
Editorial comments

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Helmut Kopka, 1932–2009

Helmut Kopka's *L^AT_EX — Eine Einführung* was one of the first non-English books for L^AT_EX; it rapidly became a standard reference. Joining forces with Patrick Daly, he revised the book (as *Guide to L^AT_EX*) for an English audience, where it has gained an even larger following.

Helmut passed away early this year after a short illness. His clear exposition should be a goal for all aspiring technical writers. A remembrance by Patrick Daly appears elsewhere in this issue.

Eitan Gurari, 1947–2009

We recently learned of the sudden and unexpected death of Eitan Gurari, on June 22. Eitan was the creator of T_EX4ht, a system used widely for publishing research papers on the Internet. His recent research interests included hypertext processing and Braille production; he was scheduled to give a talk on his Braille work at the upcoming TUG meeting.

Eitan's quiet presence and his contributions to the T_EX toolkit will be sorely missed.

A short history of type

Earlier this spring, I attended a lecture at the Museum of Printing in Andover, Massachusetts, entitled "A Short History of Type". The speaker was Frank Romano, Professor Emeritus, Rochester Institute of Technology; Frank occupied the same chair (Melbert B. Cary Distinguished Professor) held previously by Hermann Zapf and currently by Chuck Bigelow.

Over a span of two hours, Frank held the full attention of a small audience describing the winding road from moveable type (Gutenberg and associates, Garamond, Baskerville, and others) through machine typesetting (Mergenthaler, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), et al.), film-based phototype (Photon, Compugraphic, Alphatype, . . .), and into the digital PostScript era. (He failed to cover the pre-PostScript digital machines, with some of which fortunate early T_EXies spent many hours — an omission to which I called his attention afterwards.)

The lecture was videorecorded by students from a local tech college; I've asked for a copy of the recording, and if it's available in time, I hope to take it with me to the TUG meeting, to share with other attendees.

Frank is scheduled to present a related lecture, "A Short History of Printing", at the Museum on

September 25. That's listed in this issue's calendar, with a web link. If you're likely to be in the Andover area at the end of September, by all means sign up! Frank is a delightful speaker, full of fascinating information, and tolerant of off-the-wall questions.

And the Museum itself is chock full of amazing machines and artifacts of the printing industry, including the entire Mergenthaler font library — the original drawings for all the fonts ever produced for Linotype machines. A ongoing development project for the Museum's library will ultimately provide

web-based public access to electronic records of the Museum's books and ephemera. . . . Our goal is that eventually researchers will be able to research and find records for all items in the library and archives. We also aim to provide similar access to records for our collections of artifacts.

For lots more information, go to the Museum's web page, www.museumofprinting.org. And visit the Museum; like TUG it's a 501(c)(3) organization, run entirely by volunteers, and needs (and deserves) all the support it can get.

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