

LETTERS

Chris Stern remembered

It is with deep regret that I announce to the Alcuin Society's members the death of Chris Stern on November 25, 2006, from colon cancer. After a month in the hospital, Chris died at the Printing Farm with his wife, Jules Remedios Faye, his family and many friends. Known for the last 20 years throughout the Northwest and the United States as a talented printer, bookmaker and publisher, Chris taught, advised and mentored many, both young and old. Chris began Grey Spider Press in 1986 and since 1994 also worked with Jules as Stern & Faye Printers. Chris's work epitomizes the best of the field; his dedication to quality was an inspiration.

Chris was devoted to letterpress printing, creating a legacy of fine limited edition literary books for a number of excellent regional writers. His passion for typography resulted recently in a series of brilliant broadsides with more press runs than one could count. In 1995, this passion led to the formation of the Stern & Faye type foundry with the assistance of Jim Rimmer. Never one to shy away from his strong commitment to quality, Chris was an advocate for the continuing value of traditional crafts. He lived his ideals and passed these values on, through both his teaching and his work. Chris and Jules mentored a number of apprentices and devotees throughout the United States, and his passing has brought sympathy and support from a far-flung book arts and printing community.

In the planning stages are several activities to assist in paying for Chris's medical expenses. Artists and collectors can donate work to Wessel & Lieberman Booksellers, Seattle, for sale (all proceeds going to Jules). The School of Visual Concepts, in Seattle, will be holding a retrospective of Chris's work January 8 to February 28 where much of the work will be for sale. A memorial event is planned for March 2007.

Sandra Kroupa
Book Arts and Rare Book Curator
Special Collections Division
University of Washington Libraries

Gaspereau's Wayzgoose

Gaspereau Press in Kentville, on Nova Scotia's north shore, hosted a memorable wayzgoose October 20–21, 2006. This remarkable small publisher organized interesting poetry and prose readings by Tim Bowling, Robert Bringhurst, John Terpstra and Sean Johnston, among others, and an open house highlighted their recent publications.

The loading dock of the Gaspereau Press printing

THE ALCUIN SOCIETY was the idea of Geoff Spencer, to promote a wider appreciation of finely wrought books among book lovers around the world. Other founding members were Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Bill Duthie, Sam Black, Bill McConnell, Dale Smith and Sam Fogel.

The name Alcuin was chosen to honour the memory of Alcuin of York (A.D. 735 to 804). Alcuin was a man who cared deeply about books and literacy. As Charlemagne's "Minister of Culture," Alcuin selected the most legible script of his day and gave it official blessing. Known as Caroline minuscule, it ultimately led to our modern lowercase alphabet.

To further its aims, the Alcuin Society engages in a wide range of educational activities, many of them in collaboration with educational institutions—lectures, workshops, exhibitions, field visits and competitions. Annual design awards are made by a panel of expert judges for the best in Canadian book design. *Amphora*, the Society's journal, covers a wide range of topics related to the book: the future of the book, the history of the book, the book arts (typography, type design, calligraphy, papermaking, illustration, printing and binding), publishing, bookselling, book collecting, notable library collections, and reading.

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The Alcuin Society
is proud to have as patron the
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA
Her Excellency the Right Honourable
Michaëlle Jean.

ANNE YANDLE, 1930–2006

Anne (Carson) Yandle, a long-time friend of Alcuin and all things bibliophilic, passed away on December 12, 2006. Her absence will be felt acutely by Vancouver's book arts community, and among fellow librarians and bibliographic enthusiasts across the country.

Born in Northern Ireland in 1930, Anne moved to Vancouver in the '50s, graduated from the McGill Library School in 1961, and returned to Vancouver and a job at the University of British Columbia. She eventually became head of special collections, and it was in this role that her support and enthusiasm for local artists and printers made itself felt. She was responsible for the development of many fine collections, including British Columbia and Canadian history and early children's literature. She encouraged her colleagues to build the manuscript collections, the university archives, and the historical map and cartographic archives, and she was one of the first librarians to see the value of ephemera and alternative literature.

After retiring in 1991 Anne started a small mail order business selling books, Marco Polo Books, specializing in British Columbia history. For several years in the 1990s she ran the Alcuin Book Design Awards; most recently she served as books editor for Amphora. Anne was a sparkling personality with a deep intellect, always quick to laugh, and never one to put herself first (except perhaps during a fencing match, a sport at which she reportedly was quite effective). Her absence will be felt at all Alcuin events for years to come, but her memory will be equally treasured and sustained.

With Anne's passing so close to the production of this issue of Amphora, we include this brief memorial simply to record the sad event. In an upcoming issue we will be collecting favourite stories from a number of people who knew Anne in her various capacities, to celebrate her life and work.

UPCOMING

The next issue of *Amphora* will feature a report by Tara Bryan on the first CODEX Biennial Book Fair & Symposium; a profile of calligrapher Martin Jackson; and details on the 2007 Alcuin Book Design Awards winners.

works is nirvana for any letterpress printer, storing a number of excellent presses in full or near working order. Each of the press's principals, Andrew Steeves and Gary Dunfield, has a working press in his office. I was deeply honoured to be the guest printer, helping visitors print a commemorative broadside on Andrew's substantial proof press, answering questions and exchanging shop talk.

The evening's highlight was a typographers round table, moderated by Andrew, attempting to answer the question "What does it mean now that everyone has access to type?" My fellow panellists were Robert Bringhurst; Montreal typographer Glenn Goluska; noted type designer Rod McDonald; and Stan Bevington of Coach House Books, Toronto. It was a spirited discussion that drew no firm conclusions but offered responses to some challenging questions from the audience.

The enthusiastic staff of Gaspereau Press are creating some of the best designed and produced books in Canada, and if this year's wayzgoose is as stimulating as the October event, it will be well worth a visit to Kentville.

William Rueter
The Aliquando Press
Dundas, Ont.

Life of Pi-ority

Congratulations on the October issue of *Amphora*—engaging articles and well designed. I have one correction to offer that probably has been drawn to your attention already. Steven Palter in the Trends in Collecting column states that the revised text of Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* appeared with the Knopf Canada trade paperback edition. Not so. The major re-edit of the novel was undertaken by Jamie Byng of Cannongate, Martel's U.K. publisher, and the revised text first appeared in the U.K. hardcover edition. The revised text was then used for the U.S. edition, the later Canadian trade paperback and all subsequent editions.

Paul Whitney
Vancouver, B.C.

We welcome correspondence from members about anything they read in Amphora, or with local news of the book arts. Letters can be sent by post or e-mail (if the latter, please include your full name and city). Those printed may be edited for length.—Ed.

Correction

Ingrid Paulson's name was misspelled in our last issue ("Alcuin Goes East"). We regret the error.