

# *The APHA* THE AMERICAN PRINTING HISTORY ASSOCIATION *Letter*

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

PROPOSAL FOR GUIDE TO ARCHIVAL RESOURCES ON PRINTING HISTORY. John Y. Cole, executive director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, has announced a preliminary proposal, developed through the Center for the Book, for a guide to archival resources in American publishing and printing history. This effort undertaken in 1980-81, has led to the development of a more detailed proposal sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America. William L. Joyce, assistant director for Rare Books and Manuscripts at New York Public Library, will supervise the project. A full-time director will be hired. In addition to Mr. Joyce and Mr. Cole, the project's advisory committee includes Terry Belanger, assistant dean, Columbia University School of Library Service; John B. Hench, assistant director for research and publication, American Antiquarian Society; Roger Stoddard, associate librarian, Houghton Library, Harvard University; G. Thomas Tanselle, vice president, J.S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and president of the Bibliographical Society of America, and Marjorie G. Wynne, Bienecke Research Librarian, Yale University.

PATENT FOR SIMPLIFIED METHOD OF WRITTEN CHINESE. Hsing Chu Lee, a Jersey City librarian, has patented a new method of forming Chinese characters electronically. The new method should greatly simplify use of Chinese in word processing, type-writing and in dictionaries. A Chinese dictionary contains more than 43,000 Chinese characters. The written language consists of a large number of idiograms which directly represent an idea or object, rather than the sound of the word, as in English. In this new method, the characters would be electronically formed by using four basic strokes: horizontal, vertical, sloping and dot-forming.

CURRIER & IVES: A CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ. Gale Research Co. (Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226) has just published, in two hefty volumes containing over a thousand pages, a comprehensive catalog listing details of more than 7000 Currier and Ives prints, including some 400 that were previously unrecorded. Each print has been given a catalog number and is described on the basis of subject content, artist, lithographer, size, coloration, institution where print is available for public view, publisher and date. A subject index, index of artists and lithographers, chronological index, index of views, and index of illustrations provide special access. A concordance gives cross references to other lists of Currier & Ives prints, such as that of Harry Peters. As the preface explains, the compilers were able to correct earlier errors and created a computerized data base. Keyboarding of the 14 elements that made up each entry, with appropriate coding, led to the creation of a data base that could be manipulated into performing such wonders as automatically creating the several indexes. The team that produced these volumes has made this set a valuable research tool. Over a thousand illustrations are included. The price of the set is \$250.00.

UNJUSTIFIED LINES. Rhymes about Printers and their Ancestors by Paul Beaujon.  
Ed. Note: John Day (1522-1584) born at Dunwich in Suffolk, but commonly acknowledged a London printer, bookseller and typefounder. He printed the first English edition of Foxe's Book of Martyrs, 1563. Also successful in the use of roman and gothic types and for his efforts at music printing.

JOHN DAY OF ALDERSGATE STREET  
(d. 1585)

It was not until midway of the 16th Century that typefounding became a craft separate from printing. Day's generation of printers (which saw black letter superseded by roman in England) bought "strikes" (matrices) and cast type on the premises. P.B.

I knew it! Many a time I used to say;  
"If Roman's not the type for English eyes  
I am no master, and my name's not Day."  
Black-letter was too clumsy. You are wise.

I knew it! Here within your plant you cast  
What type you need, and so you never lack.  
And yet, they say, four centuries have passed  
Ere Time has brought the Printer-Founder back.

And though the metal that you use is better,  
This "Bembo" face is just as Griffio drew it!  
The Craft survives, not only in the Letter,  
But in the Spirit, as of old .... I knew it!

MINIATURE BOOKS. The Miniature Book Society held its 2nd conclave at the Marriott Inn, Newton, Massachusetts, June 29-July 2. Those interested in joining the society or being listed in the directory, please write: Kalman L. Levitan, 33 Oakwood Avenue, Dayton, OH. 45409. The 1985 conclave is tentatively being planned for the end of August 1985 in Los Angeles (Burbank area) CA.

NEW POSITION FOR SUSAN KING. Susan King has left her position as Studio Director of the Women's Graphic Center at the Woman's Building in Los Angeles. She will work full time at Paradise Press, publishing her own artist's books and work by others, and will work with The Alliance for Contemporary Bookworks, based in Los Angeles. The ACB will publish a quarterly newsletter, sponsor lectures and exhibitions.

KURZWEIL COMPUTER READS MANY TYPEFACES. One of the most sophisticated of artificial intelligence computers has recently gained increased publicity. The Kurzweil Data Entry Machine can "read" letters and numbers in a great variety of typefaces, optically examining the letters for their pattern before storing them for future reference. The computer, developed by Kurzweil Computer Products, Inc. of Cambridge, MA, costs \$35,000 (a third of last year's price for a similar machine). At the University of Pennsylvania, in a project financed by the Defense Department, the machine is used to read and store texts in several languages, including Azerbaijani, Somali, Slovenian and a Mayan Indian language. The key to the machine's ability to read lies in its ability to abstract the properties of letters. Thus the letter A might be characterized by the fact that it has a northwest wing, a northeast wing, a crossbar and a hole near the top. The computer project can create large computerized language files, write other programs that will help analyze languages and help create dictionaries and grammars.

LINDNER COLLECTION FEATURED. The Ernest A. Lindner Collection of Antique Printing Machinery was featured in an article by Sheila Cathryn Jackson in the August issue of American Printer. The collection which California printer Ernest A. Lindner has amassed in the past 40 years now ranks as one of the largest such collections in the world, with more than 700 items. A catalog of the Lindner collection was published by Vance Gerry's Weather Bird Press in 1971, but Lindner says that his collection has more than doubled in the past five years. The Lindner collection has been shown publically at various festivals and book fairs and at the Los Angeles Museum of Science and Industry. According to the article, Lindner hopes to find a permanent public exhibition space for this remarkable and invaluable resource on printing's technological past.

NEW POSTAGE STAMP ON READING. "A Nation of Readers" is the theme of a new 20-cent commemorative stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service. The theme of "A Nation of Readers" is being used to remind Americans of the pleasure and importance of books and reading. The image chosen for the stamp shows President Abraham Lincoln reading to his son, "Tad." The stamp was designed by Bradbury Thompon of Riverside, CT, who is well known for his designs of numerous other postage stamps and books.

LIBRARY COMPANY APPOINTS NEW LIBRARIAN. The Library Company of Philadelphia has selected John C. Van Horne to be its Librarian to succeed Edwin Wolf 2nd in January 1985. Mr. Van Horne, who graduated from Princeton in 1972, received his Ph.D. in early American history from the University of Virginia in 1979. He is now completing, with Edward C. Carter II, Librarian of the American Philosophical Society, a multi-volume edition of The Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the early 19th-century architect and engineer. Mr. Van Horne also has other publications on American history to his credit. Mr. Wolf, upon his retirement after 32 years with the Library Company, will work on his Lyell Lectures in Bibliography to be given at Oxford University during the spring of 1986.

CORRECTION. The list of APHA trustees in the last newsletter omitted the name of Virginia Smith (Baruch College, CUNY) whose term of office is to Jan. 1986. I apologize for this omission. Also, it should be noted that Trustee Herbert Johnson teaches at Rochester Institute of Technology.

TYPOPHILE JUNKET TO JERUSALEM. Some time ago the indomitable Dr. Robert L. Leslie decided that he wanted to celebrate his 100th birthday (which will actually take place on December 18, 1985) somewhat early -- in May -- and in Jerusalem, at the time of the Jerusalem Book Fair. He is inviting all his bookish friends to accompany him on this Israeli jaunt. Anyone interested in participating in the "Birthday Party in Jerusalem" should call the Reservation Department of Atlantic Pacific Travel at (212) 940-8448 and refer to Dr. Leslie's group. The present air fare is \$799.00 plus \$3.00 departure tax. The travel agent is arranging for a special group rate at the Ram Hotel in Jerusalem. Although exact figures are not yet available, the costs are expected to be reasonable. the dates for this "Junket to Jerusalem" are May 1-May 12, 1985.

JOB OPENING: JOB PRINTER. Letterpress printer sought for production work at Bowne & Co., Stationers, the South Street Seaport Museum's representation of a nineteenth-century printers' and stationers'. Responsibilities include design, composition, and printing of cards and stationery, using the Museum's collection of nineteenth-century types, ornaments, and presses. Interested persons with experience in letterpress printing/graphic design should send a resume and cover letter to Director, Bowne & Co., Stationers, South Street Seaport Museum, 207 Front Street, New York, NY 10038.

EDITOR'S NOTE (AFTER TEN YEARS). This issue of The APHA Letter marks the tenth anniversary of our organization's newsletter and my tenth year as editor. These have been significant years in the growth of APHA, with developing membership, a succession of memorable conferences, annual meetings, APHA Awards, and publications, including the much-hoped for Printing History. The first happy issue of the The APHA Letter, with its exuberant masthead design by Philip Gruskin, reflects all the eager hopefulness of an infant APHA. The intervening years have been eventful and sometimes difficult. Busy as those years were and great as have been the burdens, I enjoyed my years as editor and am grateful for the friends I have made through APHA. I am particularly indebted to those loyal members who have worked so faithfully with me. Their confidence and support made my task easier. To the many members who have written to me, contributed news and cheered me on go my sincere admiration and gratitude. APHA has no office and no staff; the newsletter is written and edited on time snatched from the ever-growing responsibilities of a professional career. It has been a deep satisfaction to have served as your editor during these past ten years. I salute all APHA officers, and Board members for their wise counsel and assistance over these years. The confidence you placed in me and the enthusiastic support with which the members have favored me have been an inspiration and a great comfort. I extend to the membership my heartfelt thanks.

EDITOR'S NOTE (REPRISED). We can do no better than to reprint an excerpt from our first "Editor's Note," dated November 1974:

"This is the first issue of a tool which we hope will help knit a national (indeed international) association of individuals, chapters and committees into a dynamic organization carrying out in fullness and fine style the important objectives APHA has set for itself. Through the issues ahead, the Letter will be shaped to serve the communication needs of the membership. Please consider this a standing invitation to provide information, to pass along suggestions, to ask questions."

HELP AHEAD IN THE SPRING IN THE BIG APPLE. This spring, Isabel Cymerman will conduct a course at The New School entitled - ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS: Collecting and Investing. This course will cover a wide field including a broad historical survey of book production, specialty collecting, appraisals, auctions, etc. Guest speakers and a visit to a total-printing house are part of the course. For further information write to Isabel Cymerman, 301 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010.

QUERIES. We have received the following inquiry from William M. Brown III, Staff Curator, Division of Historic Furnishings (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425): "The National Park Service is attempting to locate an army field press of the Civil War period. We understand they were made by the Cincinnati Type Foundry Company, Adams Cottage Press Company, Lowe Press Company. I believe the newsletter of the American Printing Historical Association might be helpful in trying to find an example of this type of press. We would be interested in purchasing one for Appomattox National Historic Park, or possibly reproducing one for use at the Park. Any help you could give us along this line would be most appreciated."

The West New York Public Library (Michelle Skiwronski), 425 60th Street, West New York, NJ 07093, is seeking information about the history of the firm of Bautke and Lauchner, art lithographers active in New York about 1890.

QUERIES. Timothy Hawley (6620 Kingsbury Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130) writes as follows: "I am doing research on English language periodicals on Printing, Book Collecting and the Book Arts. I am trying to do an update and extension of the bibliography of Ulrich and Kup, although I am limiting the scope of my research to English language periodicals and also broadening the scope to include books in series. I would welcome any information that APHA members might have concerning relevant periodicals. I am compiling information on Name, Place of Publication, Publisher, Editor, Dates of Publication, Volumes and Numbers, and general subject matter. I particularly need information on the less well-known periodicals, including house organs and privately printed periodicals and series."

A MEMO FROM THE TREASURER. When you dear APHA members read this newsletter, it may well be (since this publication goes out to our membership in the U.S. via bulk mail) already 1985. In any event, renewal membership invoices are scheduled to be mailed out the last week in December. So again the old refrain "just sit right down and write a check to APHA!" May we remind APHA members who joined us late in 1984 that our organization is on a calendar year basis - January through December, and that no matter when during the year you may have joined, you did get all that year's publications. THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Addendum: Of course all 1984 members will receive a copy of our journal, PRINTING HISTORY, Issue No. 12 (unfortunately delayed).

EXHIBITS. The Guild of Bookworkers is sponsoring an exhibition of fine bindings by FRITZ and TRUDI EBERHARDT, DON ETHERINGTON, and JEAN GUNNER at the Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue at 82 Street, New York City, December 5 through 28, 1984. Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 - 4:45. Fee: Free for Museum members; suggested admission for non-members: \$4.

Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.) Until June 2, 1985. "Books and Other Machines", explores the complementary relationships among printed books, technology and reading. Over 100 books, manuscripts, posters, prints, and photographs illustrate the capacity of the book for adaptation and innovation and the importance of books and reading in shaping modern life. The scope of the exhibit embraces items as diverse as a 12th-century accordion-fold Chinese sutra, Thomas Jefferson's copy of the guidebook he used on a tour of France, a videodisk and a Macintosh personal computer. Selected examples show how advances in design and technology have made books more portable, affordable, available, and efficient. These include a 16th-century navigational book with movable disks, an 18th-century pop-up book used to teach anatomy when medical books were scarce, a landscape gardening book with sliding panels showing before-and-after views, a microphotograph like those taped to the leg of a pigeon during the siege of Paris, Amelia Earhart's memoir with a pocket containing a recording of her broadcast from London, and an anamorphic alphabet book that can be viewed correctly only in the image reflected by a cylindrical mirror.

The Library Company of Philadelphia. (Philadelphia, PA) Through February 28, 1985. "The Wolf Years". At the end of the year Edwin Wolf 2nd will retire after 32 years as Librarian of the Library Company and on the 4th of December an exhibit opened in tribute to him. "The Wolf Years: The renaissance of the Library Company, 1952-1984" documents the history of the Library during Wolf's tenure and survey his accomplishments as librarian, historian, and bookman. Accompanying the exhibit is a brief illustrated history, also called "The Wolf Years," written by Marie Elena Korey, former Curator of Printed Books and now Head of the Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

EXHIBITS. Metropolitan Museum of Art. New York City. Through February 24, 1985. The John M. Crawford, Jr. Collection of Chinese Calligraphy.

Manhattan Laboratory Museum (West 54th Street, New York City). Through March 15, 1985. "Pop-Up," an exhibition of pop-up books, produced over the past 200 years.

Cooper-Hewitt Museum (New York City) Through February 24. "Embellished Calendars." More than 100 original examples of imagery in calendars, mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries

ARMED SERVICES EDITIONS DESCRIBED IN NEW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PUBLICATION. Books in Action: The Armed Services Editions, edited by John Y. Cole, executive director, the Center for the Book, has been published by the Library. The 78-page book was stimulated by the 40th anniversary celebration of the Armed Services Editions (ASE) -- those squat paperbacks distributed by the millions to U.S. servicemen and service-women during World War II. Books in Action contains three essays: "The Armed Services Editions: An introduction," by John Y. Cole; "The Armed Services Editions in Publishing History," by Michael Hackenberg, assistant professor at the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago; and "Recollections of an ASE Collector," by Matthew J. Bruccoli, Jeffries Professor of English at the University of South Carolina and a partner in Bruccoli Clark Publishers. The volume concludes with an author listing of the 1,322 titles published in ASE editions. The Library of Congress collection of Armed Services Editions, maintained in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and apparently the only complete ASE collection in existence, was used in verifying authors, titles, and series numbers. Books in Action: The Armed Services Editions, may be purchased for \$4.95 at the Information and Sales Shop at the Library of Congress or ordered prepaid from the Library of Congress, Information Office, Box A, Washington, D.C. 20540. For mail orders, add \$2 for shipping and handling.

BOOKS, BROADSIDES, MAPS AND SPECIAL CASTINGS. Harold Berliner (224 Main Street, Nevada City, CA 95959) continues to publish books, broadsides and maps by letterpress and lithography of great interest to admirers of fine printing. He is known also for his type foundry. Currently, for example, he is offering Baskerville type (mainly 169, the English version noted for its grace and fidelity to the original). A circular is available. A subscription to Berliner's fascinating mailings is \$3.00 per year within the United States, and \$4.00 otherwise, in U.S. dollars. The mailings themselves are of permanent value, including such items as a "Garden of Printers' Flowers" catalog, which is available at \$3.50 postpaid. Still available from Harold Berliner, by the way, is the reprint of T. Mac Kellar's classic The American Printer at \$14.95. Of particular interest to private press printers is Berliner's catalog of Monotype Composition Faces. This is a valuable source for both published works and type for printing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FINE PRINT. With its January 1985 issue, Fine Print marks its tenth anniversary. We congratulate this fine periodical and its editor, Sandra Kirshenbaum. Any member of APHA will find Fine Print an informative and valuable (as well as handsomely produced) publication. For subscription information write to Fine Print, P.O. Box 3394, San Francisco, CA 94119. Ten years ago, by the way, APHA members were presented (upon request) with a free copy of Volume One, Number One. APHA is pleased to see how Fine Print has flourished since then. In celebration of their tenth anniversary, Fine Print is publishing a special double issue, including a cover by Hermann Zapf, a premiere of Zapf's new Civilite Typeface (with a specimen sheet), 30 special designs, and commemorative articles.

EXHIBITS. A recent exhibition at Bryant Library, Roslyn, Long Island, New York showed "The Graphic Work of Lili Wronker and the Ron Press, Printing by Erich Wronker." The exhibition included designs for book jackets, children's book illustrations, private press books, greeting cards, calendars, other ephemera and calligraphic alphabet charts. Both Lili and Eric Wronker are active and valued members of APHA and we congratulate them on this exhibit.

OBITUARIES. Philip Hofer died on November 9th at the age of 86. As book collector and former curator of printing and graphic arts at Harvard, Hofer had long influenced the world of fine printing. The collection of Italian books he created was recognized as the finest outside Italy. Hofer founded Harvard's department of printing and graphic arts in 1938 as the first such department at any American university. Among his many publications are Baroque Book Illustration, and Edward Lear as a Landscape Draughtsman and Four Books and the Graphic Works of Goya.

Edward Hodnett died on October 10th in Washington, D.C., just a few days before his 83rd birthday. He was known to his friends as "Ted." He wrote a number of books on the history of English book illustration, including English Woodcuts 1480-1535 (1935), Francis Barlow (1978), Aesop in England (1979) and Image & Text (1982). He also wrote books on many other subjects, and exemplified The Cultivated Mind, the title of another of his books. He finished the manuscript of his great work, a general history of English book illustration, not long before he died. It is now in the hands of the Scholar Press in London, we understand. He was a graduate of Columbia University and worked for a time as an editor for the Columbia University Press. (Thanks to Philip J. Weimerkirch for some of this information.)

Charles V. Morris died on October 31st at the age of 78. Charlie Morris was a retired vice president of Saxon Industries and a well-known authority on printing and the graphic arts among those in the industry. He joined Saxon Paper Co. in 1963 as vice president and general sales manager, and retired in 1983 as vice president for corporate relations. He taught at RIT's School of Printing and was a member of the advisory commission of the Graphic Arts Department at New York City Technical College. Collectors of the Franklin keepsakes treasure these little books he edited over 30 years. Morris was a Ben Franklin expert and had an extensive collection of materials about America's patron of the printing industry.

BOOK FROM THE BROMERS. The Mystique of Vellum containing an introduction by Decherd Turner and a historical essay on vellum printed books by Colin Franklin along with a manual to printing letterpress on vellum and parchment by Richard Bigus that's edited by Lester Ferriss. Published by Anne and David Bromer, Boston. 1984. In the planning nearly five years, this book is the first of its kind to treat the subject of vellum printing. Each of the 225 copies on handmade Imago paper is printed by hand in three colors and contains a printed Vellum Specimen sheet. All are hand-bound and in drop-back boxes. The pre-publication price is \$475 until February 1, 1985, after which the price will be \$550. Order directly from Bromer Booksellers, 607 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 USA. Mrs. Bromer writes as follows: "Since it is difficult to print on animal skin and since none of the great printers who have done it well throughout history have told us how to do it, we decided that a practical manual on the subject would be a useful contribution to the history of printing. THE MYSTIQUE OF VELLUM is both a complete manual to vellum printing as well as a historical perspective of vellum printed books. We have now seen the sheets and it is truly gorgeous, each copy containing a three-color printed specimen leaf on parchment. By the way, the differences and myths about vellum and parchment are exploded in the book."

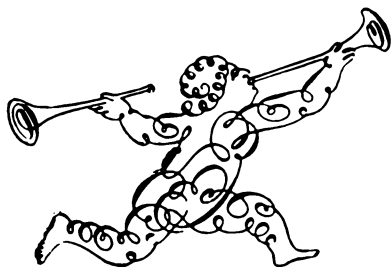
**FOR YOUR NOTICE - PRINTERS, TYPOGRAPHERS.** The R.R. Bowker Company has just published The TypEncyclopedia: A User's Guide to Better Typography by Frank J. Romano. Not only are key terms in this special field defined, but most are accompanied by illustrations comparing good typesetting with bad, proper and improper line spacing, appropriate use of forms such as boldface, or italic and more. Also included is a section of over two hundred of the most popular typefaces currently in use. Frank J. Romano, the author, is an authority on type and typesetting and has served in various official capacities for leading trade and industry associations. Price: \$24.95 paper, plus shipping and handling. To order, write: Customer Service, R.R. Bowker Company, P.O. Box 1807, Ann Arbor MI 48106.

**LETTERPRESS PRINTING IN DÜSSELDORF.** Nora Handpress, a private press in Düsseldorf, can now boast a printing press of which there are only a few of its kind in Europe. Since May 1984 Nora Handpresse has been printing on a replica of a 17th century printing press. It has been built to drawings made by Elizabeth Harris and Clinton Sisson from the Ben Franklin press at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. A further invaluable aid in the building of this press was Moxon's Mechanick Exercises on the whole Art of Printing, London 1683. The press has been built on the initiative and under guidance of Werner Brenneke, a musician by profession and, for many years, an enthusiastic letterpress printer in his spare time. Readers interested in learning more about this letterpress 'gem' should please contact: Werner Brenneke, c-o Nora Handpress, Hymgasse 1 4000 Düsseldorf 11, West Germany.

**COUNTRY PRINT SHOP TO BE INSTALLED AT LEADING NEW ENGLAND MUSEUM.** The Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont will install a working New England print shop in the spring of 1985. The exhibit, the only one of its kind in the country, will re-create a "typical" job -- from printing the weekly newspaper to doing a few bill-headers for a local business to running off posters announcing an important upcoming event. The Museum hopes to open the exhibit in nine months and is currently collecting equipment and soliciting support. The shop will be filled with an accumulation of equipment of the type that would have been gathered by the proprietor and his predecessors as they tried to keep up with the mechanical and technological improvements in the trade. All of this equipment will be in working order and will be used by the Museum's interpreter/printer as he talks with visitors about the history, importance and development of the industry. The cutoff date of the shop will be the late 1930's, taking the story through hot type and up to the postwar period of extreme market specialization and the explosion of new reproduction technologies.

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## Mailing Addresses for APHA



**NEWSLETTER ONLY:** Send news items, announcements, comments & other materials for inclusion in *The APHA Letter* directly to the Editor: Prof. Catherine T. Brody, New York City Technical College, 300 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

**DUES, Contributions, Change of Address Notices, & All Other Correspondence:**  
Send to APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

**MEMBERSHIPS** are for the Calendar Year & include *all* APHA publications for that year. Annual personal membership for 1984 is \$15.00 and \$20.00 for organizations (in the U.S.A.).

Copies of available back issues of *The APHA Letter* are for sale to members at \$2.50 each; numbers 1 through 20 are out of print. Back issues of *Printing History* are all available at \$7.50 each except Issue 7/8 at \$15.00. Send orders to the APHA Box Number.

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