

First hike in 12-13 years

Board approves dues hike to \$30

Recently the APA Board of Directors approved a \$5 hike in dues bringing annual dues to \$30. It has been at least 12-13 years since the last dues increase.

What brought the dues hike about was the desire to have a poster mailing every other year. The increase in dues over a two year period will provide the funds necessary to secure tubes and pay for the postage. To date three members have volunteered to handle the next tube mailing.

Further details on a coordinator and the next tube mailing will be made next year.

Do not send in dues at this time. There will be a notice in the January bundle.

WOW

We used this headline for the poster mailing and now again for the November bundle...what else can we say about this fantastic envelope of great printing?



Members hardly recovered from the special September Poster Tube Mailing when—WHAMO!—the Michael Langford November bundle appeared. It contained a hefty 89 pieces. Have no idea what the record is for one bundle, but this one had to be close, if not the record.

Chances are the December bundle also will also be a bit hefty as there are those of

us who wait a bit too long to produce our four pieces for the bundle.

I'm sure all members spent an enjoyable hour or two going over the pieces in the bundle—many real gems! That's what we're all about and November showed our colors loud and clear! Yes, it's our 50th year and we're leaving this year with a bang.

This wasn't how it looked when Patty and Mike Anton bought the Triple P.



Mike and Patty Anton had a piece in the October bundle regarding acquiring a Triple Polhemus (No. 4, 1912 ATF catalog, page 1234) cabinet. It contains two banks of 20 two-thirds cases, one bank of 18 full California job cases, 10 sorts drawers and galley storage. Mike said it had wood runners so he thought it might be older than 1912.

They bought the cabinet, moved it, emptied it, stripped it of its finish that was a

combination of age darkened varnish and olive green paint with mildew blossoms, took it apart, gave it a sanding, stained it, refinished it, reassembled the stand, scraped out the disintegrating paper liners, scuffed and painted 68 handles black and refilled it with type.

Sitting atop the cabinet is a recently purchased Golding Diamond press.

Mike Anton relates how the purchase came about:

“I got a phone call from the family of a retired small town newspaper printer. They had made an Internet search for St. Louis Letterpress and found my name as a contact for the St. Louis Letterpress Society. I got the impression that the newspaper closed quite a while ago and all the equipment was left in place. Then the building was being sold and the family had so many days to empty the building. The rear of the roof had partially blown off and the remains of



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a recent snow were pouring into the shop as it melted. The Polhemus cabinet was still in the dry area, but the drawer fronts were black with age-darkened varnish, and the top, sides, and back had been painted some tint of olive green now splotched with brown mildew blossoms.

“Over the sound of rushing water, Patty’s eyes met mine. ‘Did you see that cabinet?’ she murmured. I nodded, ‘You want it?’ I asked. ‘Yes, if it will fit in the house,” she answered. ‘I can make it fit,’ I replied.

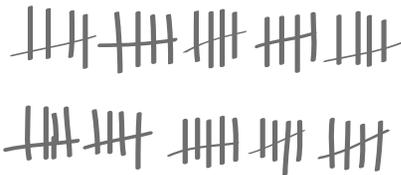
“With the help of Bob Magill, we

bought and moved all of the type and cabinets, except one as the family wanted some typecases as keepsakes for all of the grandchildren. The type in that one cabinet was pieced into several boxes by the family before we came back with a rented trailer and Bob, who does casting, ended up with most of that. I took the Polhemus cabinet apart to facilitate stripping the old finish, and the pieces were brought into our basement shop to be reassembled. It will have to be disassembled again to fit through the doorway. Someday that will be our daughter’s

problem.

“We did save several sizes of Tiffany Shaded, Halftone, Curtis Post, American Italic, a font of Old Roman Black, one of Cleveland Script, and something labeled Freeport that I haven’t found in a specimen book yet. We also found a few dingbats with a Johnson Foundry pinmark and several fonts of wood type and one of wood border.

“We have invested many hours in time and effort cleaning up the cabinet, but we are very pleased to have it in our collection.”



APA’s 50th — THE BEGINNING

The APA’s celebration of its 50th year didn’t exactly set any records for stupendous celebrations but that doesn’t matter.

The November bundle sort of says it all. I called it a WOW in the headline and it was. The last time I used that was for

...from the editor
MIKE O’CONNOR

John Horn’s Poster Mailing. Maybe I can use it again for December? It said a lot about APA.

Pat Leary in a recent Letpress post commented on how many of the pieces were produced by members with high membership numbers, meaning of course, that they were new members. Not only that, but many of the excellent pieces were produced by new members! I don’t mean that this is surprising nor mean to implicate that many of the “old-timers” didn’t have excellent pieces in the bundle. It’s just that it’s nice to see new blood jumping right into activity and what’s more—putting their best foot forward.



What does that say? Having been in the secretary’s chair for the past two years, I’ve seen the new members coming in and in advance, have seen the printing they can produce. Letterpress does indeed have a future and so does APA!

They may not always follow the traditions that us old farts have adhered to for all of our printing lives but you can’t argue with much of their fine work.

What’s more, they aren’t shy to step forward to help out and certainly be immediate participants in our organization.

What a way to end the year. Of course, we aren’t finished with the year yet. What will December bring? I’m starting to drool. Sorry.