

The idea of an AAPA cooperative annual publication was bounced around in early 1973, and a plan began to come together in late spring. The idea was formally proposed in the June *Tribby Tribune*, and there was enough support from members to get the first issue completed for the October bundle.

It's interesting to note that this year's AAPA convention in Tampa happened to be scheduled to coincide with the time and place of *Ink Cahoots* birth. I was based in Dunedin back then (just across the Bay). The *Tribune* suggesting "An AAPA Annual?" was printed down in Sarasota on Helen & Sheldon Wesson's press in May 1973. (They also named the annual and printed its first cover). Tampa's own Lee Hawes printed the wrap-around title page (as he has for all subsequent issues), assisted in the stapling, and got them to the Post Office.

Dozens of members have participated in *Ink Cahoots* over the years. If you want to join the fun in this Silver Anniversary year (issue number 26), prepare 330 copies of your 4-1/2 by 6 inch page and get them to me before the August 31 deadline.



Colophon

THE TRIBBY TRIBUNE is published for the American Amateur Press Association by David M. Tribby, 1529 Fan-tail Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

e-mail: tribby@cup.hp.com

<http://members.aol.com/aapa96/davet.html>

The Tribby Tribune

Number 56

June 1998

Web Update

EACH DAY, OVER sixteen folks with graphical browsers take the time to visit the AAPA Home page. Probably half again that many drop by in text-only mode and go unnoticed by the software that counts our guests. This total doesn't take into account people who go directly to our pages on graphic arts, letterpress resources, AAPA news, or samples of a-jay writing.

The AAPA has had a presence on the World Wide Web for almost four years...a very long time by Internet standards! The initial page was information taken from our classic recruiting brochure *About Amateur Journalism* plus application information. I added the letterpress and graphic arts pages to attract attention from folks looking up those subjects from an index service or "search engine." I added samples of my own *Tribby Tribune* plus classic a-jay essays to give visitors a flavor of what amateur journalism is about. When several other AAPA members started their own Web pages, it seemed natural to link to them.

Since AAPA's initial venture onto the Web, several other letterpress-related sites have come on-line, and we established reciprocal links to each other. Some searching turned up many more references to an AAPA page: at last count there were over 130 links from sources that include universities, journalism organizations, writers' resource pages, and professional printing associations.

Each week I usually get several e-mail messages from people who have read a page. Once or twice per month it will be a request for sample papers and an application. (Many of the folks who decide to join--we've been averaging a little better than one per month--send in their application without writing to me.)

The non-recruiting e-mail is quite a mixture. The most interesting are messages from people who have had a past connection with the AAPA. For example, a few months back the daughter of Wes Wise (a member from the 1930s into the '70s) was thrilled to find out how to get in contact with some AAPAers she remembered from her childhood.

I also enjoy the letterpress enthusiasts who want to share some aspect of printing, such as the name of a museum to add to the letterpress page. Several students have written to get information on a paper they are writing, or to ask for career advice. Occasionally I'll get an inquiry on how to sell equipment from the family of a deceased hobby printer.

Then there are the irritating business offers: someone who can guarantee me thousands of hits each day if I pay them to register my page with the top search engines; a speakers bureau offering to provide someone to give a talk at my next meeting; announcements of writers conferences or other bulletins that should immediately be sent to all members; or requests for employment.

Although keeping up with the mail requires a bit of effort, the most time-consuming chore is keeping the dozens of links up to date. The Internet is a dynamic place, with Web sites coming and going, or just changing addresses, with alarming frequency. A place that had many relevant links might be reorganized with totally dif-

ferent content. As a user, there's nothing more frustrating than trying to follow a link to an interesting place, but being told that it cannot be loaded. I don't want our visitors to have that experience.

Every three months or so, I take a few hours to follow all links and make sure they are still working and relevant. I also fire up several search engines and look for references to the AAPA pages, just to see who is keeping an eye on us.

If you are on-line but haven't paid a visit yet, point your favorite Web browser at

<http://members.aol.com/aapa96/>

and have a look around. Let me know how you think AAPA's presence on the Web can be improved.



Ink Cahoots Silver Anniversary

IF I HAD WON election as AAPA Secretary back in 1972, I probably would not be coordinator of *Ink Cahoots* today. In my second year as an AAPA member, and following a term as Manuscript Manager, I signed up as a candidate to serve as Secretary. Art Hallock had the same idea, and when the ballots had been counted he was the winner.

The devil finds work for idle hands and so does Roger Ralphe, the newly-elected President. He asked me to form an "ACTION Committee" to stir up AAPA activities. Several others agreed to participate, and we sponsored contests, local meetings, acknowledgment post cards, etc.