

O A S I S

SAND has drifted deep in the typographic desert that is the state of Kentucky. In the middle of this vast monotonous featureless area however, lies the tiny verdant oasis of the King Library Press on the campus of the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Here weary, thirsty travelers periodically convene to be refreshed in life-giving clear springs activities that nourish the body, soul, and mind in fall and spring book arts events. Distinguished speakers, active in the book arts, present lectures and often workshops and exhibits of their work. In the past year, Roderick Cave and Peter Thomas made presentations, and on April 2, 2004, the spring meeting featured Jae Rossman, Curator, Arts of the Book Room at Yale University. She presented a lecture *The Activated Page: Handmade Paper in Contemporary Artists' Books*. The following day, Gabrielle Fox, a Cincinnati designer bookbinder and conservation consultant led a workshop in *Basic Leather Binding Technique*. These presentation programs are guided by the able hands of Jim Birchfield, Curator of Special Collections, and Paul Holbrook who directs the activities of the press including instruction and supervision of student apprentices who are learning the principles of the black art using handmade papers printed damp on Washington flatbed hand presses.

Next summer our colleagues in the National Amateur Press Association have scheduled a visit to the King Library Press during their Lexington based annual convention, which I know will be fascinating and

inspiring. I feel particularly fortunate to live near enough to Lexington to be able to enjoy these fine programs.



Picture taken at the King Library Press last fall – from left to right, Paul Holbrook, Jake Warner, Leah Warner, and Bill Boys. They are contemplating a C&P 10x15” press while making an exploratory visit to Lexington prior to the meeting. Bill is in charge of all arrangements for the convention.

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It is obvious to me that computers will very soon be as omnipresent as cell phones have become today. Remember when cell phones were a novelty? And with computers, everyone potentially will have access to the internet, and be capable of creating, sending, and receiving e-journals that will enrich our small world of amateur journalism greatly. Why not try one today? 📖