

WOW

**A**N HISTORICAL EVENT TOOK PLACE this month in APA (and during our 50th Anniversary too)! Through the generous efforts of John Horn, members received a mailing tube this month filled with poster-size contributions from some of our members with larger presses.

To date, the APA sends out a November bundle measuring 9"x12" for larger printed pieces but this tube mailing by John held some real poster size contributions – the largest being 16"x25."

John not only did all the work of collating, stuffing and delivering to the Post Office but also bore the brunt of the cost – which was considerable.

I asked John for his thoughts on the project. Those who know John, knows that he doesn't mince words and with him you always know where you stand because he'll tell you – a quality I've always admired about him.

Anyway, here are his "thoughts": "1. APA members can't read instructions. 2. APA

A few of the tables John had set up in his shop to gather all of the posters.





Collated posters now ready to be inserted into the tubes.

members are disorganized as hell. 3. APA members can't understand directions. 4. APA members can't count. 5. There's no way I would ever be mailer!"

I know from my own experience as APA Secretary there always seems to be some folks who just don't get it; don't read instructions. How they survive day-to-day is a mystery. Regardless, thanks to those who participated as it was indeed an enjoyable "tube" to review. In the very near future these contributions will be up on our APA web site in the "APA Printing Projects" area of the site.

I know such a project like this has been on John's mind for some time now. APA's

treasury can't really handle such a mailing unless APA members want to "subscribe" to such an effort and add \$10 or \$15 to their dues as one idea. But when asked if he was going to do this again next year, the reply was: "HELL NO!"

Some of the participants did make contributions to help John defray the costs but the total cost came to about \$1500.

However, might the association consider doing this every two or three years assuming a coordinator can be found and some means to help defray the costs? Any volunteers?



The tubes stand ready to receive the posters.

### Another poster mailing?

Interested in seeing another poster mailing in two or three years? First we need a volunteer coordinator and then the financial details would be to be worked out with the association. It would be nice to do this maybe every couple of years as we have a number of members with large presses capable of producing posters and they can't show off their work in our monthly bundles.

Interested? [Email me!](#)



Ready for the ride to the Posts Office!



**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 hoped for. [Contact the editor.](#)

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Chuck Dunham of Deep River, Iowa, a veteran newspaper editor and dealer in letterpress equipment, takes a turn at feeding newsprint into the four-page Babcock Drum Cylinder press. Here he is running off the "Midwest and Great Northern" edition of *The Threshers Bee* at Printers Hall. The Babcock was being powered by a live steam engine.



Bob Magill (#668), Paul Aken (#659), and Dave and Mary Peat (#247) at the swap meet.



Pat Leary (APA #630) demonstrates the Linotype skills that paid his way through college, to Stan Thompson (APA #790).



There are always onlookers whenever the Linotypes or Intertype are running. Pat Leary kept slugs popping out of a Model 31 to entertain the curious audience.

## Site to host 2009 APA Goose Midwest & Great Northern Printers' Fair a success

By JIM DAGGS

Warm weather and Iowa hospitality greeted well over 100 attendees on Friday and Saturday, September 19-20 at Printers' Hall in Mt. Pleasant for the 15th annual Midwest & Great Northern Printers' Fair.

Friday was set up day, and Printers' Hall was open and running for entertainment, demonstrations and tutoring, and even some APA members doing bundle pieces. Over 30 vendor tables were set up and filled on Friday as well, ready for the swap meet starting early Saturday morning.

Students and instructors from the books art and graphics programs at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Grandview College in Des Moines, and Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant were also in attendance. They were given demonstrations and opportunities for hands-on printing while at Printers' Hall.

Friday's activities closed with the group



Johanna Shipley (#818) selling Skyline Type at the swap meet.



Sharing a good time around the swap meet tables were Neil Giroux (#676) and Carole and Bob Mullen (#398).


enjoying an evening meal and more fellowship and after-glow back at Printers' Hall, while *The Threshers Bee* newspaper production crew was preparing an 8-page edition for the morning pressrun, including a special banner headline for the event. (Watch your November bundle for a copy!)

The Swap meet was open and bustling early Saturday morning as bargains and treasures found new homes. An estimated crowd of 100 participated in the Printers' Fair, including about 30 students and visitors. "We were very pleased with the turn-out and the large number of vendors," commented Chuck Wendel (#611), Area Director of Printers' Hall.

The Midwest & Great Northern Printers' Fair was started in Minnesota 15 years ago by the late Bill McGarry, and was entrusted to Printers' Hall after McGarry's death a few

years ago.

Printers' Hall will be the site for the 2009 APA Wayzgoose September 17-19, and will be combined with the Midwest & Great Northern Printers' Fair. "We are planning a big event for the 'Goose in 2009,'" Wendel added. "Printers' Hall will be a very active place, offering training seminars on equipment and techniques, opportunities for hands on activities, and demonstrations in presswork, linecasting, typesetting, bindery, and much more."

As a partner with area college graphic arts programs, Printers' Hall volunteers enjoy working with students anxious to learn the letterpress craft. "And, we also appreciate the fact that many of these students are moving toward becoming active volunteers at Printers' Hall," noted Wendel. MORE 



Student Danielle was tutored by Neil Giroux (#676) on how to make a print on the Washington hand press.



Paul Aken (#659) and Arie Koelewyn (#807) peddled their wares at the swap meet.



Lots of "networking" at the Printers' Fair, like this group of John Henry (#324), Craig Starr (#591), and David Smith (#605) and his son Sam.



Jim Horton (#622) sets up his swap meet table while someone else checks out this wares.

## When you just want to 'pick up' and move your shop



The crane lifts the shop from its old location.

Some may remember Craig Starr (APA 591) being featured in an issue of the former *Galley Gab*. His printshop was unique as it was in an 8'x48' cargo container. At the time Craig said one of the reasons for having his shop in a container was that if he ever had



The complete shop in its new location. Maybe you need to consider a shop in a box?

to move, he could just move his whole shop. Well, he decided to move recently.

Recently Craig did move the shop and the contents stayed right inside except for a large proof press which sat atop a type cabinet. Craig said he didn't want that rolling around inside.

It was still a hefty move. He figured about 5 tons for the insulated container and about 8 tons of cast iron, lead, etc.

Last report was the his 600 some fonts of type made it to the new location in good shape and within a few days, Craig was back in operation. So much for his "Printshop in a box!"