

# Let's try this one more time

By MIKE O'CONNOR

Some of you may remember me from last year? *Galley Gab?* Ring a bell?

For those of you who don't, GG was an online publication like this. The intention of the initial issue back in January 2007 was for an online publication of some sort – primarily for APA. That was the first issue. Then I let things get away from me. Instead of really concentrating on APA and only have two or three pages, the thing ballooned to 14-15 pages and some 800-1000 letterpress enthusiasts were soon downloading it every month.

But things got out of hand and it became more difficult each month to find capable writers who were willing to help with the publication. So are you a glutton for punishment O'Connor? Did you not learn anything?

Yes, I did learn something! My original intention was a good one and I let it go far beyond my original intentions.

This effort is for APA only. Obviously, being online means that other folks have access to it; that's fine! But the content will be focused on APA – the organization and its members. Naturally I'll be delving into all aspects of letterpress as the spirit so moves. Hopefully it'll be a monthly effort but that too isn't written in stone. Members will receive an email notice when an issue is published so if you change your email address, let me know.

A publication for APA is not new, although there hasn't really been anything around for most of our existence.

The article on the next page tells you something of APA's brief escapades into the world of some sort of official or unof-

ficial publication for our organization.

To be certain though, this is the first one that there is an electronic publication. A few reasons for this: 1) it's economical to produce; 2) the publisher doesn't have adequate letterpress equipment to publish this type of publication letterpress and 3) it was realized that there are only nine members out of our 150 who do not have internet access. So the vast majority can have access to this publication. I intend for this publication to follow the example of our organization: basically little strict organizational effort therefore pretty freewheeling.

Editors always say this so I'll say it too: always want to hear from you and your ideas and/or contributions! There, I said it and it won't do much good so just a warning – I'll be bugging many of you as time goes on!

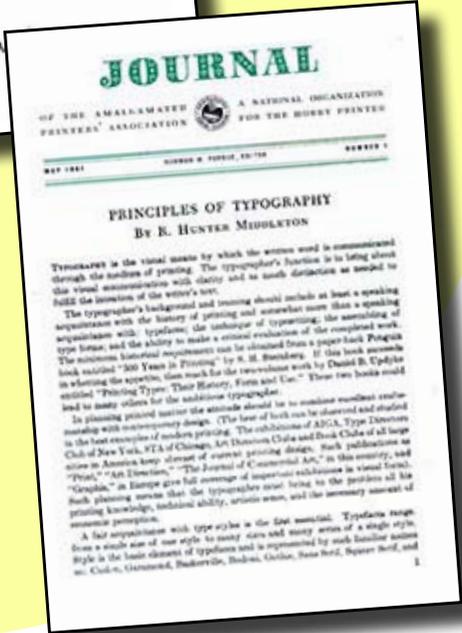
APA'S OFFICIAL PUBLICATION...

# We've come up short

Official and unofficial "organs" of the APA were present at the start back in 1958 but along about 1964 they pretty much disappeared from the scene. Lack of a live body to do the work involved accounts for the short history of an official publication for the association.

The very first official publication of APA, *The APA Official*, first came on the scene in August 1958. It was a sad mimeographed effort (8.5x11") by yours truly. I didn't even have a press at that time. Six issues were published. Thankfully after the first six issues a member with a Linotype stepped forward.

The first letterpress printed publica-



**APA JOURNAL** is the unofficial publication of the Amalgamated Printers' Association – an organization composed of letterpress printing enthusiasts. The unofficial editor is Mike O'Connor P. O. Box 18117, Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269. Any and all comments

welcomed. The publication is published as the spirit moves the editor but a monthly schedule is desired. Contact the editor: [mikeatfh@cox.net](mailto:mikeatfh@cox.net) Here's APA's web site: [Amalgamated Printers' Association](http://www.amalgamatedprinters.org)



tion; renamed *The Amalgamated Printer* (6x9") came on the scene in February 1959. It was still edited by me but printed by John Brann a member but also someone who owned a Linotype – and charged very reasonable rates. There were six of those issues under my editorship.

In July 1959 John Brann took over the editor's role and he published 12 issues ending in June 1960.

APA was about as free-wheeling back then as now. In May 1961 a member by the name of Norman Forgue of Chicago published one issue of *JOURNAL of the Amalgamated Printers' Association* (6x9"). He was unaware of previous publications so he labeled it Number 1.

Starting in September 1962 Rich Hopkins became the publisher of *APA Journal* (5.5x8.5"). Also unaware of the efforts of O'Connor and Brann, he numbered his first journal as Vol. 2, No. 1. There were six excellent issues produced, the last one being July 1963 (celebrating our 5th year).

In October 1963 member Irwin Brandt published two issues, the last being March 1964.

By all accounts one would assume the March issue was the last. But low and

behold in September 1971 Rich Hopkins publishes *The Black Art* (6x9" – 24 pages with cover). His insert in that issue states: "Elsewhere in this bundle, you will find your copy of *The Black Art*...APA's new journal." It was an offset effort but later in the note Rich said he hoped to produce issues by letterpress as he was on the verge of having his own Monotype system in operation at home. There never

was a second issue.

In May 2001 the appearance of the *APA Journal* (5.5x8.5") once again graced the bundles. I produced the issue via offset. Only seven issues were published, the last being

February 2003.

During APA's 50 years of history, that is the extent of our efforts at publishing an official publication.

We're a small organization and to find someone to undertake this effort, especially doing it letterpress, was really a near impossible task so we lacked such publication for most of our existence. It is too bad that this was the situation. I think such a publication does much to help an organization. But then again, when you look back, we made it most of our 50 years without one.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Final Goose Update

John Barrett, 2008 Goose Coordinator Extraordinaire gave his report in the July APA bundle but a few things had not been finalized at that point.

First, the auction cleared almost \$1700 for APA. It is because of these auction “profits” that APA is able to keep its membership dues at \$25 a year. Our dues do not cover our expenses primarily due to the postage for our bundles. Our thanks to many of the folks who participate in the auction and donate a percentage of their sales to APA. Of course anyone selling something in the auction is required to give at least 10% of the sale proceeds.

John also reported a small profit from the registrations. This doesn't always happen as the expenses and income from registration is always in doubt until the very end of the Goose.

However, thanks to John's hard work he sent an additional check to APA for \$335.

Thanks John and JoAnn for a great APA Goose!

### Gelbert elected president; new officers set for 2009

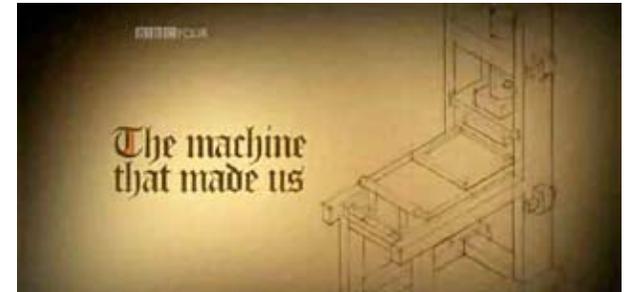
Howie Gelbert will serve as APA's President starting January 2009. Howie is one of our more quiet and unassuming members, but his term as president is expected to be spectacular!



You say you didn't see a ballot to vote in this election? You're right. There is a provision in our By-Laws that if there is no contest in any of the offices, those who filed are elected – with the approval of the president and the board of directors.

The following officers were elected:

Vice-President: Ezma Hanschka; Secretary-Treasurer: Mike O'Connor; Mailer: Don Tucker and Dick Niehaus for Director (six years, three terms). Other officers are: Director: Jim Daggs, two years remaining and Ernie Blitzer, with four years remaining as Director. David Kent is the Archivist and an appointed board member.



### Stephen Fry and The Machine That Made Us

Here's a six part series of a BBC documentary called “The Machine That Made Us.” The film stars Stephen Fry and tells the history of the Gutenberg Press.

Stephen's investigation combines historical detective work and a hands-on challenge. He travels to France and Germany on the trail of Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press and early media entrepreneur. Along the way he discovers the lengths Gutenberg went to keep his project secret, explores the role of avaricious investors and unscrupulous competitors, and discovers why printing mattered so much in medieval Europe.

[VIEW THE DOCUMENTARY](#)

# APA Wayzgoose 2008

*West Springfield, Massachusetts*

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

