

# The APHA THE AMERICAN PRINTING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Letter

No. 9

January-February 1976

Published bimonthly by The American Printing History Association, Inc., and sent without charge to members. Editor: Prof. Catherine T. Brody. For editorial and other mailing addresses, see list at end of Page 8. Copyright © 1976 by The American Printing History Association, Inc.

ANNUAL MEETING. As previously announced, APHA's Annual Meeting was held on January 28, 1976. J. Ben Lieberman was reelected to a two-year term as president. Also reelected were Catherine T. Brody, vice president; Joseph R. Dunlap, secretary, and Stuart C. Dobson, treasurer. Three members of the Board of Trustees, whose terms expired on rotation, also were reelected to three-year terms: Philip Grushkin, Elizabeth M. Harris, and Martin K. Speckter.

At the meeting, Dr. Lieberman reviewed some of APHA's accomplishments during the past year. Membership now stands at nearly 800. Chapter development has made some progress, and we hope to see much more. Chapters are active in New York and Los Angeles, with chapters in San Francisco and Philadelphia expected soon, and organizing activities under way in other cities.

THE TWO-THIRDS COMMON PRESS PROJECT. The production of the prototype of the APHA Two-Thirds Common Press was one of the major activities of this past year, and is central to APHA's observance of the Bicentennial. It is hoped that hundreds of these presses will be manufactured, to sell at about \$600 each, primarily for gifts by printers, paper merchants, newspapers, and so forth, to schools, libraries and museums. Efforts are now under way to obtain necessary money for further development and promotional activities. As described in APHA Letter No. 8, the press is scaled to two-thirds actual size of the Colonial common press, thus standing about four feet high. It is small enough for children to use but is quite large enough for practical adult printing. APHA is collecting information and inquiries, and hopes production can begin soon. Yes, individuals will be able to buy the presses for their own use. Let us know if you are interested, and especially if you can help in financing.

NEW YORK CHAPTER. Chandler Grannis, president of the New York Chapter, has announced a chapter meeting on March 2, 1976, at the CUNY Graduate Center (33 West 42nd Street, NYC), at 7 p.m. The program will feature a panel discussion on "The Pleasures of Collecting (Printing and Types)." The panel will consist of Maurice Annenberg, Jack Golden, Martin Speckter, and Pat Taylor, the last-named the Chairman of the Chapter's Artifacts Preservation Committee. Moderator will be Prof. Terry Belanger. All of the participants have been active in the preservation of the artifacts of printing, especially the increasingly rare letterpress items such as presses, type, specimen sheets, and catalogs. All APHA members and

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their friends are invited to attend without charge, to hear a program believed unique in the subject of collecting and artifact preservation.

At this meeting, the New York Chapter plans to present an award to local printing houses which have made available to collectors and private press printers those printing artifacts which otherwise would have been discarded or destroyed.

DIRECTORY OF FOUNDING MEMBERS. The directory of APHA founding members is now being mailed to all paid-up members. Please note that this is a directory of founding members, that is, those 424 members who joined APHA before the date of the first annual meeting on January 22, 1975. The directory includes names, addresses, and categories of interests that members have indicated. A listing of founding members by geographical location is also included. Several members collaborated on the project, but special appreciation is due Stephen O. Saxe, who designed the booklet and saw it through production. It is expected that the names of members who joined since the date of the first annual meeting will be listed in a later directory. The certificate for founding members has not been forgotten, and is also expected soon.

BOOKS IN THE NEWS. President Ford was honorary chairman of National Bible Week last month. As part of the observance, he was presented with a facsimile copy of the Aitken Bible, the first English Bible published in America. It is, incidentally, the only Bible ever to have been recommended by Congressional resolution (in 1782). Printed by Robert Aitken in Philadelphia, it was the King James Version without the customary dedication to King James. Although the Aitken Bible is generally recognized as the first English-language Bible printed in America, many printing historians (Isaiah Thomas, e.g.) mention an earlier Bible by Kneeland and Green. This seems to be a "Bibliographical Ghost," however; the only copy that ever was offered for sale turned out to have a forged date. Aitken in 1777 produced the New Testament in pocket size and since he issued other editions in 1778, 1779, and 1781, it must have been a profitable venture. In 1782 he printed the complete Bible in English, the facsimile of which President Ford received.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. The Library of Congress has made public some of the results of its study of the first printed copies of the Declaration of Independence, those issued from John Dunlap's Philadelphia shop the night of July 4-5, 1776. Frederick R. Goff, former chief of the Rare Book Division and now a consultant to the Library of Congress, carried out the bibliographical study with the support of a Ford Foundation grant. Using the latest technological apparatus, including the beta radiographic plate and the Folger Shakespeare Library's Hinman Collator, 17 of the 21 extant copies of the broadside were carefully studied at the Library where they had been brought together. The remaining four--two in London, one in Philadelphia and one in Chicago--were personally examined by Mr. Goff.

The results were most interesting. Tests show there actually were two separate printings. The copy belonging to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania has been identified as the printer's proof

sheet. The paper used for the broadsides was discovered to be of Dutch origin. Mr. Goff is preparing for publication during 1976 an illustrated brochure which will report the full results of the study.

ADDED IRONIC NOTE. The Cotswold Collotype Company, Britain's only collotype printing firm, is printing facsimiles of the American Declaration of Independence for export to the United States. The work is being carried out in Britain because the reproductions are being published by Welsh writer Olwen Caradoc Evans. The virtual demise of collotype printing in this country may also have had something to do with it.

"BEST BOOKS IN THE WORLD." Three American books were awarded prizes at the "Best Books in the World" show in Leipzig, East Germany. A bronze medal went to Major Acquisitions of the Pierpont Morgan Library 1924-1974, published by the Library. It was designed by Stephen Harvard, set in Monotype Bembo by the Stinehour Press, and printed by Meriden Gravure. Honorable mention went to Aurifodina, a novel published by The Book Club of California. It was designed, set in Monotype Cochin and printed by Andrew Hoyem. An honorable mention also was awarded to Ansel Adams, published by the New York Graphic Society. It was designed by Adrian Wilson, set in Monotype Centaur by MacKenzie & Harris, and printed by George Waters Photolithographers. This was a truly international show. The 41 American entries (selected from the AIGA Fifty Books show) were among entries submitted by almost every country in the world that produces books, and the prizewinners were chosen by a jury representing the international publishing world.

GRAPHICS PHILATELY ASSOCIATION. A new organization, the Graphics Philately Association, has been formed for informal study and the exchange of information about the collecting of postage stamps concerned with printing. Annual membership dues are \$3. The organization has already published a booklet, Printing on Stamps, which covers the highlights of the history of printing, printing equipment, famous printers, and printing plants and printers' emblems, as depicted on postage stamps. The booklet, which includes a 12-page checklist, sells for \$1.25. Membership applications and orders for the booklet can be sent to Association president Robert M. Ritterband, 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90048.

CHECK COLLECTORS ROUND TABLE. This organization, founded in 1969, brings together members who are interested in the collecting, preservation, and research into the history of old and new fiscal paper. Their interest focuses on checks, drafts, money orders, deposit receipts, notes, stock and bond certificates, and so forth. The club's quarterly publication, The Check-List, offers a medium for the exchange of information on all of these items and their significant history. Dues are \$8 a year. Application may be sent to Larry Adams, Membership Secretary, 969 Park Circle, Boone, Iowa 50036. The organization has recently published the second edition of Security Printers, a mimeographed list of firms that have produced various kinds of security printed paper. The 21-page booklet lists printers of checks, drafts, deposit certificates, bank notes, stocks and bonds, ration books, and so forth. Each listing consists of the printer's name, address, known dates, and a code letter designating the type of document the listing

was obtained from. The price of Security Printers is \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members, postage included. Orders may be sent to CCRT, P.O. Box 27112, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227.

ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS' CENTER. On January 28, 1976, Madeleine B. Stern (Leona Rostenberg, Rare Books) presented the first lecture of the Center Seminar Series at New York's Antiquarian Booksellers' Center at Rockefeller Center. In her talk, "Feminism Is Collectible," she discussed early feminist books from the 15th century on. The lecture was the first in The Center Seminar Series to be presented by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Center of New York. Future lectures will cover such topics as children's books, chess, the Third World, natural history and gardening, Freud, and comic art of the 19th century in England. Each lecture will be presented by a specialist member of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Center in an effort to inform and interest the general public and collectors in these special areas of the world of books.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP. On May 10-11, a Symposium on the Book Arts will be presented at the University of Alabama. Among the speakers will be R. Hunter Middleton (Cherryburn Press), Chicago; Carolyn Hammer (Anvil Press and King Library Press), Lexington, Kentucky; William Haynes (Ashantilly Press), Darien, Georgia; Susan Otis Thompson (professor at Columbia University and an APHA Trustee), an authority on William Morris, and Frank Anderson, Librarian of Wofford College and the compiler of Private Presses in the Southeastern United States. Also included will be discussions and demonstrations of papermaking, marbling, bookbinding, calligraphy, and type design. From May 10 to May 28 the University will sponsor a Typographic Workshop, a three-week introduction to fine printing and book design. For further information about either of these events, write to James D. Ramer, Dean, Graduate School of Library Service, P.O. Box 6242, University, Alabama 35486.

WOMEN AT THE SOCIETY OF PRINTERS. We have a follow-up on last issue's welcome news that the august Boston Society of Printers has decided to take women in as members. Susan Otis Thompson (see item above) became one of the few women to be invited to speak to the Society when she addressed it on the subject of "The American Arts and Crafts Movement Printing" on February 11. Prof. Thompson, the acknowledged expert on the subject, contributed the section on printing to the Princeton University Press publication, The Arts and Crafts Movement in America, 1876-1916 (\$27.50, \$8.95 paperbound).

THE DECORATED MANUSCRIPTS OF WILLIAM MORRIS. Members of the William Morris Society and the Corrodentia Society shared a joint meeting on February 12 at Columbia University's Butler Library. Joseph R. Dunlap, Eastern Secretary of the William Morris Society, presented a slide-illustrated lecture on Morris's decorated manuscripts. The calligraphic manuscripts which Morris wrote and illuminated, although less well known than his printing, show both the fertility of his decorative talent and his first steps in book design. Morrisians are already looking forward with considerable interest to the major

exhibition of Morris's books, scheduled for the fall of 1976 at the Pierpont Morgan Library. Several of Morris's decorated manuscripts are expected to be shown at this exhibition.

HERITAGE OF THE GRAPHIC ARTS. Dr. Robert L. Leslie's Bicentennial lecture series, named in memory of Lawrence C. Wroth, got under way on February 4 with a splendid lecture on Stephen Day and the Bay Psalm Book. On nine subsequent Wednesday evenings, other aspects of Colonial American printing and binding will be considered. Sinclair Hitchings (Keeper of Prints at the Boston Public Library), who delivered the first lecture, set a level of excellence that portends the success of the series. Other speakers include Marcus McCorison (American Antiquarian Society), Edwin Wolf II (Library Company of Philadelphia), P. W. Filby (Maryland Historical Society), James Mooney (Historical Society of Pennsylvania), Hannah D. French (formerly of Wellesley College), J. Ben Lieberman (President of APHA), Roderick Stinehour (Stinehour Press), and Rollo G. Silver (formerly of Simmons College and author of standard books on early American printing). The lectures are presented at the Willkie Memorial Building, 20 West 40th Street, NYC. The price for individual lectures, paid at the door, is \$6, and \$4 for students. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Leslie at 140 Lincoln Road, Brooklyn, New York 11225.

NOTES ON PEOPLE. Victor Strauss, management consultant to the printing industry, contributing editor to Publishers Weekly for a number of years and a successful commercial silk screen printer in New York City in the 1940s, retired in 1974 and will move from Philadelphia to Vienna in March 1976. Mr. Strauss's collection of books on the history of printing was sold at auction in December 1974, at the Swann Galleries in New York. The book that he himself wrote, The Printing Industry (Bowker, 1967), ranks as the most comprehensive and authoritative work on the modern graphic arts. His wife Edith has recently retired as typographic designer for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. We wish them both well in their new life abroad.

PRESS OFFERED. Frank E. Spear (Director of Publications for the University of South Florida, Tampa, and prop of The Postern Press), supplies the following information: There is a 1909/10 Morgan & Wilcox Washington press for sale in Miami, Florida. The press appears to be in excellent condition, and the asking price is \$1,200, FOB the seller's garage. The owner is Albert Tarabour, 3301 S.W. 79th Court, Miami, Florida 33155; phone (305) 264-4369. Mr. Spear adds that he hopes that someone who will really use the press will buy it, and that it won't end up in some publisher's lobby, painted red, white and blue!

PRESS WANTED. Stephen Saxe would like to buy a 7x11 Pearl Press, with treadle and throwoff. He would appreciate anyone who knows of the availability of any such press contacting him at 1100 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10028, or telephone (212) BU 8-8902 evenings.

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE. Robert Olson, Assistant Director of Interpretation for Old Sturbridge Village (and an APHA member), has supplied us with some interesting comments and queries concerning the museum's activities. Incorporated into the Village, which is a

re-creation of the way of life in New England from 1790 to 1840, is the Isaiah Thomas Printing Office, which offers educational information and demonstrations of early American printing. The Printing Office, c. 1797, was a part of the Isaiah Thomas business in Worcester, Massachusetts, and was moved to Sturbridge in 1951. One room is set up to show what one of Thomas's bookstores may have looked like. In the other two, demonstrations and discussions of pre-1840 printing are presented. Most of the printing is done on a Hoe acorn press, c. 1824. They also have a wooden common press, c. 1760, on long-term loan from the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Previously they printed mostly broadsides from the American Antiquarian Society collection, but they are now adding examples of job printing, such as stock certificates, school notes, rag advertisements, etc. A major project for 1976 is the reprinting of The Seasons, a juvenile published by Darius Clark, at Bennington, Vermont, in 1828. Craig Mabiis is being trained to become a historical printer. He has been working with the museum's curatorial and research staff to develop a thorough understanding of pre-1840 printing methods. Darrell Hyder, of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, is helping to train him in period handskills. The museum needs help. Currently it is looking for several kinds of pre-1840 printing equipment, either for purchase, donation to the museum, or reproduction. It is interested in suitable examples of galleys, composing sticks, letter boards, ink casks, type shipping containers, bookbinding equipment, etc. Information should be sent to Frank White, Curator, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts 01566. As part of its Bicentennial program, the museum has recently put out a facsimile edition of the July 26, 1826, issue of the Hampshire Gazette, which describes the fiftieth anniversary of American independence. APHA members are invited to visit the printing shop at Old Sturbridge. Mr. Olson will welcome your comments.

CHASE NEEDED. Haverford College Library (Haverford, Pennsylvania) has been given two printing presses, a Gordon Job press and a fine Washington flatbed press. Philadelphia booksellers and librarians, particularly Bruce McKittrick, Ernest Allen, and Tom Whitehead, have been laboring with the presses in preparation for printing. A chase for the Washington press, approximately 27x37, is still needed. They would appreciate being notified if anyone can help them locate one. The presses and student use are under the direction of David A. Fraser, Associate Librarian at Haverford College. Any available information can be sent to him, or to Thomas M. Whitehead, Head of the Special Collections Department, Temple University Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122.

THE PRINTER. We extend best wishes to The Printer, as it begins its second year of publication. Mike Phillips's monthly newspaper, with its interesting articles and fascinating advertising section, has filled a real need. As a special offer, The Printer is currently offering a three-year subscription for \$15; the ordinary annual subscription price is \$7. The address of the newspaper is Ghost Town Museum Park, Rural Route Four, Findlay, Ohio 45840.

COLLECTIONS. A collection of nearly 1500 manuscripts, papyrus fragments and scrolls has recently been presented to the University of Utah Marriott Library. This remarkable gift to the Library's Middle

East Collection was made by University faculty member Dr. Aziz S. Atiya, a leading Arabic scholar. Among the items included are papyrus fragments of ancient scrolls, paper scrolls from the tenth century, nearly 1200 codices from the 11th to 19th century, and other tracts and treatises in Arabic manuscripts from the 12th to the 19th century. Dr. Atiya recounted how the original owner of one of the manuscript books had placed pound notes between the pages as a kind of savings account. When the owner died, the heirs tore the pages out when recovering the money. Recognizing the greater treasure (!), however, Dr. Atiya was able to obtain the manuscript. In another instance, Dr. Atiya made an important purchase when he discovered a crate of books with valuable manuscripts serving as packing paper.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY ACQUISITIONS. Temple University Libraries have acquired a fascinating collection of the work of the City of Birmingham School of Printing. The books and ephemera reflect almost thirty years (1927-1953) of the products of the students and the influence and direct work of Leonard Jay, Master-Printer and first head of the School. Temple has also received a collection of periodical issues from amateur printers and presses, some 66 titles in all. This collection, the gift of William Danner (Kennerdell, Pennsylvania), includes such titles as The Cemetery Rabbit, Ink Daubings, The Martini, and Rusty's Comet.

PUBLISHING COURSE. Temple University is offering a course in "Publishing Procedures" through its graduate English Department. Classes will include guest speakers from the publishing world, field trips, workshops, and background reading. Emphasis will fall on copy editing, selection of materials, checking factual accuracy of manuscripts, and promotional writing. The six-credit course is open to Temple graduate students and to qualified candidate students from other institutions. Dr. C. William Miller, who is teaching the course, is the author of the acclaimed bibliography of Benjamin Franklin, published in 1974. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Miller at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122.

CATALOGS RECEIVED. Herman and Aveve Cohen of the Chiswick Book Shop (Walnut Tree Hill Road, Sandy Hook, Connecticut 06482) have just issued a catalog offering a comprehensive selection of the publications of The Typophiles, from 1935 to the present. The chapbooks, monographs, and ephemera are notable examples of fine bookmaking, and often included important subject matter on printing history. The contributors were some of the most prestigious designers and printers of the day. The Cohens were the sole distributors of the Chap Books for the last nine years, so this is an unusual opportunity to obtain these desirable collector's items.

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES. Researchers for the forthcoming Index of English Manuscript Sources (1450-1900) are seeking sources of British and Irish manuscripts, typescripts, proof sheets, notebooks, and marginalia in the United States, particularly in private collections. Authors from Robert Henryson to George Bernard Shaw will be included in the projected four-volume work. Descriptions will include title(s) of work, nature of items, whether complete or imperfect, identification of handwriting and date (if known), present location, call number (where appropriate), page, or folio number. A complete list of authors is available



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upon request from Peter Beal, Institute of Bibliography and Textual Criticism, University of Leeds, Leeds LS 2 9JT, England.

EXHIBITS. April 4-26. The Janus Press 1955-1975 exhibition will open at the Mickelson Gallery, 707 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., on Sunday, April 4, 1976, from 2 to 4 p.m. Claire Van Vliet extends her personal invitation to the opening to any APHA members who would find it convenient to come.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 20. Low Library, Columbia University, NYC. Week-days, 9-5. An exhibition of correspondence, manuscripts, and books documenting fifty years of publishing by Random House places on view a selection from the nearly half-million papers from the Random House archive now in the Columbia Library. The exhibition includes two first-edition 1928 copies of the Rockwell Kent illustrated Candide, the first book with the Random House imprint and other important Random House books.

DISCLAIMER. No, it is not true that APHA plans to award a free trip to the Caxton Congress to the person who finds the most typographical errors in any single issue of The APHA Letter. We had production problems which we hope now have been corrected. To prevent a possible misunderstanding, let it be noted that the correct title of the Paul Jammes catalog of the great bibliographies before Brunet (mentioned in the last issue) is Bibliographies; bibliographies, 1494-1802. The title, like the text of the extensive and useful annotations, is en francais.

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NEWSLETTER ONLY: Send news items, announcements, and comments for The APHA Letter directly to the Editor, Prof. Catherine T. Brody, Livingston Library, NYCCC, 250 Livingston St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS: Send these (along with membership applications if available) directly to the Treasurer, Stuart C. Dobson, 215 Harriman Road, Irvington, N.Y. 10533. Make checks to APHA, either abbreviated or written out.

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: To APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017, unless you are requested otherwise.