

# Thumbpicking and Ukelele Books to Deep Impressions: An Engaging Year at the International Printing Museum.

THE YEAR 2013 PROMISES TO BE A SIGNATURE YEAR IN ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT THE PRINTING MUSEUM, SHOWCASING THE RICH RESOURCES OF THE MUSEUM.

The Printing Museum started the year at full speed with a varied series of programs scheduled and a few in the planning stages. We held the first of our four annual Boy Scout Merit Badge Days (MBD) with the continued success. Since beginning it in 2011, the Merit Badge Day continues to grow strong, with each MBD booked solid with 100 scouts well in advance. We are currently bringing 400 scouts annually through the hands-on program to earn two merit badges in Graphic Arts and Paper. It is exciting to see the energy and excitement of the scouts as they experience the magic of printing and paper. One of the comments by a parent was, "The program was amazing. each station was better than the previous. the information, the hands-on... I could keep going. I just want to thank you for all th work it must have taken to assemble such and incredible event. It was amazing! My husband and I could not drag ourselves away, even though this was just an event for our scout!"

Saturdays at the Printing Museum are always very busy with guests enjoying the collection and our working tours, and our many docents engaged in projects creative and constructive. We have also seen an increase in the number of collegiate graphics students for tours focusing on typography, printing and the book arts. It is very interesting to see how they are so surprised when learning how type and printing have developed; it really helps them to understand the relevance of type and printing to their studies and how computer graphics is



... tied to "the old ways".

Our annual Kids Crazy Kraft Day in spring was a great success with our largest crowd to date. With the help of our local IHOP Restaurant, we were able to attract nearly 250 "kids" of all ages. The event is usually the first opportunity for our guests to engage in printing crafts and arts, making paper and printing and creating beautiful graphic keepsakes. Most of our visitors that day stayed for well over three hours, a great testimony of how engaging the day was, thanks to our many dedicated volunteers and docents.

Richard Smith, world-class guitarist from Nashville, performed a concert on Friday evening April 19th. Richard and his wife Julie

Adams on cello mesmerized the Museum audience last year when they visited, and this time was just as stunning. Richard was touring Southern California for three weeks, but it is guaranteed that the Printing Museum gig was the only one that let guests custom-print a letterpress broadside using wood type and a linoleum cut featuring Richard on guitar! Wednesday June 12th will be our next scheduled concert featuring Tom Bresch, son of guitarist Merle Travis. As Chet Atkins put it, "Thom Bresh is a "World Class" guitarist that deserves to be heard." When he lays into his father's thumbpickin' classics, he and that guitar will leave you breathless. Don't miss this

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Visitors to the Printer Fair find a host of handcrafted and printed objects to purchase. Hand presses were on sale, and guests had the opportunity to hear speakers.

great concert at the Printing Museum in June. On April 17th Peter & Donna Thomas from Santa Cruz parked their colorful Book Arts Gypsy Wagon at the Printing Museum to spend the evening talking about letterpress printing, creative bookmaking, playing a few ukelele book arts songs specially written by Peter, making paper, showcasing their years of making limited edition and artists books since 1976. It was a very enjoyable and eclectic evening; two years ago after finishing his Gypsy Wagon, Peter made the Printing Museum his first stop on his cross-country sojourn; this visit was his last as he and his wife headed back to Santa Cruz.

Even with the cutback in school budgets, the Museum on Wheels programs are busy bringing living history to schools throughout California and Arizona. This year, the Ludwick Family Foundation in Glendora awarded the International Printing Museum a very generous grant to fully underwrite our Ben Franklin Colonial Assembly to visit up to 60 local schools. This grant is a tremendous help to budget-strapped schools, giving more children the opportunity to experience this educational and very entertaining program.

Sixty designers and printers descended on the Museum on April 13th for our Beauty of Engraving Symposium. Sponsored by Neenah

Paper and BurdgeCooper Inc (the LA based largest commercial engraving company in the world). This was a working experience into the fascinating world of engraving, both commercial and artistic. Following presentations on the process and history of engraving and its applications in modern design, guests had the opportunity to rotate around working stations to experience the process of engraving. We moved a 1920's engraving press down from BurdgeCooper in Los Angeles which the guests learned how to feed paper into and print their own engraved notecards; our printmaking docents, Mike Powe and Sandy Cvar, operated our turn-of-the-century intaglio press with the help of attendees to produce beautiful engravings from 80 year old plates from BurdgeCooper. Don Burdge detailed the process and requirements and possibilities of engraving, instructing designers how to incorporate into modern design. It was another signature day at the Printing Museum, using the Museum's vast resources and working facility to make history come to life in a very relevant way.

On September 15th, the Printing Museum will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a Gala Celebration and Building Campaign Kickoff. With tours, presentations, music, food and more, we will be showcasing the accomplishments of the Printing Museum over the last 25 years as

well as detailing our vision and plans to expand the Museum. We will be detailing the plans for the Building Campaign that will create a larger theatre, develop new exhibit galleries, new educational tours, a rotating exhibit gallery, and improved book arts teaching lab. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 15th to join us in this celebration of what the Printing Museum has accomplished over the last 25 years and where we are heading in the next 25 years.

October 5th will be our 5th Annual Los Angeles Printers Fair. With an anticipated 100 artists-printer vendors and supplier in attendance to showcase their work, this year's Printers Fair will truly be a great Celebration of Paper and Printing. There will be an ample supply of used printing equipment and supplies available for those interested in acquiring material for their shops. It will also be an exceptional opportunity to learn, print and play with like minded individuals. For the non-printer, the LA Printers Fair gives an opportunity to purchase wonderful artistic gifts for Christmas or any other occasion. Throughout the event there will be printing demonstrations and exhibits showcasing the beautiful art of printing and the paper arts; this is an event not to miss.

December will bring our annual Dickens Holiday Celebration. With the Museum decorated



in all the atmosphere of Fezziwig's Warehouse, the Dickens Celebration heralds in the Victorian era of Christmas. The Museum docents will be dressed in Victorian attire with period music and celebration throughout the galleries. Charles Dickens himself will retell his Christmas Carol in the Museum's Heritage Theatre, becoming Scrooge and using his audience as random cast members; it is truly one of the most original presentations of that famous story. Guests will also be able to enjoy homemade gingerbread and authentic English bangers for lunch, special tours of the Museum and printing of their own Victorian Christmas cards and keepakes. Every year this event is regularly sold out so don't delay to get your tickets through the Museum's website at [www.printmuseum.org/dickens](http://www.printmuseum.org/dickens). Many of our returning attendees dress in Victorian garb, making for a wonderful ambiance for in the Museum.

#### SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday September 15th, 2 pm 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of programs and excellence, as well as hear the details of our Building Campaign Kickoff to expand and improve the Printing Museum! [www.printmuseum.org/gala](http://www.printmuseum.org/gala)

Saturday October 1st, 10 am to 5 pm 5th Annual Los Angeles Printers Fair

A Celebration of Paper and Printing featuring nearly 100 artists, printers and vendors with special exhibits, demonstrations and the largest letterpress swap meet in Southern California.

## Kids Krazy Kraft Day Big Success

Kids Krazy Kraft Day on March 30th was attended by nearly 250 very enthusiastic guests this year, our largest crowd ever, all having wonderful comments about their experience at the Printing Museum. The most common remarks referred to the enthusiasm and knowledge of the docents as they demonstrated and explained their expertise. It was difficult to tell who enjoyed themselves the most, the young kids or the older kids who drove them to the Museum! As we have mentioned to everyone, Kids Krazy Krafts Day at the Printing Museum is for "kids of all ages!"

A great addition to this year's event was the sponsorship by our local IHOP Restaurant who helped with banners and promotions. But for our guests, the best part was the complimentary IHOP pancake brunch. Who doesn't like pancakes?! IHOP really outdid themselves with the large plate of pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and juice for all of the attendees. The big, gleaming eyes of the kids as they carried away their "swag" was priceless! Our thanks to the Carson IHOP, manager Miguel and his staff for their tireless efforts of supplying nearly 250 complimentary meals for our guests.

Dressed in traditional Japanese fashion, Yoshiko and here family introduced kids to the fascinating world of Origami, their creations decorating the Museum's theatre; It was great to see a father and daughter sitting and trying to fold paper into a rabbit and other wonderful creatures. Our own Phil Soinski brought out the cartoonist in everyone, teaching them to draw ears and eyes and noses, many not realizing they were skilled artists. Adults and their children created wonderful cartoon characters at the tables as well as on a giant poster on the wall.

Jane Shibota, whose line never ceased, demonstrated and taught the beauty of calligraphy and writing, calligraphing the most beautiful bookmarks! Gary Remson helped the young printers dip their hands in the papermakers vat to form their first paper. The line was never short at Mike Powe's screen printing station where wide eyes saw their t-shirts being printed. The Linotype and Ludlow cast hundreds of lines of type for participants to use on one of the many small presses.

Kraft Day has grown over the last few years and is becoming a favorite with people returning

each year to enjoy with friends and family. "I had no idea the Museum was here, what a wonderful informative place!" and "My children are having such a wonderful time, folding paper, making paper and printing, that they do not want to go home!" Many of the guests arrived before the doors opened and stayed until the end of the day. And the most priceless comment by a young lad, Ethan, who visited after experience our school assembly at his school in Torrance the day before, "This place is AMAAAZING!"

Thanks to all whom came, saw, learned and enjoyed as well as our many volunteers who demonstrated their skills... what great fun was had by all!

Thank you to everyone for making this day so engaging and memorable for so many of our new and old friends to the Printing Museum! Huell Howser would have agreed with his priceless comment, "This place is AMAAAZING!" In truth, you guys are all amazing!

*Our Docent electrician Brent wiring the Heidelberg Cylinder at the midnight hour so the Show Guild could be printed.*



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This has been a very busy year for the International Printing Museum, with many activities and special events having been held. The Museum's projects and programs continue to be more eclectic each year, growing in the number and participation. Overall, the Printing Museum remains an active, evolving experience of history, printing, literature and art. Every month we have something happening, whether for students, artists, printers or the public.

Our quarterly *Boy Scout Merit Badge Days* have been so well received that we are booked into Spring of 2013. Each MBD brings 100 scouts to the Printing Museum to spend the day exploring the worlds of paper and printing. The scouts are divided into 8 teams that rotate between 12 stations during the day, engaging in hands-on presentations cover the printing industry, paper and papermaking, careers, press operation, screen printing, bindery and more. Many of the enthusiastic scouts have

**FOR MORE VIDEOS & PICTURES**

- [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/PRINTMUSEUM](http://YOUTUBE.COM/USER/PRINTMUSEUM)
- [Flickr.COM/PHOTOS/PRINTMUSEUM](http://Flickr.COM/PHOTOS/PRINTMUSEUM)
- [WWW.PRINTMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.PRINTMUSEUM.ORG)

have ever attended. We even have seen printing in from as far away as Virginia to print. And we are very excited to be working with them and introducing them to the vibrant and growing modern printing industry. To date, in 18 months we have brought 800 scouts through the program and about 1,000 merit badge days. And we have already begun development of a similar program for the Girl Scouts who have a Book Arts Merit Badge, which we hope to introduce in 2013.



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Our *Museum on Wheels* mobile program continues to be popular, especially with the cuts to school budgets, regular field trips

**THE WAYZGOOSE GAZETTE**

150 schools in Southern California, Arizona and Northern California. In addition, to the traveling program we have about 120 schools from elementary to college using the Printing Museum for a wide array of tours each year. In total, the Printing Museum works with about 20,000 students each year through its programs.

Each month, we are offering several classes in our *Book Arts Institute*. The BAI offers

**REMEMBER THE PRINTING MUSEUM WITH A YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION!**

The Printing Museum and its educational work is wholly dependent upon our guests and generous supporters across the country. The Printing Museum is recognized as a tax-exempt 501c3 public charity; contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law. To make a donation, please fill out this form and send it to the Printing Museum by mail or fax to 310-515-8266. You can also donate online via our website at [www.printmuseum.org](http://www.printmuseum.org).

- Basic Annual Membership as a Friend of the Museum: \$50
- Sustaining Friend: \$100/year • Lifetime Friend: \$500
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