Virtual Get-Togethers:

This Tuesday, May 17th, 7:30 p.m.

Seth Gottlieb, Special Collections Education and Outreach Librarian at Hamilton College’s Burke Library, will talk about his efforts to set up a letterpress studio there. Seth writes that the press was originally established in the 1960s by a student, and went in and out of service over subsequent decades. An attempt was made to resurrect it in 2014, but it has languished for the past few years. The Alexander Hamilton Press is the imprint of the newly established student group that will be operating within the space. Classes from around the campus have been making use of the studio as well.

There will be plenty of time after Seth’s talk for questions, discussion, and catching up with fellow members about projects they’re pursuing.

To participate please respond to this email. Zoom information will be sent to those attending about a day before the event.

Tuesday, June 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Long time Chapter member Stuart Bradley will talk about his path from being a letterpress printer and instructor to publishing works using Kickstarter as a funding method. Stuart joined the Chesapeake Chapter in 2003, as he rented space in the former Boyce (VA) train station, began purchasing presses, and founded Railway Station Press. (In 2007 Stuart hosted an open house for the Chapter there, where we gathered to enjoy using some of the equipment.)

Good conversation between our fellow members to follow. To participate please respond to this email. Zoom information will be sent to those attending about a day before the event.

Print Shop and Museum Field Trip

This is a reminder that after a more than two-year postponement there are plenty of spots still available for our visit to Ephrata, PA and the Historic Ephrata Cloister site and Conestoga Press.

Chapter member Randy Newcomer has planned a full and interesting day in Ephrata, which has a rich history of printing starting with the largest book printed in the colonies, the Martyrs Mirror, translated into German and printed at the Ephrata Cloister in the 1740s. Join us to visit this state historical site and discover how this religious experiment populated by craftsmen, academies, and contemplative artists generated a heritage of hand-penned calligraphic "Frakturschriften" and printed works. On display in the printing office is an 1803 wooden Ouram press and a reproduction Common Press that members of Conestoga Press demonstrate on at events. There will be a tour of the property and time in the visitor center and museum store.

The Conestoga Press is just up the street where it is part of the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley which also has a museum in a three story victorian mansion, and a neighboring research library. Participants will be guided through the printed material part of the museum, and in the research library be able to view work printed by Harry Franklin Stauffer who established the Conestoga Press and donated the core type and equipment of our print shop.

In the print shop, participants will be able to print their own souvenir broadside of the “Stylized Flowers of Ephrata” (below) on the 1850 wrought iron Ramage/Bronstrup press and tour the rest of the shop which includes an 8 x 12 C&P, Hoe Proof Press, and a collection of cuts and type. Some of the type still in use is from the 1800’s.

---

Chesapeake Chapter, American Printing History Association

May 2022
Lunch will be just across the street at the **Black Forest Brewery** where you can buy what you want from a nice selection of soup, sandwiches, and entrees ... and of course beer.

We plan to have the Cloister open the museum at their visitor center at 9:30 so you can browse there as soon as you arrive. Our tour will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. and we expect to remain there until nearly noon. The organized part of the day will end by 3:00 p.m. but as on most days at the Conestoga Press, we expect to hang out there until everyone has had their fill.

Our most sincere thanks goes to Randy for his diligent effort to arrange this event.

To participate please reply to this email. Chris Sweterlitsch will help coordinate carpooling so please let us know if you need, or can provide a ride to Ephrata.

**Time to Sign Up for a 2023 APHA Chesapeake Calendar Page**

It's Chesapeake Chapter Collaborative Calendar season! Our calendar is a well made work that we are proud to offer for sale. All proceeds go towards future chapter activities, including the Denker Fellowship.

Pages are due August 15th so that we can promote the calendar and the Chapter at the Lancaster Printers Fair (September 17th this year) and other autumn events. Pages can be one person's effort or a small group of people for each page. Those without a press can work with an established printer. If you're not able to print on your own, or would like to collaborate, email **Val Lucas** to work out a good pairing!

A few reminders:
- Participating printers, who should be active members of the chapter, will receive a small stipend to help pay for paper and shipping, plus a copy of the calendar.
- Page size 7 x 11”, vertical, each page single sided with one month.
- Quantity: 150. Cover weight paper preferred for strength, email Val if you need suggestions or sources.
- Any range of styles is acceptable, but must include the month name and year along with some sort of calendar grid/ dates, which should be an important part of the image/ design. Please think about usability as a calendar.
- Leave 1/2” margin at the top to allow for binding. (Or allow for punched holes at the top.)
- Letterpress MUST be the main printing process for your page. You may include other processes, but the intent of the calendar is to showcase letterpress printing techniques. Show off your best techniques and fanciest types!

Email Val at **bowerbox@gmail.com** to claim a month, please send your mailing address and colophon information as well. As you produce your page, send Val square-cropped photos with a short caption and any usernames you want tagged. She will post to the group Instagram, @aphachesapeake.

So far the Cover, May and August have been spoken for. Claim your month today!

**Tabletop Press Loan Needed for Smithsonian Folklife Festival**

Our Chapter has been contacted by David Howarth, associate dean at the College of Arts and Creative Enterprises at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Mr. Howarth teaches a letterpress class and is bringing some students from Abu Dhabi to Washington for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in June. He is requesting our help in borrowing a small tabletop press for the Festival since bringing their press from Abu Dhabi isn't realistic.

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival is an annual event celebrating traditional arts and culture, produced by the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage since 1967.

They will be working on the theme of the Festival, “Living Landscape, Living Memory,” whereby the students will demonstrate working with Arabic and Latin text to create designs based on their interpretation of this. They will also be allowing visitors to the festival an opportunity to create in partnership with them.

Setup for the Festival will be June 19th and the press will be needed until July 5th with a weekend break in between during which the press will be kept in a safe location. They would be looking to produce artworks no bigger in size than A4 format as workshop demonstrations for Folklife Festival visitors.

Mr. Howarth would also appreciate members who...
would be willing to volunteer to help with the demonstrations, although, of course, not necessarily for the entire run of the Festival.

If you have a press that you are willing to lend for this event, thoughts on the matter, or are interested in volunteering please promptly reply to this email.

Save the Date: Lancaster Printers Fair
Saturday, September 17th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As in past years, the Chesapeake Chapter intends to have a booth at this year’s Lancaster Printers Fair at the Ken Kulakowsky Center for Letterpress and Book Arts on the campus of Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, 117 Parkside Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603. The purpose of the chapter’s booth is to make space available for the use of Chapter members who would like to sell items that they have printed, or equipment or supplies that they no longer need, and also promote membership in the chapter. Last year's fair was very successful, with customers willing to make purchases. If you are interested please contact Chris Sweterlitsch at j.sweterlitsch@verizon.net.

Volunteers to help set up and staff the booth would be appreciated, and do not need to commit for the entire day. Contact Chris is you can help out.

It has always been interesting at past Fairs to browse the booths for type, ornaments, other supplies, and printed items, as well as talk printing with the vendors. There will also be multiple demonstrations of Ludlow and Linotype as well as presses set up for attendees to print a souvenir. Admission is free, and free parking is available on the street and in the college parking lots.

This will be a great opportunity to turn your products or unneeded equipment and/or supplies into cash and get together in person with fellow chapter members, and enjoy a day dedicated to the art of printing.

Links of Interest:

Russell Maret, book artist and letter designer and a past APHA trustee, will deliver Princeton University Library's annual Gillett G. Griffin Memorial Lecture on Monday, May 16th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., via Zoom webinar, or in-person: Room 138, Lewis Science Library, Princeton University. RSVP here.

The British private press holds such a strong gravitational pull over the bibliophilic imagination that it can be difficult to acknowledge that there is a thriving private press tradition in the twenty-first century. Appearance has a lot to do with it: the books of today don’t look like the books of the Kelmscott, Doves, Ashendene or other British presses, so surely they don’t fall into the same category. But is a private press book designated by its physical attributes or by the motivations behind its making? Is it a thing only, or an idea also? When closely examined, the historical circumstances from which the British presses grew have many parallels within the conditions behind the current Book Arts revival. The dislocations incumbent within the industrialized society of the late nineteenth century have only been exacerbated in the digital age, further alienating people from the objects they make and consume, and sparking an equally fervent desire to find meaning and balance in one's work and life. In this talk, Russell Maret will discuss these broader ideas through the lens of his own career making books and typefaces, and sketch out some emerging directions within the contemporary private press.

On a personal note we were able to attend a talk given by Russell at the Library of Congress and can affirm that he is an excellent and entertaining speaker. Thanks to friend of the Chapter Binnie Syril Braunstein of the Baltimore Bibliophiles for passing along this information.

From the Library of Congress:

“Illustrating Langston Hughes”

Library of Congress Rare Books and Special Collections Curator Stephanie Stillo discusses an illustrated edition of Langston Hughes' poetry entitled Sunrise is Coming After While (Limited Editions Club, 1998). Stephanie, a Chapter member, explains how the visual tribute to one of America's greatest poets was a close collaboration between author Maya Angelou and contemporary artist Phoebe Beasley.

Click here for additional Library of Congress Videos.

“Printing Newspapers 1400-1900: A Brief Survey of the Evolution of the Newspaper Printing Press”

A short blog post by Joanna Colclough, a reference librarian in the Library of Congress's Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room: The printing
press has always been a marvel of human invention. This is a brief history of how newspapers were published over 500 years.

And finally:
Via the Metal Type Forum website, an interesting article on the history of the Typograph linecasting machine, a simpler and less expensive competitor of the Linotype that I was unaware of.

Chesapeake Chapter Notes
is published monthly by the Chesapeake Chapter of the American Printing History Association.
Don Starr, President
Chris Sweterlitsch, Vice President
George Barnum, Secretary
Lauren Emertiz, Treasurer
Suggestions and contributions are always welcome chesapeakeapha@gmail.com
You can always find information on the Chesapeake Chapter at https://printinghistory.org/%20chapters/%20chesapeake/
Instagram: @aphachesapeake

Chesapeake Chapter, American Printing History Association
May 2022