

STRAY THOUGHTS ON TYPOGRAPHY

IT IS NO SECRET that I have long preferred ragged right margins to justified margins in my infrequent small creations for the AAPA. I have received much flack from my long-rime good friend Fred Liddle about this, who often accused me of being too *lazy* to take the additional time necessary to justify the lines, though no one else has commented on it. I will admit that in miniature books, justified lines do appear neater and seem easier to read than those that are ragged right. I find that even word spacing to be considerably easier to read than the often excessive spacing found in many publications with justified margins. And I find myself being drawn toward tighter word spacing even with hand-set type. I am experimenting with two point spacing currently, and find that with normal 3-to the em word spacing, I can get by easier if I make typographic errors. If I am using 2 point spacing and make an error that necessitates substituting a wider letter for a narrow one, I often have to re-set many lines of type until I come to the end of the paragraph. Has that happened to you? I can be a much sloppier compositor if I justify lines. This short discourse is being set on Microsoft Word, and one even had considerable control over spacing because Word has a control feature that permits closer spacing. Naturally, using small letters, such as this 11 point Times New Roman true type face, the right hand margin is very close to appearing justified though it is being set ragged right. Larger letters require more careful attention than small body type, but Word can do that easily. So that's my opinion, and opinions of course are like nostrils – everyone has them. What do you think? I already know what Fred prefers.

INTRODUCING BILL HOPP

THE AAPA welcomes Bill Hopp, of Terre Haute, Indiana, to its ranks. It was in Terre Haute that I became interested in printing and bought my first Kelsey 5x8 press and types. I was teaching at Indiana State University, and friends thought it bizarre that a scientist could be interested in printing. The chairman of the entire science division was Dr. William B. Hopp, Sr., my best friend and mentor. Bill, Jr. has had an advantage that I didn't. He had a class in printing at Woodrow Wilson High School. I had none, and had to learn the principles of printing the hard way, by trial and error, with much more error than minuscule successes. Bill has no letterpress equipment, but I hope we can entice him to print for the bundles, or print an e-journal to share with those friends who have computers and are interested in this *new* method of creating and exchanging journals. Bill is a real thinker and one of the best read men I know. He is a terrific correspondent and a gifted writer and I know he has much of importance to share. Bill is a baker of excellent sourdough breads, and is even into experimenting in oenology. He has even tried my world (in)famous *Mule Ass* wine and survived. He lives with his wife and four eccentric cats. I suggested that he call his journal *The Cat Box*, but I don't think he was too enthusiastic about the title.

WHIPPOORWILL E-COMMENT is the experimental journal of a genuine Kentucky hillbilly, though admittedly a *printing* hillbilly. I live out in the country near Frankfort, Kentucky, and in fact so far out that I have to go toward town to go hunting! All of our neighbors have their own tom cats! Join us and publish an e-journal of your own. There is no expense involved – the price is right, and the fun and enjoyment have no limits.