

The Book Beautiful
APHA'S 2009 CONFERENCE
Newport, Rhode Island October 16-18, 2009

APHA's 34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, "The Book Beautiful," meets in Newport, Rhode Island, October 16th-18th, 2009, during our 35th anniversary year. The background for the theme is T.J. Cobden-Sanderson's insight, voiced in London at the Art Workers' Guild in 1892, that "if the Book Beautiful may be beautiful by virtue of its writing or printing or illustration, or binding, or by virtue of the thing to be communicated to the mind, it may also be beautiful by the union of all to the production of one composite whole, the consummate Book Beautiful." Investigating the production and impact of such texts and books will take our conference from 18th-century printing in Newport, London, and Paris, to 20th-21st-century books in the United States, England, and France.

Friday, October 16

Redwood Library, 50 Bellevue Avenue
Harrison Room
3:00 – 3:45 pm

Raymond Stanley (Stan) Nelson, Jr., Museum Specialist Emeritus in the Graphic Arts Collection, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History:
"The Book Beautiful and Proprietary Typefaces: Then and Now"

The desire for beautiful and unique typefaces was a distinctive part of the English private press movement of the 1890s. With the evolution of digital technology, new opportunities for producing unique type are available to contemporary fine presses, and due to the demise of the hot metal industry, obsolete type casting and matrix engraving equipment are now available at scrap prices. Today, 19th and early 20th century tools are being used to make 21st century fonts, and a few artists have returned to cutting fonts by hand. In this short illustrated talk we will see some selected examples of historical works as well as fascinating recent efforts.

4:00-5:00 pm Reception and Registration

Accompanied by a **special display** of broadsides and other ephemera from a juried exhibition cosponsored by APHA and by the **Museum of Printing** in North Andover, Massachusetts. (See details for participation at www.museumofprinting.org.)

Saturday, October 17

Newport Public Library, 300 Spring Street

9:30 am Registration and Coffee

10:00 – 11:00 am Program Room, The Book Beautiful in Rhode Island

Phoebe Simpson Bean, Printed Collection Librarian, Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, Rhode Island: “A Woman’s Touch: Ann Franklin, Rhode Island Pioneer Printer”

John R. Tschirch, Architectural Historian, The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, Rhode Island: “*Artistic Houses*: The Book Beautiful as Architectural Showcase”

Philip J. Weimerskirch, Special Collections Librarian Emeritus, Providence Public Library, Providence, Rhode Island: “Fine Printing in Rhode Island”

11:00- 11:15 am Break

11:15 am- 12:15 pm Concurrent Sessions

1) Program Room

The Book Beautiful in the Classroom and the Design Room

Susan Jaret McKinstry, Helen F. Lewis Professor of English, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota: “Victorian Literature Students Create the ‘Ideal Book:’ An Interdisciplinary Experiment in Book Design and Illustration”

Katherine McCanless Ruffin, Book Arts Program Director, Margaret Clapp Library, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts: “Issues of the Book Beautiful in the Letterpress Classroom”

Michael Russem, Kat Ran Press, Florence, Massachusetts & Michael Russem Book Typography, Cambridge, Massachusetts: “Fine Printing’s Design Problem”

Lance Hidy, Lance Hidy Associates, Merrimac, Massachusetts; Professor of Graphic Design Northern Essex Community College Haverhill, Massachusetts: “A Designer/Teacher Considers the Book in 2009”

2) The Rotary Board Room

The French Book Beautiful

Marie-Claude Felton, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, France & Université du Québec, Montréal, Canada: “The Cost of Perfection: The Arduous Journey of Authors Who Self –Published Luxurious and Illuminated Books in 18th Century Paris”

Mary Ann Caws, Distinguished Professor of English, French and Comparative Literature, Graduate School, City University of New York, New York City: “Rene Char and the Painters”

David Sume, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada: “Challenging Beauty: Iliad’s Books as Hybrids of Deluxe Illustrated Editions and Avant-garde Artist Publications”

12:15- 12:30 pm Break

12:30- 1:30 pm Concurrent Sessions

1) The Program Room

The Quotidian Book Beautiful

Matthew Young, Matthew Young Design, Hopewell, New Jersey: “Beautiful Books in the ‘Age of Shoddy’: Andrew W. Tuer and The Leadenhall Press”

Susan Ashbrook, Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University, Boston, Massachusetts: “Two Portraits of Cape Cod”

Bruce Kennett, Bruce Kennett Studio, North Conway, New Hampshire: “Books Beautiful for the Common Man: The Trade Book Designs of W. A. Dwiggins”

Sarina Rodrigues Wyant, Associate Professor, Special Collections and Archives, University of Rhode Island Library, Kingston, Rhode Island: “The Beilensons and Their Beautiful Books-A Look at the Peter Pauper Press, 1928-1962”

2) The Rotary Board Room

The Theoretical Book Beautiful

Abigail Joseph, Columbia University, New York, New York: “Impressions of Weird Fate: The Moxon Tennyson and the Queer (Re)Visions of ‘The Lady of Shalott’”

Emily Talbot, Curatorial Assistant, Prints and Illustrated Books, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York: “*Book/Shelf*: Redefining the Illustrated Book at MoMA”

Karen Stein, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts: “Book as Imaginative Sculpture”

1:30- 2:30 pm Lunch

Newport Art Museum, 76 Bellevue Avenue

3:00 – 3:45 pm Keynote Address

William S. Peterson, emeritus professor of English at the University of Maryland and editor of APHA’s journal, *Printing History*, will deliver the keynote address. Peterson is

a distinguished scholar of William Morris and the Kelmscott Press, the editor of the collected writings of D. B. Updike, and is also a typographer and graphic designer.

4:00- 5:30 pm Closing Reception

Lecture and “Site visits” for Thursday and Friday early birds and Sunday late birds with limited numbers and sign up on the conference registration form:

Redwood Library, John Kristensen talk “The Book [Broadside, Bookplate, Business Card & Birth Announcement] Beautiful.”

Third and Elm Press, Ilse Buchert Nesbit’s special tour of her press and process.

Chateau sur Mer Library, The Book Beautiful in context tour by John R. Tschirch, Architectural Historian, The Preservation Society of Newport County,

Museum of Newport History walking tour in the neighborhood of the Franklins – “Colonial Newport Inside and Out.”