
The APHA Newsletter

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Dr. Paul LeClerc, President of the New York Public Library, accepted the Institutional Award presented to the Library and its Special Collections.



Katharine F. Pantzer, Bibiographer Emerita, Houghton Library, Harvard University, who was honored by APHA with its Individual Award. To the right, Sue Allen, Chair, Awards Committee.

Mark your calendars now:

APHA 1995 Annual Conference 20–22 October 1995
University of Virginia, Charlottesville

APHA Annual Meeting January 28, 1995

APHA AT TWENTY

CELEBRATING THE PAST: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Some 100 APHA members gathered on a chilly Saturday in the Trustees Room of the New York Public Library, where we were welcomed warmly by President Martin Hutner, who also thanked the Library for the meeting space and Lowell Bodger and Joel Mason, who produced the keepsake programs.

An old APHA custom was then reintroduced. As Catherine Brody explained, Ben Lieberman, the founder of APHA, had a replica Liberty Bell, a symbol of the freedom of the press, which he used first at meetings of the Goudy Chappell, and then to open meetings of APHA. The bell had been passed down (and spent some time with the APHA archives in his office, Terry Belanger chimed in), and had just been sent by Peter Van Wingen to Martin Hutner. Ms. Brody was asked to ring the bell, continuing Lieberman's legacy to the Association.

The meeting commenced with reports from the various officers. Jim Kelly, the Vice President for Membership, announced that in 1994 we had 861 members, up four from 1993. There is hope that new chapters will increase membership further. Chapters are in process for California, the midwest, and, possibly, Iowa. (See also Kelly's short article on new chapters in this issue.) An APHA computer listserv was also under discussion, but the existence of a number of lists on related topics makes it somewhat redundant.

Anne Anninger, Vice President for Programs, announced the 1995 annual conference, to be held in Charlottesville, VA on October 20–22. Titled "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Printing: The Book in Jefferson's Virginia and the Early Republic", the conference will start off with a reception, dinner, and bibliographical fun at the Book Arts Press on Friday night, the conference meeting on Saturday, and an early bus trip to Monticello on Sunday.

Mike Peich, Vice President for Publications, thanked Ed Colker, Virginia Bartow, Jane Siegel and Spring Harvey for their work on the Newsletter, and David Pankow for his continuing hard work on *Printing History*. Issue 30 of the journal is now in print, and 31&32, another double issue on type, will be coming our way this year. He also thanked those who contributed to and worked so hard on the Type Miscellany, the first separate publication by APHA. The portfolio was so successful that a second publication was proposed to and accepted by the board. The new publication, possibly the second in an annual series, will be *American Proprietary Typefaces*, a collection of essays on typefaces by

a variety of authors. David Pankow will be the editor, assisted by Lissa Doddington; an application will be made to a Foundation for support of this project.

John Hench, Treasurer, gave a financial report which is reproduced in full elsewhere in this issue.

Virginia Smith gave the report of the Nominating Committee, proposing Kenneth Auchincloss, Milton McC. Gatch, and Jean Hayter as Trustees through January 1997; they were duly elected.

In his presidential report, Martin Hutner noted what a busy year it has been for APHA, and thanked each of the officers, the committee chairs, Virginia Bartow, the Secretary, Steve Crook, the Executive Secretary, and the membership as a whole.

The awards given out this year have a new look. New certificates were created by a team of founding APHA members; printed by Erich Wronker on paper given by Morris Gelfand, with calligraphy by Lili Wronker.

Eleanor Garvey presented the Individual Award to Katharine Pantzer, Bibliographer Emerita, Houghton Library, Harvard University, who, she said, "is the STC", having brought out the revision of the Pollard and Redgrave Short Title Catalog in three volumes published between 1976 and 1991, continuing work started by W.A. Jackson and F.S. Ferguson. This award is the first time Pantzer's work is being honored in the United States for her work on the STC revision, although she was given the Gold Medal of the Bibliographical Society in 1988 and the Besterman Medal of the Library Association in London in 1991.

Pantzer's talk, "A Brief View of a Bibliographer's Mind," began with the surprising assertion that "I am not naturally observant." She went on to explain that she must concentrate fiercely to pay proper attention to the book, by "getting books into my hands," even through microfilm and photocopy, copying signature positions, collating, but not doing quasi-facsimile titles, in order to fix books in her memory. It is important to her to find out how a book works and what it is intended to do, such as to support devotion and piety, or provide pleasure. She describes herself as a pragmatic person, who does what works to get the job done, disliking theory, and rules applied too strictly.

Pantzer described rare books as "travelers through time" to which one has to pay close attention. Keeping an open mind, one can hear what the book has to say. She turned to a discussion of some of the more interesting books she has met, to show some of the surprising lessons there were to learn.

Abraham Darcie's *The Way to Immortality*: or, happiness in her perfection, London, 1635 (STC 6273.3) has a text which is much more neatly printed than the preliminaries. Indeed, Pantzer's research proved that the first quire only was printed in 1635; the text is sheets from William Typing's 1633 work *A discourse of eternite* (STC 24473).

Michael Du Val's *Rosa Hispani-Anglica seu malum punicum Angli-Hispanicum* (The Spanish-English Rose), 1622 (STC 7376), on the projected marriage of Prince Charles and the Infanta Donna Maria, sports a mix of types excessive even for English printing of its day. Comparing the English version with the Latin edition printed in France, Pantzer suggested that the En-

glish version was intended to offend the English reader, and to work against the marriage.

Sue Allen, Chair of the Awards Committee, presented the Institutional Award to the New York Public Library and its Special Collections, to honor the collections, especially those relating to printing themselves, and the outreach by means of a variety of exhibitions and publications which make them known and accessible. The award was accepted by Dr. Paul LeClerc, President of the Library.

In his remarks, Dr. LeClerc addressed the present and the future; the era of technology we are now in, and plans at the NYPL to deal with it. Libraries, he said, define themselves by how they interpret the library functions to acquire, preserve, and make accessible materials. The NYPL is dedicated to "maximum access." Although historically libraries base their claims to fame on the uniqueness of the collections, technology modifies that claim, as possession of books and other materials becomes less important than access to information. This is now available through CD-ROMs, the Internet, or other electronically formatted materials which come through licensing agreements rather than outright purchase. In the new NYPL Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL), where every seat will be computer-ready, the hundreds of databases will be more important sources than the paper collections.

While an immense amount is known about the preservation of paper-based materials, the situation with electronic formats is quite different, and presents one of the major problems facing the intellectual community, along with the preservation of video, films, and audio tapes. Access to electronic formats is also a challenge, as the Library balances the needs of its patrons with the publishing industry's interest in its own rights. Licensees for electronic information often allow no off-site access, no downloading, and only limited printing. Changes are expected to come in US copyright law, particularly regarding access of electronic information in libraries.

Despite the money and time which the Library will be pouring into electronic sources, LeClerc promised the APHA members sitting before him that the NYPL will never abandon its commitment to the book, and particularly to American printing.

Martin Hutner closed the meeting with an invitation to partake in the reception outside the doors of the Trustees Room, and a reminder of the Grolier Club's annual Bibliography Week Farewell Tea.

Ed. Note: The New York Public Library Pforzheimer Lectures on Printing and the Book Arts feature speakers in March and April. G. Thomas Tanselle will speak on primary records and their preservation on May 2. Contact: NYPL, Public Education Program Office, Room M-6.

Chapter News

PHILADELPHIA

1995 Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 6:00 pm

A gallery walk through *Making a Case for Cloth: Publishers' Cloth Case Bindings from 1830 to 1890* with exhibition curator Andrea Krupp at the Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust Street. This exhibition, on view April 17 - September 29, examines the convergence of the use of case binding techniques with bookcloth and bookbinding machinery in production bookbinding in the 19th century.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 6:00 pm

Lecture and exhibition of the collection of wood engravings and prints of Civil War images by Thomas Nast owned by George Hess, of the Graphic Arts Association in Philadelphia. This collection, taken from a Philadelphia printing company in the late 1950s, will be on display in the Printmaking Gallery at the University of the Arts at 333 S. Broad Street.

DECEMBER PROGRAM TBA

1995 APHA Philadelphia Chapter Business Meeting.

NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 6:00 pm

History of the American Type Founders Company

David Pankow, Curator of the Cary Graphic Arts Collection at the Rochester Institute of Technology, and editor of the APHA journal *Printing History*, on the formation, 100-year life, and demise of America's largest typefoundry conglomerate.

Lecture at The Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street. Free. For further information call Lowell Bodger at (212) 777-0841.



Wells College Symposium

Wells College Book Arts Center announces a symposium entitled "Bookbinding and the Book Arts," to be held from May 11-13, 1995. The speakers will discuss fine printing and fine binding. Scheduled to appear are Terry Belanger, Sidney E. Berger, Michele V. Cloonan, Betsy Palmer Eldridge, Don Etherington, Deborah Evetts, Monique Lallier, Joseph Newman, and W. Thomas Taylor. Designer bindings and artists books from the collection of Jane W. Pearce, from book dealers stock, and from book arts suppliers, will be on exhibit. For information contact: Barbara E. Kretzmann, Wells College Book Arts Center, Aurora, N.Y. 13026. Phone: (315) 364-3420.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that the American Printing History Association's financial position is healthier than it has been in several years.

Operating revenues in 1994 totalled \$66,592, while expenditures amounted to \$40,139, producing an excess of income over expenses of \$26,453. Actual income exceeded the budgeted amount by 50 percent, while expenses were about 11 percent under budget.

We now keep our books on the cash basis, so, without further explanation, the above news may give a misleading impression of our financial status. Three factors helped inflate the revenue total for 1994. The first was our switch to cash-basis accounting this past year, which meant that the dues income line included all 1994 dues plus the prepaid 1995 dues actually received in 1994. The second was the Delmas Foundations's most generous grant of \$7,000 in support of *Printing History*. The third was the surplus of more than \$6,000 from the sale of the anniversary broadside portfolio. All involved in that handsome publication are to be congratulated and thanked. On the other side of the ledger, the main reason we came in so low is that we paid for only one issue of *Printing History* during the year.

As of December 31, 1994, assets were as follows:

Cash	\$47,347
Endowed Funds	5,405
Total	\$52,752

At the previous December 31, assets were:

Cash	\$20,523
Endowed Funds	5,531
Total	\$26,054

The Board of Trustees has adopted a budget with a substantial deficit—more than \$14,000. Again, this is on the cash basis. The reason the budget is so "unbalanced" is that it includes the cost of catching up with *Printing History*. The budgeted cash deficit will be funded by APHA's substantial reserves.

I hope that continued careful spending and imaginative fundraising will permit me to provide APHA members with a rosier financial picture a year from now.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Hench
Treasurer



Book Talk

A couple of months ago I stopped in a bookstore in Portland, Oregon, and, as usual, took a look at the remainder table. There for \$20 each were several copies of D.J.R. Bruckner's *Frederic Goudy*, published in 1990 as part of

Harry N. Abrams, Inc.'s Masters of American Design series. Most APHA members no doubt know about it, but it had up to then escaped my attention. It struck me as a wonderful book, full of insights about Goudy's work, along with splendid illustrations, to say nothing of having a catalog of all his types.

It also set me to wondering what other volumes might exist in this series. After a bit of librarianly checking, I was surprised to discover only one other title: Brodovitch by Andy Grundberg, which had appeared the year before. What indeed had happened to this series?

A phone call to Samuel Antupit, Director of Art and Design at Abrams, cleared up the mystery. The series began, Antupit explained, out of frustration of New York area graphics arts teachers with the lack of books for students on major American figures in the graphic arts. What started as a reading list soon turned out to be a publishing project. The designers incorporated a nonprofit organization, Documents of American Design, to support the project, and began to knock on publishers' doors with proposals. More by happenstance than by influence, Antupit said, the series wound up with his own employer.

The approach of the project, according to Antupit, is to pick the leading American practitioner in a particular area of graphic design for treatment in a critical biography. Thus Goudy represents American type designers, and Alexey Brodovitch fills the slot for magazine designers. This policy means also that no other type designers or magazine designers will be included.

The project faltered for a time, Antupit said, because of difficulties with an intractable subject. But it's now back on track, with about 15 subjects slated for inclusion in the series, and the publisher, Abrams, remains enthusiastic about the series.

Among the subjects being treated are Will Bradley, representing posters and illustrations, and Will Burtin, who is connected with information design (exhibitions, diagrams etc.). These, Antupit said, will be ready in the next 12 to 18 months.

Further down the road are volumes on Alvin Lustig, book designer, and either Lou Dorfsman or Paul Rand in corporate design. The editors are looking for a suitable name in industrial graphic design, as well as for someone to represent the design of electronic documents. Muriel Cooper is a possibility for the latter, Antupit said.

So it only remains to wait for further volumes in this interesting and highly useful series. I should hope also that none of the titles wind up on remainder tables, although as a book buyer I may be permitted to have mixed feelings about that.

Philip A. Metzger

New Members

Albert Aldham, Hawley, PA
 Chowan College, Murfreesboro, NC
 Colby College, Waterville, ME
 Shari DeGraw, Tuscaloosa, AL
 Janet Gertz, New York, NY
 Peter R. Haack, West Newbury, MA
 Beth Kubly, State College, PA
 Cletes L. Landers, Springfield, OH
 David Lowden, Upper Montclair, NJ
 Nina Musinsky, New York, NY
 Michael J. O'Connor, Fountain Hills, AZ
 Carolyn Eckert Pahl, Northampton, MA
 Henry F. Raine, Washington, DC
 S. Wyman Rolph, III, Skillman, NJ
 Priscilla Thomas, Wilmington, DE
 University of the Arts, Printmaking Department,
 Philadelphia, PA
 Seth Joseph Weine, New York, NY
 Mary K. Young, Old Greenwich, CT

New Chapter Prospects

By this time next year it is our expectation that APHA will have at least two new chapters. Regis Graden of the Nut Quad Press in San Fernando, Calif., is planning an organizational meeting for interested parties in the Southern California region. This should occur late in February, and we very much look forward to having a West Coast chapter not too long after that.

Not far behind in progress and fully as eager to proceed, Trevor Howard-Hill and Barbara Brannon of the University of South Carolina are working to provide us with a branch in Columbia, SC, yet another area which will be new territory and one particularly rich in academic interest related to the history of the book and bibliography.

—Jim Kelly, Vice-President for Membership

The Editorial Committee of *The APHA Newsletter* welcomes your news, announcements, comments and corrections. *The Newsletter* is published four 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 © 1994 by the American Printing History Association. All rights reserved.