

The APHA Newsletter

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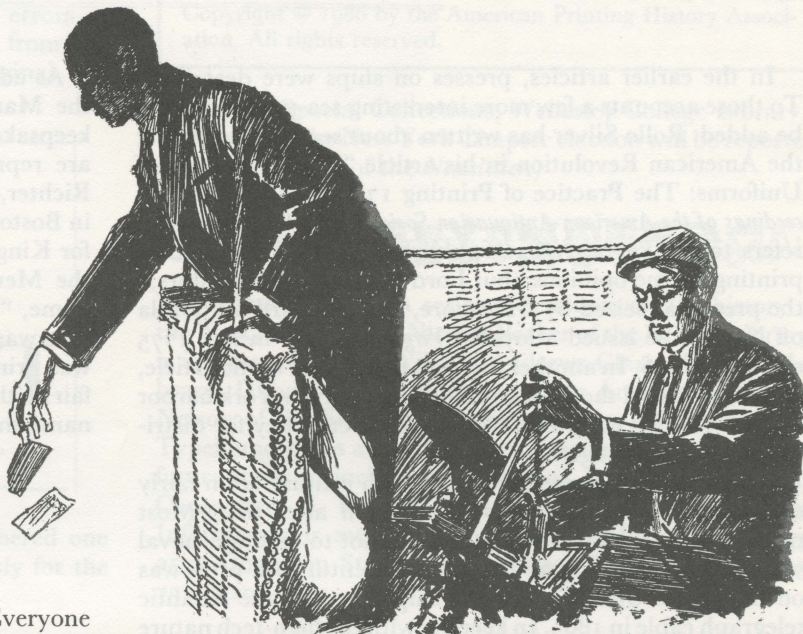
Stephen O. Saxe, Editor

The Press In the Sky

When the movie "Rocky" opened, I'm sure the producers did not foresee that it would be the first of a series. Nor did I, when the first article about unexpected presses appeared last March. In the present case, the series is not so much the result of boxoffice demand as of new material supplied by readers. In other words, the file on these presses grows fatter, not leaner.

One of the most interesting of all the unexpected presses has been brought to my attention by APHA member August Brunsman of Kettering, Ohio. It concerns the first printing to be done above the earth – specifically, on the gas balloon *Hoosier*, June 29, 1909.

In 1909 Dayton, Ohio was "aeroplane" mad. Everyone wanted to fly, but two local boys, Orville and Wilbur Wright, had the only flying machine in town – or in any town. Several balloon flights had been in the news, and George McClellan, publisher of the *Dayton Journal*, thought of publishing a miniature edition of the newspaper in the air. He enlisted the aid of reporter Howard Burba, whose education in journalism had included learning to set type and print. Burba bought a 3 x 5 Baltimorean hand lever press from the local sporting goods store. "You may get a pretty fair idea of the size of it [he wrote in 1931] when I explain that it fit perfectly on top of an ordinary tomato box, or packing case, some 18 inches square. A hatchet and a few convenient nails soon converted the interior into a compartment for the

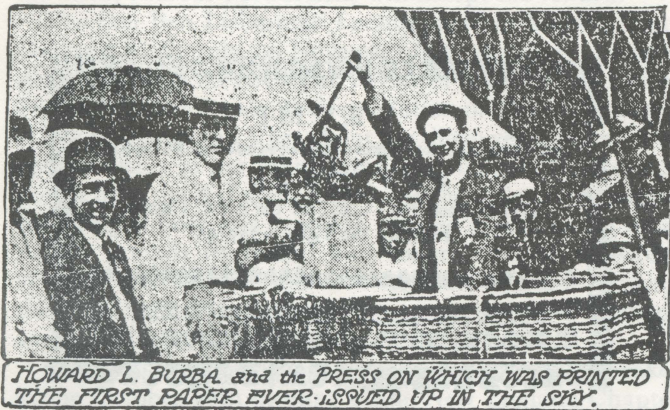


miniature typecase, ink, composing stick, and a liberal supply of print-paper to fit the single three-by-five-inch type form." Soon after 9 o'clock on the morning of June 29, 1909, 90,000 cubic feet of gas filled the *Hoosier* and it rose to 4,000 feet over Dayton, moving in a southwesterly direction.

"Sitting on the tarpaulin in the bottom of the basket I drew forth the typecase and 'stick' and 'set' the first lines of type ever put together in a balloon . . . after a few lines were 'set' by hand they were assembled above enough machine-set slugs, prepared in advance, to fill the form and then copies were run off on the little press." The copies were placed in paper bags and dropped from the balloon as it moved at about 26 miles an hour and at a height of 6,700 feet.

The *Hoosier* moved in a southwest direction toward Indiana, passing over the towns of Franklin, Middletown, and Oxford, Ohio. At about 1 P.M. a farmer took a shot at the balloon, but fortunately missed. Late in the afternoon, after travelling some 160 miles (dropping freshly-printed sheets all the way,) the balloon was brought to earth in a cornfield just south of Butler, Indiana. The farmer later billed the publisher \$25 for damage to his crop, and McClellan paid the bill.

Howard Burba's account of the flight, written 22 years later, reported that the Baltimorean press "became the property of the United States government, and today [1931] has a place in the Smithsonian Institute at Washington." On a recent visit to the Graphic Arts collection and storage facility at the Smithsonian, I didn't notice the historic little press (nor was I looking for it) but I have no doubt that it's there.



News photo from *The Dayton Daily News*, July 5, 1931, showing Howard Burba and the Baltimorean press just before lift-off.

Nameplate of *Among the Clouds*, Henry L. Burt's daily newspaper published at the summit of Mt. Washington, NH. Described in *Newsletter* 70 (March/April 1986.)

Established in 1877.
The Oldest Summer
Resort Newspaper
in America.

Among the Clouds

The Only Newspaper
Printed on the
Summit of any
Mountain in
the World.

Printed Twice Daily on the Summit of Mount Washington,—6300 feet Above the Sea.

VOL. XXIII, NO. 1.

MOUNT WASHINGTON, N. H., FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1899.

PRICE 10 CENTS.

In the earlier articles, presses on ships were described. To those accounts a few more interesting sea-presses should be added. Rollo Silver has written about sea-presses during the American Revolution in his article "Aprons Instead of Uniforms: The Practice of Printing 1776-1787" in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 87 (1977.) He refers to the *Virginia Gazette* published by John Holt. After printing "some opinions about Lord Dunsmore's ancestors," the press was seized by Dunsmore, and on board his flotilla off Norfolk he issued a loyalist *Virginia Gazette* in late 1775 and early 1776. In another incident mentioned in the article, a press on board the British ship *Phoenix* in New York harbor in 1776 printed counterfeit Continental currency for distribution to British agents.

Although sea-presses before the 19th century seem fairly scarce, they become relatively common after that. Most modern ocean liners have had them, not to mention naval vessels. An interesting mid-nineteenth century sea-press was on board the *Great Eastern*, the ship that laid the Atlantic telegraph cable in 1865. In keeping with the high-tech nature of the undertaking, the *Atlantic Telegraph Journal* was printed lithographically. The eleven leaves have the imprint, "Printed on board the Great Eastern July, Aug. 1865."

Printing on the frozen Thames was described in the first article last March. Renée Weber, editor of *Printing History*, has called my attention to some printing under the Thames. An 1865 book, *Origin, Progress and Completion of the Thames Tunnel*, has an imprint, "Published by Azulay, in the Thames Tunnel." The printer, Bondy Azulay, seems to have made a sound business decision to have his pressroom there, although at first glance it may seem an odd place for a press. There were a reported 100,000 visitors per month to the tunnel.

As addenda to the account of printing on the Thames in the March *Newsletter*, I am happy to reproduce copies of keepsakes printed at the Frost Fairs of 1684 and 1740. They are reproduced from material supplied to me by Robert Richter, President of the Friends of the Museum of Printing in Boston. The 1684 keepsake was printed by George Croom for King Charles II and his family. It should be noted that the Merry Monarch's sense of humor is seen in the last name, "Hans in Kelder," or "Jack in the Cellar." Princess Ann was pregnant at the time of the visit. The 1740 keepsake was printed for the artist William Hogarth, who visited the fair with his favorite bull-terrier, Trump. It was Trump's name that Hogarth had imprinted on the souvenir.

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Thanks to August E. Brunsmann for information about the *Hoosier* balloon press; to Rollo G. Silver for sea-presses during the American Revolution; Renée Weber for the press in the Thames Tunnel; Robert Richter for the Frost Fair keepsakes.

Howard Burba's account of the balloon press appeared on p. 1 of the magazine section of *The Dayton Daily News* on Sunday, July 5, 1931.

Readers are once again encouraged to write the author if they can add to the examples of unexpected presses. Still to come is an account of the "Press on Wheels" in the Rocky Mountains, as well as descriptions of some very peculiar presses.

CHARLES, KING.
JAMES DUKE.
KATHARINE, QUEEN.
MARY DUTCHESS.
ANN, PRINCESSE
GEORGE, PRINCE.
HANS IN KELDER.

London: Printed by G. Croom. on the ICE, on
the River of Thames, January 31. 1684.

TRUMP

WHITEHALL:

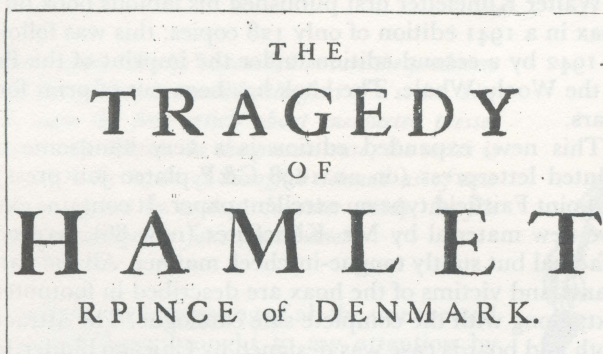
Printed upon the ICE, on the River Thames,
February the 16th, 1739-40

BEHOLD the liquid Thames now frozen o'er,
That lately Ships of mighty Burba bore.
Here Watermen, for want to row in Boats,
Make use of Bounce to get them Pence and Groats:
Here you may print your Name, tho' cannot Write,
Cause numb'd with Cold: 'Tis done with great
And lay it by, that Age yet to come, (Design I
May see what Things upon the Ice are done.

EDITOR'S NOTES

At the start of my second year editing the Newsletter, I would like to thank the readers who have helped make the first year so rewarding. One part of the job that I did not anticipate was the volume of mail that has to be – or ought to be – answered. To those who haven't received prompt replies, I ask pardon.

Please forgive, also, occasional typographical errors or misspellings. I here present my own favorite, from the Fourth Folio of Shakespeare (1685.) In the original, the subtitle type measures nearly 20 points high.



Beginning with this issue, pages will be numbered one through four in each issue, instead of continuously for the whole year.

APHA NEWS

APHA's Annual Meeting will take place at 2 P.M. January 24th, in the Trustees Room of the New York Public Library. The agenda includes reports of the officers; election of three Trustees (see the last *Newsletter*), and presentation of the APHA Awards for 1987. The recipients are: Individual Award, G. Thomas Tanselle, a noted scholar and long-time supporter of APHA; and Institutional Award, the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass. The Director of the AAS, Marcus McCorison, will accept the Award.

The first Ben Lieberman Lecture, held at Mills College, Oakland, California, on November 6th, was a great success. Attending were APHA's Pat Taylor (Treasurer and former President) and Renée Weber (Editor of *Printing History*.) A talk by Claire van Vliet about her thirty years as a printer and publisher at her Janus Press was attended by over 250 people from the Bay area. Adrian Wilson called it the largest gathering of book arts people in the Bay area in a long time. APHA extends its thanks and congratulations to Kathy Walkup and Martin Antonetti for their efforts in making the event such a success, and for arranging the workshops and exhibitions that accompanied the lecture.

Roderick Stinehour, the esteemed printer, was the speaker at the October 28th meeting of the New England Chapter of APHA. At the dinner meeting held September 29th, new officers of the Chapter were confirmed: Roberta Zonghi (Rare Books, Boston Public Library,) President; and Anne

The *APHA Newsletter* is published six times yearly by the American Printing History Association. All letters, news items and other material for the *Newsletter* should be sent directly to the Editor: Stephen O. Saxe, 1100 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10028. Subscriptions are through membership in APHA, and include all publications. Personal memberships for the calendar year are \$20; \$25 for U.S. institutions. Membership and other correspondence should be sent to APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Copyright © 1986 by the American Printing History Association. All rights reserved.

Anninger (Special Collections, Wellesley College Library,) Treasurer. (The New York Chapter election will be reported in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.)

BRIEFLY NOTED

Book Seminars A series of seminars on the history of the book, arranged by Nicolas Barker of the British Library, is in progress at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, University of California at Los Angeles. R. Stanley Nelson of the Smithsonian will speak on "The Growth of Typefounding as an Independent Trade" on January 16th; future speakers include Mirjam Foot, Lotte Hellinga, W.B. Carnochan, G. Thomas Tanselle, and Thomas R. Adams. Information is available at the Clark Memorial Library, 2520 Cimarron Street, Los Angeles, CA 90018, tel. (213) 731-8529.

Early printing A session on early printing will be part of the International Congress on Medieval Studies to be held May 7-10, at the University of Western Michigan. The session, arranged by Prof. Martha Driver and chaired by Miriam Mandelbaum, will include talks by Hope Mayo on incunables from Dürnstein; Cynthia Brown on Jean Lemaire de Belges; and Carol Meale on Wynkyn de Worde's prologues and epilogues. Information from Prof. Otto Gründler, Director, The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Papermaking rarities APHA member Leonard B. Schlosser has donated his collection on the History of Papermaking to the New York Public Library. The Schlosser Collection comprises over 3,000 rare volumes dating from 770 A.D. to the present, including early descriptions of the art of papermaking, technical works, and the search for raw materials. The Collection will be housed in the Print Room, and the NYPL will publish an annotated bibliography by Mr. Schlosser.

Obituaries Vrest Orton, founder of *The Colophon*, died December 2 in Vermont at the age of 89. *The Colophon* was one of the best-known and longest-running publications for bibliophiles in this country.

APHA notes with sadness the death of member Alan Asaf, at the age of 28. Mr. Asaf, a graduate of the Columbia School of Library Service, was the cataloguer for the Grolier Club, and compiler of the list of the Club's publications and exhibitions that appeared in the Grolier Club's Centennial Book. He planned and arranged the exhibition of the Club's incunabula a few years ago.

TYPE & PRESSES

Harold Bacon (82 Edmands Road, Framingham, MA 01701; tel. 617-877-1376) has for sale an Adams hand press similar to the one shown at right. The press, ca. 1850, has a cracked frame that has been repaired. Mr. Bacon also has for sale a 12 x 18 Golding jobber.

David M. Norton (976 Westmoreland Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210; tel. 315-474-8338) is selling about 150 fonts of type, mostly foundry, including a few antique faces.

James A. Evans (P.O. Box 21280, Fort Worth, TX 76121; tel. 817-738-9068) has for sale a rebuilt 18½ x 14½ Morgans & Wilcox Washington hand press.

J.F. Killie (P.O. Box 66105 AMF ORD, Chicago, IL 60666) is selling a large inventory of classic and modern type faces including Caslon, Helvetica, Optima, etc. in cases, in packages, and galleys. Also offered are two C&P platen presses, Nolan, Hacker and Universal proof presses, and much more equipment for the printer. Also for sale: 3 Monotype casters. Write Mr. Killie for the full list.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Linotype, three historic Mergenthaler machines were officially presented to the Smithsonian Institution on November 24th. The three machines have long been on loan, two since 1917. Included are the 1879 Mergenthaler Rotary Impression machine, which impressed letters into papier-maché, and the "Blower" Linotype. The Blower, generally considered the first successful Linotype, has been at the Smithsonian since 1969 but has been fully reconditioned and put into working order by Stan Nelson.

Robert Haas, master printer and proprietor of the celebrated Ram Press, is selling the equipment of the Press. Included are three cases of Hammer Uncial, handmade paper, a 26 x 40 Hoe Washington Press, a Vandercook 00 proof press. Also, books on the history of printing and a collection of incunabula leaves. Mr. Haas can be reached at 15 Blenis Place, Valhalla, NY 10595, tel. 914-948-4278.

BOOKS

Klinefelter, Walter, *The Fortsas Bibliothoox*. Evanston, Illinois; The Press of Ward Schori. Octavo, cloth, 100 pp. 378 copies. \$49.95, shipping \$1.50; from The Press of Ward Schori, 2716 Noyes St., Evanston, IL 60201. (Revised and newly annotated by the author, with biographical notes and comments, including a reprint of the Fortsas Catalogue.)

On August 10, 1840, eminent bibliographers and book-collectors from all over Europe arrived in the little town of Binche, Belgium. The occasion was the auction of the books of the late Jean Népomucène Auguste Pichauld, Comte de Fortsas. The count's library consisted of only fifty-two volumes, each of them the *only* copy in existence. No wonder the book world of Europe was in a frenzy, and on August

10th that frenzy was concentrated in Binche.

While the excited mob tried to find the place of the sale as noted in copies of the sale catalogue, bill-posters suddenly arrived to post a notice that the auction was cancelled; the entire library had been acquired by the public library of Binche!

There was no public library in Binche; there was no library of unique books; there was no Comte de Fortsas. It was all a hoax, one of the most elaborate and celebrated hoaxes of all time. Each book in the sale catalogue had been artfully described by one Renier Hubert Gislain Chlon to appeal to the known, rarified tastes of at least two book collectors.

Walter Klinefelter first published his famous book on the hoax in a 1941 edition of only 128 copies; this was followed in 1942 by a second edition under the imprint of the Press of the Woolly Whale. The book has been out of print for 45 years.

This new, expanded edition is a very handsome one, printed letterpress (on an 1898 C&P platen job press) in 11-point Fairfield type on excellent paper. It contains extensive new material by Mr. Klinefelter (now 86), written in a factual but subtly tongue-in-cheek manner. All the participants and victims of the hoax are described in footnotes or text, along with the complete sale catalogue. The attractive cloth and boards case was designed by Chicago binder John LaRiviere. Ward Schori has done a fine job of publishing an amusing and interesting classic. We suspect it will be out of print again in short order. — S.O.S.

Some New Books (& a Video)

Lessons in Formal Writing by Edward Johnston, edited by Heather Child and Justin Howes. 248 pp., 8½ x 11, cloth. \$55 (less APHA member discount) from Humanities Press International, Inc., 171 First Ave., Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716; tel. 201-872-1441.

A Checklist of the Hogarth Press by J. Howard Woolmer. 288 pp., 6 x 9, 60 photos, cloth. \$45 + \$1.50 postage from Woolmer/Brotherson Ltd., Revere, PA 18953. (To be reviewed in the next *Newsletter*.)

Typographie, Histoire du Livre, Bibliographie. Catalogue 249. \$15 (check with order) from Librairie Paul Jammes, 3 rue Gozlin, 75006 Paris, France.) Important catalogue including type specimens from the library of Deberny & Peignot; to be reviewed in the next *Newsletter*.)

The History of Publishing as a Field of Research for Librarians and Others, by Joe W. Kraus. Offprint from *Advances in Library Administration and Organization*, Vol. 5, pp. 33-65. Lists many bibliographies and references, including two books by Mr. Kraus:

Messrs. Copeland & Day, Boston, 1893-1899 (Philadelphia, George S. MacManus, 1979.)

History of Way and Williams, 1895-1898. Philadelphia, George S. MacManus, 1984.

Hand Typesetting and Dressing. Casting as practised at the Oxford University Press by the last hand caster in Britain, Don Turner. VHS format Video, a Science Museum Archive Video. Available for £12.95 + £4 airmail to U.S., £1.50 to Europe. Includes an interview; 25 mins. Publications Section, The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD, UK. Checks payable to "The Science Museum, A/C Payee only."