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/Jun 1986 71* 19th Century Type Collections in America
July/Aug 1986 72* 100th Anniversary of
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Mar/Apr 1987 76 Capt. Nichols’ Octant-Wheel
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Ruggles and Gordon: The Invention of the Platen Job Press
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Nov/Dec 1988 86* Some Printers’ and Printing Trade Billheads, 1847–1897
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Sept/Oct 1989 91* The Tools of the Trade
Nov/Dec 1989 92 "We Have a Printery Here"
Jan/Feb 1990 93 (The Beginning of Printing in
Mar/Apr 1990 94 New England, 1639)
May/Jun 1990 95 Three California Printing Collections
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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 an *. 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 Renee Weber and E.H. Pat Taylor. It has been a pleasant four and a half years!

APHA NEWS

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 $50 for members and $85 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:


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 paperback reprint of Ruari McLean's Jan Tschichold, due in August.


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.


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.


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.