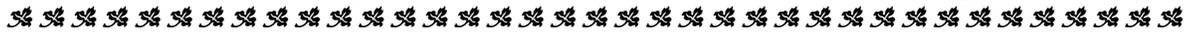


The WAYZGOOSE GAZETTE

A Newsletter of the International Printing Museum



FOUNDED IN 1988 BY DAVID JACOBSON AND ERNEST A. LINDNER, THE PRINTING MUSEUM IS A PUBLIC CHARITY DEDICATED TO EDUCATION THROUGH THE PRESERVATION OF PRINTING HISTORY

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Al Merkel: A Celebration of a Printer's Life



THE INTERNATIONAL PRINTING MUSEUM lost one of its best friends and greatest supporters when we learned that Al Merkel passed away suddenly but peacefully at his home in La Cañada on February 5th. He will be dearly missed by so many in the printing industry in Southern California and across the country, but especially by his wife Marlowe, his children Jennifer, Todd and Carolyn.

Al Merkel's record of service and leadership was extraordinary. He led Times-Mirror Press for several years during a period of major change. Prior to that, he held a number of top management positions in our industry, including with R.R. Donnelley and Jostens. Al was always proud of his service in the U.S. Force as a B-25 pilot and commander as part of the Strategic Air Command.

Over the years, he found the time to provide leadership as a PIASC (Printing Industries Association Southern California) Director and Chairman, Master Printers of America Chairman and Printing Industries of America Chairman for which he was named the PIASC *Executive of the Year* in 1982.

Al Merkel's involvement with the Printing Museum stretched back more than 30 years. Before the International Printing Museum came to fruition in 1988 with the help of Dave Jacobson, Al Merkel worked tirelessly with Ernie Lindner to find a home for Ernie's world-famous collection. Through his connections at the Times-Mirror Press, Al nearly secured funding to establish the collection at the Los

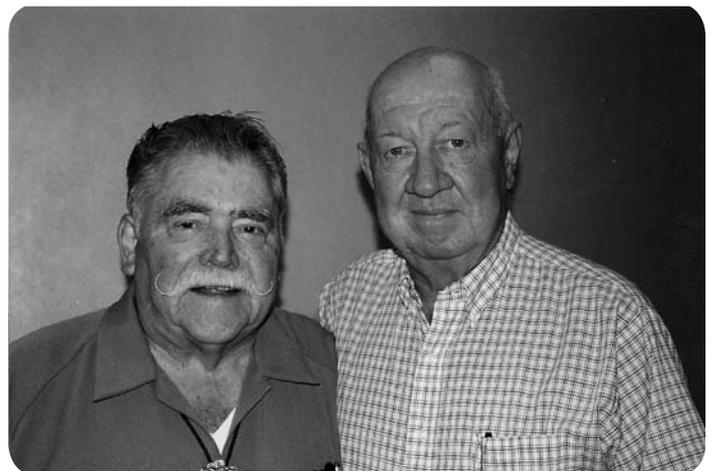
Angeles Science Museum in 1986. But at the last minute, the earmarked funds from the Times-Mirror Foundation were redirected to the recently burned Los Angeles Public Library, and the Lindner Collection was again placed into storage.

Shortly after the International Printing Museum was successfully established in Buena Park in 1988, Al Merkel stepped into the Museum's Board of Trustees, serving as one of our most valuable trustees until his untimely death. Al Merkel served as the Chairman of the Museum Board of Trustees for two years and led the Museum's successful capital campaign to acquire its current property. With his contacts in the printing industry locally and across the country, Al was able to build a broad base of support that has resulted in the stability and growth of the Printing Museum.

When our van used to pull our history trailer to schools broke down, Al just stepped up to the plate, made the phone calls and wrote the letters to bring in \$35,000 to purchase a new van. He even drove down to San Diego on a Saturday to get the only available diesel van from a dealer, driving it back up to Los Angeles in time for me to hook up the history trailer and leave the next day for the Bay Area!

In the summer of 2005, Al attended a presentation at the Museum and suffered through a hot afternoon with the Museum's broken HVAC unit. Being the take-charge

(continued on page 2)



Al Merkel with his longtime friend, Ernie Lindner, founder of the International Printing Museum.

Al Merkel: A Celebration of a Printer's Life



Al served as a B-52 pilot and commander for S.A.C. (pictured left); among his many hobbies was a passion for fishing (pictured middle with his printing friends John Hedlund and Tex Hamilton); in 1983, Al received the prestigious PIA Man of the Year Award for his years of industry leadership (pictured right); Al with his wife Marlowe and the statue of Ben Franklin in Glendale (pictured below).

leader, Al announced a new campaign at the end of the presentation to replace the units. Many of those who are now reading this article received that phone call from Al and responded to his urgent plea.

One of Al's early efforts was to raise the money needed to install a statue of Ben Franklin in front of the national PIA headquarters in Pennsylvania. It's a statue of Franklin sitting invitingly on a bench that Al surprisingly discovered near some shops in Glendale. It wasn't long before Al was calling all of his friends and colleagues across the country to raise the \$50,000 needed to install a copy of the statue at PIA. "Well, I don't really like to raise money, but I guess I'm good at it," Al would always comment to me. There was always a glimmer of pride in his eyes when he said that!

He believed deeply in the Printing Museum's mission of preserving the heritage of printing and using that heritage for education. In 2004, Al Merkel was awarded the Printing Museum's highest honor,

The Ernest A. Lindner Founder's Award, in recognition for his significant efforts on behalf of the Museum.

Recognizing Al's passion for the Printing Museum and its mission, the Merkel family asks that contributions in his memory be made to the Museum. You can either use the Printing Museum's website at www.printmuseum.org or by mail at 315 Torrance Blvd, Carson CA 90745. All donations will become part of the *Al Merkel Education Fund* to be used to expand the Printing Museum's exhibits and programs.

Al Merkel was a man's man, large in stature and character, one of those really genuine men that cannot be replaced. He loved his industry, his family, his golf, his fishing, his chickens and dogs, and his prize tomatoes. He will be deeply missed at the Printing Museum, not to mention that sage advice from his booming baritone voice at the board meetings.

— Mark Barbour, Director



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AL MERKEL EDUCATION FUND

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Attn: Al Merkel Memorial

Book Arts Institute



Classes are in full swing this spring. Come join us. Check out our class list at printmuseum.org. Elisa York (left) from San Diego took two letterpress classes with us. Kathy Bowers (right) practices her uncial calligraphy at our Feb. 28th class taught by renowned calligrapher Janet Martorello. Book Arts Institute graphic (above) designed by Chapman University intern Brooke Brisbois who is contributing her graphic talents to the Museum this spring.

INTERNATIONAL PRINTING MUSEUM'S FAMILY DAYS

You and your whole family are invited on the second saturday of the month.

Come anytime between 10:00-2:00 pm.

This activity is included in the price of admission, \$8/adults, \$7/students and

seniors. Please RSVP to

Rachelle Chuang, Director at

bookarts@printmuseum.org

March 14: Bookmaking Day.



April 11: Paste Papers



May 9: Miniature Books



June 13: Card Making

Special Guest Peter Thomas coming in May 2009

**SPECIAL PRICE OF \$200
FOR BOTH CLASSES**

Register by downloading a form at printmuseum.org. Join us May 30th, 2009 at 7pm for Peter Thomas' lecture on "The Literary Book as a Work of Art and a Musical Instrument." RSVP to bookarts@printmuseum.org.

Peter Thomas has taught hundreds of classes and workshops across the country. Peter and Donna Thomas are self employed book artists, papermakers and letterpress printers who also illustrate, illuminate, and bind their own books. Since 1977, they have produced over 125 limited edition books, over 200 one-of-a-kind artists' books, and recently they wrote and illustrated a bookbinding textbook, *More Making Books by Hand*. They live in Santa Cruz, California. An exhibition of his work will open in the Museum's new Book Arts Gallery following his presentation on Saturday, May 30 at 7pm.

EXPLORING THE MINIATURE BOOK I: BASIC BOOKBINDING AND ACCORDION BOOKS (Pictured upper left)

Develop or expand your bookmaking skills in this workshop which offers basic bookbinding instruction, discussion of concepts and techniques for the book arts and hands on bookmaking. By the end of the day you will create three different miniature books: a pocket accordion book, a case bound accordion book and a nested accordion book. If time allows, you can add images and/or text to the books. Come prepared with a quote, or a "miniature" idea.

Time: Saturday, May 30 9:30-4pm
(with lunch break)

Fee: \$100 + \$15 materials fee = \$115

EXPLORING THE MINIATURE BOOK II: CASE BOUND AND SCROLLING BOOKS (Pictured lower left)

Expand your bookmaking skills! In the morning you will make a case bound book with sewn pages, a traditional hardbound blank book. In the afternoon you will make the unique and innovative "scrolling book," a binding structure created by Peter and Donna to fuse Western and Eastern bookbinding structures. Bring a haiku's worth of words and if time allows you can add images and/or text to the scrolling book.

Time: Sunday, May 31 9:30-4pm
(with lunch break)

Fee: \$100 + \$15 materials fee = \$115

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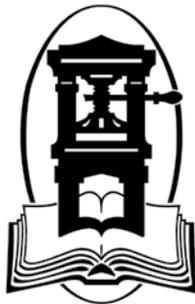
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THE WAYZGOOSE GAZETTE

*is issued regularly for the Friends of the International Printing Museum,
founded in 1988 by David Jacobson and Ernest A. Lindner, featuring the
Lindner Collection of Antique Printing Machinery. The term "wayzgoose"
dates back to the 1600's and refers to a traditional printer's celebration.*

Mark Barbour, Editor

Rachelle Chuang, Graphic Design

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315 Torrance Blvd, Carson, CA 90745

Museum hours: Sat 10–4 pm or by appointment during
the week for groups and other visitors.

mail@printmuseum.org www.printmuseum.org

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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 or become a *Monthly Educational Partner*, please fill out this form and send it to the Printing Museum.

Basic Annual Membership as a Friend of the Museum \$50
Sustaining Friend: \$100/year Lifetime Friend: \$500
Franklin Fellow of the Museum: \$1,000
Silver Level Franklin Fellow: \$5,000 Gold Level Fellow: \$10,000

Our *Monthly Educational Partners* help the Museum to impact more than 25,000 students each year through their monthly contributions; many of our Monthly Partners fulfill their pledge of \$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100 through an automatic credit card payment.

Name: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Enclosed is my donation of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

I would like to make a monthly pledge of: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

Please charge my credit card each month to fulfill my pledge

Please charge my credit card for a one time gift. Expiration date: _____

Name on Card: _____

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