

Newsletter  
Number 159  
Spring 2005

## Annual Meeting Well Attended 29 January 2005

THE ELEGANT TRUSTEES' ROOM of the New York Public Library accommodated a full house of printing history enthusiasts for the APHA annual meeting Saturday, January 29th. Many attendees came from New York City and surrounding areas, and a handful traveled from around the U.S. to hear reports from APHA's officers and to celebrate the award presentations honoring Robert Darnton, professor of history at Princeton University, and the Bibliographic Society of the University of Virginia, represented by G. Thomas Tanselle. A reception of hors d'oeuvres and wine immediately followed the event.

David Ferriero, Andrew Mellon Director and Chief Executive of the Research Libraries, NYPL, opened the meeting with a warm welcome and an invitation to view the exhibits at the library.

Graciously, Irene Tichenor delivered the president's greeting for Martin Antonetti, who was unable to attend the meeting because of a winter flu. Committee reports on APHA's membership, programs, and publications followed.

### REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

Kathy Walkup, Vice-President for Membership, reported positively on APHA 2004 membership, citing the addition of 15 new members who signed up at the annual conference in Delaware. Paul Romaine, Vice-President for Programs, shared successes of the Delaware conference, which brought 131 registrants — the largest attendance in recent history! Jerry Kelly, Vice-President for Publications, announced that a new editor and designer will begin working on *Printing History* after issue number 50 is completed. Kelly expressed his deepest gratitude to David Pankow, who has served as the journal's editor for 15 years. Kelly also announced that Shari DeGraw and Terry Chouinard have accepted the roles of editor and designer for APHA's newsletter.

*continued on page 4, column 2*

## Annual Conference 2005 [r] EVOLUTION IN PRINT: New Work in Printing History & Practice

JOIN US FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY American Printing History Association annual conference in the San Francisco Bay Area on September 22-23, 2005. The conference will convene in San Francisco at the historic Sir Francis Drake hotel and continue the following day at Mills College in Oakland.

We are delighted to have keynote speaker professor Paul Duguid, who will speak on "From Gutenberg to Project Gutenberg and Beyond." Duguid has recently been appointed Professorial Research Fellow at Queen Mary, University of London. In 2000, he published *The Social Life of Information*, co-authored with John Seely Brown. The book has been praised in scholarly journals and listed as one

*continued on page 3, column 2*

## Richard-Gabriel Rummonds 2005 Lieberman Memorial Lecture

THE 2005 J. Ben Lieberman Memorial Lecture will feature fine press printer and printing historian Richard-Gabriel Rummonds, who will be speaking at the University of San Francisco's Del Santo Reading Room on the Lone Mountain campus on Saturday afternoon, September 24, 2005. Mr. Rummonds' talk is entitled "Abandoned by a Married Man: the Long and Torturous Path to the Iron Handpress." The lecture is scheduled for the day after APHA's annual conference.

Richard-Gabriel Rummonds is among the twentieth century's most eminent handpress printers. For nearly a quarter of a century, he printed and published illustrated limited editions of contemporary literature on iron handpresses, primarily in Verona, Italy and Cottdale, Alabama. His imprints, the Plain Wrapper Press and Ex Ophidia, reflected his painstaking attention to fine design and presswork. In 1984 he founded the pioneering MFA Book Arts program at the University of Alabama. He also has taught typography and type design at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington, where he presently lives.

*continued on page 3, column 1*



## John DePol: An Appreciation

UNLIKE MOST OF THOSE of you who knew John personally, I worked with him late in his life for a relatively short period. Our relationship, based first on my deep appreciation for his amazing artistic abilities, unique style, and consummate craftsmanship, soon developed into a deep affection. Because the story of John's rich life has appeared in numerous publications, this appreciation focuses on our relationship because I believe that it was similar to that experienced by his many colleagues and friends over most of his 91 years.

Our association began when, in about 1997, Steve Miller asked John to cut a two-color wood-engraved portrait of Dard Hunter for the frontispiece for my book, *By His Own Labor: The Biography of Dard Hunter*. Initially, John was enthusiastic about the prospect of cutting these large blocks, but as time went on, he became less so, and at one point he told Steve that he could not complete the project. As it turned out, John was uncertain about adequately representing Hunter from photographs I had sent him. During the first of many visits I made to the DePols' home in Park Ridge, John generously asked me to redraw certain areas of his pencil sketch, feeling that I "knew" Hunter better than he. When it came time to reproduce the striking portrait in 1999, Steve and I were honored to print from what were, I believe, the last large blocks that John cut.

In addition, during that first visit, John and I discussed a thesis project that would lead to my receiving an MFA in Book Arts. His enthusiasm for such collaboration astonished me—after all, I had only just met the man and was virtually unknown to him—but I soon came to realize that close professional relationships were essential to John's existence. With encouragement from Jim Fraser, John and I decided to co-author a book that would feature over one hundred small blocks—cut over four decades—from which a number of pattern papers had been made. (These images were not to be included in the Book Club of California's catalogue raisonné that Fraser and Eleanor Friedl were compiling.) I still remember John opening the "Pattern Papers" box and having scores of black and white proofs left over from cut-and-pasted patterns tumble into my lap; I was enchanted and hooked.

Over the next few years, I sent John various ideas for page designs to display an image with its accompanying pattern. Some of these designs he vigorously rejected; John was not afraid to voice his opinion! His goal, of course, was to inspire the highest design and production standards for any project that featured his work. Again, John exhibited considerable professional generosity when he allowed me to name (with his final approval) about half of those delightful wood-engraved images. His work and autobiographical sketch resulted in our book, *End-grain Designs & Repetitions: The Pattern Papers of John DePol*, published in 2000. I dedicated it to John's wife, Thelma, for her steadfast support of his work and for our friendship. As was his custom, John wanted no money; however, he did want as many copies as he could obtain, which he then gave away to anyone who showed a genuine interest in his work.

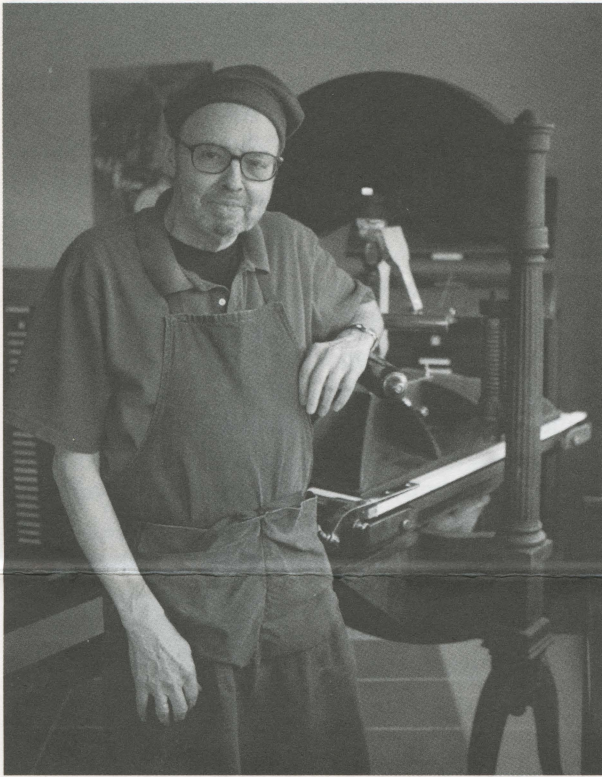
Very fortunately, at the APHA conference last fall, many of his friends were able to talk with John in person for what was, for most of us, the last time. Although frail, he was visibly pleased—and at times overwhelmed—with this recognition of his life and work by his peers. During our last conversations, John increasingly expressed concern that, once gone, his name and work, too, would disappear from the book arts scene. He need not have worried. A comprehensive collection of his work is located at the University of Delaware Library, many websites feature his work (a fact that delighted him immensely), and recently, his daughter, Patricia, established the John DePol Fellowship Fund that will perpetuate her father's name well into the future.

Although John is no longer with us, the hundreds of examples of his artistic genius, his remarkable skill with engraving tools, and his generous and collaborative spirit will linger as long as his work and our memories of him endure. As John was wont to say, "Not bad for a guy who didn't even finish high school."

Cathleen A. Baker, PhD  
The Legacy Press

Contributions to the  
John DePol Fellowship Fund  
can be made by writing:  
ROBERT FORREST OR PATRICIA DePOL  
770 ANDERSON AVENUE  
CLIFFSIDE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07010





DANIEL SHEEHAN

Richard-Gabriel Rummonds may be best-known to APHA members for his *Printing on the Iron Handpress* (1998), a step-by-step manual for printing students, contemporary printers, and printing historians. Rummonds' instruction book drew upon historical practices but modified them for the needs of contemporary printers. Rummonds's most recent book is the magisterial *Nineteenth-Century Printing Practices and the Iron Handpress* (2004). The two-volume book includes an extensive anthology of selections from printers' manuals, ranging from Joseph Moxon's *Mechanick Exercises* (1683) to John Southward's *Practical Printing* (1900). The second volume contains an authoritative bibliography superseding previous work, such as Philip Gaskell's 1968 annotated list and Anthony Bliss's 1975 catalogue of the Jackson Burke collection. Though he originally intended it as an appendix to his 1998 work, Rummonds considers this bibliography to be the heart of his book.

Mr. Rummonds came to printing through his writing of poetry and short stories. As a book designer in New York in the late 1960s, he discovered the nineteenth-century handpress and studied early printers' manuals in order to learn how to operate these presses. He wanted to print his own. He began printing on a Superior clamshell printing press, and then moved to proof presses, and then finally to a

of the ten most notable business books of 2000 by both Barnes & Noble and Amazon. The breadth of Duguid's interests has led him to collaborative work with social scientists, computer scientists, economists, linguists, management theorists, and social psychologists. Recently, he has served appointments in the School of Information Management and Systems at the University of California, Berkeley, and at the Center for Science, Technology, and Society at Santa Clara University. After the keynote address, attendees are invited to join us at the conference banquet.

Participants will find countless activities both bibliophilic and otherwise in the San Francisco Bay Area. The region is noted for its fine and private presses and for its libraries (academic, public, and private). There are also antiquarian bookshops, auction houses, and museums to visit. On Saturday, September 24, the Local Arrangements Committee will organize several optional activities and tours for conference attendees.

The Sir Francis Drake was built in 1928 and is located on Powell Street near Union Square in the heart of the city's shopping and financial districts. One can easily walk to a variety of restaurants, galleries, bookshops, and other shopping. A cable car stop is in front of the hotel, and mass transit including BART and MUNI (bus, subway, and streetcar) is steps away. Chinatown, North Beach, Fisherman's Wharf, and downtown are also easily reached.

Mills College was founded in 1852 and sits on a park-like 135-acre residential campus at the foot of the Oakland Hills.

An innovative program is being put together by the Program Committee Chair Kathleen Walkup (Associate Professor and Director of the Book Arts Program at Mills College) with the assistance of local scholars and professionals. Please check with us soon to learn more about what's in store.

Janice Braun  
Special Collections Curator, Mills College

Washington handpress, which he brought with him to Verona, Italy. In Verona he also had an Italian Albion and an Italian Stanhope. Rummonds spent nearly two decades in Verona. He remarks that he began by self-publishing his own work, but ended up wanting to learn how printing was done in the past. Nevertheless, Rummonds is no antiquarian: "knowing how to print in the nineteenth century doesn't tell us how to print in the twentieth."

Paul W. Romaine



## APHA Welcomes Peterson as New Printing History Editor

I AM PLEASED to announce that emeritus professor William Peterson has agreed to accept the editorship of our journal, *Printing History*. He will succeed our current editor, David Pankow, who will step down after guiding us to the milestone of issue 50.

Many of you are already familiar with Bill as the author of several books, including two definitive titles on the Kelmscott Press, *The Kelmscott Press: A History of William Morris' Typographical Adventure* and *A Bibliography of the Kelmscott Press*. Until recently, he served as a full-time faculty member of the Department of English at the University of Maryland. In addition, Bill has served as a member of the APHA board, has been published several times in *Printing History*, and has presented at our annual conference.

Beyond his well-known interest in William Morris and the Kelmscott Press, Bill is an expert on the publisher William Pickering and the American printer D.B. Updike. His work, *The Well-Made Book: Essays and Lectures by Daniel Berkeley Updike*, appeared in 2002. He is the author of over 50 articles and maintains a website on English literature and religion at the University of Maryland. His scholarship and thoroughness will be a great asset to APHA.

Bill's first issue will mark the beginning of a new series, numbered from issue 1. Bill plans to redesign the journal, using a different font and layout, but will maintain the trim size and general cover design of the journal as it has appeared in the past. We hope you will look forward to seeing the new design of *Printing History*.

All in all, I trust everyone will agree that there is no finer person to succeed David Pankow than Bill Peterson. APHA owes a great debt to David for the superlative job he has done editing the journal for what will be fifteen years in 2006. He has maintained the highest editorial standards in his selection of articles and authors, and he leaves big shoes to fill. Anyone who has met Dave knows this is true (both figuratively and literally), but if anyone can do it, it is professor Peterson. Please join me in welcoming Bill aboard.

Jerry Kelly  
Vice-President for Publications

Special thanks were given to Jane Rodgers Siegel and Suzanne Micheau Tinnian for their dedication in completing issues 145-157 of the newsletter. Treasurer Deirdre Stam announced that the total income for the year was \$65,054, which exceeded total expenses of \$49,905. The level of financial activity was slightly higher than that of the previous year. Stam explained that the Delaware conference involved a higher level of income and expenditure than had been usual for APHA. Irene Tichenor announced the new APHA trustees for 2005-2008; a motion was made to accept nominees Terrence Chouinard, Jeffrey Cooper, and Martin Hutner. Nina Schneider, Secretary, delivered the Fellowship Committee's report for Jim Kelly and announced Lance Hidy as the recipient of the 2005 APHA Fellowship. Irene Tichenor delivered the president's report for Martin Antonetti. In his report Antonetti said that the treasurer and finance subcommittee are at work to keep APHA financially healthy for the long term. An endowment is being created that will require 15-20 years to build and will keep APHA operating smoothly for years to come. Antonetti reported that John DePol was honored and pleased by the exhibit and establishment of the DePol archive at the University of Delaware. Lastly, Antonetti thanked Peter Bain and Earl Kallemeyn for the wonderful annual meeting programs that everyone in the audience was holding.

### AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

For the awards portion of the annual meeting, Blanche Ebeling-Koning, chair of the awards committee, presented the APHA awards for distinguished achievement to two well-recognized and respected recipients. Robert Darnton received the Individual Award for his scholarship on history of the book and censorship and his exceptional service as a teacher and lecturer. In his acceptance remarks, Darnton said he was honored and delighted to receive the award from APHA. He read from his paper *The Science of Piracy: A Crucial Ingredient in Eighteenth-Century Publishing*, a detailed account of the unscrupulous business practices in the European book trade. Eighteenth-century technology and distribution methods differed significantly from today's. However, there was a similar concern for copyright protection and information piracy in an industry thriving with unauthorized reprints. Darnton read the correspondence between the printer and publisher Frédéric Samuel Ostervald at the Société typographique de Neuchâtel in

*continued on page 5, column 1*



Switzerland and the bookseller Pierre Gosse Junior of the firm Gosse et Pinet in The Hague. The letters are captivating and reveal that Ostervald relied on internal theft within competing houses to secure manuscripts for his own publishing firm. As a bookseller, Gosse clearly understood which books would satisfy the popular taste of an emerging reading public in Holland and across Europe, and his sound advice to Ostervald made publishing less of a gamble. Still, each publisher contended in a race against time, hoping to beat other publishers to the market, and to make the right decisions regarding price, format, and edition size.

APHA's 2005 Institutional Award was presented to the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia. Ebeling-Koning noted the Society's contributions to the field of printing history, "In the 58 years of its existence, the Society has produced over 175 separate publications in addition to the 55 volumes of its renowned *Studies*, providing a wide range of scholarly articles on bibliographical and textual criticism. Indeed, the Society considers itself "a forum for the best textual and bibliographical work being done anywhere in the world."

G. Thomas Tanselle, president of the Society and distinguished scholar, was pleased to accept the award and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Society. Tanselle remarked that BSUV owed its success to the dedication of its officers and members, who have cared for the Society with leadership that has been both visionary and practical for nearly sixty years. The major activities of BSUV include its publishing program, which features the journal *Studies in Bibliography* (*Studies*), the *Secretary's News Sheet*, and over 150 scholarly monographs covering topics in bibliographic studies. In November 2004, *Studies* was highlighted as one of five significant journals in the "Learned Journals" issue of the *London Times Literary Supplement*. The journal's contributors are major scholars in the field and international in scope. The articles published in *Studies* are equally far reaching, covering topics such as 15th century European books, contemporary American books, and the theory and practice of textual criticism. In recent years, BSUV has recognized the potential of electronic publishing formats by making the entire run of *Studies* available on the internet and in e-book form.

In closing, Tanselle said the BSUV was pleased to be acknowledged for its contribution to history, "Much of what we wish to extrapolate from tangible evidence—and therefore much of what we regularly

call 'history'—consists of past events: that is, the actions and thoughts of particular individuals at certain times. Reconstructing the activities of compositors and pressmen on specific occasions (or, indeed, the intentions of authors at specific times) is no different from the myriad other acts of hypothesizing that historical knowledge is made of. We in the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia are therefore particularly gratified that a printing history association has again chosen to recognize the activities of a bibliographical society, and we thank you very much."

An opportunity to gather and talk at a reception outside the Trustees' Room followed APHA's 2005 Annual Meeting. Participants then reconvened at the Grolier Club for its annual "Farewell Tea." The generous hospitality extended by the New York Public Library and the Grolier Club to APHA members was warmly appreciated. Thank you to all who participated.

Shari DeGraw

PLEASE JOIN A GATHERING  
OF FRIENDS IN MEMORY OF

GREER ALLEN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005  
AT 4 PM

BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND  
MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY  
121 WALL STREET,  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW

RSVP joanne.forslund@yale.edu  
203-432-2824



From Monday, October 3, through  
Monday, October 31, a memorial exhibition  
will be on view at the Arts of the Book  
Collection in Sterling Memorial Library,  
120 High Street, New Haven. Hours:  
Monday through Thursday, 1–6 PM,  
as well as Saturday, October 8, 11 AM–3 PM,  
or by appointment: jae.rossman@yale.edu  
or 203-432-1712



## New Members

Angelina Altobellis  
Oxford, MS

Leon S. Conlon  
Chicago, IL

Gwasg Gregynog  
WALES

Carol Ann Small  
Alexandria, VA

Santiago Barjau  
Barcelona, SPAIN

Sheryl Davis  
Redlands, CA

Katherine D. Harris  
San Jose, CA

Brendan Smart  
Brooklyn, NY

Steve Beare  
Wilmington, DE

Genevieve Duboscq  
Santa Rosa, CA

Lance Hidy  
Merrimac, MA

Dr. Margaret M. Smith  
Cambridge, ENGLAND

Joan Boudreau  
McLean, VA

EINA-Escola de  
Disseny i Art-Biblioteca  
Barcelona, SPAIN

Paula Houser  
Guilderland, NY

Karen Snow  
Denton, TX

Eugene Brancolini  
Bloomington, IN

Craig Eliason  
St. Paul, MN

Susan G. Hulme  
Nashville, TN

Southern Methodist  
University  
Dallas, TX

Richenda Brim  
Los Angeles, CA

Franklin Feldman  
New York, NY

Chad Johnson  
Berkeley, CA

Marg. Sumner  
Madison, WI

Larissa Brookes  
San Francisco, CA

Valerie File  
Upperville, VA

John King  
Richmond, VA

Edward D. Surovell  
Ann Arbor, MI

Cynthia Davis  
Buffington  
Philadelphia, PA

Daniel Franklin  
Belleville, IL

William Kuskin  
Hattiesburg, MS

David Szewczyk  
Philadelphia, PA

Ethan B. Lipton  
Venice, CA

Toledo Lucas County  
Public Library  
Toledo, OH

Sam Markham  
New York, NY

Richard Wagener  
Sherman Oaks, CA

Ann Morgan  
New York, NY

Robert K. Weber  
Marshall, VA

Barry Moser  
North Hatfield, MA

Rutherford Witthus  
Philadelphia, PA

Heidrun Mumper-  
Drum  
Pasadena, CA

University of Delaware  
Library  
Newark, DE

Maria Pisano  
Plainsboro, NJ

Doyald Young  
Sherman Oaks, CA

Allison Rae Quam  
Hyattsville, MD

Sue Rainey  
Charlottesville, VA

San Diego Public  
Library  
San Diego, CA

The APHA Newsletter  
www.printinghistory.org

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS  
Jerry Kelly <publications@printinghistory.org>

EDITOR  
Shari DeGraw <shari@modernletters.org>

ADVERTISING MANAGER  
Nina Schneider <nschneider@nypl.org>

FEATURE EDITOR  
Stephen O. Saxe <sos@westnet.com>

PRODUCTION EDITOR  
Terrence Chouinard <tchouinard@wells.edu>

The Editorial Committee welcomes your news,  
announcements, comments, and corrections.

Address all correspondence to  
APHA, POB 45 9, Grand Central Station, NY 10163-4519.

The Newsletter is published four times yearly by the  
American Printing History Association.  
Subscriptions are through membership in APHA.  
Individual membership for the calendar year is \$45;  
Institutional, \$55; Contributing, \$90; Sustaining, \$250.  
Membership also includes a subscription to *Printing History*,  
APHA's semi-annual scholarly journal.

Advertising in the Newsletter is available for  
\$85 for a quarter page.

Copyright © 2005  
by the American Printing History Association.  
All rights reserved.