

The APHA

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ASSOCIATION

Letter

No. 7

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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.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING. In accordance with APHA's By-Laws, official notice is hereby given that the second Annual Meeting of APHA's membership will be held in New York on January 28, 1976, during the evening hours. Exact time and place will be announced in the next issue of the Letter. The meeting will be devoted entirely to the business of the organization, although there may be a social hour preceding or following. (Members are invited to express their views on this, and to write the President on any matters which they may wish to bring before the meeting.) The agenda includes the election of officers for a two-year term and the election of Board members for a three-year term to fill the seats of those Board members originally elected for two-year terms.

NOMINATIONS. Also in accordance with the By-Laws, a Nominating Committee (Marcus A. McCorison, Jean Peters, Leona Rostenberg, William B. Todd), chaired by Terry Belanger, offers the following candidates: President, J. Ben Lieberman; Vice-President, Catherine T. Brody; Secretary, Joseph R. Dunlap; Treasurer, Stuart C. Dobson; Trustees, Philip Grushkin, Elizabeth Harris, and Martin K. Speckter. These candidates (all of whom are incumbents) have agreed to serve for a second two-year term if elected. As the By-Laws stipulate, additional nominations for any office may be made in writing signed by any five qualified members, and delivered to the Secretary at least forty days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations must be accompanied by the written permission of the nominee.

PUBLISHING PLANS. APHA would like to explore the possibility of getting interesting, useful, and well-printed monographs and reports for distribution to members, either free or at low cost. We solicit your reaction, particularly if you might participate in the production. First, we would like to know about unpublished manuscripts which might qualify, and about previously published but currently unavailable material we might reprint. Secondly, we would like to know whether any of the private press proprietors among our membership would like to do

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the printing, with APHA paying for the paper stock and binding of members' copies. We would expect to maintain the highest standards, both as to copy and production, so there would be appropriate prestige in having APHA's imprimatur as publisher. Our Research, Education, and Publications Committees would do the screening and make recommendations to APHA's Board for approval. (Special note to printers: we would not expect to impose any special deadlines, except for items clearly of a timely nature.) Please send your comments and suggestions to the Chairman, Publications Committee, at APHA's general address (see back page). One manuscript now available is "Typography's Complaint about certain uneducated printers, on account of whom she has come to be an object of contempt," by Henri Estienne, 1569, translated and with an introduction and notes by Lee F. Kornblum. It runs 20 double-spaced typewritten pages in the English version; the Latin original would run perhaps eight more such pages.

FOR THE RECORD. APHA/NY's first meeting of the year was held at the CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd Street, on October 1. A number of New York area Bicentennial events related to printing and publishing were discussed by representatives of local institutions. Featured speaker was Stephen O. Saxe, who discussed "The Printer's Legacy," offering an overview of high spots in printing history by showing some remarkably fine slides. Through enlarged details, the slides gave a new insight into the craftsmanship of these examples of historic leaves from presses of some of the world's great printers. All the items were from Mr. Saxe's personal collection.

BOSTON BICENTENNIAL AND PRINTING. As part of the Bicentennial celebration in the Boston area, the Museum of Science will have on display for a 12-week period beginning in mid-January 1976 a working printing shop typical of the Colonial era. Sponsor of the exhibit is the Printing and Publishing Week Council of New England, a volunteer group which includes 21 trade associations and professional organizations allied to the graphic arts. To lend authenticity to the project, paper will be similar to that used 200 years ago and all inks will be mixed on site, based on ingredients and formulae then used.

BOOKBINDING STUDY. The Guild of Book Workers is sponsoring a survey of places which offer courses in bookbinding and restoration. In an effort to compile a directory of study opportunities for both amateur and beginning professionals, the Guild would appreciate information about such courses. Binders who teach in libraries or art schools are urged to reply. They would also like to know about apprentice, intern, and training programs in hand bookbinding. Send replies about courses large or small, structured or open, credit or non-credit, and about training programs, paid or unpaid, full- or part-time, to Helena Wright, P.O. Box 422, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845.

READERS' REQUESTS. Michael O. Smith (Division of Archives and History, State of North Carolina, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh,

North Carolina 27611) writes that the North Carolina State Historic Sites Section is attempting to locate a hand press for its Halifax State Historic Site. They are seeking a Washington press of the period 1820-60. The press must be operable or in need of only minor restoration. Please write to Mr. Smith if you know of such a press.

Gene Snyder (104-39 120th Street, Richmond Hill, New York 11419) collects and would like to purchase printer's cuts of horse-drawn vehicles, harness, wheelwright equipment, etc. He would like to know about good sources for such items.

... AND READERS' RESPONSES. W.E. Maccoun, Jr. (The Liberty Press, 415 First Street, Benicia, California 94510) replies to the query about O/S tympan and friskets: "Our 15x20 Heavy Duty was used by a photo-engraver who threw out everything that wasn't heavy ...and when phoned and written to, was less than helpful. Fortune smiled on this decrepit printshop, as it so often does, and in the middle of a bookshelf of books at an auction was an O/S catalog from 1923. Research on other presses including English handpresses led us to the conclusion that it would be most expedient to develop, design, and build our own rather than duplicate the original. We did this with the help of a very professional machinist. With our own original sketches and the bed-to-template exact dimensions, we got out for just over \$100. We wish to offer you two choices should you find the going as stiff as we did: when in the West next, come and check ours out free, with our blessing -- or we'll trade you for some type and furnish our basic data and blessings (we prefer the former)."

Philip L. Metzger of the Crabgrass Press (Prairie Village, Kansas) replies to Diana Thomas's request for graphic arts films by recommending a film on hand bookbinding as done by Fritz and Trudi Eberhardt of Harleyville, Pennsylvania. The film (16mm, color, with an optical sound track and a running time of 27 minutes) is available to non-profit groups from the Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. It can also be rented for \$40 from Cinema-group Productions, 32 West Queen Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144. Helene Wright of the Busyhaus Workshop wrote to recommend the same film, adding that it documents a typical day in the Eberhardt workshop.

DEATHS. LEE AUGUSTINE, long-time graphic arts industry leader and a charter member of APHA, died on September 23 in Cincinnati after a long illness. He was 70. Mr. Augustine was president and treasurer of the Printing Machinery Company of Cincinnati for many years. Active in industry affairs, he served an unprecedented 14 successive terms as president of the National Printing Equipment Association. His scholarly interest in printing history is evidenced by his collecting and writing in this area. He formed a valuable collection of books on printing and contributed articles to various trade journals and to such books as Mertle's "Photomechanics and Printing." Other writers on printing history (such as James Moran in his "Printing Presses") have acknowledged his assistance in research.

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PRIVATE PRESSWORK. Frank Anderson passes on the delightful news that his search for a publisher (mentioned in the Letter No. 5) has been successful. He has signed a contract with A.S. Barnes Co., Inc. The date of publication has not been announced. The book (Private Press Work) is a compendium of needed reference information for the private press printer. Mr. Anderson also announces that the latest of his Kitemaug Press miniature books (Lint from the Swami's Navel) has just been printed in an edition of fifty copies.

PRESERVATION PROJECTS. As an example of the kind of preservation that is possible even under difficult conditions, consider the instance of Mrs. Chandler Harris of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Her husband's great-grandfather founded The Advocate, a local newspaper there, in 1862. Just a few years ago, the paper shifted over to photocomposition and computerized tapes. As she describes what happened, "Many old things were about to be thrown away -- I literally went through dark basement corners, trash baskets, etc. The Advocate people couldn't imagine what I wanted that old junk for ..." Doing most of the work herself, she salvaged as much old equipment as possible and has brought it together in the hope of establishing a private museum. Included are such things as old wood and metal type, type cases, galleys, etc. The State Historical Society, she says, has expressed interest in the project. Incidentally, Mrs. Harris indicates a link with a notable chapter in the history of English printing and publishing. Her husband's great-grandfather had been involved in printing the "radical" pamphlets of Richard Carile, the English Victorial radical. (For an account of how Carlile was imprisoned for 6 years for his publications, see W. Wickwar's The Struggle for the Freedom of the Press, 1819-1832.) After coming to this country, Mr. Harris's ancestor worked in Rochester, New York as a printer for a time, then went west to establish the Door County Advocate.

SOUTHERN BOOKS COMPETITION. Trade publishers, university presses, and private presses located in the South are invited to submit their books to the 24th Annual Southern Books Competition, sponsored by the Southeastern Library Association. After evaluation by a panel of knowledgeable judges, the 1975 award-winning books will be shown at the 1976 Association Conference in Knoxville. A traveling exhibit of the winner will be circulated throughout the country following the competition. Entry blanks and further information may be obtained from Frank J. Anderson, Librarian, The Sandor Teszler Library, Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301.

ORAL HISTORY. The Oral History Association held its tenth National Colloquium on Oral History at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina, on October 23-26. For further information about the Oral History Association, write Ronald E. Marcello, Secretary, Box 13734, North Texas Station, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas 76203.

PAPERMAKING PROGRESS. As explained in an article in Paper Technology, British papermakers are now testing a new process which could revolutionize British papermaking because it uses little if any water. Among the resulting advantages are smaller and cheaper machinery, possible reduction in energy needs, greater flexibility in plant location, little pollution, and the ability to produce new products. A large water supply has heretofore been a necessity for commercial papermaking. (According to one reference book, stock for the four-drainier machine contains almost ten tons of water per 100 pounds of dry matter at the beginning of the papermaking process.) St. Anne's Board Mill Co., Ltd. of Bristol is testing the system for the production of paper board. The process involves defibrating raw material by using a hammer mill. Chemicals can be added at this stage. The fiber/air mixture is then distributed across a form by being sucked down into position by vacuum boxes. A web forms, which is then sprayed with a suitable liquid, passed through a "consolidation zone", and then sized, coated, and calendered as needed. The method was developed by the Russians in the 1930s and expanded in Denmark and Great Britain in the 1960s but had not been applied commercially before.

BICENTENNIAL PUBLICATIONS. The Bicentennial will call forth publications of varied appeal and levels of interest. Here are three quite different ones: Among the publications Franklin Watts is advertising for the Bicentennial is a children's series on "Colonial America at Work", which aims to explain the tools, techniques, and purposes of Colonial craftsmanship. Of possible interest to parents of next generation's APHA members is one called The Printers, at \$3.90; Among the new publications announced by the American Antiquarian Society is A Dictionary of Colonial American Printers' Ornaments and Illustrations, by Elizabeth Carroll Reilly. This reference work will serve an important use in the identification of the printer for pieces of printing of unknown origin. The price is \$45.00; And another A.A.S. publication is Loyalist Imprints Printed in America 1774-1785, by James E. Mooney, priced at \$5.50. American Antiquarian Society titles are distributed by the University Press of Virginia, Box 3608, University Station, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

KEEPING IT CRISP. Rhode Island may be the smallest state, but it has been leading the way in giving publicity to its "alternative publishers" and private press printers through special exhibitions and catalogs. The Committee of the Rhode Island Small Presses (CRISP) recently issued an interesting and informative catalog of the work of participating presses. Many are more interested in "relevant" subject content than in aesthetic consideration, but such fine quality printers as The Third and Elm Press (Alexander Nesbitt and Ilse Buchert) and the Biscuit City Press (R.M. Gutchen) are represented. CRISP has been funded by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. For further information (and perhaps a copy of the catalog), write to CRISP, 102 Benefir Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903.

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AUTOMATION IN BRITAIN. In London recently, the Financial Times, one of the most prestigious and successful newspapers in England, announced plans to computerize and reduce its staff by one-third. The paper plans to utilize all available technology in the hope of averting what newspaper executives have foreseen as a dire financial crisis. The nine nationally distributed British dailies and the seven Sunday newspapers as well as local papers have all been troubled by rapidly increasing costs, so this move is being watched with keen interest by the entire newspaper industry. The Financial Times is part of the Pearson Longman publishing empire, which produces Penguin books.

PUBLICATIONS. The first issue of Books Arts, the quarterly journal of the Center for Book Arts in New York, appeared not long ago. Taking a broad view of book arts, the journal includes features on wood engraving (hermann Greissle), watercolor painting on handmade papers (Douglass Howell), interviews with avant garde editor Babi Jery and illustrator Barton Lidice Benes, as well as reprints of 19th century magazine articles on bookbinding and printing ink. The Center has been offering workshops and exhibitions in book crafts, and plans other book-allied activities. Memberships (starting at \$5.00) include a subscription to the journal. The address of the Center is 15 Bleeker Street, New York New York 10012.

Bibliognostis a new publication for book collectors. The quarterly magazine will emphasize information about collecting and price trends, and evaluation or re-evaluation of the author's work as guidepost for collection-building. Interviews and bibliographical roundups, such as the interview with specialist dealer Walter Goldwater and a source guide on radical literature in the May issue, will be featured regularly. Annual subscriptions (for 4 issues) are \$8.00. The address of Bibliognostis is P.O.Box 50, Cooper Square Station, New York, New York 10003. Editor and publisher is Denis Carbonneau.

In honor of the Bicentennial, Huntington Library has printed one of Benjamin Franklin's epitaphs. (He wrote several.) Under the direction of APHA member Janet Long, the Library docents printed the epitaph on an Albion press once owned by William Morris and now at the Huntington. The type is hand-set Garamond; the paper is laid linen weave with a deckle edge, and the size is 9" x 15". The epitaph is available in the Bookstore for \$2.00 a copy, or by mail from The Bookstore, The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108.

WISCONSIN DOINGS. Wilfred Beaver of Sparta, Wisconsin, secretary and curator-historian of the Monroe County Historical Society, has been active in a number of local history projects. He offers a suggestion to groups that wish to preserve a record of their area's early printing. His organization has formulated plans to reprint a history of the county by one of the early settlers there (from an existing book, by offset).

PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP. Helena Wright of the Busyhaus Workshop reports that the papermaking workshop operated by her and Robert Nauser is being given on a permanent basis at the Harcourt Bindery in Boston. It is also offered on a traveling basis to schools and other sponsoring organizations. For further information about fees, schedules, special interest workshops, etc., write to Busyhaus at P.O.Box 422, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845. There will be a day-long papermaking seminar held during November.

BOOKBINDING ART. English bookbinder Philip Smith has been lecturing widely in the US in connection with the publication of his recent book, New Directions in Bookbinding (Van Nostrand Reinhold, \$25.00). Mr. Smith has made such an art of his bindings that they have been shown in a number of countries and are in collections such as that of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the New York Public Library. Rather than simply making his binding a decorative and serviceable protection for the printed book, Mr. Smith uses the binding to express his own concept of the book's meaning. His binding for such works as "Hamlet" expresses his own critical and philosophical interpretation of the play's meaning. Using new techniques to enrich his colors and increase the number of possible onlays for his elaborate designs, Philip Smith has shown that there is still room for original minds in this ancient craft.

EXHIBITS. The Grolier Club (New York City), through December 31. Books and ephemera from the Cummington Press of Harry Duncan. The press originated in 1939 at the Cummington School of the Arts, Cummington, Massachusetts, but moved to Iowa City, Iowa, where Duncan went to teach typographic design at the State University. The press is now located at the University of Omaha where it continues to produce high quality work. The Cummington Press is also of considerable literary importance because it printed so many early works by American writers who would achieve recognition later. Robert Lowell, William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens, Allen Tate, and James Agee are examples. After World War II, the partnership of Duncan and Paul Wrightman Williams, Jr. (carried on until the latter's death) produced some splendid examples of good bookmaking -- carefully selected texts, well designed and handsomely printed. With few exceptions, type was set and printed by hand on dampened paper. Both by his example and through his teaching, Harry Duncan has had an important influence on modern fine printing.

The American Institute of Graphic Arts (New York City), through November 18. Work of the Angelica Press of Dennis and Marilyn Grastorf of Brooklyn, including books, ephemera, drawings, and samples of their new publication on wood type.

Boston Museum of Science. As part of the Bicentennial celebration in the Boston area, the Museum of Science will have on display for a twelve-week period beginning in mid-January, 1976 a working printing shop typical of the Colonial Era. Sponsor of the exhibit is the Printing and Publishing Week Council of New England, a volunteer group which includes 21 trade associations and professional organizations allied to the graphic arts. To lend authenticity to the project, paper will be similar to that used 200 years ago, and all inks will be mixed on site, based on ingredients and formulae then employed.

The Grolier Club (New York City), through December 6. "Chess: A Bibliophile's View/" Included are books, manuscripts, and memorabilia on the history of chess from the 14th century to the present, on loan from a number of libraries and private collections. Among the items on view are an illustrated manuscript book of 1408 by Jacobus de Cessolis and The Game and Playe of the Chesse as printed by Caxton.

EXHIBITIONS (continued). Pierpont Morgan Library (New York City), through November 30. "Early Children's Books and their Illustration." Children's literature from Aesop to Saint-Exupery; books, manuscripts, and pictures in rare and early editions, with materials drawn entirely from the Library's own resources (including some items borrowed from personal collections of four library trustees). Printed books include the only copy in America of the Zainer Aesop of 1476, the unique copy of Les Contenances de la Table (1487), a book of table manners that may well be the earliest printed children's book; the only known copy of Tom Thumb (1621), the earliest printed English nursery tale that survives, and a copy of the 1664 edition of Comenius' Orbis Pictus generally considered the first picture book for children. This is only a hint of the treasures included. "Early Children's Books and their Illustration" has been published (by Godine) in conjunction with this exhibition, serving as a partial catalog to it. It describes and discusses 225 of the items displayed.

Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), through December 31. "The Erie Canal," commemorating the 150th anniversary of the canal, which opened in 1825. Includes rare early books, prints, and maps about the Canal, including an 1811 map showing the route of the proposed canal. Especially interesting among items relating to the celebration of the opening of the canal is the "Ode for the Canal Celebration," by Samuel Woodworth, printer, journalist, playwright, and poet. Woodworth (1784-1842), whose best known poem is probably "The Old Oaken Bucket," was a printer in Boston, New Haven, and New York. He was active as a publisher and editor, was a prolific author, and was involved in a number of other journalistic and literary pursuits as a way of adding to his meager income. He was never a good businessman, and repeatedly was in abject poverty. Woodworth began writing and publishing verse which apprenticed to Boston printer Benjamin Russell. Later, when Woodworth's printing and publishing business in New Haven failed, he expressed his bitterness towards Connecticut in a satirical poem called "New Haven."

APHA PRINTING. Both the Founding Member Directory and the Founding Member Certificate are "in production," and should soon be ready for distribution. Since this work is contributed by generous (but busy) members, delays are understandable, and will, we trust, be forgiven.

MAILING ADDRESSES FOR APHA

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

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS: Send these (along with membership applications if available) directly to the Treasurer, Stuart C. Dobson, 215 Harriman Road, Irvington, N.Y. 10533. Make checks to APHA, either abbreviated or written out.

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: To APHA, Post Office Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017, unless you are requested to do otherwise.