

# The APHA Newsletter

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A Publication of the American Printing History Association

Stephen O. Saxe, Editor

## EDITOR'S NOTES

This will be my last APHA *Newsletter*; a new Editor will be named shortly. The Board of APHA feels that the *Newsletter* should report more of the organization's activities, and decrease the space devoted to historical articles. I am retiring as Editor to let the Board follow this course.

Below is a listing of issues for which I have been responsible. All the articles were written by me except for the fine essay "Capt. Nichols' Octant-Wheel Lever-Power Printing Press," by Prof. Fredric Brewer of Indiana University.

Jan/Feb 1986	69	After 346 Years—The Freeman's Oath
Mar/Apr 1986	70	The Unexpected Press
May/June 1986	71*	19th Century Type Collections in America
July/Aug 1986	72*	100th Anniversary of Mergenthaler Linotype
Sept/Oct 1986	73*	More Unexpected Presses
Nov/Dec 1986	74	A Look at Job Printing
Jan/Feb 1987	75*	The Press in the Sky
Mar/Apr 1987	76	Capt. Nichols' Octant-Wheel Lever-Power Printing Press (by Fredric Brewer)
May/June 1987	77*	An Encyclopaedic Book of 20th Century American Metal Type
Jul/Aug 1987	78*	Following Isaiah Thomas: Casting Sorts in a Composing Stick
Sept/Oct 1987	79*	Preserving, Repairing, and Restoring Old Presses
Nov/Dec 1987	80	How Hofmann Forged The Oath of a Freeman
Jan/Feb 1988	81*	American Printers' Manuals
Mar/Apr 1988	82	The Forgotten 19th Century Type Designers
May/June 1988	83	Ruggles and Gordon: The Invention of the Platen Job Press
Jul/Aug 1988	84	Collecting American Type Foundry Specimen Books
Sept/Oct 1988	85	Printing Historians of America's Past
Nov/Dec 1988	86*	Some Printers' and Printing Trade Billheads, 1847-1897

Jan/Feb 1989	87	19th Century American Typographic Periodicals
Mar/Apr 1989	88	Forged Historic Documents Uncovered in Texas
May/June 1989	89	The Tools of the Trade
Jul/Aug 1989	90*	American Army Field Presses
Sept/Oct 1989	91*	"We Have a Printery Here" (The Beginning of Printing in New England, 1639)
Nov/Dec 1989	92	Three California Printing Collections
Jan/Feb 1990	93	Compositors' Tools in the 19th Century
Mar/Apr 1990	94	Platen Jobbers
May/June 1990	95	Benjamin Franklin: Innovator—and Typographical Conservative
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For members or libraries wishing to fill in their files, I have a limited number of copies of the back issues marked with a \*. They will be sent gratis to members who send stamped, self-addressed envelopes. Send one 25¢ stamped, self-addressed envelope for each one or two issues wanted to Stephen O. Saxe, 1100 Madison Ave., 4A, New York, NY 10028. Please keep in mind that the number of remaining copies of each issue varies and supplies may run out.

It remains only to thank those readers and APHA members who helped with letters and information for the pages of the *Newsletter*. I also owe thanks to those who helped in the production of the *Newsletter*, especially Renée Weber and E.H. Pat Taylor. It has been a pleasant four and a half years!



In honor of the 300th anniversary of the appearance of the first known newspaper printed in America, the 15th annual APHA Conference will be on "The Printing of American Newspapers from 1690 into the Future." The first newspaper, *Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestick*, appeared in Boston on September 25th, 1690, and was suppressed after only one issue. The only known copy is in the British Library.

The 15th APHA Conference will explore the impact of American newspaper printing technology and its effect on printing technology in general. In a departure from other conferences, the last session of the day will be a discussion, moderated by William D. Rinehart of the American

Newspaper Publishers Association. The panel will include the conference presenters and a few others, and will explore the future of newspaper printing technology. All conference participants are encouraged to bring questions and thoughts on the topic and to participate in what will be a rather free-wheeling discussion.

Conference registration brochures will be mailed to all APHA members in August. Registration will be \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members, and will include lunch and afternoon reception. The Conference will be held at Columbia University, New York City, on Saturday October 6. The talks include:

Richard A. Schwarzloze (Program Chair), "Early Mechanization of Newspaper Publishing"; George Everitt, "The Linotype and the 1890s Newspapers: Impact on the Product and Publishers"; William D. Rinehart, "Newspaper Revolution Through Offset"; Jean W. Ward, "Publishing News and Creating Data Bases: The Reporter-Librarian Partnership"; and the panel discussion, "The Future of Newspaper Marketing Opportunities Through Developing Technology."

## OBITUARIES

We sorrowfully report the death of the most accomplished American typographer, Joseph Blumenthal, at the age of 92 in his Connecticut home on July 11. Mr. Blumenthal and his wife Ann died of asphyxiation at the same time, but police said there was no evidence of foul play.

Joseph Blumenthal's accomplishments are too many to note in a small space. He was the founder of the famous Spiral Press, where his typography became world-famous for 45 years. The Spiral press printed limited editions of Robert Frost's poetry and publications for the Metropolitan Museum and the Morgan Library. Mr. Blumenthal designed Spiral type, which became available commercially as Emerson. In recent years he turned to printing history, and was the author of several fine books, including *The Art of the Printed Book* and *The Printed Book in America*. He was the recipient of the APHA Annual Award in 1978, and will be greatly missed by his friends in APHA.

## BOOKS

In the last issue I mentioned Alexander Lawson's new book, *Anatomy of a Typeface*, published by Godine. I have since read the book and recommend it highly. Mr. Lawson brings great knowledge and scholarly perspective to the study of type and printing. The book (8vo, cloth, 428 pp.) is available from The Veatchs—Arts of the Book, 20 Veronica Court, Smithtown, NY 11787, for \$40 plus postage. The Veatchs' regular catalogues contain many fine books, old and new, of interest to APHA members. They will soon be listing Godine's new paperbound reprint of Ruari McLean's *Jan Tschichold*, due in August.

Roylance, Dale. *American Graphic Arts: A Chronology to 1900 of Books, Prints, and Drawings*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Paperbound, 6 x 9 1/4, 213 pp. Over 185 illustrations, many in color. Available postpaid for \$20 from Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

This is the companion volume to Dale Roylance's *European Graphic Arts*. It is an exhibition catalogue, fully illustrated and with brief but very helpful notes on each plate. The illustrations include not only prints and views, but many broadsides, title pages, and other letterpress-printed material spanning the period 1505 to 1900. It is a well-written, handsomely produced volume that will be welcomed by anyone with an interest in the graphic arts in America—and it is a great bargain at the modest price.

Otness, Harold M. *Lewis Osborne in Oregon: A Personal Memoir*. Portland, OR: The Twombly Press. 5-5/8 x 8, [10] + 23 pp., cloth, printed letterpress in two colors, limited to 150 copies. Available from the printer, Benjamin B. Bullwinkle, 4437 S.W. Twombly Avenue, Portland, OR 97201 for \$9.75 postpaid.

This beautifully printed and bound little book is a memoir of the publishing and printing of Lewis Osborne. Mr. Osborne was an APHA member and a close friend of APHA's founder J. Ben Lieberman when Ben was in the Bay Area. Few publishers design their own books and operate their own Kelly Automatic Style B press, but Osborne did. He published over 50 distinguished imprints, mostly in the field of Western Americana.

## BRIEFLY NOTED

The Friends of the Lilly Library's third conference on the book arts is scheduled for November 5 and 6 at the Indiana University campus in Bloomington. The topic, "The Fine Printed Image," will include speakers, demonstrations, exhibitions, and workshops. Speakers will include Ken Osborne of Pyramid Atlantic, Phil Hamilton of the University of Wisconsin, and Rudy Pozzatti of the Echo Press at Indiana University. Exhibitions will include flour sack labels and blocks from Clifford Harvey and the West Virginia Cultural Center, a major exhibition of Bibles from the Lilly Library, illustrations by John DePol, and works from the Corydon Press and the Echo Press. A special workshop in letterpress design and printing will take place on November 4 (registration is restricted.) For registration forms, write "The Fine Printed Image," Friends of the Lilly Library, Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405. Registration forms will be mailed after August 1.

An exhibition, "A Golden Age: Art and Society in Hungary 1896-1914" is now touring the U.S. It contains, among many other art objects, books printed at the Kner Press and other private presses, which are almost unknown in the English-speaking world. Dates: July 13-Sept. 30, The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA; Nov. 10-Jan. 5, 1991, San Diego Museum of Art.

For anyone interested in learning to print, David C. Churchman has written a short introduction full of practical advice, where to get a press and supplies, and addresses of publications and organizations that can be very helpful—all written in a lively, amusing style. The introduction to printing is available free to anyone sending a No. 10 stamped and self-addressed envelope to David C. Churchman, Pendragon Press, P.O. Box 50096, Castleton, IN 46250.