

The APHA

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Letter

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This newsletter--a bi-monthly publication of The American Printing History Association, Inc.--is sent without charge to all members. Editor: Prof. Catherine T. Brody. Please refer to last page for mailing address information.

WELCOME, JOSIE!

With great pleasure we welcome Josie Loos as membership secretary. She succeeds Miriam Steinert, whose devotion and enthusiasm in handling membership correspondence and organizing the Association's files made a unique, invaluable contribution to APHA's development.

WILL CARTER TO RECEIVE GOUDY AWARD

The seventh annual Frederic W. Goudy award will be presented on October 17, 1975 to noted British designer and printer Will Carter. Mr. Carter's Rampant Lions Press, now operated with his son Sebastian, since 1949 has been issuing high-quality work. Mr. Carter is also renowned for his inscriptional lettering and publication design.

The Goudy Award, presented by the Rochester Institute of Technology School of Printing, aims to recognize the important relationship between the creative and the technological aspects of the graphic arts. The annual award is made possible through a grant from the trust in memory of the late Melbert B. Cary, former president of the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

According to a recent British report cited in Library Journal, rare-book workers are susceptible to a newly-identified bronchial illness caused by spores growing on old manuscripts. The malady, according to the report, can affect about 10% of the population sensitive to this kind of trouble.

NEW JERSEY PRINTING

The restoration of the colonial printing office of James Parker, New Jersey's first printer, was dedicated on Flag Day, June 14th, by the Woodbridge (NJ) Bicentennial Commission. The restored print shop, using lumber from an 1839 South Brunswick building, has been placed in Woodbridge's new Bicentennial Park. Parker, who was born in Woodbridge in 1714, was apprenticed when he was only 11 to William Bradford, New York City's first printer. He opened his printing office in Woodbridge early in the 1750's. He printed the state's first periodical, "The New American Magazine," for a number of years, and printed many official publications, including those of the colony's legislature.

AAPA CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK

The 39th Annual Convention of the American Amateur Press Association, a group of hobby publishers, writers and printers founded in 1936, will be held at the Hotel Tudor, 42nd Street and First Avenue, New York City, from August 15 to August 17. A full day of discussion, seminars and debates on the problems and joys of the hobby will be held on August 16, beginning at 9:00 am, with a banquet at convention headquarters to follow that evening. All members of APHA, especially those residing in the metropolitan area, are cordially invited to attend the proceedings. Further information may be obtained from Elliott M. Ruben, 145 Windsor Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570.

GROWING INTEREST IN HAND PAPERMAKING

Tim Barrett, who was with Twinrocker Mill, got a Fulbright to study papermaking in Japan this summer. Twinrocker, Inc., operated by Howard and Kathryn Clark (Brookston, Indiana 47923) makes a 100% rag content paper and also sells pure rag pulp. Interest in hand papermaking is coming up fast nowadays, and the ancient craft should prove attractive to many APHA members.

APHA CHAPTER NEWS

The Southern California Chapter held its first program meeting on Saturday, June 7, 1975 at the Seminar Room of the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. Jake Zeitlin, scholar, bibliophile, and bookseller-extraordinary, was to have addressed the Chapter on "Half a Century-Plus of Fine Book Printing in California--the End of an Era?" Unfortunately he was not able to speak because of doctor's orders. Instead, the subject "Typographic Collections in Southern California" was discussed by panelists Edwin H. Carpenter, Carey S. Bliss and Muir Dawson. Some of the points raised were (1) Printing equipment - collections of type fonts (2) Books on techniques (3) Examples of printing and (4) Local history and imprints. Richard Hoffman presided; Roby Wentz reported on possible future programs and solicited suggestions from members, the majority of whom expressed a desire to see the Lindner collection of hand presses at some future date.

BICENTENNIALCATALOG FOR BICENTENNIAL

Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern, of Leona Rostenberg--Rare Books, write that they will be issuing a catalog in honor of the Bicentennial, entitled: 1776 (CAUSES AND EFFECTS). They expect to distribute it shortly before 1976. Since their catalogs are admirable examples of bibliographical scholarship, we shall be looking forward to it.

Ms. Stern, incidentally, has recently published her edition of the "unknown thrillers" of Louisa May Alcott; BEHIND THE MASK (William Morrow, \$8.95). These early books were written anonymously or under a pseudonym which was not identified until Ms. Stern and Dr. Rostenberg uncovered it.

A. A. S. HONORS ISAAH THOMAS

Thanks to Frederick E. Bauer, Jr., Associate Librarian at the American Antiquarian Society, we've learned of some particularly interesting Bicentennial activity at the A.A.S. In April they honored early American printer Isaiah Thomas (a founder of the A.A.S.) with a special celebration making the anniversary of his arrival at Worcester, Mass., on April 20, 1775, after having escaped with his press and type from strife-torn Boston. Richard Steele, publisher of the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, presented a public lecture at the A.A.S. on Thomas as a publisher and businessman. At a reception honoring

Thomas that evening, several hundred guests viewed the old English Common Press on which Thomas began his printing career. The press, which Thomas described as having been made in London in 1747, has been at the American Antiquarian Society since 1834. The good news is that the press has now been thoroughly restored, with missing and mutilated pieces replaced. Thomas' press now stands complete as it might have looked in April of 1775. Incidentally, the Worcester Telegram and Gazette and the Davis Press of Worcester added to the observance by issuing facsimile reprints of the first Worcester edition (dated May 3, 1775) of Thomas' weekly newspaper, The Massachusetts Spy.

PUBLICATIONS

After long preparation, Maurice Annenberg has published his monumental study, TYPE FOUNDRIES OF AMERICA AND THEIR CATALOGS (see APHA Letter No. 3) The 250-page reference work includes a short history of each type foundry and lists its catalogs. The volume, issued in an edition of 500 copies, is available from the Maran Company (Box 190 South Road, Pikesville, MD 21208) for \$30.00.

The Bellevue Press (60 Schubert St., Binghamton, NY 13905) is currently publishing post card reproductions of original American prints, with eleven different cards already available. As press owner Gil Williams expressed it, "As many printmakers have illustrated the best of our 20th Century books, it seems only fitting that we, as a private press, publish quality postcards which can bring brilliant work to more and more people in an inexpensive way." So far, they have published cards by such printmakers as Lynd Ward, Rockwell Kent, and John Fenton, among others. A number of other cards will be available soon. Cards feature black-and-white reproductions of 20th Century American graphic art, with some 19th Century prints eventually to be included. Further information about the cards (which sell for 15¢, 8/\$1) is available from Bellevue Press.

The 500th anniversary of the introduction of printing into England will be observed in 1976. A facsimile reproduction of the first book Caxton printed in England, THE DICTES AND SAYINGS OF THE PHILOSOPHERS (1477) has recently been published. The volume is useful for an understanding of Caxton's own typography and composition methods. The book (which is actually a facsimile of an 1877 facsimile complete with a preface by William Blades) is available in the U. S. from Abner Schram (1860 Broadway, New York, NY 10023) at \$25.00.

Woolmer/Brotherson Ltd. has announced the publication of A CHECKLIST OF THE HOGARTH PRESS 1917-1938. Compiled by J. Howard Woolmer, it has a short history of the press by Mary Gaither. In 1917, Leonard and Virginia Woolf bought a handpress and printed a short story by each of them: Leonard's "Three Jews" and Virginia's "The Mark on the Wall." Thus, with Two Stories, began the Hogarth Press which, by 1938 when Virginia sold her interest to John Lehmann, had published 440 titles and had become one of the major literary, social, and political voices between the wars. The Press published the early poems of T. S. Eliot as well as "The Waste Land," all of Virginia's novels after her first two, work by Sigmund Freud, Katherine Mansfield, Robert Graves, Christopher Isherwood, C. Day Lewis, and many, many others. The book, to be ready in September, is available for \$15.00 from Woolmer/Brotherson Ltd., Andes, NY 13731.

EXHIBITS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, RARE BOOK DIVISION (Washington, D.C.) An exhibit devoted to the eminent American type designer, Frederic W. Goudy (1865-1947), will run through August 31. Drawn from LC's own Goudy collection, it contains Goudy's own working library and associated records. Among the items on display are Goudy's original drawings for type-faces, initials and ornaments, a specimen sheet of Goudy's Village Letter Foundry, and

a number of books, pamphlets and broadsides published by Goudy's Village Press, which he founded with Will Ransom in 1903. Among books included are the Press' first book, Morris's PRINTING and Young's THE LOVERS HOURS, only three copies of which are known to have survived the fire of 1908. Also exhibited are a number of books Goudy wrote, including his own personal copy of THE ALPHABET (and proofs) and a number of presentation copies of other contemporary books, inscribed to Goudy by their authors, illustrators, printers or designers.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY (New York, NY) A free, 150-item exhibition called: "Joint Lives: Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning" runs through November 1 in Room 318, the Public Library's Berg Collection of American and English Literature, Fifth Avenue and 42nd St. The exhibit will remain open to the public Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. The display features a copy of "The Battle of Marathon" (1820) written when Elizabeth Barrett was 14 years old and privately printed by her father, and the Robert Browning poem "Pauline," printed when he was 21 years old.

JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY (Brown University, Providence, RI) "New England Printers and the American Revolution" will be on view through the summer and perhaps into the early fall. The exhibit features a representative sampling of New England printing during the period--almanacs, government printing, sermons, political pamphlets, and newspapers. Wherever possible the words of the New England printer and historian of printing, Isaiah Thomas, are used to describe the books shown. A catalog is available.

BOSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS "Paul Revere's Boston," until October. This current exhibition has a good deal (more than one would expect of a fine arts museum exhibition) of splendidly displayed printing, borrowed from local libraries. The handsome catalog unfortunately slights the printed pieces on exhibit.

JANUS PRESS - EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITY. Claire Van Vliet's Janus Press is featured in the lead article in the Autumn 1974 issue of The Private Library, journal of the British based Private Libraries Association. In the course of its 20-year existence, the Janus Press has produced 32 publications and hundreds of prints, drawings and watercolors. Claire Van Vliet has lived, worked and taught on a farm in Vermont since 1966. Most of her printing has been done on a Vandercook proofing press. Some superlative examples of her craftsmanship have recently been on exhibition at the Fleming Museum. Institutions interested in obtaining this traveling exhibition should write to Margot Pender, Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05401. The exhibition will be on view at the Fleming Museum from July 25 through September. Since most Janus Press publications are in rare book libraries, the show provides an unusual opportunity to see the range and quality of Janus publications. A catalog is available.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

Although Prof. Carol Shloss (Wesleyan University) doesn't know of a good film on book-binding (see Diana Thomas' inquiry in APHA Letter #4), she does know of one that should be made. In her letter, she says:

"Each year Arno Werner comes to my Wesleyan ART OF THE BOOK class, bringing examples of exceptionally fine hand binding, information about comparative European and American binding techniques, and anecdotes about the fine editions he has bound. As you probably know, he bound many of the Bruce Rogers Centaur Bibles, many of the Dard Hunter papermaking books, and almost all of the books issued from Leonard Baskin's the Gehenna Press. Whenever I visit Mr. Werner, I think of the Japanese custom of declaring a unique person a National Treasure. In this country, we not only do not honor our gifted craftsmen, we often neglect them. He is an elderly man, and a brief documentary film on him would not only be a gift to future students and devotees of fine bookmaking, but also

a belated tribute to a talented, but self-effacing artisan."

Note: APHA members wishing to write to Mr. Werner may reach him at 166 Lakewood Drive, Pittsfield, Mass. 01201, or by telephone at (413) 442-3011.

LETTERS

Professor Martha Jane K. Zachert of Florida State University, Tallahassee, writes of how she has successfully experimented with new methods of teaching the history of printing to library school students (e.g., student photographic essays.). It would be interesting to learn of other experimental and innovative teaching methods members have used. Professor Zachert sends the following suggestion for an APHA project:

"I hope that one of the Bicentennial activities of APHA will be a compilation of printing history "shrines" around the country. For example, I'll be spending my vacation the first two weeks in September meandering around New England.

There have got to be places to see related to printing history, if I only knew where they are. I know some ways to find out, of course, but a directory such as AIHP's directory of reconstructed pharmacies would be a god-send. Local chambers of commerce should be delighted to help."

Frank J. Anderson, proprietor of the Kitemaug Press, Spartanburg, SC, has a book length manuscript that is looking for a publisher and he would appreciate suggestions. (Anyone with suggestions for Mr. Anderson may write to him at 229 Mohawk St., Spartanburg, SC 29301 and/or to the APHA Letter):

"My manuscript is tentatively titled Private Press Work. A Bibliographic Approach to Printing as an Avocation. It is not a how-to-do-it manual. Rather it is a guide to the literature of printing and the related book arts, along with sources of supply, and sources of information.

"A partial listing of the table of contents will give you an idea of the scope of the work. Basic Book List, Printing Instruction Manuals, Selecting a Press, Directory of Suppliers, Alphabet and Letterforms, Type and Typography, Book Design and Book Production, Illustration, Bookplates, Bookbinding, Private Presses, Printing History, Paper and Papermaking, Libraries and Museums, Associations, Periodicals List, and Directory of Book Dealers.

"The volume has grown out of my interest and activity in the book arts. The books I list are annotated, and the whole thing is designed to answer the questions which people just getting involved in the world of the private press are liable to ask."

R. W. Filby of the Maryland Historical Society is taking part in the first printed Declaration (of Independence) study. He writes that they "have found a third of the Dunlap original, used for wrapping bills--but the remainder was thrown away presumably because there were no other bills to wrap!"

Regarding THOSE LITTLE BLUE BOOKS (APHA Letter #4), Roger Levenson writes to explain that his book on Haldemann-Julius was privately printed and is no longer available. Mr. Levenson apologizes to anyone seeking to obtain the book from his Tamalpais Press. Since he's a one-man business, he is unable to answer any inquiries, and hopes this notice will be sufficient.

SPECIAL OFFER TO APHA MEMBERS!

Frank J. Anderson, owner of the Kitemaug Press and Printer-in-Residence at Wofford College (see Members' Queries' generously makes this offer of a complimentary copy of his A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WOFFORD LIBRARY PRESS. He writes that: "A few copies of this history are available for members of APHA by writing to me at: The Sandor Teszler Library, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC 29301."

MEMBERS' QUERIES

Robert M. Gutchen, of 146 Biscuit City Road, Kingston, RI 12881, is looking for a special font. (If you have any information that will help, write to him at the above address or c/o the APHA Letter):

"I wonder whether I might use the "Members' Queries" section of the APHA Letter to obtain some information? The Biscuit City Press--which I operate on occasional weekends--is planning its next publication. It will try to capture something of the style of 17th Century printing. I am therefore looking for an appropriate font of type, roman and italic, in 10 point size, which contains the old-fashioned long "s"--or f--and the ligatures associated with the long s. Can any member of APHA help me in my queft?"

APOLOGIA

This "May-June" issue will probably be reaching you near the end of July. This is one of the unfortunate realities of life in an organization in which all work is done on a volunteer basis by busy people who have other demands on their time. Two other items that have been delayed but not forgotten are (1) Founding Member Certificates and (2) Founding Member Directories, both of which are now in the production process.

SEPTEMBER HIATUS

Please note that during September the special services of the Membership Department will be "on vacation." Requests for newsletters and so forth will be honored in October. However, continue to send in new memberships and changes of address to APHA Treasurer Stuart C. Dobson--address below.

MAILING ADDRESSES FOR APHA

NEWSLETTER ONLY: Send news items and announcements for APHA Letter, or relevant comment for publication, directly to the Editor, Prof. Catherine T. Brody, Livingston Library, NYCCC, 250 Livingston St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS: Send these (together with membership applications if available) directly to the Treasurer, Stuart C. Dobson, 215 Harriman Road, Irvington, N.Y. 10533. Make out checks to APHA, abbreviated or written in full. Calendar year dues are \$5 Active, \$7 Family, and \$2.50 Student. Information on other membership categories available on request.

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: Please address APHA, Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017, unless you are requested to do otherwise in a specific case.