

# The APHA Newsletter

A Publication of the American Printing History Association

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## Annual Meeting: January 30, 1993

Braving the sudden onset of severely cold weather, APHA members gathered in the Trustees Room of the New York Public Library for the Annual Meeting. Irene Tichenor, Chair of the Board of Trustees, opened the meeting on a melancholy note, announcing the resignation of President Peter Van Wingen in the middle of his two-year term on account of serious illness. Irene read a resolution that had been passed by the Board commending Peter:

WHEREAS Peter VanWingen has been our loyal colleague in the American Printing History Association for nearly twenty years; and

WHEREAS he has served with distinction as its President for the past year; and

WHEREAS he has found it advisable to resign as President for health considerations,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Association accept his resignation with deep regret.

AND BE IT FURTHER DECREED that the Board hereby expresses warm affection and deep admiration for Peter,

THAT it wishes Peter Godspeed in his recovery, and

THAT it will continue to seek Peter's wise counsel and advice in matters pertaining to the American Printing History Association until he can return to our ranks.

Direction of APHA will be maintained by the current officers and Board. Douglas Bauer has been elected president.

Irene announced the creation of two ad hoc committees. One committee will work on revising the now ten-year-old by-laws. The revision is expected to be completed by next year.

A second committee will coordinate a benefit auction to be held next year at Sotheby's, in June, on a date to be announced. David Redden will speak on auctions, then auction a dozen or so items. There will be a silent auction on further



*Antonia and Ruari McLean at the Annual Meeting, prior to presentation of the APHA Individual Award of distinction to Mr. McLean.*

goods through the evening, and a champagne reception. All members are encouraged to attend, both to spend a pleasant evening and to shore up a needy APHA budget.

Martin Hutner, Vice President for Membership, announced mixed results from the two-year membership campaign. While last year, membership had increased to nearly 1,000 from an all-time low, this achievement has been decreased this year by 6.4%. APHA is gaining new members, but losing long-time members. It is expected that more regional chapters will help increase interest in the organization, but we are reminded once again that we are all expected to help recruit new members. If each of us recruits one new member, we can easily reach the goal of 1200 APHA members.

Mary Phelan, Vice President for Programs, recalled the successes of last year's Annual Conference, held at Princeton, and the annual Lieberman Lecture, held in St. Louis. Next year's annual conference will be held at Brown University in Providence, R.I., on October 2nd, with an opening reception on October 1. The topic will be "Humanist Printers" and will include lectures on everyone from Aldus to the Merrymount Press. The Lieberman lecture will be held in Los Angeles.

Jerry Kelly, Vice President for Publications, spoke proudly of last year's 6 issues of the *Newsletter*, and the "double issue," volume 26/27 of *Printing History* (actually larger than two usual issues). An errata sheet for the latter is in the mail to members to correct an interesting achievement in Hebrew typography. *Printing History* should be getting back on schedule, with two or three issued in the coming year.

### *Hold the date!*

*Champagne Reception and Auction  
to benefit the  
American Printing History Association*

on Tuesday, June 8, 1993  
beginning at 6:00 p.m.  
at Sotheby's New York  
North Gallery, Second Floor  
1334 York Avenue (at 72nd St.)  
New York





Willie Parker (left), Master Printer, and Bruce Plumley, Master Binder, representing Colonial Williamsburg—since 1958, leader in historic preservation and honored as recipient of the APHA Institutional Award.

John Hench, Treasurer, reported that 1992 was a fine year, but that there are serious troubles looming ahead in 1993. A good evening at Sotheby's may be the key to a balanced budget. See the "Treasurers Report" in this issue for more details.

Irene Tichenor presented the report of the nominating committee and presided over the election of the trustees of the class of 1996, Martin Antonetti, Michael Peich, and C. Deirdre Phelps.

The business end of the afternoon over, APHA awards were presented. Roderick Stinehour presented the Individual Award to Ruari McLean, "distinguished typographer, book designer, and author of numerous influential studies on the art and history of printing." Mr. McLean presented an entertaining talk, thanking three men who influenced him: Bernard Newdigate, Jan Tschichold, and Harold Hugo.

Bernard Newdigate, at the Shakespeare Head Press, to which Mr. McLean went instead of becoming a cowboy in South America, was a "gentle, sweet man." Although there was at that time no established way to become a typographer, McLean was put on the path through the offices of Newdigate, who helped him get work at The Studio, and allowed him to do some design work there.

Shortly after he started at Penguin, McLean met Jan Tschichold, himself about to start work there. Working next door to Tschichold, "not only a marvellous practitioner, but a born teacher," McLean could wander by his office as Tschichold designed hundreds of Penguin books.

With Tschichold, McLean translated his *Typographische Gestaltung*, (*Asymmetric Typography*, Reinhold, 1967) and *Die Neue Typographie*, which, after languishing in manuscript at the St. Bride Printing Library, is now to be published by the University of California Press.

Harold Hugo was a printer who "took the art of printing scholarly illustrations farther than they had ever been taken before." McLean met Hugo through Adrian Wilson, and visited Meridan Gravure on a trip to the US in 1960. Hugo was a man of "transparent integrity and great kindness," a genius, creating "a quality of printing no one else in the world could emulate for years."

Karen Nipps presented the Institutional Award to Colonial Williamsburg, "a leader in the re-creation, interpretation, and preservation of the arts and artifacts of hand printing." Accepting were Willie Parker, Master Printer, and Bruce Plumley, Master Binder.

Master Parker spoke of the printing shop and its goals of recreating printing and binding as practiced in the eighteenth century, and of interpreting the history for the public. Much research goes into the work done in order to determine the proper technologies, practices, skills, and styles. The interaction with the public is taken seriously—the shops are visited by anywhere from 100 to 3,000 people each day! APHA members are encouraged to be among that number.

Master Plumley spoke of the bindery, explaining that the shops sell most of the books they make, and even do custom binding (only on 18th century books). He also gave the history of William Parks, the 18th century printer in Williamsburg who is buried near the place Plumley served his apprenticeship.

The afternoon ended with a reception at the New York Public Library, after which we were all invited to another reception at the Grolier Club, where a lovely exhibit on Scottish books was on view.

JANE SIEGEL

## Treasurer's Report for 1992

During 1992, the Association's revenues amounted to \$43,493, while expenditures ran to \$41,818, resulting in a nominal cash surplus of \$1,675. An encouraging sign was that membership dues income exceeded our budgeted estimate. As always, the greatest expense was the journal, *Printing History*. During 1992, we paid for two and a fraction issues, which put us slightly over budget for that line item. The APHA conference in Princeton produced a surplus of \$412.

At December 31, 1992, assets were as follows:

Cash	\$25,464
Endowed Funds	4,980
Total	\$30,444

At the previous December 31, the totals were:

Cash	\$20,021
Endowed Funds	4,877
Total	\$24,898



The relatively rosy picture for 1992 should, however, be tempered by concern for 1993. The APHA Board has adopted a 1993 budget of \$48,000 in income and \$50,627 in expenses. These expenses include the final printing bill for the recent double issue of *Printing History*, already paid. We have therefore adopted a budget with a deficit of \$2,627, not the happiest of things to do. This has resulted mainly from the deferral of *Printing History* expenses even as overall income over the last several years has declined. The '93 budget includes what the Board feels is a reasonable and attainable "profit" from the fundraiser at Sotheby's, which only underscores the importance of that event this June to the fiscal health of the Association.

JOHN B. HENCH, *Treasurer*

## Annual Lieberman Lecture

The St. Louis Mercantile Library was the site in October for the American Printing History Association's 1992 J. Ben Lieberman Lecture, where a large audience heard distinguished librarian and printing historian Dr. David Kaser speak on the "Printers of Frontier St. Louis, 1808-1850."

Dr. Kaser, currently Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University, and the author of numerous books and articles on printing history, including *Joseph Charles, Printer in the Western Country*, about Missouri's first printer; *A Directory of the St. Louis Book and Printing Trades to 1850*; and *The Cost Book of Carey and Lea, 1825-1838* was well-suited to speak on the burgeoning printing industry of early St. Louis. His remarks focused on the early hardships and business dealings of frontier printers, and he offered historical anecdotes of the experiences and range of work such printers attempted in early America. In an extended question and answer session, Dr. Kaser wittily elaborated on his formal remarks with illustrations from his wide experience with this topic.

The Lecture was also part of a scheduled dinner meeting held at the Mercantile Library for the Typocrafters Annual Conference. During a reception before hand, Typocrafters members and other guests were able to meet Dr. Kaser and view the Library's St. Louis printing displays. A keepsake marking the event was produced by Kay Michael Kramer, proprietor of The Printery, his private press in St. Louis.

### Special Double Issue of *Printing History*

By now all APHA members should have received our special issue of the APHA Journal devoted to various aspects of type, historical and modern. Additional copies are available for \$25. To order, please send check with your name and address to our P.O. box.

## Exhibits and Lectures

### CAMBRIDGE

Martin Hutner, APHA Vice President for Membership, collector and expert on D.B. Updike, will be sharing his lifelong interest for the great American printer as curator of the upcoming exhibition entitled, "The Merrymount Press, an Exhibition on the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Press" at the Houghton Library, Harvard University. April 1-May 27. An illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

A lecture by Mr. Hutner, entitled "Merrymount: the Centennial of a Great American Press," is also planned in conjunction with the exhibition. It will take place on Wednesday, April 28, at 4:30 pm, at the Houghton Library. For more information, please call 617/495-2444.

An enlarged version of Mr. Hutner's Merrymount Press centennial exhibition will open on September 14 at the Grolier Club in New York City.

### NEW YORK

"The Livre de Peintre in America." March 17-May 15, The Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street (838-6800), Monday-Saturday 10-5.

Pforzheimer Lectures on Printing and the Book Arts, "Aspects of the History of the Rare Book Trade." Trustees Room (Room 206), second floor of the Central Research Library, New York Public Library.

March 30: William S. Reese, "Americana Booksellers and their Customers."

April 27: Justin G. Schiller, "Selling Collectible Children's books: The First Hundred Years."

May 5: George Lowry, "The Role of the Auction House in the Rare Book Trade."

May 11: Roger E. Stoddard, "More valuable to us than all the Books in the World: Georges Heilbrun and his Harvard Library Friends."

May 19: Leslie A. Morris, "Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach: Tall Tales and True of Bookselling in the Early Twentieth Century."

May 25: Bernard M. Rosenthal, "Antiquarian Bookselling in Italy and Germany 1860 to 1960: a Family Perspective."

All lectures begin at 6 pm. Tickets cost \$6 each and may be ordered by sending a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Public Education Program, The New York Public Library, Room M-6, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018. Tickets may also be purchased at the Library Shop on the first floor of the Library. Recorded ticket information: 212/930-0571.

### PHILADELPHIA

Rosenbach Lectures in Bibliography. James Green will give three talks on "Book Publishing in Early America": "Colonial Beginnings: Benjamin Franklin and Robert Bell"



(March 16); "The Transformation of the 1790s: Mathew Carey and Mason Locke Weems (March 18); and "Charvat Reconsidered: Literary Publishing to 1825" (March 23). Each lecture will start at 5:30 at the University of Pennsylvania, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, 6th Floor, Lessing J. Rosenwald Gallery. (Public entrance from Locust Walk.)

## Seminars

The 6th Annual Museum Archives Institute, sponsored by the New England Museum Association and Old Sturbridge Village, will be held April 16-17 at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA. For information, contact Penny Holewa, Archivist, Research Library, Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566. TELEPHONE 508/347-3362; FAX 508/347-5375.

## Chapter Headings

### NEW YORK

Mark Tomasko on *The Art of Security Engraving*. Tuesday, May 4, 6:00 pm, at The Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street, New York.

Mark Tomasko will give an illustrated talk on the development of security engraving (also called "bank note" engraving) in the United States, including the histories of bank note companies, changing graphic styles, and the engraving and printing processes. Slides, printed documents, and materials related to the printing process will be shown.

Admission free. Presented by the American Printing History Association, New York Chapter. For information call Lowell Bodger at 212/777-0841, or write APHA/NY, P.O. Box 1074, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276.

## New Members

Richard D. Brown, Hampton, CT  
 Erin Loftus, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
 Gregg Low, Oakland, CA  
 Gordon Marshall, Moorestown, NJ  
 John L. McVey, Cambridge, MA  
 James W. Reidhaar, Bloomington, IL  
 Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX  
 Jim Stephan, Belmont, CA  
 Allan W. Teather, Winter Haven, FL  
 Walter Library, Minneapolis, MN  
 Howard Windham, Providence, RI  
 Woodbury University Library, Burbank, CA  
 Eugenia Zazowska, New York, NY

## Book Column



Correction: In a previous column I stated that G. Thomas Tanselle's *Guide to the Study of United States Imprints* (Cambridge, MA 1972) is out of print. Prof. Tanselle, for which I thank him, has pointed out to me that this is not correct. One can still order a set from Harvard University Press at \$100 a pop. (The original price, as I recall, was \$30.) This, of course, makes the antiquarian bookseller's price of \$130, which I also mentioned in that column, somewhat less of an eyebrow raiser. Another lesson to look in Books in Print, even when it doesn't seem necessary. My apologies for the error.

Two new books have been brought to my attention, although I have not had an opportunity to look at either one. The first is from the Center for the Book at Mills College, and is *The Flying Cloud and Her First Passengers*, by Margaret Lyon and Flora Elizabeth Reynolds. It is a study, based on diaries, letters, and the ship's log, of one of the most famous clipper ships. It has been designed and typeset by Leda Black at Black Swan Letterpress Printing and Design, and printed in 200 copies at West Coast Print Center. The announcement, somewhat puzzlingly, tells us that 25 have been case-bound, the rest perfect-bound., the price for the first being \$50, and the rest, \$30. I'm not quite sure why one would wish to go through the rituals of producing a fine press book, which I presume this is intended to be, and is the reason for its interest to this group, and then make a paperback out of most of them—all for a price differential which in this context is trivial. If you're curious, write the Center, c/o Renée Jadushlever, Mills College Library, Oakland, CA 94613, or call 501/430-2047.

The second is the 1993 edition of *The Book Arts Directory*. Described as "nicely designed and hand-bound," it is 40 pages, and is priced at \$4.00 plus .50 p/h (another paperback?) from Page Two, Inc., 2718 SW Kelly, #222, Portland, OR 97201.

PHILIP A. METZGER

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