This newsletter, a publication of The American Printing History Association, is sent without charge to all members. See back page for mailing address information. Edited by Catherine Tyler Brody. Assistant Editor: Barbara Kline.

**NEWS OF APHA CONFERENCE.** With almost 300 registrants from several states, the fourth annual APHA Conference was a complete success. Five distinguished speakers provided new insights into the making of "the Renaissance Book" and humanized its producers. Daniel Traister, Chairman of the Conference Arrangements Committee, served as "master of ceremonies" for the day-long event, doing an inimitable job of introducing the speakers and their various topics. Elizabeth L. Eisenstein spoke on Renaissance printers, G. Thomas Tanselle spoke on "Analytical Bibliography and Renaissance Printing History," Natalie Zemon Davis gave fascinating details of the lives of journeymen printers in 16th century Lyons, Bernard Mc Tigue showed the relationship between
"English-Continental Bookbinding and the Xylographic Tradition" and Ruth Mortimer concluded the program with an analysis of "The Dimensions of the Renaissance Title Page," tracing the changes that occurred during the 16th century. The sandwich luncheon and the post-conference reception offered registrants the pleasant opportunity for conversation with the speakers and fellow APHA members. Good news for all those who were not able to attend the conference is the plan to publish the texts of conference talks in future issues of Printing History.

CONGRATULATIONS, ALEX! The 1979 Goudy Award was presented to Alexander S. Lawson, Professor Emeritus of Graphic Arts at Rochester Institute of Technology. At the September 26th ceremony, Prof. Lawson delivered the 1979 Distinguished Lecture on Typography. Prof. Lawson did much to build up RIT's printing department during his 30 years there, and was instrumental in founding the Cary Collection of graphic arts materials. Until his retirement in 1977, Prof. Lawson served as the first Melbert B. Cary, Jr. Professor of Graphic Arts. His books include A Printers' Almanac and Printing Types: An Introduction. His valuable articles on the histories of printing typefaces are a regular feature of Printing Impressions.

HOLIDAY PARTY FOR NEW YORK CHAPTER. New York Chapter members are being invited to a gala holiday party, scheduled for Monday, December 10. A marathon showing of what seems to be every available film on printing and book history will be a feature. Remember that Chapter dues -- which pay for such programs as this one -- are distinct from national APHA dues. If you live in the New York area, you should be a member of the New York Chapter. Annual dues are $5 (as distinct from the National dues of $10). The President of the New York Chapter is Prof. Terry Belanger of the Columbia University School of Library Service.

NEW YORK CHAPTER ACTIVITIES. Clinton Sisson, of the Rare Book Department of the University of Virginia, and coauthor with Elizabeth Harris of the well-received book The Common Press, published by David L. Godine, spoke at the program meeting of APHA's New York Chapter on October 29. His topic, "On Building Common Presses," was a subject on which he speaks with considerable authority, since Mr. Sisson has meticulously constructed three precise replicas of the early American common press. The slides shown were a testament to his careful craftsmanship.

THE PERMANENCE OF EPHEMERA. We are pleased to announce that plans for APHA's 1980 annual conference are already under way. The program committee will be co-administered by Daniel Traister (New York Public Library) and Alice Schreyer (Columbia University). The date has already been set for Saturday, the 27th of September. The subject is to be printed ephemera, with "The Permanence of Ephemera" the official title. We are sending out a call to private press printers for contributions of ephemera (related to the theme of the conference) to be distributed to registrants. At least 300 copies of each will be needed. They should be of a size to fit a 9"x12" envelope (or folded to fit). Further details will appear in subsequent newsletters.

APHA CHAPTER AT BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS. Thanks to Robert D. Weigel, a group of APHA members in the Bloomington IL area have come together to form a local chapter. Last May, half a dozen local members met at Mr. Weigel's house (home of the Scarlet Ibis Press and Bindery) and organized their local chapter of APHA. Since Fred Goudy was born in Bloomington, Mr. Weigel thought it would be appropriate to name the chapter in Goudy's honor, if it were not for the fact that several Goudy Chappels and groups elsewhere have taken the name. The name can wait, as the members agree. Those present were Robert D. Weigel, Professor of Zoology at Illinois State University; Edwin Willis, Professor Emeritus at ISU (zoology); Joe W. Kraus, Director of Libraries at ISU (who did one of the book reviews in Printing History's first issue); Robert Sokan, Special Collections Librarian at ISU; and Bernard and Kurt Gummerman, of the Gummerman Printing Office in Bloomington. Mr. Weigel printed A Descriptive and Bibliographic Catalog of the Circus & Related Arts Collection for the Milner Library of ISU in a handsome edition of 400 copies. Copies of this nicely printed and illustrated Circus Catalog are still available from the Rare
NOTICE TO MEMBERS. Philip Sperling, who has of late been contributing his time and expertise as APHA's Treasurer, has suggested a way of expediting attention to one membership concern. Members wishing to check the status of their membership dues may contact him directly if they are in a hurry. Write to Mr. Sperling at 442 East 20 St., New York, NY 10009, or telephone him at (212) 673-8770. Ordinary APHA mail should be directed to Box Number 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017.

WHAT'S AMERICAN ABOUT APHA? In answer to another query on this subject, let me explain once more that the American Printing History Association is "American" primarily because we are located on this continent, and to distinguish us from the (British) Printing Historical Society. Nonetheless, we are particularly conscious of gaps in the knowledge of our own printing history, so have always felt it appropriate that APHA should particularly emphasize American printing history. This history can be properly understood only in its world context, however. To restrict ourselves to purely American printing history would be provincialism of the worst sort.

AVAILABLE FOR SALE. All or any part of the following are for sale at a negotiated price: Monotype single-character caster with matrices for Scotch Roman with italic, 6 to 36 pt; Bodoni Bold with italic, 6 to 36 pt; Cochin Oldstyle Bold with italic, 8, 10, and 12 pt; Cochin small caps. Also, a 10x15 Chandler & Price press with a variable-speed motor; two Keystone type cabinets, all cases with type; two Hamilton type cabinets, all drawers with type; two rule cutters; two strip molds to cast leads, slugs, and rules, with 19 matrices for size 2 through 12 pt; one aluminum galley rack to hold 48 8-1/2x12-inch galleys. Contact Bill Armett, 301 Clark Blvd, Massapequa Park, Long Island, NY. Phone (516) 541-8848. Removal will be a responsibility of the purchaser.

EVENTS
The American Antiquarian Society (1185 Salisbury St., Worcester MA 01609) is offering a lecture series on Early American Book Arts. The second lecture in the continuing series was presented on Oct. 29 by Darrell Hyder. Mr. Hyder, who operates a letterpress printing office and design service in North Brookfield MA, spoke on "Typographic Design in American Books." Mr. Hyder has studied history and graphic arts both in the U.S. and abroad. He has worked at the Stonehour Press and at Barre (MA) Publishers/Imprint Society, where he was production manager.

A Printers' Fair, sponsored by the Marin Small Press Club, was held on Sunday, November 4, at Mill Valley CA. The Printers' Shop (4047 Transport St., Palo Alto CA 94303), which sells a variety of printers' cuts, ornaments, books, etc. of interest to private press printers, was among the exhibitors, and sent APHA an invitation to the fair.

FUTURE EVENTS
A conference on "Conservation of Library and Archive Materials and the Graphic Arts" will be held at Cambridge University, England September 22-26, 1980. Further information may be obtained from the sponsor. The Institute of Paper Conservation, P.O. Box 17, London WC1N 2PE, England.

GRANTS. The New York Botanic Garden has been named as the recipient of four grants amounting to $208,500 for library improvements. The grants are from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the NY Zoological Society, the Prospect Hill Foundation, and the H.W. Wilson Foundation. The Wilson grant provides for estab-
lishing a Book Preservation Center for the 12 academic and research libraries in the 
area. The other grants are for the preservation of archives, and the restoration and 
cataloging of rare books and manuscripts.

NEW HERITAGE SERIES. The Heritage of the Graphic Arts Lecture series, a fixture on the 
New York scene, will feature five lectures this coming Spring, from February 27 through 
March 26. The series is entitled "Calligraphy, a Review in Memory of Lloyd Reynolds." 
The series is being planned by Alice, the well-known calligrapher. Further information 
may be obtained from Dr. Robert L. Leslie, 140 Lincoln Rd., Brooklyn NY 11225.

COMING EVENTS. A conference on "Libraries and Culture" is scheduled for March 19-22, 
1980, at the Driskill Hotel in Austin, TX. The conference, sponsored by the Journal of 
Library History, will explore the historical role and significance of graphic records in 
society. Without limitation of chronological period, geographic region, type of library, 
or type of media, topics include many aspects of biographical and historical studies. 
During the day participants will hear and discuss selected papers. Outstanding speak­ 
ers associated with library history will be featured at the evening sessions. A variety 
of tours and social gatherings is planned. For information, write to LHS-VI Coordina­ 
tor, Graduate School of Library Science, The University of Texas at Austin, Box 7576, 
University Station, Austin TX 78712.

HUNTINGTON LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS. The Huntington has long had a large collection of the 
 writings of William Prynne, the 17th century English political writer and religious 
polemicist (incidentally, Hawthorne borrowed his surname for the heroine of The Scarlet 
Letter). The Huntington's new pamphlet is a spoof of Prynne by an unknown satirist. 
It is entitled: Mr. William Prynn his Defense of Stage-Plays, or a Retraction of a 
Former Book of his Called Histrio-Mastix (London, 1649). It was in Histrio-Mastix that 
Prynne complained that "Shackspeer's Plaies are printed in the best Crowne paper, far 
better than most Bibles." The new acquisition satirically purports to have been writ­
ten by Prynne, but actually ridicules his style and opinions.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. The third program on Conservation Management in 
Libraries and Archives, directed by Dr. Josephine Riss Fang, was offered at Simmons 
College School of Library Science on December 1. The object was to encourage librari-
ans/archivists to investigate their own particular situation and learn how to take such 
actions as conducting a survey and designing and establishing a conservation program. 
For additional information on Simmons programs on Conservation Management, write to 
Simmons School of Library Science, 300 The Fenway, Boston MA 02115. Faculty members 
for this program include Dr. Fang and George M. Cunha of the New England Document 
Conservation Center.

FRENCH PAPER MILL. Our thanks to Nathaniel Polster, prop., The Lovejoy Press (2128 
Wyoming Ave., Washington DC 20008) for the following vivid description of the world's 
oldest paper mill. Your editor, incidentally, was among a group of Typophiles who 
visited Ambert a couple of years ago, and can attest to the accuracy of the descrip­
tion.

"Dear Professor Brody:

"A warning to those who would take a leisurely visit in midsummer 
to the 14th-Century-founded Richard de Bas paper mill at Ambert, France. Who would 
think that the average French vacationer, not the exotic printing buff from Mainz or 
Boston, would be the usual mill visitor? Three of us from Lovejoy Press, Washington, 
D.C., visited the mill, a long way from a large city and on no major travel route, and 
found the August holiday crowd from France filling the rooms to capacity. The guides 
had to take us through in shifts. Even then, one was lucky to get a position near the 
guide, equipment, or process on display.

"It was still worth the wait, though, to see the vatman working 
away steadily ('til brandy break) at a rhythm not described in books; the stream cours-
ing through the mill; the glorious room where the flowers are de-petalled; the entrancing garden across the road where the vatmen and couchers, themselves, were picking the flowers and putting them into reed baskets. The finished paper seems magically to preserve the natural, live colors of the flowers and ferns used.

The selling loft called to mind the mob scenes which older New Yorkers remember from Klein's Department Store, Union Square, customers pawing through the merchandise and harassed clerks unable to keep up with the cash flow.

"But, from the struggle for a parking space on the narrow, rural road to the final wrap-up of printed and unprinted papers (while calculating which garment to leave behind to make room in the luggage) the visit certainly offers a delight to anyone interested in fine paper and printing."

SOCIETY OF TYPOGRAPHICAL ARTS. Robert Vogele is President of the Chicago-based Society of Typographic Arts (54 East Erie St., Chicago IL 60611). The Society offers a full program of events for the Midwest's graphic design community. Their Fall seminar series is devoted to the influence of Chicago on international design. The first program on October 18 traced the coming of the Bauhaus to Chicago and its influence on Walter Paepcke and the Container Corporation Design Program.

CATALOG GLEANINGS. APHA members who attended our annual conference in September, 1976, will be interested in knowing that the portfolio of keepsakes given to all conference participants is now a collector's item. A recent antiquarian book dealer's catalog (Ballingers Book Service, 147 W. King St., Hillsborough NC 27278) lists the keepsake packet for APHA's First Annual Conference, which included contributions from 12 private presses, at $25.

RECOMMENDED READING.


This article recounts the story of the way Hertzog, one of the foremost book designers of the Southwest, carried through his design of The Journey of Fray Marcos de Niza, which was one of the AIGA "Fifty Books" for 1949. The author, assistant to the Director of SMU Press, searched the press archives, and quotes from the extensive correspondence, to chronicle the difficulties Hertzog overcame in creating "one of the most beautiful and well-proportioned page layouts ever achieved by any designer," as W.R. Holman said of this book.

Contemporary Illustrators of Children's Books. Compiled by Bertha E. Mahony and Elinor Whitney (Gale Research Co., $22.00).

Originally published in 1930, this reprint furnishes biographical (often autobiographical) information about many of the illustrators of children's books of the 20's and 30's. Although bibliographical details are lacking, the information furnished is valuable for both students and collectors of children's books. Supplementing the biographical entries are articles such as those on "Contemporary (i.e., 1930) Book Illustration," by Lynd Ward and "About Lovat Fraser" by Rachel Field. Other topics covered are German illustrators, French avant-garde illustrators, the Bewicks, the work of Crane, Caldecott and Greenaway, and the Brandwine tradition of Howard Pyle and N.C. Wyeth. An appendix lists some additional illustrators and their books. Illustrated.

The Case for Legibility by John Ryder (The Moretus Press, 363 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001, $8.50).

Ryder's book Printing for Pleasure is one of the joys of the literature of private press printing, enriched, surely by its attractive design. Here designer-author-printer Ryder explains his philosophy of legibility -- an objective "not always unusually desired," as he points out. He considers ten factors of typographical excellence from which he deduces a formula intended to solve the problems of the particular text and provide legibility. In addition to questions of design, Ryder also considers typographical style. A number of title pages and text pages serves as examples for analysis. Ryder's recommendations for related reading are perceptive hints for those to enlarge on this succinct and convincing statement. In the author's words,
"Let us introduce Nicolas Jenson of Venice and Francisco Griffo of Bologna and the Parisian Simon de Colines with his young successor Robert Estienne to the computers before it's too late."

Primer, Presses, and Composing Sticks; Women Printers of the Colonial Period by Richard L. Demeter (Exposition Press, 900 South Oyster Bay Road, Hicksville, N.Y. 11801, $7.50).

The Bicentennial reexamination of various aspects of colonial life resulted in several new appraisals of early American printing and the inspiration of the women's movement suddenly led to the recognition of the large number of women who were involved in printing activities. Demeter limits his study to nine Colonial women printers who seemed to have special importance and influence. These are Dinah Nuthead, Elizabeth Timothy, Ann Franklin, Cornelia Bradford, Catharine Zenger, Sarah Goddard, Anne Green, Clementina Rind and Margaret Draper. Dinah Nuthead was the first woman to assume complete charge of a printing office in the British colonies, but was probably illiterate. Ann Franklin was Ben's sister-in-law and public printer for Rhode Island. Margaret Draper printed for General Gage during the Revolution. All of the women were remarkable for their enterprise and courage. The author tries to focus on women who actually operated presses themselves, but admittedly it is virtually impossible to distinguish these from others who owned and managed printing businesses, but did no actual printing. Demeter's special interest in social history leads him to focus on their place in colonial life. Illustrations are limited to eight reproductions of title pages and a proclamation printed by some of these feminist pioneers. The Bibliography lists primary and secondary sources, documents, archives, newspapers, biographies, histories, etc. Although not so comprehensive as Leona Hudak's Early American Women Printers and Publishers 1639-1820 (Scarecrow, 1978, $30.00) Demeter's book is a convenient (and comparatively inexpensive) reference.

CORRECTION. The price of With Respect to RFD is now $25.00, from TBW Books, Box 58, Day's Ferry Road, Woolwich, ME 04579.

EXHIBITS


Library Company of Philadelphia (1314 Locust St., Philadelphia) through December 31. "Fine American Printing 1820-1880." Subtitled "The Dark Ages Weren't So Dark After All." The show demonstrates that fine printing was being produced in this country and especially in Philadelphia throughout the 19th century. One of the most beautiful books on exhibit, Bonaparte's American Ornithology, was published by Carey, Lea & Carey, a firm that began in 1785, and continues today as Lea & Febiger. Toward the end of the period, local publishers produced one of the most handsome illustrated books published up to that time, Edward Strahan's A Century After (1875), with wood engravings illustrating Philadelphia life on the eve of the Centennial. Hours, 9:00-4:45, Monday-Friday.


The Grolier Club (47 E. 60 St., New York City) through December 1. "Jean Grolier: The Man in His Time."

University Gallery of Fine Art, Ohio State University, Columbus. "Artists' Books." An exhibition of books produced by artists in limited editions as works of art. At the conclusion of the brief exhibit in November, most works will go to the Fine Arts Library.
On exhibition and available to be read are works by Sol LeWitt, Karen Shaw, John Baldesari, John Bennett, Jackie Ferrara, Hans Haake, and Kasimir Malevitch, the works of Spawn and contributions from the Visual Studies program at R.I.T., Rochester, NY. The exhibition is intended to stimulate Columbus artists' interest in bookmaking as an art form, drawing particular attention to the developing bookmaking press administered within the Department of Art Education at Ohio State University.

Library of Congress, Washington DC, through December 31. "Posada's Mexico." A major exhibit commemorating printmaker Jose Guadalupe Posada (1852-1913) and the Mexico of his time. Some 200 printing blocks, broadsides, books, and single prints by Posada are displayed. Also at the Library of Congress, "Officina Bodoni: The Typographic Art of Giovanni Mardersteig," has been extended.

PRINTING BY LASER. A splendid example of the advantages of new technology is a book recently published by David R. Godine, One of a Kind: Recent Polaroid Color Photography. The 72 Polaroid color photographs in this foot-square 80-page volume were reproduced with startling fidelity, thanks to the advanced technology of printing by laser beam. The expensive process involved insures that the pictures are reproduced with scarcely any loss in color or general quality. According to Belinda Rathbone, the editor, the reproductions are probably equal to the experience of seeing the pictures in a gallery. The laser beam picks up a great amount of detail. The printing is so sharp, according to the editor, that sometimes it has to be toned down so as not to seem too garish. The photographs in One of a Kind include a California landscape by Ansel Adams and portraits by Arnold Newman.

CARBON-14 "SOURCE" TRACES WATERMARKS. The Newberry Library of Chicago has announced plans to use Northwestern University's carbon-14 isotope to produce radiographic images of watermarks. The intention is to identify the paper mould used in the manufacture of the paper through this research involving beta radiography. Early maps will be studied with the "isotype" in an effort to reconstruct the history of the 16th-century map trade in Venice and Rome, by use of maps from the Newberry Novacco Collection.

The "isotype" is a small sheet of blue plastic (16x23 cm.) that is sandwiched between the sheet of paper and a piece of x-ray film. The x-ray film is developed after being exposed about 12 minutes. After fixing, it can then be used for comparison with other watermark images. Dr. David Woodward, Director of the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, and his assistant Maria Holden, are working on this project. Fifteen years ago, Dr. Allen Stevenson, a reader at the Newberry Library, acquired and used a similar plate for his research on the Missale Speciale. His book, The Problem of the Missale Speciale (London: The Bibliographical Society, 1967), included illustrations of the first beta radiographs ever published as bibliographical evidence.

LASER PRINTING GETS ITS OWN CONFERENCE. What was described as "the first international meeting to deal exclusively with the use of lasers to form images that will be used to print" was held in October in San Diego CA, under the sponsorship of Dunn Technology, Inc., of Vista CA. Emphasis was on computer-to-plate technology and "how the various systems available today will fit into the all-electronic publishing system of the not-too-distant future."

SHIPBOARD PRINTING. "The Odyssey of the Octant-Wheel Lever-Power Printing Press of Captain Nichols" by Frederic Brewer was printed by the author at his Raintree Press in Bloomington IN. Not only is this an attractive piece of private press printing, but it also embodies some fascinating historical sidelights on Edward Payson Nichols (1844-1899), a 19th century ship captain who was also a self-taught printer and publisher. With Yankee ingenuity Nichols constructed an incredible shipboard press on which he printed his newspaper. The press was "made up from a piece of an old door to a furnace, for a bed piece -- or whatever it is called -- set into a thing-er-ma-jig for the what-you-call-it to fit into. The impression roller is one of Dodge, Meig's & Co.'s sawmill rollers for rolling lumber about the mill...the inkroller has been feas-
ted on by cockroaches which make it rather uneven." On this contrivance Nichols printed 20 issues of his paper. The circulation is unknown. He mailed copies to friends when he reached port, and some copies were bottled and thrown overboard. Thanks to Mr. Brewer for this extraordinary tale of printing at sea.

HOW TO PACKAGE BOOKS. For the past 15 years well-known book designer and author Marshall Lee along with his wife Kay have had a book "packaging" firm that designs and co-produces books that are then distributed by various publishers. The Lee firm, called Balance House, has most recently prepared The Illuminated Book of Days for publication by G.P. Putnam. The Lees spent years seeking out original examples of illustrations by Kate Greenaway and Eugene Grasset in archives and bookstores. Mr. Lee was formerly in charge of design and production at Harry Abrams and his wife, who did the research, had been the design director at Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. The second edition of Marshall Lee's Bookmaking was recently published by Bowker.

ELECTROTYPING EAGLE. The largest and most spectacular electrotype ever sold by the MacKellar, Smiths & Jordan type foundry was their 7-1/2x18-inch American War Eagle, with shield and arrows, and mortised ribbons. From an antique original belonging to Stephen Saxe, he and David Churchman have had exact electrotype replicas made in copper and lead, by the same process as the original. They can be used for letterpress printing or for wall decoration -- or both. For a proof and prices, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to David C. Churchman, Pendragon Press, P.O. Box 50096, Castleton IN 46250.

PERIODICALS. Browning Institute Studies has expanded its editorial scope and is no longer exclusively a Browning journal. Both the 1979 and 1980 volumes may be of interest to APHA members: the topic this year is "Victorian Writers and Their Publishers," and next year's topic will be "Editing the Victorians." Inquiries and contributions should be sent to the editor (an APHA member), Prof. William S. Peterson, Department of English, University of Maryland, College Park MD 20742.

PERIODICAL ON ORAL HISTORY. The International Journal of Oral History has been established as a medium of communication on oral history projects. The journal will publish articles dealing with issues affecting an international audience. In addition, it will include news of local projects, grants, conferences, and so forth. The journal will be published "triquarterly (February, June, October)." Annual subscriptions are $40 ($20 to individuals if prepaid) from Meckler Books, 520 Riverside Ave., P.O. Box 405, Saugatuck Station, Westport CT 06880.

MAILING ADDRESSES FOR APHA

NEWSLETTER ONLY: Send news items, announcements, and comments for APHA Letter directly to the Editor: Prof. Catherine T. Brody, NYC Community College Library, 300 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

DUES, CONTRIBUTIONS, CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICES, AND ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: Send to APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017.

MEMBERSHIPS are for the Calendar Year, and include APHA Letters retroactive to January of the year joined. Annual active individual membership for 1979 is $10.00. Information regarding other membership categories available upon request to the box number. Individual copies of prior APHA Letters are available to members and subscribers at $1.00 each, while the supply lasts. Back file of APHA Letters 1 through 20 available as a unit for $10.00. Send orders to our box number.