
The APHA Newsletter

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Milestones

This fall marks 40 years since Elizabeth and Ben Lieberman inaugurated their Herity Press. 1993 will see the 20th anniversary of the founding meeting of the American Printing History Association at a gathering in Elizabeth and Ben's home in the room graced by William Morris's Albion Press no. 6551 (brought to America by Bertha and Fred Goudy for their Village Press.)

We visited Elizabeth recently to note the anniversary (APHA was formally incorporated in 1974) and chat a bit about the press on which Morris printed the bulk of the Kelmscott Chaucer. Delighted at the growth of APHA, Elizabeth reminded us that Ben was ever optimistic about APHA's future and that he always linked the traditions of "freedom of the press" with private press ownership. Much of his energies and publications were devoted to this encouragement.

The 1992 Lieberman Memorial Lecture will be presented on Columbus weekend, Saturday, October 10, 1992 at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. The event is to coincide with the Annual Typocrafters Conference. Lecture will be presented by David Kaser, "Frontier Printers of St. Louis."



Elizabeth Lieberman with the Kelmscott/Goudy Press, March 1992.

APHA Annual

American Printing History Association Annual Conference—Princeton, October 3, 1992

This year's theme is *Printing and Publishing History at Princeton: Material and Methodologies*. Speakers engaged to date: William Stoneman (Scheide Librarian, Princeton) "From Manuscript to Print: The Physical Evidence of a Revolution," Anthony Grafton (Professor of History, Princeton) "Discitur ut Agatur: Gabriel Harvey's Reading," Joel Gardner (Gardner Associates) "Oral History and Publishing History: the Case of Scribner and Hemingway," John Delaney (Princeton Univ. Library) "The Archives of Charles Scribner's Sons," and Stephen Ferguson (Princeton Univ. Library) "Publishing History Materials in the Princeton University Library: a Brief Survey."

Tours will be conducted in the afternoon. "Graphic Americana: the Art and Technique of Printed Ephemera" is one of several exhibitions scheduled during the conference. This is a lavish show with a color illustrated catalogue. This show contains items from the collections of Jack Golden, Allen Scheuch, Paul Ingersoll, and Greg Smart as well as the Princeton University Library.

There will be a reception in the late afternoon at Firestone Library sponsored by the Friends of the Princeton University Library.

The Conference will take place at Robertson Hall of the Woodrow Wilson School. The auditorium seats about 200 people. Buffet luncheon will be served in the School cafeteria. Travel to the conference site from the major metropolitan areas (Philadelphia and New York) via regularly scheduled trains and buses is very convenient. Parking is easy. Look for future announcements in the *Newsletter* and in your mailbox.

Events and Exhibits

BOISE, IDAHO

"Some Zines (Newsletters & APAs)," an exhibition of American alternative and underground magazines and newsletters. The Gallery, New Student Union Building, Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho. October 5–November 15. A catalog will be available from cold-drill books, BSU Bookstore, Boise, ID 83725 (\$10 plus \$2 postage & handling).

NEW YORK CITY

"Antoni Tapes in Print." May 7–August 9. Museum of Modern Art. This travelling exhibit will go to Florida International University, and The Detroit Institute of Arts.

"On the Edge: Photographs from 100 Years of Vogue." April 4–August 1. Gottesman Exhibition Hall, New York Public Library, Central Research Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street.

PHILADELPHIA

"Fables: The timeless cautionary tale," "Eating and being eaten: Pleasure, love, anger, and aggression in the work of Maurice Sendak," and "Dr. Johnson and his friends." April 21–July 31, Rosenbach Museum & Library.

Seminar

Dartmouth College Library is offering its Graphic Arts Summer Workshop on "Isaiah Thomas & His Books: Typographic-Historical Consideration of Printing in the Earliest Days of American Printing" to be held August 26-29. Application deadline is July 15; attendance is limited to 20 persons. Contact: Graphic Arts Summer Workshop, Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755; telephone 603/646-2236; FAX 603/646-3702.

Chapter Headings

APHA New York Chapter Spring events began at The Cooper Union on April 22, when Stephen O. Saxe gave a two-part illustrated talk entitled *Trains in Printing and Printing in Trains*. The first part dealt with "printers' trains"—cast type characters of individual railway cars that printers could set into complete trains; the second part covered the rare occasions when printers took their presses on trains and printed while en route.

Stephen O. Saxe, a frequent contributor to *Printing History*, a printing historian and collector of American 19th century type specimen books, has assembled one of the largest collections of 19th century type in this country. He was editor of *The APHA Newsletter* from 1986 to 1990. His book *American Iron Hand Presses*, published in a limited edition in 1991 by Fairleigh Dickinson University and the Yellow Barn Press, will be published in a trade edition by Oak Knoll Books this summer.

On June 3 Ellen Lupton presented *Low and High: Design in Everyday Life*. Her talk focused on and illustrated various aspects of vernacular graphic design and the design establishment's efforts to domesticate them.

Ellen Lupton is a graphic designer and writer. She is Curator of Contemporary Design at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, former Curator of the Herb Lubalin Study Center at Cooper Union, and a partner in the studio Design Writing Research. Her essays on visual communication have ap-

peared in the *AIGA Journal*, *Emigre*, *Print*, and other publications.

At their meeting on April 22 the New York Chapter elected Lowell Bodger to a second term as President and Virginia Bartow to a second term as Vice-President; Jane Siegel was elected to a first term as Treasurer and Kenneth Milford to a fourth term as Secretary. Whitney Bagnall and Joel Mason were elected Board Members.

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Anna Lou Ashby and included Inge DuPont and Jack Golden.

Book Column



An unusual new book has just come to me from the University of Illinois Press for review. The title is *The Lost Word of the Craft printer*, by Maggie Holtzberg-Call, a Ph.D. level folklorist (Urbana. 1992, xviii, 227 p. \$29.95). It's not about printing, but rather about *printers*. Specifically, its theme is the effect of the transition from hot metal to phototypesetting and offset techniques on the craft identity of old-time printers in the United States. The author, who has some experience working in a printing plant, has conducted a number of interviews with printers who have made the transition to the new technologies, as well as those who didn't, including residents of the Union Printers' Home in Colorado Springs, CO. Many of these interviews are reported directly in the words of the speaker. Indeed, the bulk of the "evidence" presented is anecdotal and a bit impressionistic. Perhaps this is the working method of the folklorist. In any event, it all rings rather true. I was particularly interested in the apparent disagreement as to whether the new technologies have improved quality or not. There are opinions on both sides. All hot metal printers seem to regret keenly the loss of craft responsibility for a printing job, when now any typist off the street can be a "compositor." This book is a fascinating social document, and I recommend it.

In a couple of past columns I've discussed two antiquarian bookstores which sell the kinds of books our members are likely to be seeking. Word has filtered back to me that there is some concern that I (and by connection APHA) am "endorsing" these businesses. Of course, the book review above could also be construed as an "endorsement." My sole intention in this column is to be of service to members, and I want to continue to do that by reporting on all the aspects of the book world which I think will contribute to that goal. I will be glad to hear from anyone on this point. And book dealers, if you handle books relating to printing history, send me your materials, and I'll do my best to let the membership know about you.

PHILIP A. METZGER

Notes and Queries

The Pierpont Morgan Library reports that, while some portions of the Library's exhibition rooms will be open to the public throughout the month of August, the Reading Room and the Print Room will be closed from Monday, August 17 through Monday, September 7, and will reopen on September 8.

Last summer's lively issue of AbraCadaBrA, newsletter of the Alliance for Contemporary Book Arts published by University of Southern California Fine Arts Press, prompted a call to Gerald Lange, Editor, and Robin Price, Secretary, who responded with much information for our readers. Founded in 1988, the Alliance aims to communicate . . . "the direction and depth of creative work in the book arts in the Southern California region". Activities have included an exhibition "A Southern California Decade" and unique issues of AbraCadaBrA such as the number four "Special Ephemera Packet".

For further information, address the USC Fine Arts

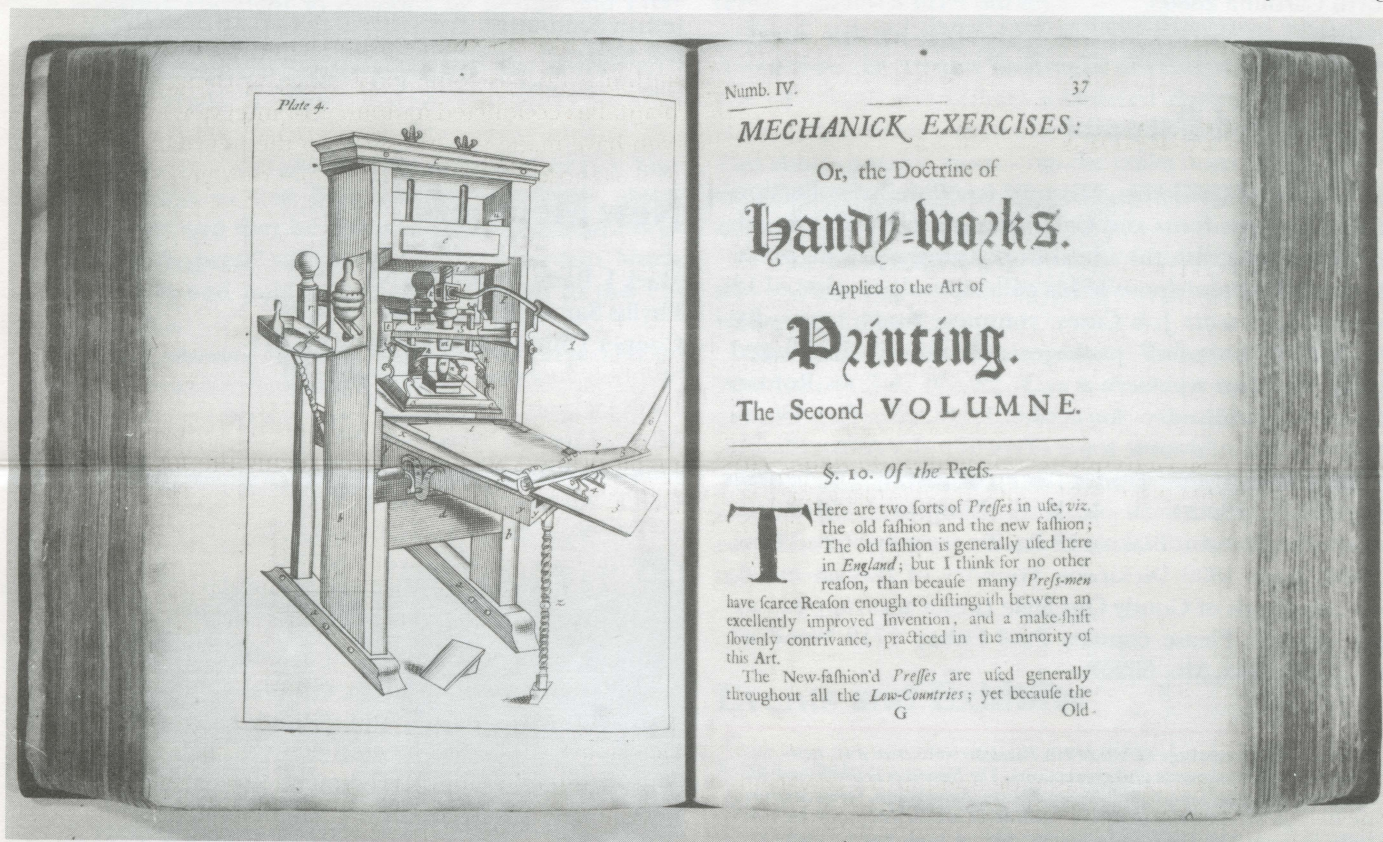
Press, USC Research Annex, Studio 122, 3716 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Small Press has been reorganized as a new quarterly "Magazine of Independent Publishing". New publishers Jennifer Moyer and Britt Bell are revitalizing the publication founded by R. R. Bowker Co., in 1983 and they see it as the trade journal for more than 28,000 small press publishers. Features include reviews of over 100 new books and magazines in every issue, plus news, announcements, regular columns and articles relevant to independent publishing. Readers may write for information to *Small Press*, Colonial Hill, RFD 1, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

Elizabeth Nevin informs us that her Briar Press is compiling a resource handbook for letterpress printing. It is expected to be comprehensive, with sources, names, addresses, descriptions and recommendations on organizations, goods and services. For information on participation, inclusion and for advance publication, send SASE to E. Nevin, The Briar Press, 364 Long Hill Road East, Briarcliff, NY 10510.

Campus Treasures II

From the Melbert B. Cary Jr., Graphic Arts Collection, Rochester Institute of Technology



Moxon, Joseph. *MECHANICK EXERCISES OR THE DOCTRINE OF HANDY-WORKS APPLIED TO THE ART OF PRINTING*. London: Printed for Joseph Moxon, 1683. According to Herbert Davis and Harry Carter who edited a 1958 reprint, "His book was by forty years the earliest manual of printing in any language, and it put in writing a knowledge that was wholly traditional. Though he did not himself live in a great age of printing, he described with great care the tools and the skilled movements that had produced the masterpieces of the craft in better days. He did his work so well that it was appropriated by compilers of technical encyclopaedias and printers' grammars . . ." It is one of about 24 copies in the United States; Davis and Carter record 53 altogether.

David Feldman, author of the Imponderables series (*Why do clocks run clockwise? Do penguins have knees?* etc.), is working on the sixth book of the series, to be published by HarperCollins in November, 1992. He is looking for answers to the following questions:

What happens to the ink when newspapers are recycled?

Why do newspapers yellow so much more quickly than ordinary paper?

Why are [dirty] newspapers so effective in cleaning windows?

Any assistance, including referral to other sources, would be appreciated. All contributions used will be duly acknowledged in the book. Please address correspondence to David Feldman, 145 W. 58th St. #3-M, New York, NY 10019; or call him at (212) 581-5525.

W. F. Wheatley is selling his collection of typographic material, gathered over 30 years of involvement in the typographic industry. The collection includes books, pamphlets, specimens, and magazines from all around the world. A full 35 page listing of titles available can be purchased for \$10.00 (to cover mailing and copying costs). This will be deducted from any purchases made. Send \$10.00 to: W.F. Wheatley, 9A Cedarwood Drive, Asheville, North Carolina 28803.

Types and Presses

Paul Fisher of Columbia, Missouri is selling his collection of foundry type fonts and California cases. Mr. Fisher collected the type with the idea of operating a private press. He now wants to dispose of his collection. It consists of 12 wooden California Job Cases; complete fonts, never distributed, in founders' packages and several distributed specimens. The typefaces are: 24, 30, 36 DeRoos Roman Initials (Typefoundry Amsterdam); 18, 24, 30, 48, 60 DeRoos Roman, double fonts (Typefoundry Amsterdam); 24, 30, 36, 48 Sistina Titling (Stempel); 48, 60, 72 Baskerville (ATF); 18, 24, 30 Neuland (Klingspor); 30 Palace Script (Stephenson Blake); 18 Pacific (cast by Steve Watts, c.1950, from 1890 Dickinson Foundry of Boston mats); and 20 pounds of Goudy Old Style (never unwrapped, unsure of size). Please contact: Paul Fisher, 1710 Woodrail Ave., Columbia, Mo. 65203.

The Editorial Committee of *The APHA Newsletter* welcomes your news, announcements, comments and corrections. *The 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 Institutions; \$60 for Contributing memberships; \$15 for Student memberships. 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.

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