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# The APHA Newsletter

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A Publication of the American Printing History Association

January/February 1992 No. 105

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## APHA Annual Meeting

*The APHA annual meeting took place on Saturday, January 25, in the Trustees' Room of the New York Public Library. Extended coverage will appear in the March/April issue of this newsletter.*

Although the weather was cold and getting colder, Jerry Kelly, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, gave a warm welcome to the APHA annual meeting, and set the rosy tone of the afternoon. Thanks were given to Lowell Bodger, who produced the keepsake programs.

## Reports of Officers

Treasurer John Hench reported the organization to be in the black and under budget—partly due to only one issue of *Printing History* last year, partly due to increased revenues.

Martin Hutner, Vice President for Membership, stressed that increased and diversified membership is tied to more popular programs and stronger publications. Renewal rates are increasing this year, and Washington, D.C., and Midwest chapters are being formed. Hutner thanked Virginia Smith and Stephen Crook for their aid and support. If we each recruit one new member, Hutner said he will become not just happy, but ecstatic.

Jennifer Lee, Vice President for Programs, reported on the success of the 16th Annual Conference, the Washington Wayzgoose, and the Lieberman lecture in Texas. This coming year will see the Annual Conference chaired by Stephen Ferguson in Princeton on October 3, and the Lieberman lecture in the spring at the St. Louis Mercantile Library.

Irene Tichenor, Vice President for Publications, announced *The APHA Newsletter's* new editorial committee and expressed her appreciation of past editors' work in bringing out this newsletter. She was happy to report that there is every prospect of catching up on issues of *Printing History*. No. 25 should be reaching us all very soon, and No. 26, which is a thematic issue on type, will be published either as a double issue or as two issues.

## Report of the Nominating Committee

Virginia Smith, as chair, announced the large slate, which was unanimously approved.

## Report of the President

In his introduction to Virginia Smith, Jerry Kelly expressed APHA's appreciation of her two years of intense activity.

## NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

*President:* Peter Van Wingen  
*Vice President for Membership:* Martin Hutner  
*Vice President for Programs:* Mary Phelan  
*Vice President for Publications:* Jerry Kelly  
*Treasurer:* John Hench  
*Secretary:* Karen Nipps

### Trustees

UNTIL JANUARY 1995	UNTIL JANUARY 1993
Douglas Bauer	Martin Antonetti
Roderick Stinehour	C. Deirdre Phelps
Irene Tichenor	

Our outgoing President was, in turn, very pleased with APHA. Substantial gains in membership, the starting of student chapters in some 20 universities and colleges around the country, numerous joint ventures with other organizations, the successful Washington Wayzgoose, the Lieberman lecture, strengthened publications, and a benefit for APHA at Sotheby's now in the planning stages all show the strength of the organization. Smith described Irene Tichenor's work as "nothing less than noble" and expressed great appreciation for Stephen Crook in his first year as executive secretary, and all of her other "APHA-ble" fellow officers.

## Presentation of APHA Awards

Frank Mattson, chair of the APHA awards committee, presented APHA's awards, with calligraphy by Jerry Kelly.

The Individual Award was presented to Paul Needham, Vice President of Sotheby's and Director of its Book Department, former Astor Curator of Printed Books and Bindings at the Pierpont Morgan Library, and author of numerous groundbreaking works based on his research in early printing. Dr. Needham spoke on "History in Paper: The Legacy of Allan Stevenson." The paper will be published at a later date in *Printing History*.

The Institutional Award was presented to the Melbert B. Cary, Jr., Graphic Arts Collection, Rochester Institute of Technology. The award was accepted by Curator David Pankow, who gave an illustrated account of the collection, "From the Sizzle to the Steak: the Cary Collection at Rochester Institute of Technology." The collection was started in 1969 with the donation of 2300 volumes on the history and practice of printing and an endowment to RIT



by Melbert Cary, and expanded with the bookbinding collection of Bernard Middleton, papers of Hermann Zapf, and the library and papers of Paul Standard.

The afternoon ended with a reception and invitation to "tea and cocktails" at the Grolier Club.

JANE SIEGEL

## Events

### Exhibits

#### LAWRENCE, KANSAS

"Picture-books for Children: A Sampling of Artists, 1860-1930," an exhibition assembled by James Helyer, including artists from Charles Henry Bennett to Wanda Gag. Kenneth Spencer Library, University of Kansas, through March.

#### NEW YORK CITY

"Hebrew Literature Through the Ages." Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University, Butler Library, 6th Floor (Mon-Fri, 9-4:45). March 5-July 24.

"Solitary Visions: Prints by Rodolphe Bresdin and Odilon Redon." March 18-May 9. The Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street (Mon-Sat 10-5, closed major holidays).

#### TULSA, OKLAHOMA

"Rhyme Sheets from the Poetry Bookshop." McFarlin Library, University of Tulsa, Third Floor Exhibition Area, February 1-March 25. Call (918) 631-6031 for hours.

### Lectures & Seminars

#### NEW YORK CITY

Three symposia on Walt Whitman, "Laboring at the Crossroads: Whitman and the Birth of an American Mass Culture." The Seamen's Church Institute, 241 Water Street, at 2:00, free with membership or Museum admission. Each will be followed by a demonstration of 19th century printing at Bowne & Co., Stationers.

May 3: "Journalism, Whitman and New York."

May 17: "Publishing, Whitman and New York."

May 30: "Printing, Whitman and New York."

#### PHILADELPHIA

"The Gospels of Henry the Lion" by Wolfgang Milde, Manuscripts Librarian, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbützel. March 17, 19, and 24. The University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, 3420 Walnut Street (entrance from Locust Walk).

### Fairs

#### OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

"Book Fair: Celebrating Women Who Make Books," focusing on women who print or bind books or create one-of-a-

kind bookworks. Mills College, Center for the Book; telephone (510) 430-2047. March 6-7.

March 6: Evening preview sale and a lecture on the history of women printers by Kathy Walkup.

March 7: Book Fair 10-4.

## Books

Having mentioned Oak Knoll Books in the last column (*The APHA Newsletter*, No. 104), I would like to give equal time to The Bookpress, Ltd. (P.O. Box KP, Williamsburg, VA 23187) as a source for books on the history of printing, both new and antiquarian. Bookpress also has its own series of publications. An example of this is Michael Twyman's *Early Lithographed Books. A Study of the Design and Production of Improper Books in the Age of the Hand Press* (1990). The term "improper" here refers to this exception to the use of a "proper" relief surface for printing. In addition to extensive texts, the work includes a bibliography of over 400 early lithographed books. Other publications from this firm include *Victorian Publishers' Bindings*, by Douglas Ball (1985), and *Printmaking and Picture Printing: A Bibliographical Guide to Artistic and Industrial Techniques in Britain, 1750-1900*, by Gavin Bridson and Geoffrey Wakeman (1984). The firm makes available *From Gothic Windows to Peacocks: American Embossed Leather Bindings, 1825-1855*, the latest and last book of Edwin Wolf II, published around the time of his death. A fascinating subject, explained as only Wolf could do it. The firm also offers other recent publications of interest to our group. Among these are Colin Inman's *The A & C Black Colour Books. A Collector's Guide and Bibliography, 1900-1930* (London, 1990), and Anthony Dyson's *Pictures to Print. The Nineteenth Century Engraving Trade* (London, 1984). In addition, there are titles on various aspects of book collecting and the antiquarian book trade.

PHILIP A. METZGER

## New Members

Frank E. Aldridge, Riverdale, MD

Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL

Roberta S. Cox, Dallas, TX

Dr. C. Roger Davis, Northampton, MA

Thomas A. Emmens, Eugene, OR

Lou Harrison, Aptos, CA

Lee Kline, Miami, FL

Kay Michael Kramer, Kirkwood, MO

Richard Maass, White Plains, NY

Barbara Metz, The Artist Book Works, Chicago, IL

Richard W. Oram, Austin, TX

Donn Stanford, Ingleside, IL

Mark D. Tomasko, New York, NY

David Wall, Rochester, NY



## Campus Treasures

**P**eter Pauper Press elements and the Robinson-Pforzheimer Collection, now housed in the Center for Editions at SUNY Purchase, rank among the many treasures to be found in college campuses and in library study collections. Before her death in 1981, Edna Beilenson, widow of Peter Beilenson, made a gift to the Purchase campus of type, equipment, and books from the Peter Pauper Press history of publishing activity in letterpress volumes at popular prices. APHA founder Ben Lieberman was a primary force and advisor in encouraging a center for printing at the relatively new college.

The Robinson-Pforzheimer collection was presented to SUNY Purchase in the late 1970's. Acquired by the late Carl H. Pforzheimer from his printer friend, the late Elrie Robinson, the collection comprises antique type fonts and some 1400 engravings (cuts, borders, and ornaments).

The combined inventory of the R-P collection, the Peter Pauper components, and subsequent gifts from graphic arts colleagues and bibliophiles represents a lively resource for the college's print arts curricula.

In 1986, the Center presented its Award for Excellence in print and book arts to Joseph Blumenthal in recognition of a lifetime of achievement. This moving occasion was highlighted by a number of tributes by APHA colleagues to the Spiral Press and its founder.

The current art studios range from laboratories for hand-made paper through all classical processes to contemporary technology. Inquiries regarding the collections may be addressed to the Dean of Visual Arts, SUNY Purchase, Purchase, NY 10577.

The editors of *The APHA Newsletter* would be pleased to receive news and correspondence noting similar archives and holdings, nationwide, for future publication.

ED COLKER

## News & Notes

APHA thanks Michael and Sally Phillips, Ohio publishers of *The Printer*, for their continuing enthusiastic support of our Association and its events. *The Printer*, in a lively newspaper format, contains valuable news and notes on the private press world. For inquiries, further information, and subscription details, please contact: *The Printer*, 337 Wilson Street, Box 1402, Findlay, OH 45840.

*The Boston Globe* reports sad news: the closing of Thomas Todd Co., a 127-year old printing company highly regarded for its tradition of quality. Eleanor Garvey of the Houghton Library and Stephen Stinehour of Stinehour Press were among many colleagues quoted in a feature article of January 3, expressing dismay and disappointment at another printing casualty of urban rentals and the recessions. The family will continue, however, in publishing with The Horn Book, Inc.

"Book Fair: Celebrating Women Who Make Books" at Mills College, Center for the Book, March 6-7, provides an opportunity for women to show their work to their colleagues and to offer their work for sale to the general public. The focus is on women who print or bind books or create one-of-a-kind bookworks. This is a fair, not a conference; informal show-and-tell sessions will be held throughout Saturday. A reporter-at-large should be able to glean notes for an important chapter in the history of the book in the twentieth century. For further information, contact Renee Jadush-lever, Mills College, Center for the Book, Oakland, CA 94613; telephone (510) 430-2047; FAX (510) 430-3314.

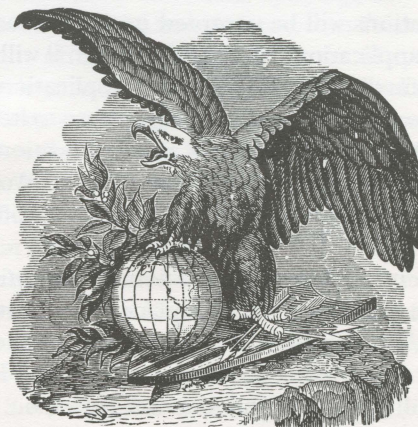
South Street Seaport Museum will host three symposia on Walt Whitman in New York. "Laboring at the Crossroads: Whitman and the Birth of an American Mass Culture" will take place on weekend afternoons during May (see the calendar in this issue for place, dates, and times). The pro-

**ELRIE ROBINSON**



*The Horse and Buggy Printer*

**ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.**



The initial "P" is from the archive inventory of the Peter Pauper Press; the engravings of Elrie Robinson's business card and eagle are from the Robinson-Pforzheimer collection of cuts for printer's use and antique fonts; all at the Center for Edition Works at the State University of New York, Purchase.



gram notes: "In his work as a printer, writer, and newspaper editor, Walt Whitman was both witness and midwife to the birth of an American mass culture. These symposia will examine these developments and their influence on Whitman's journalism and poetry."

Of the three symposia on Whitman the journalist, the publisher, and the printer, it is the third which may have the most interest for APHA members. The following papers will be presented in the symposium entitled "Printing, Whitman and New York": 19th-Century Print Tradesmen (Sean Wilentz, Princeton University); 19th-Century Printing Proprietors (Irene Tichenor, Brooklyn Historical Society); Presses in the Age of Whitman (Elizabeth Harris, Smithsonian Institution); Typesetting in the Age of Whitman (Carl Schlesinger, Printing Historian). Each symposium will be followed by a demonstration of 19th century printing at the Museum's Bowne & Co., Stationers.

For more information, please contact: Kathy Condon, South Street Seaport Museum, 207 Front Street, New York, NY 10038; telephone (212) 669-9400.

This summer the American Antiquarian Society will sponsor two seminars on the history of the book in American culture. "Seminar in Critical Methods in the History of the Book" (June 14-19) will focus on critical and methodological approaches to the study of the history of the book in the United States. This seminar will be designed around sessions to be presented by four AAS visiting scholars, all of whom will be working in American book history. "Seminar in Bibliographical Approaches to the Nineteenth-Century Book in the United States" (June 21-26) will present participants with the bibliographical skills and techniques useful to the study and analysis of nineteenth-century United States imprints. This seminar will consist of formal presentations and discussions on production and distribution methods and laboratory sessions designed to allow participants the opportunity to examine books in order to analyze and interpret evidence of the conditions of production and history of their use. Leader of both sessions will be Michael Winship.

Applications will be accepted until seminars are filled; however, applications received by March 9 will receive priority. For further details, including application forms, and information on fees and housing, please write to: John B. Hench, Director of Research and Publication, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609-1634; telephone (508) 752-5813 or 755-5221.

The convention of the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen will take place on August 1-4, in Des Moines, IA. A convention highlight will be the exhibition and auction of the Lee Collection of Printing History. The auction will be held at the Marriott Hotel, on Sunday, August 2. A fully illustrated color catalog will be available before the auction for an estimated \$18. Purchase of the cat-

alog is required for admission. Reserved seating is available for an additional \$5. Proceeds from the catalog and reservations will go to scholarships for graphic arts students. For more information, contact: Gene Harris Family Auctions, 203 So. 18th Ave. Box 476, Marshalltown, IA 50158; Tom Harris, Auctioneer, telephone (515) 752-0600.

## Queries

Helen and Sheldon Wesson are seeking bids for a comprehensive private collection of amateur printed journals, which includes approximately 350 cloth-bound volumes of mostly 1900-1960 papers, 50 bound volumes of mostly 19th century papers, thousands of individual papers, and approximately 200 books and booklets by amateur journalists. Selected papers from the collection will be on display at the Smithsonian in an upcoming exhibition entitled, "The Boy and his Printing Press." Interested parties may contact the Wessons at 1003 North Vail Street, Alexandria, VA 22304; telephone (703) 671-3226.

Brett Charbeneau, Apprentice Printer at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, wants to hear from people who have conducted surveys of the physical characteristics of books. The foundation operates a restored 18th century printing office that reproduces the items originally printed in Williamsburg using the techniques and materials that are correct for the period. Mr. Charbeneau, now in the fifth year of his apprenticeship, is conducting an original research project to record the physical details of binding, paper, type, and ink for Williamsburg imprints (1730-). Mr. Charbeneau seeks advice on the design of his project and the survey form he will use to record data. He would appreciate leads to similar studies that already may have been conducted. He also wants to know the kinds of questions other researchers (librarians and printers) wish to have answered in a survey of imprints. Please write to: Brett Charbeneau, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, P.O. Box 1776, Margaret Hunter Workshop, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1776.

John A. Trester, hobby bookbinder, wants to know why printing type point size is 1/72" and not, for instance, 1/64". If you know the answer, or know where Mr. Trester might find the answer, please write to him at 2030 Jourdain Lane, Green Bay, WI 54301.

*The APHA Newsletter* is published six times yearly by the American Printing History Association. Subscriptions are through membership in APHA. Individual memberships for the calendar year are \$30; \$35 for U.S. Institutions. Included in that membership is a subscription to *Printing History*, APHA's semiannual scholarly journal. Advertising in the journal is available at \$250 for a full page. APHA's mailing list can be rented for one-time use at \$100. Address all correspondence to APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York NY 10163-4922. Copyright © 1992 by the American Printing History Association. All rights reserved.