

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.

IRS RULES CONTRIBUTIONS TO APHA TAX-DEDUCTIBLE. Our Treasurer is pleased to report that the Internal Revenue Service has determined that APHA is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, APHA will be treated as a publicly-supported organization, enabling donors to deduct their contributions to APHA as provided in section 170 of the Code. We understand that this includes membership dues.

We are now eligible to apply for authorization to mail at special third-class rates which, when and if granted, will sharply reduce the burden of postage costs for such mailings as the APHA Letter and the eventual journal. Monies saved will be channeled toward the basic educational purpose of your non-profit association.

NEW YORK CHAPTER. Members of the New York Chapter are cordially invited to the book arts/rare book exhibition and library open house at the New York Botanical Garden (The Bronx, N.Y.). The date is Thursday, October 16, 1975, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Those replying to the mailing to Chapter members will receive invitations and further information.

If you live in the New York area and are not already a member, this is a good occasion for you to join the New York Chapter. Chapter dues of \$5.00 may be sent to Mary Ann O'Brian Malkin, APHA/NY Treasurer, Drawer O, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011.

This exhibition is co-sponsored by the Guild of Book Workers and the N.Y. Botanical Garden. In addition to the large Guild show, some examples of early printing as well as of certain lithographic techniques used in botanical and horticultural publishing will be on display.

COPY OF 1776 DECLARATION SOLD AT LONDON AUCTION. One of the 21 recorded copies of the Declaration of Independence, printed by John Dunlap in 1776, and one of the only two of the documents still in private hands, was sold by Christie's, the London auction house, on July 2. The document was sold for \$88,000 to two American book dealers, H.P. Kraus of New York and Kenneth Nebenzahl of Chicago (a Founding Member of APHA). The copy had been owned by an anonymous American woman, a direct descendent of the original recipient of the copy, John Steward of Goshen, N.Y.

LIBRARY ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF STUDY OF DUNLAP BROADSIDES. The Library of Congress recently reported on the investigation of 17 of the 21 known copies of the Dunlap broadside, the first printed version of the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, Congress directed the committee it had previously appointed to prepare the document to arrange for its printing. Accordingly, the committee--Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Benjamin Franklin--visited the shop of John Dunlap, official printer to the Congress. Copies were printed overnight and quickly distributed.

In the LC study the paper of the surviving copies was studied by beta-radiography. In this process, beta rays from a sheet of plastic containing an isotope like Carbon-14 pass through the paper to produce an image on a sheet of X-ray film. In this way, researchers were able to bring out the watermarks and the chain lines made by the fine wires that sew the laid wires to the ribs of the paper mold. Further study with a paper micrometer, analysis of contact negatives, and use of the Hinman Collator furnished evidence that the copy in the custody of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is the printer's proof. A report by Frederick R. Goff, Honorary Consultant in Early Printed Books, will be published by the Library of Congress as part of its Bicentennial publication program.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR. A Dawson's Book Shop catalog has supplied this information: "To anyone contemplating a Fall trip to Europe, here is a reminder that there will be an International Book Fair in Amsterdam September 27-29, 1975. This will be held at the Marriott Hotel, located at Stadhouderskade 21, and we ourselves will be exhibiting along with many other American and European dealers. It would be nice to see you there." APHA Letter would be pleased to hear from any members who do attend this Book Fair.

LOTS OF LINES BUT NO TYPE. On August 18 The New York Times began producing its classified advertising pages by photocomposition--another casualty for the Linotype and for hot metal. Under the new automated system, the selection and sorting of the classified ads for a typical Sunday issue, which often run to more than 30 pages and used to take three days, can now be accomplished in 20 minutes. What used to be done by hand--the typesetting, selecting, sorting, alphabetizing, and arranging by size--will now be done by a computer and by photocomposition machines.

The plan, of course, is eventually to have the entire newspaper done this way. The change, which is expected to produce savings in both business and production expenses, was a follow-up to last year's International Typographical Union agreement concerning the introduction of automated typesetting at the newspaper. The switch to photocomposition required the development of complex computer programs to perform these various functions. Classified copy is typed on special forms with an IBM Selectric typewriter using a Courier 12 element. These forms are read by an ECRM optical character reader that enters them into an Inter data Model 70 computer especially developed by The Times. After finding the proper ads in its file, the computer classifies, alphabetizes, and arranges them. The information is then fed into an MGD Metroset photocomposition machine, which produces strips that are photographically developed into newspaper columns and pasted into pages for photoengraving and platemaking. Stock tables have been done by photocomposition for the past year.

FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF ENGLISH PRINTING. John Dreyfus sends news that the Printing Historical Society will sponsor a Caxton International Congress in London, September 20-24, 1976, to coincide with the Caxton Quincentenary Exhibition at the British Museum.

Discussions based on papers written for the occasion by nine experts will focus on Caxton's activities both on the Continent and in England. The speakers' papers will be printed in English, French, and German, and discussions will take place in three separate language groups. Further information about this noteworthy conference will be available later this year from the Printing Historical Society, St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London EC4, England.

FROM BOSTON TO BERKELEY. A major Merrymount Press collection has been presented to the University of California by Daniel Bianchi of Bridgewater, Connecticut. The collection consists of matrices, type, type ornaments, flowers, borders, etc., type racks and type cases, all of which had formerly been used by the Merrymount Press of Boston, known worldwide for fine printing. The collection is being presented in memory of D.B. Updike and John Bianchi, who were associated as partners for most of the time the press was in operation.

Matrices for the "Mountjoye" types (Bell) and certain binding dies used on Merrymount Press books will be housed in the Bancroft Library, while the remainder of the collection has been added to the resources of the School of Librarianship's Typographical Laboratory, where it will be available for use in teaching and research in the history of printing.

WESTWARD, HO! (CONTINUED). The entire rare book and manuscript collection of Edward Eberstadt and Sons (formerly of 888 Madison Avenue, New York), valued at more than \$10 million, has been sold to John H. Jenkins, rare book dealer of Austen, Texas. The collection, mostly Americana, in-thousands thousands of items dating back to the late 1400s. The acquisition of the 40,383-piece Eberstadt collection makes the Jenkins Company collections of some 500,000 items one of the largest rare-book houses in the world (everything does seem bigger in Texas!). Mr. Jenkins plans to have his publishing firm reprint many of the scarce historical documents and unique manuscripts for the "true value of their historic importance." The Eberstadt collection will be sold, but only to libraries, according to Mr. Jenkins.

In another acquisition that further emphasized this westward movement of collections, the library of the Lambs Club, the theatrical club which recently ran into hard times, has been given to the University of Texas Humanities Research Center in Austin, after having been purchased by an anonymous donor. The collection will be added to the Center's Hoblitzelle Theater Arts Library.

RESEARCH ON WEST INDIAN PRINTING HISTORY OFFERED. Roderick Cave, now teaching at the University of the West Indies, has been researching the history of printing in this part of the Americas. Professor Cave has generously offered to send without charge a packet of material incorporating some of the results of his study to any APHA member requesting

it. Write to Professor Cave at the University of the West Indies, P.O. Box 181, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica, W.I. A number of interesting research reports are included, with especially detailed information on the history of printing in Jamaica, where printing was introduced in 1718.

PUBLISHING MILESTONES. Random House, one of the most successful of American publishers, recently observed the 50th anniversary of its founding. Donald S. Klopfer, who founded the company with the late Bennett Cerf in 1925, chose the anniversary as the occasion for his own retirement.

In an interview published in The New York Times, Mr. Klopfer recalled the early days when the partners did everything from selling to shipping. One of their first successes was Candide, illustrated by Rockwell Kent; this edition has been reissued in commemoration of the observance. The firm made publishing history in 1933 when Random House fought censorship to publish Joyce's Ulysses in this country. Ernst Reichl's bold design for that volume still ranks as a landmark in book design.

In 1960 Random merged with Knopf, bringing important authors and a tradition of fine bookmaking under their auspices. Now owned by RCA (since 1966), Random has been going on to greater successes, having recently sold to Bantam Books the paperback rights to its bestseller Ragtime (E.L. Doctorow) for \$1,850,000 -- the highest price ever paid for paperback rights.

Alfred A. Knopf, dean of American publishers, has been awarded the 1975 Distinguished Achievement Award by Drexel University's Library School Alumni Association. In the 60 years of its existence, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., has published about 6000 titles, of which 21 have won Pulitzer Prizes and 11 have been given National Book Awards.

Alfred A. Knopf, Jr. has taken over control of Atheneum Publishers. His former partner, Simon Michael Bessie, has returned to Harper & Row as senior vice president. Mr. Bessie had favored accepting Harper's offer to buy the small "quality" publishing house, but Mr. Knopf and other investors demurred. Atheneum was founded in 1959 by Knopf, Bessie, and the late Hiram Haydn.

In another note on publishing families and tradition, Charles Scribner's Sons, the 129-year-old firm, has hired its fifth Charles Scribner. 24-year-old Charles Scribner III, son of the present president, has joined the company as assistant to Jack Galazka, director of publishing. Young Scribner is now working on his doctorate in art history at Princeton.

NEW FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM. Librarians and curators responsible for rare book collections should be interested to know about the Library of Congress's newly installed automatic fire extinguishing system. This system uses low-temperature refrigerant Halon 1301, which puts out fires "without damage to materials or harmful effects to humans," says the LC. The new system can put out fires within seconds of the release of the gas -- and all without the use of fire extinguishers or water. Although expensive, the system is invaluable for the protection of rare materials; among all the dangerous "Enemies of Books" (as William Blades pointed out), the deadliest of all are fire -- and water.

JACKSON BURKE AND HIS LEGACY. Jackson Burke, eminent type designer, private press printer, and a Founding Member of APHA, died May 30 at his Oyster Bay home after a long illness. He was 66.

From 1949 to 1974 Mr. Burke was director of typographical development for Mergenthaler Linotype. As a book designer, he worked for the Stanford University Press and was a member of the committee on printing of the Yale University Press. Jackson Burke was a man of wide interests. He and his wife were avid collectors of Japanese art, part of which will be shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art this Fall. A long-time member of such organizations as the Typophiles, Mr. Burke amassed an impressive collection of books on printing. Not long ago, he decided to disperse this collection through Dawson's Book Shop of Los Angeles, thus giving the maximum number of collectors the same pleasure in acquiring these volumes as he had had.

Dawson's Book Shop (535 North Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90004) just recently issued the second of its catalogs of the Jackson Burke Collection of books on printing. Part II (available for \$3) is devoted to type specimen books and books on type design and calligraphy. on various processes, binding, paper, and examples of fine printing. Part III may be obtained for \$4. Needless to say, this is an opportunity to obtain many important and scarce titles on printing history. Moreover, the three catalogs form a valuable bibliographical reference of permanent value. Some copies of Part I, on printing history, may still be available (\$3).

THORNILEY CATALOG. Another Dawson's catalog of particular interest is their Catalog 429, which is available upon request. This catalog is devoted to type specimen books and printer's manuals, mostly from the collection of William D. Thorniley of Seattle. Mr. Thorniley owns what Norman Strouse has described as "probably the most important, certainly the most interesting, collection of antique type faces in this country."

PUBLICATIONS. A Select Bibliography of the Principal Modern Presses, Public and Private, in Great Britain and Ireland, By G.S. Tomkinson. Alan Wofsy (150 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94111) has made a praise-worthy contribution to bibliography in once more making available this well-known listing of fine printing in Great Britain up to about 1925. The book is concerned with some 82 presses from the mid-19th century to the mid-1920s, including the Kelmscott, Eragny, Ashendene, Doves, and Vale. The author gives a brief history of each Press and a precise bibliographical description of its output.

This important reference was originally published in 1928 in an edition of 1000 copies. The original edition is now scarce and expensive, which makes this nicely produced reprint, priced at \$20, especially welcome.

The coated paper used for the reprint reproduces the facsimile specimen pages well, though it gives a rather different impression (pun unavoidable) from the original Curwen letterpress printing. The facsimile pages

are printed in red and black; in a few cases a third color was actually used in the original, such as the Eragny Press Dream-Come-True, which was printed in green. A sample of the Ashendene Press Ptolemy type (new at the time) is included, although the page shown comes ~~not~~ from Don Quixote, as listed, but from the Virgil. Such minor quibbling aside, the book is still invaluable. The years covered by the bibliography were the great years of the private press movement in England. Tomkinson brought together his information from a variety of sources, catalogs, and personal knowledge. Especially valuable is the information he gives about some of the lesser-known presses -- information that helps to explain the importance of the movement in the history of printing. Facts and dates about these less prominent presses are often difficult to locate. Tomkinson obtained most of his information from those who actually owned and controlled the presses. As B.H. Newdigate explains in his introduction, the principle on which Tomkinson made his choice of the presses to be represented seems to have been recognition of "a zeal in the pursuit of their art which has been inspired by something more than money-making."

ALAN WOFSY GRAPHIC ARTS REPRINTS. With the Tomkinson book mentioned above, publisher Alan Wofsy has inaugurated a commendable program of reprints of interest to students of printing history. Also now available is Aristide Mailol -- The Artist and the Book (\$2.50). This illustrated sale catalog, the first complete bibliography of the original illustrated work of Mailol, includes full bibliographical information on the lithographs and etchings of this French artist.

Scheduled for September publication (at \$12.50) is a reissue of William Nicholson's An Alphabet, first published in 1897. Also forthcoming are reprints of such choice bibliographies as those of Grabhorn, Ashendene, and Golden Cockerell presses. Wofsy is co-publishing the Nicholson book with William Heinemann, the original publisher. (It was Nicholson who designed the famous windmill printer's mark for Heinemann.) The book is being printed here and Wofsy is shipping Heinemann's copies to them.

Mr. Wofsy is also planning to do an up-dated bibliography of the Merrymount Press. His publication plan would be to combine in one volume a reprint of the original Merrymount Press bibliography which appeared in a limited edition of 500 with a supplementary bibliography covering the 1934-49 period, newly prepared by Daniel Bianchi (whose Merrymount collection is mentioned earlier in this Letter).

PRINTER'S DEVIL OR DEVIL'S PRINTER? J.W. Smeed's new Oxford University Press book on Faust in Literature (\$19.25) includes a study of how the Dr. Faust of the ancient legend of the pact with the devil came to be confused in popular folklore with Fust, Gutenberg's partner. Printing, the "black art," has often been equated with "black magic," it seems.

TV PREVIEWS. Keep your eyes open while watching television this Fall. The hand holding the quill pen and executing the 18th century calligraphy for John Adams in the forthcoming historic series for the American Bicentennial is that of Donald Jackson, well-known English calligrapher, teacher, and "Queen's Scribe." Quite a change of allegiance!

The Bowne Printing Shop of the South Street Seaport Museum (New York City) is used as the setting for a scene in the CBS television show on Walt Whitman to be shown this Fall. Actor Rip Torn set type, locked up the form, pulled proofs, and then printed two pages of Leaves of Grass at the shop during filming early this Spring.

A SHOP FOR PRINTERS. Frederica Postman of the Printers' Shop (885 Commercial Stree, Palo Alto, California 94303) extends a cordial invitation to APHA members in the area to visit and browse. The Printers' Shop stocks used presses, type cabinets and cases, tools, composing sticks, paper, and ink. The shop has over 500 fonts of type and thousands of cuts and ornaments. Ms. Postman mentions that she learned to print with Dr. Lieberman's book Printing as a Hobby and a 3 x 5 press. She now has a 10 x 15 C&P, a Vandercook proof press, and about 100 fonts of type, including some wood and some Hebrew.

DEATHS. DAVID RANDALL, professor of bibliography at Indiana University and librarian of its Lilly Library of Rare books, died on May 25 at the age of 70. Mr. Randall wrote of his experiences in the world of rare books in Dukedom Large Enough, published by Random House in 1969, which recounted his bibliophilic adventures from 1929 to 1956. For 21 years he was head of Scribner's Rare Book Department, with some great books passing through his hands. Since 1955 he had been librarian of the Lilly collection of choice rare books. His autobiography recounts with irreverent wit and learning lightly worn his exploits in the pursuit of rare books and manuscripts.

When death ended SIR FRANCIS MEYNELL's long and distinguished career as book designer, publisher, and poet on July 10, many of us were sent back to My Lives, his autobiography which he had published at the age of 80. Few men have been active in so many fields as Sir Francis, but he is perhaps best known for the splendid products of his Nonsuch Press and his influence on book design in general. Yet when it came to his own summing up, he ranked as his two leading achievements which could not be denied him (1) that he persuaded the BBC to change from the American phrase "Do you have any questions?" to "Have you any questions?" (If you do not understand this point of linguistic nicety, see his explanation.) and (2) that "I designed a new comma, yes, a new comma, no less, for the italic letters of O.U.P.'s seventeenth-century Fell type."

We note with regret the death on April 25 of HELEN MOOK, Head, General Information, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Buffalo, New York. She was a Founding Member of APHA.

PETER STINEHOUR, 17-year-old son of Roderick Stinehour, was killed in an auto accident in northern Vermont this past April. Mr. Stinehour is the well-known fine printer of Lunenburg, Vermont. A Peter Stinehour Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established in his memory at his high school, The Concord High School, Concord, Vermont 05824.

Friends of Israel and Margaret Soifer, former New Yorkers who now live in Jerusalem, were shocked beyond belief at the tragic news of the

deaths of the daughter and her husband in the July 4 terrorist bombing in Jerusalem. The couple leave two young children. Israel Soifer was long active in the graphic arts in New York; more recently he has been editor of Israel Book World in Jerusalem.

READER'S QUERIES (Please send copies of replies to this Letter). Donald W. Knoepfler (317 S. 52nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68132) writes: "I am trying to locate a tympan and frisket for an Ostrander-Seymour Heavy Duty (20x26) Washington hand press. I wonder if readers of the Letter might be able to assist me in this effort. As an alternative to used ones, I would also appreciate any recommendations as to an individual or company qualified to construct such items."

From Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo comes this query: "Several departments on campus are pooling resources to build and equip a bindery and restoration center. Where can we locate good used equipment at reasonable cost?" (From Mrs. Regina F. Berneis, Librarian, School of Librarianship, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001.)

Uwe Breker of Novaprint Offsetdruck GmbH+CoKG (5 Koln 80, Postfach 80007 60, K. Mulheim, Regentenstr. 46, Germany) is hoping to establish a private printing museum. Among the items he is seeking (all pre-1900) are printing presses of all kinds (wood and metal), small model presses, composing frames, wood and lead type, type moulds, composing sticks, ink tampons, early typesetting machines, bookbinding equipment, etc. Offers (with photographs) should be sent to Mr Breker at the above address.

Robert E. Runser, bibliographer at the Michigan State University Library (East Lansing, Michigan 48823) writes that he is interested in contacting (1) all bibliographic presses now operating in colleges and universities, and (2) all persons making or experimentally making handmade paper. He is particularly interested in hearing from any he may have missed in the surveys he conducted while on sabbatical leave recently. Mr. Runser reports that he is now in the process of compiling some pertinent check-lists in connection with these studies.

IN THE NEXT APHA LETTER: Replies to Queries; Papermaking Workshop; Exhibits; and more.

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.

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