



# The WAYZGOOSE GAZETTE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE INT'L PRINTING MUSEUM, BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA • D. JACOBSON, FOUNDER

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## *Printing Museum Forced to Relocate due to Freeway Expansion; Plans Underway for New Building*

With an interest in expanding and improving the 91 and 5 freeways in Orange County, California, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has acquired the property now occupied by the International Printing Museum in Buena Park. The Printing Museum, recognized by many as the world's largest display of antique printing machinery, has been notified that it will have to vacate the building by August of this year.

The Museum's 50,000 square foot building is owned by its founder, David Jacobson of Gutenberg Expositions, who established the Printing Museum in 1988 to display the Ernest A. Lindner Collection of Printing Machinery. The Museum's exhibits and programs will remain open to the public until early June. The last scheduled event at the Museum will be the APA Wayzgoose set for June 20 to 22.

Museum Director Mark Barbour estimates it will take at least two months to dismantle and move the collections. Because of the timing of Caltrans' acquisition and the need to locate and develop a new site, Barbour indicates that the machinery and col-

lections will have to be placed in storage for one year. "During this year, we will continue our outreaches to the schools of Southern California with a traveling exhibit called *History in Motion: A Museum on Wheels*, featuring a working colonial printshop. We will also engage in raising the funds necessary to develop the next home for this great museum."

The acquisition process by Caltrans has been a difficult one for the Printing Museum and David Jacobson, its founder. "Besides paying us less for the building than what it was purchased for," mentions Jacobson, "Caltrans refuses to compensate for any of the improvements within the facility which make it a museum, such as the special theatre areas, period displays, and exhibit development." The Printing Museum estimates its losses from the transaction at about \$500,000.

During the upcoming twelve months, Barbour and the International Printing Museum Foundation's board will be involved in aggressive fund raising to recover the Caltrans losses. Those funds will be used to develop the future home of the Printing Museum,



*The new International Printing Museum will be developed in a key tourist area of Southern California and will feature a decor reminiscent of the Industrial Revolution, representing the strength of the Lindner Collection.*

which Barbour expects to be open by the fall of 1998.

"For those in the industry who have not yet experienced the Printing Museum, plan on visiting with your family before June!" Barbour adds. Or plan to attend the APA Wayzgoose in late June, which is open to all interested persons.

Plans are already being developed for the future location of the International Printing Museum. It is the objective of the Int'l Printing Museum Foundation to relocate the museum into a high profile tourist area of Southern California. This new location will give the greatest exposure of the museum's significant collections and programs to the largest possible audience internationally.

Beginning with many of the exhibits currently on display at the Printing Museum, the new galleries will include other expanded period displays with a goal to bring "history to life" for visitors of all ages. Covering an estimated 20,000 square feet, the new Int'l Printing Museum building will feature a decor reminiscent of the Industrial Revolution, representing the strength of the Lindner Collection.

The development and size of the new building will

be determined by how successful the museum's Building and Endowment Campaign are over the next one to two years. A minimum of \$500,000 will be required to fund construction of the new building, along with \$1 million for an endowment to permanently underwrite the operations of the Printing Museum in the future.

The museum's Board of Directors are confident that those individuals and companies who are aware of what has been accomplished by the Printing Museum in its current location and after listening to the plans and dreams for its future, will join them in developing a permanent home for this magnificent collection of antique machinery.

To receive a beautiful color prospectus on the Printing Museum's Building and Endowment Campaign, which details the programs and successes of the museum over the last nine years along with the plans for the new building, please send a letter to the museum's director, Mark Barbour at the museum's transitional address: The International Printing Museum, P.O. Box 6451, Buena Park, CA 90622, or telephone (714) 523-2070.

## *Printing Museum to Host APA Wayzgoose, June 20 to 22; Last Function within the Present Building*

Plan to enjoy a warm weekend in beautiful Southern California attending the annual Amalgamated Printers Association's 1997 Wayzgoose, hosted by Mark Barbour at the Printing Museum in Buena Park, California, June 20 through Sunday June 22.

This year's programs will include a presentation on graphic arts philately by Robert Ritterband, founder of the Graphic Arts Philately Society, with a showing of his collection of stamps; a presentation on George Gordon and the 19th Century Platen Press by curator Mark Barbour, with demonstrations and showings of the dozens of platen presses in the museum's collections; demonstrations and tours through the Printing Museum's 25,000 square foot collection of working antique printing machinery (including walks through the museum's warehouse, always a favorite for the letterpress enthusiast!); a showing of the museum's wood type collection; a fantastic swap meet and auction, including many surplus items and equipment from the museum's warehouse, which Mark Barbour doesn't want to have to haul into storage.

The keynote speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Ernest A. Lindner, who will reminisce on his 50 years of collecting, recalling many of his humorous

and intriguing stories of how he assembled one of the largest collections of antique printing machinery.

Accommodations will be available at the plush Holiday Inn of Buena Park for \$55/night. Hotel reservations can be made directly by calling the Holiday Inn at (714) 522-7000. Wayzgoose registration is only \$40/person and includes most meals and the banquet. For more information, contact Mark Barbour at the Printing Museum at (714) 523-2070 or send your registration and check to 8469 Kass Drive, Buena Park, CA 90621.

The Amalgamated Printers' Association was formed in 1958 as a hobby letterpress printers group. The association is made up of both professional and amateur printers with an emphasis on the exchange of members' printing and information on equipment and printing practice.

The "Wayzgoose" is an annual gathering of the group somewhere in North America, and is open to all interested persons, members or not. If you enjoy printing history and letterpress, you will definitely enjoy participating in this Wayzgoose. And if you can only attend the banquet to hear Ernie Lindner talk, you are welcome to send your reservations at \$20 per person.

## Lifetime Friends of the Printing Museum

In the last issue of the Wayzgoose Gazette a new Lifetime Friends category was announced. This designation is given to Friends who make a tax deductible contribution of \$500 to the Printing Museum's endowment fund. The challenge to become a Lifetime Friend was put out by the museum's Board of Directors to all Friends of the Printing Museum and others interested in making the International Printing Museum a permanent institution dedicated to the preservation of printing history.

The following is the list of Friends who have risen to this challenge to become Lifetime Friends of the Int'l Printing Museum. Will you consider joining these supporters who are helping to make this great museum permanent with their generous support?

Dave Peat, Indianapolis

Robert Mills, Hemet

Robert Gans, Gans Ink, Los Angeles  
Bradley Koon, Grafico Inc.,  
Diana Thomas, Encino  
Mike Beroiz, Long Beach  
Harold Harcourt, Garden Grove  
Mark and Lori Barbour, Brea  
Merrill Brown, Garden Grove  
Jeff Craemer, San Rafael

For those who cannot make a full \$500 contribution at once, any contributions above the \$25/year membership dues are cumulated annually as a Sustaining Friend. When your total contributions reach \$500, you will be recognized as a Lifetime Friend.

Contributions at all levels are gratefully appreciated and help the Printing Museum continue fulfilling its goals to preserve our history and bring it to life.

## A Curator's Adventures on the New England Thoroughway

In November of last year, I took a one week excursion to New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts to look for precious antique presses we just couldn't live without at the Printing Museum. My tight, whirl-wind schedule was set to begin promptly upon arriving at JFK Airport; however some difficulties were encountered at the rental agency. After running my drivers license through their computer, which talks directly to every DMV in the country, it was found to be expired! No rental, no way, not from any national company! It was 5 pm. Attempts to reach the DMV by phone were futile; if anyone would not answer the phone on Monday, November 12, Veteran's Day, it would be a state employee working at the DMV! The thought being stuck in New York for a week without a car was not pleasant.

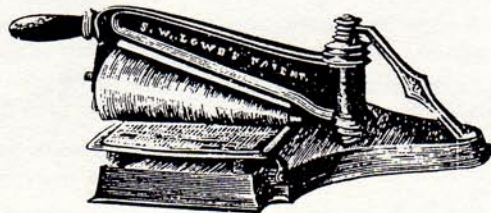
Being ever resourceful, I executed plan B. After selecting in the yellow pages what looked like a local rental agency, I took a taxi through rush-hour traffic to downtown Queens. On the way, my years of experience in the art of calligraphy were helpful in extending the expiration year on my license extension. The rental agency I chose, however, must have been a front for the mafia, run by three

members of a shady family.

While I was at the counter, the father and son talked in a hushed tone about the imminent arrival of another man. Then walked in an older man draped in a trench coat who engaged in small talk, first with the son and then with the nervous father who appeared out of the back room. Meanwhile, I just tried to look innocent enough to get a car, banking on the fact that they probably didn't have a computer tied into the national DMV hotline. As my rental contract was being printed, I glanced down the counter to see an envelope with some cash being passed to the older man—probably just a refund on his most recent car rental. Being glad just to have a car, I made haste to exit Guido's rental yard and out of Queens as fast as possible. Now that I had a car, my only challenge was not to get pulled over for speeding or something.

I wasn't too sure how benevolent the NY Police would be with a Californian driving a mafia-owned rental car with an expired license.

The trip did go well, despite the cold temperatures and blowing snow. It is somewhat of a shock to a Southern California boy to hear the morning weatherman mention, "Today's high will be freezing!"



*The first portable iron press, The Lowe Press of 1856, one of several new additions to the Museum as a result of this excursion.*

My first stop that evening was at the home of Kate Jones, widow of artist and former RCA Records art director Bob Jones, from whom we acquired an 1845 Acorn Hand Press some years back. Bob's letterpress shop was in a non-heated shed behind the house, and after three years of pilfering by the local hobby printers, not much remained. A deal was reached with the widow for the remaining fonts of wood and metal type, some copper engravings and a few 19th century wood engravings. This sounds like a small amount of stuff, but it managed to fill my Dodge Neon trunk and back seats completely! After a great home cooked meal of turkey soup, I sped off onto the New England Throughway with hopes of reaching Rhode Island by bedtime.

These were cold November days and nights, near freezing mind you! When I stopped to make a phone call home to California to give my wife an update on my safe arrival, the phone was so cold on my ears I had to rub it furiously to heat it up while the operator patched my call through. Nothing like arctic temperatures to condense the content and length of a long distance call.

Historic Newport, RI, was reached by midnight and after a few hours rest at the historic Motel 6, I ventured to the seaside and stepped into a community over 250 years old. With some hunting I managed to find the Third and Elm Press of Else Buchert Nesbitt, the wooden sign hanging outside with the image of an Hand Press being my clue. Else is the widow of calligrapher and type historian Alexander Nesbitt, and is an exception woodblock artist herself. She prints on a very large Golding Art Jobber platen press which has all the bells and whistles of a turn of the century press. She also uses a hand press to pull proofs from her wood cuts.

From Rhode Island, I headed toward Northampton, Massachusetts, to visit the shop of Bill Streeter, a hand bookbinding specialist and the nation's authority on copying presses of the 19th century. Copying presses, what are sometimes called book presses, were in every office and were the predecessor to the Xerox machine. With them you could create a simple reversed copy of your correspondence or written documents. Bill's shop itself was a step back in time, housed in a historic building with antique bookbinding equipment and presses staring out through the windows.

The following morning, I was in Eaton, New York, making deals with Stan Harris for some very unusual and rare presses. Top on the list is a press whose origin dates back to the Civil War called the Lowe Press. It's shaped in a square with conical

cylinder hinged to one corner. The printing of quick broadsides or flyers happens as you roll the cone in an arc from the top to the left side. We also acquired a beautiful collection of 19th century copper engravings, with subjects such as horses and trains. Another rare press acquired was a bench model Pearl Press, serial number 10, which is one of the first presses the famous Golding Co. ever manufactured.

From Eaton, I ventured onto the iced roadways to RIT in Rochester. For many years in those hallowed hallways of modern printing education has rested the second oldest Linotype in the country, squirreled away under a stairwell and looking very neglected. This machine is known as a Square Base Model 1, circa 1890, and was the first Linotype to begin to have the appearance of Linotypes we are familiar with. With some extended negotiations, this important relic of our past will be enjoying a new home in Southern California where it can be appreciated for its role in our history.

My hunt for new treasures was now over and I managed to avoid the New York police as well. Now I just needed to get back to Queens. On the way back into NY City at the end of the trip, however, I encountered a relative of Bambi on a backwoods road. After hearing the thump, I pulled over at the next exit, only to find my passenger mirror sheared off. I figured there was now a deer running around the woods with a federally approved rearview mirror in his antlers. All I could think about for the next day was encountering Quido at the rental agency on the return, having damaged his car!

I drove up to the rental agency late in the morning, with a car so dirty from snow that for some reason Quido never missed his mirror as he drove the car into the lot and sent me on my way. With confidence in my success, I hunted for a taxi and headed to the airport. Back in California a few days later, however, I was awakened with a phone call by a gruffled Italian voice.....

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#### THE WAYZGOOSE GAZETTE

is issued three to four times a year for The Friends of the International Printing Museum, founded by David Jacobson in 1988 and which features the Ernest A. Lindner Collection of Antique Printing Machinery.

*Membership into the Friends is \$25 annually and goes to support the programs of the Museum.*

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(714) 523-2070

Mark Barbour, curator and editor

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