

# MAKING PAPER BY HAND

BY

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he other day I saw a demonstration of making paper by hand at the University of Pennsylvania and thought you might like to hear about it. The demonstration was given by Mr. Dard Hunter, director of the Hunter Paper Museum at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I saw some of his books, printed on paper made in his own mill, in which every page was made separately by hand. His latest book, in process of being made at M. I. T. on "Papermaking by Hand in America" will be limited to only a certain number of copies, and will cost subscribers about \$100 a copy.

Before the demonstration Mr. Hunter talked about the earliest paper mills in America and discussed the first mill in each state, beginning with the Rittenhouse mill in Philadelphia in 1690 and ending with the last hand-operated mill which was near Knoxville, Tennessee. With the coming of papermaking machines in 1817, that was as far west as the art of commercially making paper by hand reached in America.

The actual demonstration of papermaking was given by Dard Hunter, Jr. There were several moulds on a table beside a metal vat containing "stuff" already prepared for the demonstration. The moulds, which I will describe later, were like shallow trays with wire bottoms. Choosing a "laid" mould, he went to the vat, stirred the contents with his hand, and then holding the mould with both hands, dipped it down into the vat and lifted it up covered with stuff. With one motion he spilled off just the right amount of stuff and then made two quick shakes to each side and front and back, and the sheet was formed. The elapsed time was about 3 seconds to form the sheet.