Arctic conditions was a huge achievement. In winter the water in the dampened paper froze. Since many "readers" were illiterate, *Atuagagdliutit* relied on images and was among the world's earliest illustrated newspapers. It has also been claimed as the first to feature colour images. Wood engravings and lithographs were created by the tireless Berthelsen and Møller, with further contributions from the elusive artist Aron of Kangeq (1822–69).

Atuagagdliutit was issued monthly. Copies were passed around remote settlements until they fell apart, illustrations were torn out to decorate homes, and pages were used to plug gun muzzles. The anthropologist Frederica de Laguna's experiences in Umanaaq in the 1920s suggest another use: "The W.C. was the usual type of wooden outhouse [...] for toilet paper, there were some numbers of a Greenland magazine." Happily, some copies escaped this fate. These days, a bibliophile would be lucky to

stumble upon *Atuagagdliutit* in an Arctic W.C.: a complete run realised £23,900 at auction in 2002.

Nancy Campbell

Today, the paper is called the *Atuagagdliutit Grønlandsposten* after a merger in 1952 with the Danish language newspaper *Grønlandsposten*, first circulated during WWII. All articles are now printed in both languages.

Nancy Campbell is a British writer and printmaker. Her book, *How To Say 'I Love You' In Greenlandic: An Arctic Alphabet*, was designed during a residency at Upernavik Museum, Greenland – the world's most northern museum—but it was printed in Oxford, see www.nancycampbell.co.uk.

Russell Maret to Speak at the Grolier Club

6-7:30 PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

THE GROLIER CLUB, NEW YORK

TYPE DESIGNER and private press printer Russell Maret on “Time, Technology, and the Shapes of Letters,” discusses his recent attempts to apply digital drafting technology to Industrial-era manufacturing processes to create new, historically inspired typefaces for letterpress printing. Reception follows. Co-sponsored by the Grolier Club Committee on Modern Fine Printing, Columbia University Libraries, the Typophiles, and the New York Chapter of APHA. This is a reprise of the Lieberman Lecture that Russell gave in Chicago at the Newberry Library last June and is not to be missed.

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New and Returning Members

Larry Adams, Boone IA
Susanne Allen, Washington DC
Jaime Barrett, Bethpage NY
Erin Beckloff, Lebanon OH
Nora Bloch, Van Nuys CA
Inge Bruggeman, Portland OR
Mike Buffington, Jefferson GA
Philip Burton, Chicago IL
Gerald Cloud, Los Angeles
David de Lorenzo, Berkeley CA
Mark Dimunation, Washington DC
Sara Friedman, Potomac MD
Cheri Gearhart, River Forest IL
Paul Gehl, Chicago IL
Renate Gokl, Chicago IL
Elizabeth Haven Hawley, Minneapolis MN
Larry Heiman, New Haven CT
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Steve Matteson, Louisville CO
David Meyer, Chicago IL
Ken Nebenzahl, Glencoe IL
Vida Sacic, Chicago IL
Rick Valicenti, Chicago IL
Tom Zimmerman, Arlington IL
Bib Fac Giuristprudenza, Lettere, Filosofia,
Bridgeport CT
CSBLF DAFIST-Univ. Studi Di Genova,
Bridgeport CT
William Andrews Clark Memorial Library,
Los Angeles CA



Born Three Hundred Years Ago

PIERRE SIMON FOURNIER (September 15, 1712–October 8, 1768), known as Fournier le Jeune, was a French punch-cutter and typefounder who designed the first “transitional” typefaces and initials and ornaments in the Rocco style. He made his most significant contributions to printing by introducing the standardization of type sizes and measurement by the point system. His opus was the two volume *Manuel Typographique*, 1764–66 a treatise on punch cutting and typefounding.