

American Newspaperdom Joins in Honoring Johann Gutenberg, Who Gave the World the Invention of Printing From Movable Type

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THE American press during 1940 is paying homage to Johann Gutenberg, who 500 years ago in a little workshop in the free city of Strasbourg, now in Germany, invented the art that makes possible the modern newspaper.

Gutenberg's invention—the discovery of a technique for casting from lead individual types bearing individual letters, which can be arranged into lines for the printing of words and sentences—makes it possible for you to read what is on this page.

City-wide celebrations honoring the father of printing, in which newspapers are actively participating, are being held during the year 1940 throughout the western hemisphere as the result of the outstanding promotional work of Douglas C. McMurtrie, chairman of the Invention of Printing Anniversary committee for the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen, an organization made up of 6,000 printing foremen and superintendents, and leaders of other graphic arts groups.

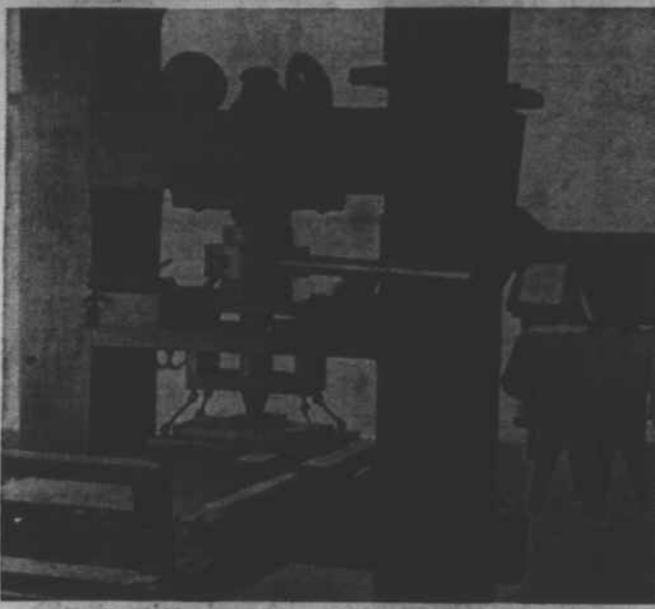
The significance of Gutenberg's invention can best be evaluated by looking backward into the world before the invention of printing. There were books before Gutenberg invented printing with movable types, but each of them had to be laboriously hand-lettered by a scribe or copyist. Months were required to produce a book the size of the average novel. When a scribe completed his work, he had not the several thousand copies that make up an edition today, but only one copy to show for his efforts. The price of this single copy had to include the several years' salary for the scribe, the cost of parchment on which the book was written, and other expensive materials, plus profit. A man who owned a book in the days before Gutenberg, owned an object of curiosity to his neighbors. Bibles were so expensive even few churches could afford a copy. Because of the scarcity and costliness of books, there was no popular education as we know it today and many successful business men in the days before Gutenberg could neither read nor write. They had to call in professional scribes to perform those simple tasks for them.

Inventor Born in Mainz.
Johann Gutenberg, the inventor of an economical process of printing, which made possible public education and the modern newspaper, was born of aristocratic parents in the free city of Mainz about the year 1400. During his youth he was forced to flee Mainz and seek refuge in Strasbourg, about a hundred miles down the Rhine, because of an uprising of tradesmen and craftsmen against the aristocratic families in his native city.

There is evidence that Gutenberg was engaged in his printing experiments in Strasbourg at least as early as 1436. This fact is brought to light in testimony in a lawsuit at Strasbourg in 1439 which was occasioned over a partnership dispute. In this court case, settled in favor of Gutenberg, a witness for the inventor testified that three years previous he had been paid a sum of money "solely for what had to do with printing."

When the inventor stated his printing experiments at Strasbourg, he had many principles and ideas at his disposal which helped assure the success of his endeavors. He had a counterpart of the printing press in the presses that had been used for centuries in vineyards for the pressing of grapes to make wine. Oil paints, which were being used by the artists of the period, would adhere to metal, and with slight adaptation, serve as printer's ink. In the year 103 A. D., the Chinese, Ts'ai Lun, invented paper, and although it took a thousand years for the secret of paper making to reach Europe, there were paper mills in all parts of Europe by the time of Gutenberg. Paper gave the inventor an inexpensive material on which to print and did away with the expensive parchment on which had been printed the costly manuscript books.

The Chinese had also invented the process of wood block printing which was known in Europe by the time of Gutenberg. By this slow and cumbersome process the portions of a wooden block bearing text or pictures or both, which were to appear on a page were cut away. The carved face of this block was inked with water-color ink, a sheet of paper was placed atop the inked surface and the text or pictures were imprinted upon the paper by rubbing the back of the sheet



The first printing press, such as the one used by Johann Gutenberg who 500 years ago invented printing as we know it today. Constructed almost entirely of wood, the inked form was placed on the drawer-board of the press in the foreground, a sheet of paper was placed over the types and the form pushed under the press. Pressure was applied by the turning of the iron bar and screwing the platen, or suspended flat surface, against the paper and types. Only 300 single-page impressions a day could be printed with this press. Modern newspaper presses can turn out 38,000 complete newspapers every hour.

with a padded block. It was much more practical for the Chinese, because of the thousands of symbols in their written language, to carve out an entire page and then dispose of it after using it, than to work out a system for the use of movable types. There is evidence that the Chinese had experimented with movable or individual types before the time of Gutenberg, but they had to abandon them because of the multiplicity of symbols in their language. There is no evidence that knowledge of these Chinese experiments with movable types reached Europe before the time of Gutenberg.

The Latin Donatus.

It is interesting to note that among the very first products of Gutenberg's printing press were 17 successive editions of the "Donatus," a Latin grammar, so called from the name of its author. This inexpensive printed book enabled schoolboys of the early Renaissance to speak and write the language which was then the universal language among educated people in every country in Europe. Contrary to popular opinion, he completed the printing of these editions of the Latin "Donatus" before he attempted to start work on his



Earliest known portrait of Gutenberg, from a copperplate engraving published in Paris in 1584. (Courtesy Ludlow Typograph company.)

first famous Gutenberg Bible, which is sometimes erroneously referred to as the first printed book.

What is believed to be the earliest still existent specimen of printing produced by Gutenberg is the fragment of a German poem on the last judgment. It was printed about 1445 and of it there is preserved for posterity only two sides of one leaf measuring about three and one-half by five inches. Because of its subject matter, it is known to students of printing as the "Fragment of the World Judgment."

After Gutenberg had developed his experiments with printing to a stage of practicable perfection around 1440, he returned to his native city of Mainz. Following his return to Mainz, Gutenberg started making plans for production of his first Bible. All of the wealth left him by his aristocratic father had been used up on his earlier experiments and in order to carry out production of this Bible, Gutenberg was forced to make two large loans from Johann Fust, a capitalist of Mainz.

In 1455, the same year in which is believed to have been completed the famous Bible, Fust demanded repayment of his loans,

plus interest. Gutenberg was unable to meet Fust's demands and as the result of a lawsuit which followed, Gutenberg was dispossessed of his work shop and printing equipment and the exclusive right to his invention.

Following the tragic court battle with Fust, Gutenberg is known to have set up another smaller printing shop and to have printed a Latin dictionary and at least one other edition of the Bible. The inventor, however, never prospered in this enterprise and in his last days he was dependent on a financial pension granted him by the Archbishop of Mainz, presumably for his work in pioneering printing.

Friend Claims Press.

Following Gutenberg's death early in 1468, the press and equipment in his possession at that time were claimed by a friend, Dr. Konrad Humery, who had bought them for him.

No one knows where the father of printing is buried. There was a story that his body had been interred in the Church of St. Francis at Mainz, but a search for it several years ago proved unavailing.

Gutenberg's claim to the honor of being the inventor of printing with movable types has been questioned in the past and the claims of some rival contenders, based largely on legend, have been advanced. However, no competent historian today questions the specific documentary evidence on which rests the fame of Johann Gutenberg.

Although Gutenberg never received the financial rewards of the Edisons and the Fords and many other inventors of this modern era, he undoubtedly had the satisfaction in his last days of seeing mankind carrying on the work he had so successfully pioneered. In the twilight of his life he saw printers he had trained go into Italy and Switzerland to establish the first presses there.

The seventeenth century saw the rise of the most powerful modern manifestation of Gutenberg's invention in the form of the printed newspaper. The very first printed newspaper in the world was started in Germany in 1612. A newspaper began publication in England in the year 1622.

America's first printed newspaper to go beyond one date of publication was the weekly Boston News Letter which first saw the light of day on April 24, 1704. The 34th day of the month appears to be a good one on which to start a newspaper for on January 24, 1778, there appeared Benjamin Towne's Philadelphia Evening Post, America's first daily newspaper. Towne's paper had previously been a weekly publication.

From these pioneers have descended the thousands of American newspapers, including this one, which have had and are daily exerting such a profound influence on the lives of everyone. Every word printed in these modern newspapers during printing's 500th anniversary year of 1940, is a monument to the inventive genius of Johann Gutenberg.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.,
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(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for September 8

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INVITING OTHERS TO WORSHIP

LESSON TEXT—Psalm 96.
GOLDEN TEXT—O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.—Psalm 34:3.

Worship is not only fitting, but altogether natural to the soul aglow with the love of God. Yet it is a sacred privilege to which we may call ourselves and others and in the doing of which we may be helped by an intelligent understanding of its nature and preparation for its practice.

What is worship? How does it differ from prayer, or from praise (which we studied last week)? While prayer, praise and worship belong together and often merge in one blessed art of devotion, we may possibly distinguish between them by saying that in prayer we are concerned with our needs; in praise, with God's blessings; and in worship, with God Himself.

I. The Call to Worship (vv. 1-3).
This psalm has to do with collective rather than individual worship. It is not enough that man should worship God in his own soul, there is an added blessing which comes to us only as we worship with others. So we need to be called together for worship.

True worship centers in "a new song" that is the song of a regenerated heart. Worship is only a formality without life until there is a new song in the heart, and then it becomes life's greatest joy and satisfaction.

Real worship is a "day to day" matter (v. 2), not just something we put on like our "Sunday-go-to-meeting" clothes. Every day we are to worship, and as we do, we shall "declare his glory among the heathen"; among those nearest to us, but ultimately to all the nations of the earth. Worship leads out in a desire that its blessing may be shared with all the people of the earth.

II. The Reason for Worship (vv. 4-6).

Why should we worship God? He is "great" and is a God so good and gracious that He is "greatly to be praised." He made the heavens. "Honor and majesty" stand before Him like sentinels; "strength and beauty" fill the holy place which is "his sanctuary." The very words bespeak that glorious majesty and gracious loving-kindness which impel the heart to worship. They encourage us who need and seek strength and beauty of life to seek communion with Him who dwells eternally in such an atmosphere.

III. The Manner of Worship (vv. 7-10).

We have suggested that fellowship with God prompts us to worship. Some would feel that nothing more is needed, but experience tells us that, while we may worship anywhere, we are helped to do so by proper surroundings and circumstances. We are told to "come into his courts" (v. 8) and to worship "in the beauty of holiness" (v. 9), or, as the Revised Version puts it, "in holy array."

John Ruskin wisely said: "It cannot be questioned at all, that if once familiarized with a beautiful form and color, we shall desire to see this also in the house of prayer; its absence will disturb instead of assisting devotion; and we shall feel it as vain to ask whether, with our own house full of good craftsmanship, we shall worship God in a house destitute of it, as to ask whether a pilgrim, whose day's journey led him through fair woods and by sweet waters, must at evening turn aside into some barren place to pray."

We are to give or ascribe unto the Lord praise and glory among our "kindred" (v. 7); that is, our own family, as well as in "his courts." His sanctuary. Note that one of the outstanding ways of worshiping is to "bring an offering" (v. 8), which means more than casually slipping a small coin in the "collection." If our "offerings" are liberal and regular the church will be able to send the news that "the Lord reigneth" to the whole world (v. 10).

IV. The Universality of Worship (vv. 11-13).

A world which has felt the blow of man's sin (Rom. 8:23) and has suffered from his wickedness and destructive violence will so rejoice in the righteousness of God's judgment that even the realm of nature will break into joyous worship. What a beautiful picture we see in these verses, how God's creation will lift itself up in praise, the sea in tumultuous joy, when "the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees shall clap their hands" (Isa. 55:12).

Can man then hold his peace? Must not "mortal tongues awake" and "all that breathe partake" in wholehearted worship of God? Who then will want to stand among "them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 1:7, 8), and with whom God can deal only in judgment of flaming fire?

'Fly-Yourself' Solves Problem

Idea of Refresher Hops for Air Trainees Seems to Materialize.

NEW YORK.—One of the problems confronting the government's training of 40,000 civilian pilots has been what to do with them after they have received the rather meager basic training it is possible to give at government expense.

They can't all own airplanes, not even the little ships which cost about as much as an average automobile. Thousands of fliers have permitted the licenses to lapse in recent years because they could not afford to buy planes and fly them the requisite number of hours to maintain a license.

Howard Ailor thinks he has found the answer to this and some other aviation problems by taking a tip from the automobile industry. He has established a "fly-yourself system" frankly patterned on the drive-yourself auto idea. In less than two months his hangar at Roosevelt field has become the center of a booming business from what started out as a sideline to his principal job as New York distributor for an aircraft company.

Sees New Avenue Opened.

He believes that such a system, established on a large scale, is essential to achievement of aviation's dream—public acceptance of flying as a means of transportation instead of sport entertainment. Aviation enthusiasts long have held that until the public has begun to think of the airplane as a transportation vehicle the air business cannot come into its own, regardless of war orders.

"The future of aviation in this country," declared Ailor, "lies with those people who now earn moderate incomes, but will some day provide the purchasing power for mass production of private aircraft."

Most of Ailor's business so far has come from pilots who have not been able to rent fast, modern ships for long distance flights, those who own planes but want time on other types, and students seeking radio, instrument and navigation experience.

Chain System Envisioned.

He hopes to extend the system across the country, and as a plane distributor believes it will give a great boost to the production of private-type planes, since he has already been forced to order some new ones, among them the new Ercope, which can be flown solo in as little as four hours. Ailor says the client he is aiming for is "the average man who has looked up and watched them go by because he could not afford one of his own."

His rental system is modeled almost identically with the automobile drive-yourself idea, with rentals beginning at \$3 an hour and applying only to time in the air. A plane may be rented for as long as a month and flown anywhere in the United States, with a daily minimum charge of one hour and 15 minutes.

Pilots seeking special experience may have it on ships equipped with blind flying instruments, two-way Lear Avia radio apparatus and direction finders, including some finders which are automatic.

Sioux Indians Enlist, Become Good Soldiers

CHEYENNE, WYO.—A bronzed, high-cheekboned recruit named E. Louis Flood or Leo High Wolf makes just as good a soldier as a raw newcomer with a more common name of John Jones or Harry Smith, Fort Warren officials report.

In the last six months more than 20 Sioux Indians have been added to the rosters of Fort Warren's three regiments—the First and Twentieth infantries and the Seventy-sixth field artillery.

"They make excellent soldiers, no matter whether we put them in the band, medical detachment, quartermaster department or the headquarters brigade," officials said.

Among the Sioux recruited recently were those with such names as E. Louis Flood, Leo High Wolf, Sam Harry Bird, Melvin Red Cloud and Seymour Twiss.

British Family Sends 18 Of Its Members to Navy

WEYMOUTH, ENGLAND.—The Green family of Weymouth is well represented in the British navy. Its contributions in members consists of:

Two lieutenants, six petty officers, four engine-room artificers, two fleet arm ratings, a warrant engineer, a shipwright, an electrical artificer, and an able seaman.

Mrs. Green's father was killed on H. M. S. Good Hope in the World war, and Green's father served on the Queen Elizabeth. Mrs. Green's mother and her five sisters all married naval men, and that is how all the men of the family seem since to have drifted into the navy.

'Hoppers' Hold up Train

ROBART, SASK.—The grasshopper plague in southwestern Saskatchewan is "plaguing" railroad men as well as wheat growers. A heavily laden freight train passing through this infested area came to a full stop when hordes of locusts made the tracks too slippery for traction.



By L. L. STEVENSON

Zoological: A number of New Yorkers have pet kinkajous. Well, the other evening, a gentleman who doesn't care for kinkajous made a call on a friend whom he hadn't seen in some time. No sooner had he sat down than he became aware of the fact that the family pet is a kinkajou. He tried to ignore the little animal but the kinkajou, evidently having other ideas, climbed to his shoulder, threw its tail firmly around his neck and began to chatter into his ear. That might have been all right since the visitor managed to hide all signs of displeasure, but just as he had become resigned to the situation his host asked him not to make a sudden move because if he did, the kinkajou might bite. So he sat rigid a whole evening firm in the grip of a kinkajou. He didn't get bitten but he is not going back.

Street Scene: Urchins shouting as they dash in and out of a corner shower . . . Tads wading in dirty gutters and possibly imagining they are down to the beach . . . An ice cream vendor stopping to make a sale to a grimy janitor who emerges from dark depths with pennies in his hand . . . A junk dealer halting in the shade of a tenement to give his horse a rest and to mop his brow . . . A pushcart junk collector coming up beside him and exchanging news of the day . . . A small boy, clad only in very short shorts, exhibiting his ability to walk on his hands . . . While a small girl, also in shorts and nothing else, stands by and smiles approvingly.

Caught: A nearby beach club has a very rigid rule against gambling in the clubhouse. Recently, a complaint came in stating that some members were violating the rule. So there was an investigation with the idea of catching and administering due discipline to the culprits. The club has five trustees. The investigation disclosed the startling fact that the trustees, after business was out of the way, had been in the habit of turning the meeting into a penny ante session. So there was no action, the trustees of course being the ones who would set the punishment. And there are no more penny ante games.

Reciprocity: After singing together 11 years, a colored quartet decided that one of their number should be replaced. A search was made and after many try-outs, a substitute was found. But the substitute couldn't go in cold, so the member who was to be let go was assessed one-quarter of his salary each week to pay the expenses of the newcomer while he learned to take his place. And when the newcomer goes into the quartet, he will have to pay over a quarter of his weekly salary until the man he ousted finds another job.

Prepared: Bellevue hospital maintains a "catastrophe unit" which is ready for day or night service and responds to calls from major accidents such as the one recently in which more than 100 commuters were hurt when their train hit a bumper in Grand Central terminal. The unit consists of 13 doctors and nurses, accompanied by orderlies, who ride to the scene in a big bus-ambulance which also carries 300 pounds of medical supplies, mostly bandages and dressings. Three regular-sized ambulances complete the mercy fleet. Since it was organized in September 9, 1939, the unit has turned out and rendered swift and efficient service 12 times.

Jolt to bridge sessions: A business college is starting a special course for married women so that they can take the places of men in event of a national emergency . . . Hand-carved models of three-masted ships that decorate the walls of Ruben's are the work of convicts in Pennsylvania state prison . . . The Mayflower model in our foyer was made by a Connecticut convict.

Fashion note: Wilmas, who dresses the stage femmes, recently received an order from a Newport debutante for a short evening cape of solid gold leaf, trimmed with platina fox. Comes the revolution.

Census Man Deflates Town's Stock Joke

KING CITY, MO.—For 10 years King City residents used a catchy quip to reply to questions of visitors regarding the town's population.

"It's 1,101 and I'm the one," was the stock answer.

Now all of that will be changed. The 1940 census count lists the population at 1,100.

Strange Facts

Republic 'Moved'
Restoring Paintings
Greedy Albatross

When Panama seceded from Colombia in 1903 and became an independent republic, it "moved" from one continent to another. Subsequent maps showed the boundary between North and South America at the eastern end of Panama instead of the western, which put Panama in Central America, or the extreme southern part of the North American continent.

Expert restorers of oil paintings sometimes transfer a famous picture from its rotting canvas or boards to a new canvas. In this delicate operation, a strong paper or muslin adhesive, pasted over the front, holds the paint while the old backing is removed and the new one put in place.

The albatross, largest of the sea birds, sometimes attains a wingspread of 17 feet and is so powerfully built that it often flies for days without alighting. At other times, the bird so gorges itself with food and becomes so "overloaded" that it cannot lift its weight into the air.—Collier's.



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