

EXHIBITIONS — EAST

Grimsby Wayzgoose celebrates three decades

Thirty years ago, the late Bill Poole of Poole Hall Press did something that printers, book artists and collectors in Ontario have appreciated ever since: he founded the Grimsby Wayzgoose. This annual gathering of on the fourth Saturday in April of private press printers, wood engravers, papermakers, bookbinders, paper marblers, calligraphers and others involved in the book and printing arts has become, at a venerable 30 years of age, the grande dame of Ontario book arts.

The 30th annual Grimsby Wayzgoose opened at 9 a.m. in what one attendee referred to as “the House that Poole Built,” or the Grimsby Public Art Gallery, as it is more properly known. Not only did he found the wayzgoose, but back in the mid-1970s Poole was instrumental in creating the venue itself. Needless to say, he was on the minds of many in attendance, some of whom he mentored, and it would be pleasant to believe that his spirit was there, enjoying the day.

And what a day it was! Fair spring weather made move-in for the 44 exhibitors a breeze and facilitated free movement for visitors between the newer gallery facility and the fine old Carnegie Library building just a few yards away. The gallery hall adjoins a new library building; while not part of the exhibition space, the library has a spacious interior that, viewed from the hall, lends a certain grandiose perspective to the event.

Several veterans of many wayzgeese past, including Will Rueter of Aliquando Press, Margaret Lock of Locks Press, Hugh Barclay of Thee Hellbox Press and Alan Stein of the Church Street Press, shared the main gallery space with an exhibition titled *The Thirty Goose Salute: The Story of Wayzgoose*. Posters, broadsides and samples of work illustrated the vibrant spirit and sense of fun of wayzgeese gone by. Some tables held exquisite examples of fine press printing, bookbinding and block printing amongst other treasures. For example, George Walker’s latest work, *The Book of Hours*, was available. This sublime wordless novel in 99 wood engravings tells the very personal, very ordinary stories of Twin Tower workers beginning their day early in the morning right up to the moment



*Stephen Sword of Stiff 'n' Sore Press operates a Pearl platen press at the Grimsby Wayzgoose.
Photo by Maaike Boubuyzen-Wenger.*

the airplane hit the first tower on September 11, 2001. At \$1,000 per copy, I don’t expect any of the 10 copies to remain available very long. George sold one at the show.

The 30th Grimsby Wayzgoose enjoyed good attendance particularly through the late morning into mid-afternoon, as one might expect. There is no real way to gauge sales, but even from a casual view, many bags, books and parcels could be seen in the hands of visitors—a good sign. The presence of many younger faces both behind the tables and in the aisles bodes well for the legacy of book arts in Ontario, and reflects a renaissance of interest taking place all over.

Larry Thompson is proprietor of Greyweathers Press, based in Merrickville, ON.

MORE AMPHORA NEWS

This issue features the debut of two new columns, both written by Richard Coxford. Richard is the proprietor of Bytown Books in Ottawa. Collector’s Corner (see page 24) will replace John King’s column, surveying recent catalogue listings, auctions and finds of particular note. Limited Availability (see page 23) will spotlight new limited edition books from small- and fine-press publishers. Anyone wanting to alert Richard of an upcoming publication can contact him at info@bytownbookshop.ca.