No. 45  

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 Prof. Catherine Tyler Brody. Assistant Editor, Philip Sperling.

THE BEST FOR '82! We extend to all APHA members our best wishes for 1982, as we go forward with our study of the past. In 1482 Ratdolt printed the first printed edition of Euclid. That same year printing began in Vienna, Metz, Pisa and Munich and the first book printed in Scandinavia appeared. In 1582 the Rheims version of the New Testament in English was printed. In 1682 the "Hollander" beater, a new machine for macerating rags, was first reported as being in use in Dutch paper mills. In 1782 Robert Aitken of Philadelphia published the first American Bible in English. In 1882 George Meisenbach of Munich patented the first practicable photographic half-tone process and Hoe & Co. built their double supplement press for the New York Herald, which could print up to 24,000 copies an hour of a 12-page newspaper section. What some future chronicler will consider worth remembering for 1982 only time will disclose.

GILL CENTENARY. On February 22, 1882 (in the same year as James Joyce and Virginia Woolf) Eric Gill was born. His influence on contemporary book design has been profound and world-wide. Gill was a type designer, illustrator, woodcarver, sculptor, architect, and teacher. Gill who died in 1940 was a man of profound convictions and sometimes controversial views. As Beatrice Warde wrote of him, "Gill stands as the good man who knew what he was good for and knew for what he was good." In both his work and in his life, Gill dedicated himself to defending the dignity and integrity of the artist-craftsman against the pressures of modern society. Among the best known of Gill's typefaces are Perpetua, Gill Sans, and Bunyan (adapted for Linotype as Pilgrim). A number of special observances of the Gill centenary are anticipated.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER. If you must fault us for the delay with our journal, Printing History, then you must also commend us for the six issues of The APHA Letter issued last year and for the great Sixth APHA Annual Conference. Issue No. 5 should be in your hands by now and Issue No. 6 is now in preparation. And now to say it: RENEWAL DUES FOR 1982 ARE IN ORDER. You should have received by this time the small envelope for you to enclose your check or money order therein. So please don't wait - there's an invoice close behind me and it's treading on my tail! 1982 APHA members will again receive six issues of The APHA Letter and Volume IV of Printing History, and dues have not been raised - $15.00 for individuals and $20.00 for institutions (in the U.S.). Remember, too, all you New York City and Metropolitan Area members, the New York Chapter would like your support and it is only a $5.00 additional cost to join. If you are a New Englander and close to that hub, Boston, then consider joining the New England Chapter. Membership is $5.00 payable to APHA - New England, P.O. Box 347, Cambridge, MA 02138. WRITE! RIGHT!
A DISCOVERY (CONTINUED). HERE ARE THE FINAL VERSES OF BIBLYSIUM.

"Aldus with anchor hooks lobbestere
And salts his catch with Pickering,
And ale into the beaker pours
The gentle Elzevir.

"Old Stephan culls the plumpest fruit,
Plantin will brew us savory herbs,
And Baskerville with opiate flowers
Entwine his psalming lute.

"No storms we fear, no cares we know,
Reclining on the foliage,
List'ning the lay of the Bookish Fray
'Neath the duodecimo."

These lines (and those in No. 43) to delight the hearts of printers, typographers, book-collectors and all those interested in the printed word were written by an English writer, H. J. Massingham (1888-1952). Massingham was a passionate advocate of the spiritual value of living close to nature; a contributor to a number of English periodicals on literary subjects and natural history. He was also the editor of the Nonesuch Press edition of Gilbert White.

BRAVO NEW ENGLAND. Dierdre Phelps, Secretary for the APHA-New England Chapter, writes about the January 16th meeting at the American Antiquarian Society. "Members and friends met for lunch at "Across the Street", a restaurant near the Worcester Art Museum; then proceeded to the American Antiquarian Society for a tour of the library and exhibits. After an introductory sketch of the Society's history by Georgia Bumgardner, she and John Hench showed us through the main floor work areas, publication display and offices, as well as the manuscript archives. We then proceeded to the lower level stacks and the conservation/restoration laboratory. Back on the main floor we viewed the exhibit on "Nineteenth Century Book Promotions." Upstairs via the main staircase we began at one end with the Isaiah Thomas press and some of his equipment, and worked our way through other special areas such as the print and engravings room where an exhibit was in preparation. We ended up in the beautiful reception room where we had sherry amid some of the earliest volumes in the Society's holdings - many from Thomas' own library."

For information on membership in the New England Chapter write to APHA/New England Chapter, P.O. Box 347, Cambridge, MA 02138.

UNION PRINTERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Evidence of the ever growing interest in printing history is given by a new organization called the Union Printers Historical Society. Following very much in APHA's footsteps the organization aims "to stimulate and coordinate research into the history of the craft, and to promote a wider awareness of the countless and varied historic contributions made by union printers to the typographic arts, to the labor movement, to national and international politics and culture." Founder of the Society was the late Henry P. Rosemont of Chicago Typographical Union No. 16, who died in 1979 after a long career as a union activist and historian. An article by Mr. Rosemont on "Benjamin Franklin and the Philadelphia Typographical Strikers of 1786" appeared in the Summer 1981 issue of Labor History. Rosemont's son, Franklin, now coordinates the Union Printers Historical Society. Future plans call for a journal, Typographical Heritage, and a series of monographs. For further information write to Franklin Rosemont, 1726 West Jarvis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60626. We extend best wishes to this like-minded group.
LUTHER COMPARES GOD TO A PRINTER. Our thanks to APHA Board member Joseph Dunlap for bringing to our attention a most interesting quotation from the Table-Talk of Martin Luther which uses printing in a simile.

"On the 8th of August, 1529, Luther with his wife, lay sick of a fever. Overwhelmed with dysentery, sciatica, and a dozen other maladies, he said: God has touched me sorely, and I have been impatient: but God knows better than we whereto it serves. Our Lord God is like a printer, who sets the letters backwards, so that here we must so read them: when we are printed off, yonder, in the life to come, we shall read all clear and straightforward. Meantime we must have patience."

Note that this early quotation is dated so that we can ascertain whether it precedes any other quotations using some aspect of printing to illustrate a non-printing concept. As Mr. Dunlap points out, "It shows that Luther must have seen typesetters, and doubtless printers, at work, which is not surprising when one recalls how much printed matter was generated by the religious controversies of the time. August 8, 1522 would have been a little less than five years after the incident of the 95 theses which set the fuse burning." We invite members to submit other early allusions to printing.

ARS MEMORANDI, A FACSIMILE OF THE TEXT AND WOODCUTS PRINTED BY THOMAS ANSHELM IN PFORZHEIM IN 1502. (Department of Printing and Graphic Arts, The Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, $5, including postage) This fascinating illustrated work contains some of the most curious woodcuts you'll ever see, with a wealth of artistic detail, reproduced from a copy of this early German illustrated book presented to the Library by Philip Hofer. The pictures and accompanying text actually were intended as memory joggers for remembering events in the life of Christ as presented by the four evangelists. Roger S. Wieck's introduction notes that this facsimile is of the second edition which was followed by at least nine others. The book was based on a 15th century blockbook. Each of the 15 full page woodcuts presents one of the evangelist's symbols with pictorial details referring to incidents in Christ's life. The facing text is keyed to the details shown in the cuts. Latin verses follow the prose, with each couplet using a different letter in alphabetical order. This striking facsimile is the first complete reproduction of this unusual work.

PRESERVATION CATALOG. A 40-page catalog of supplies for preservation is available without charge from DPC (Document Preservation Center), A Division of Cohasco, Inc. The address is P.O. Drawer 821, Yonkers, New York 10702.

OF BOOKS THERE IS NO END - BUT THIS MAY INTEREST THE APHA MEMBERS. The Haydn Foundation for the Cultural Arts tells us that their latest project scheduled for publication in the late Spring is a world-wide survey of first imprints. It will be a reference volume about the history of printing in all countries of the world. For the countries and each state or province within the larger countries, the names of first presses and/or printers and their works will be shown. All major libraries in the world have been asked to help. The book is to be indexed, illustrated with facsimiles of title pages and should be an extremely useful tool for further research. Those who want more information may write to the Foundation at 495 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, New York 10502.

PACIFIC CENTER FOR THE BOOK ARTS. This new organization has been formed by a group of San Francisco Bay Area professional book artists, workers, and educators "to help support the new directions of their various disciplines, and to provide a vehicle and a focus for education, experimentation and communication." Current activities include publication of a quarterly newsletter and the sponsorship of seminars, workshops and lectures. For further information about activities of PCBA and membership requirements write to Pacific Center for the Book Arts, P.O. Box 6209, San Francisco, CA 94101.
BOOK ARTS INSTITUTE. The Graduate School of Library Service of the University of Alabama is sponsoring a five week Book Arts Institute during the summer of 1982, June 7 - July 9. Each week will be devoted to one of the book arts and a series of guest lecturers will conduct the sessions. The Institute will be held in the library school's Typographic Laboratory (Tuscaloosa, Alabama). The Institute will be coordinated by Richard-Gabriel Rummonds, Proprietor, Plain Wrapper Press, Verona, Italy and Adjunct Professor at the Library School. The schedule is as follows:

June 7-11  Typography  Jack W. Stauffacher, Proprietor, Greenwood Press, and Director, Center for Typographic Language, San Francisco.

Professors Glenn House and Gordon B. Neavill of the School's regular faculty will assist. For further information, write to Dean James D. Ramer, Graduate School of Library Service, P.O. Box 6242, University, AL 35486.

SOCIETY OF PRINTERS. The Society of Printers "for the Study and Advancement of the Art of Printing" has scheduled a number of important events for its members. Among the program meetings announced are February 3 (David Macauley talking about Book Illustration), March 3 (Arthur Vershbow discussing "The Original Print"), April 7 (Richard Benson speaking on Halftones), and May 5 (Annual Meeting with Al Gowan on Urban Design). Duncan Todd is President of this Boston organization, which recently celebrated its 75th anniversary.

S P AT 75; THE SOCIETY OF PRINTERS 1955-1980, by Charles A. Rheault, Jr. (The Society of Printers.) Mr. Rheault's account of the recent history of the Society of Printers brings up to date the well-remembered Printing as an Art by Ray Nash, which was issued in honor of the group's 50th anniversary. This attractive and informative volume deserves a place on the shelf beside that earlier volume. Rheault's text offers a disarmingly frank account of Society history, covering the growth in membership, the controversy over the admission of women, an analysis of governance procedures, general background of meetings, and account of finances, and a valuable account of the publications produced during these past 25 years. These included seven books and seven keepsakes. Nicely chosen illustrations furnish examples of unique and distinctive announcements of Society meetings. Also included are lists of officers since 1955, a register of members since 1955, and a calendar of Society activities since 1955. The volume was designed by Richard C. Bartlett. It was set in Linotype Electra and printed offset by Thomas Todd Company, on Mohawk Superfine. The three piece cover is of Roxite black vellum and linen and Kingston red natural finish cloth from Holliston Mills. The endleaves are crimson Elephant Hide from the Lindenmeyr Paper Corporation. The binding was done at the Alpine Press. Of the 350 copies printed, a limited number are available (at $25.00) from Bromer Booksellers (607 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116), Oak Knoll Books (414 Delaware St., New Castle DE 19720) or Dawson's Book Shop (535 North Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90004).
FOR A PUBLISHING FUND. BENEFACTORS, SPONSORS, CONTRIBUTORS, "O FRIENDS OF APHA - WHERE ARE YOU? Need we remind our members that inflation affects APHA's "financial pocket" as well as your own? Paper and printing costs are continually rising and there seems to be no end in sight of this trend. Yet we have managed, and wish to continue, to publish six issues of The APHA Letter and two issues of Printing History each year. Not only do we so wish to continue, BUT we want desperately to do so at the same high standards as before. WE DO NOT WANT TO RAISE MEMBERSHIP DUES. Any contributions a member wishes to make will be gladly accepted. The names of such generous contributors will be listed in future issues of Printing History. Thanks so much!

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU OUT THERE. For those of our members who do not know about Dover Publications Inc., may we bring to your attention that this publishing house is to be commended and recommended for their program of issuing books on lettering, the graphic arts, typography and printing. Just issued was John T. Winterich's Early American Books & Printing. Some books are new works, some are unaltered republications and some are facsimiles. Dover will be only too glad to send you their complete catalog. You may write: Dept. Graphic Arts, Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

APHA TRUSTEE CREATES LARGEST PRIVATELY OWNED TYPE SPECIMEN COLLECTION. APHA Trustee Stephen O. Saxe of New York and member David C. Churchman of Indianapolis have purchased the type specimen collection of the late Kenneth Burnett of Molalla, Oregon. The new acquisitions enabled Saxe to add 14 specimen books to his own collection of American foundry type specimens. The Saxe collection now stands at 133 and is believed to be the second largest in the country. The largest is the ATF collection at Columbia University (about 460 specimens) which was assembled by Henry Lewis Bullen. Bullen appropriated the libraries of type foundries which became part of American Type Founders' Co. in 1892. Saxe's collection was started after the publication of Maurice Annenberg's Type Foundries of America and Their Catalogs, the first comprehensive bibliography of the field. The collection was assembled in less than 5 years of determined book-hunting. Saxe wrote to dealers in every state, some many times, with very meagre results. However, his interest is so well known that people with specimen books to sell now seek him out. Some rarities in the collection: Van Winkle's Printers' Guide, 1818, containing specimens of type by Bruce and Elihu White; the first specimen book of the Boston Type Foundry, 1820; MacKellar, Smiths and Jordan's first specimen book, 1869; and the only known copy of a specimen of the Washington Type Foundry, 1890. Thirty-two foundries are represented in the collection.

POSITION AVAILABLE. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is looking for a journeyman bookbinder for its Craft Shops/Printing Office department. This person will be expected to demonstrate and interpret the crafts of bookbinding, paper-marbling and pastepapermaking as they were practiced in Colonial America for visitors to the shop at the Williamsburg, Virginia restoration. Qualifications include a thorough knowledge of 18th century bookbinding techniques, and the ability to produce high quality reproduction bindings of this period. Salary: $16,000-$18,500. For additional information, or to submit a résumé, write to H.T. Alexander, Director of Recruiting Activities, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, P.O. Box C., Williamsburg, VA 23187.

ATLANTA INTERESTS. We have learned that a number of members in the Atlanta area are in the process of forming an APHA chapter in that locale. They are all either hobby printers, bookbinders or just lovers of the book arts according to Frank O. Walsh III (Yesteryear Book Shop, 256 East Paces Ferry Rd., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30305) who has been active in this endeavor. Mr. Walsh writes about his extensive reference library on bibliography and adds, "My particular interest now is the
Atlanta Interests (continued) history of the small iron press of which I also have about a dozen, including a recently acquired 1841 R. Howe Washington Hand Press. I would like to acquire others and closely scan your newsletter for others for sale.

HISTORY OF PLAYING CARDS. A Catalogue of the Cary Collection of Playing Cards in the Yale University Library has recently been published in a four-volume, 1616 page set with a price tag of $300.00. This annotated bibliography, compiled by William B. Keller, lists the playing cards, wooden blocks and metal plates collected by Melbert B. Cary, Jr. and deposited at Yale after Cary's death in 1941. The cards are a fascinating bypath in the history of printing. Some of the cards date back five hundred years. The Cary Collection, which contains cards from all over the world, ranks as one of the four or five largest such collections in the world. This gigantic project of carefully annotating these thousands of cards was undertaken by Yale partly to encourage recognition of the value of playing cards to research in history, art, popular culture and other fields.

BOOKS NOTED.

Shaped Poetry. A suite of 30 typographic prints, 12" x 16", forming an anthology of shaped poems from 300 B.C. to the present, each on a different handmade paper, in portfolio, with a book on the literary form and a display frame. Limited to 300 sets at $600.00, from the Arion Press, 566 Commercial St., San Francisco, CA 94111.

American Book Prices Current, Vol. 87 (covering 1981) ABPC, 121 E. 78th St., NYC, NY 10021. $87.76.

The Prayer Book of Michelino DaBesozzo (facsimile of the illuminated MS in the Morgan Library) Braziller, $50.00.

The Book of Jonah with woodcuts by Elaine Young and a commentary on the King James text by David H.C. Read. 200 copies on Arches paper. $42.00. 20 special copies in a box by Gray Parrot and a portfolio of the woodcuts are available at $165.00. Shipping and postage $2. The Printing Office at High Loft, Seal Harbor, ME 04675.

Printing Poetry by Clifford Burke, with a Foreword by William Everson. Scarab Press, 300 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94133. $50.00.


Everything That Has Been Shall Be Again, the first published gathering of the reincarnation fables of John Gilgun. Illustrated with nine original wood engravings by Michael McCurdy. This is the first Bieler Press book to be issued from their new home in St. Paul. Limited to 150 copies at $120. The Bieler Press, P.O. Box 3856, St. Paul, MN 55165.


Cartophilia by David Woodward. 21 quotations relating to maps, designed and printed by Dr. Woodward in Monotype Bembo on Twin Rocker handmade paper. $75. The Globe, P.O. Box A3398, Chicago, IL 60690.
REVIEW OF NEW BOOK ON BOOK ILLUSTRATION. The History of the Illustrated Book; The Western Tradition by John Harthan (Thames and Hudson, $60.00.) Harthan, formerly keeper of the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum, has done a most impressive job of covering the entire western tradition in book design in this large volume. Some 465 illustrations (with 33 in color) document Harthan's sweeping survey of British, European and American illustrated books. Harthan's text presents the historical data and chronological development from the earliest illustrated manuscripts such as an ancient Egyptian papyrus roll like the Book of the Dead (c.1370 B.C.) down to mass-produced popular books of our own time. In addition, he separately treats a number of "themes," to show varying treatments over the centuries. These include Fables, Ariosto and Tasso, Emblem Books, "Courtly Occasions," Martial Arts, Garden Books, Song Books, and Maldoror. This approach reflects the author's efforts to make this more than a mere catalog of illustrators' work. The color illustrations are well done and the generous page size (9½" x 11 3/4") allows for more faithful reproductions. Most of the books shown are from the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum Library, the resources of which Harthan knows well. A large proportion of the books he mentions are represented in the illustrations. No one book can cover the immensity of this whole field of book illustration but within Harthan's own guidelines he does a splendid job. He concludes his survey with this rather disquieting sentiment: "During the two or more thousand years of its development, seen here in such rapid, incomplete review, the illustrated book has reflected the times in which it was produced and has continued to serve a variety of purposes, instructional, interpretive, decorative, recreational, didactic/propagandistic. Whether in the coming age of computers and silicon-chips, illustration as we understand it today, and even the book itself, will survive, is another matter."

NEWBERRY LIBRARY CLOSED TO READERS. The Newberry Library in Chicago has temporarily suspended its services to readers, reference services by telephone and mail, photoduplication services, and interlibrary loans until April 30, 1982 and possibly longer. The Newberry's new bookstack building, linked to the existing building, will house all the Newberry's priceless collections in history and the humanities. Renovation of the existing building will then begin to improve facilities for readers, staff, and the public. During the time when the Library is closed, the collections will be moved from the present building to the bookstack building.

BOOKS ON THE HISTORY OF THE PRINTING PRESS. In response to several recent requests, we are reprinting this list of books (and a few articles) on the history of the printing press. A number of these volumes are available in reprint editions.


* With illustrations of wooden presses.
Books on the History of the Printing Press (continued)


* Madan Falconer. "Early Representations of the Printing Press" in Bibliographica 1
  (London. 1895) and Bodleian Quarterly Record IV (Oxford, 1924)


Meier, Henry. "The Origin of the Printing and Roller Press" in Print Collectors
  Quarterly. Kansas City, 1941.


* With illustrations of wooden presses.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)

QUERIES.

Martin D. Gold (56 Coolidge St., Hartford, CT 06106) writes as follows:

"I'm writing at the suggestion of Joe Blumenthal. I'm trying to put together an
article and possible book on Eli Smith who was an American missionary in the Middle
East. Among other great accomplishments, Eli Smith operated the Missionary press
in Malta and later in Beirut, and was responsible for the publication of thousands
of publications. He was most famous, however, for his work in the development of
a type called: AMERICAN ARABIC which was especially designed to enable the bible
to be translated into arabic. I am seeking information about American Arabic;
samples of the type, any historical material that any of the readers of Newsletter
for the American Printing Historical Association might know of; any material that
anyone has on Eli Smith or the American printing efforts in the Middle East. The
type was believed to have been designed in Frankfort and in New York. I'd
appreciate any information that your readers might have."

Robert W. Oldham (Rt.5, Box 282, Burnsville, NC 28714) needs some information for
a very practical reason. He writes as follows:

"I recently acquired several pieces of printing equipment for a museum exhibit, in­clud­ing a Campbell cylinder press (Hawkins Patent 1886) and a Peerless jobber, as
well as a Model 1 Linograph. I am especially seeking information on the Campbell,
specifically manufacturer's specs, weight, etc., as well as copies of any advertis­ing or technical literature that may be available on this press. (Since Andrew
Campbell lived in New York, is it possible that you might have a line on such
material through your library connections in the city?) I have not yet been able
to move the equipment, as I have no shelter into which to move it (it is presently
in a roofless building) and don't know the weight of the Campbell so can't get
it lifted with a crane. I need this info in order to get going before the
weather does any more damage."

MAILING ADDRESSES FOR APHA

NEWSLETTER ONLY: Send news items, announcements, comments and other materials for
inclusion in APHA Letter directly to the Editor: Prof. Catherine T. Brody. NYC
Technical 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 10163.

MEMBERSHIPS are for the Calendar Year and include all APHA publications for that
year. Annual individual membership for 1982 is still set at $15.00 and for
institutions at $20.00. Copies of back issues of The APHA Letter are available
to members at $2.50 each, while the supply lasts. APHA Letters Numbers 1 through
20 are now out of print. Back issues of our journal are all available at $7.50
each copy. Send your orders to our Box Number.