

Things in Motion...

No. 69

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest. You cannot go into the same (river) twice. —Heraclitus (540?-480?) B.C.

HERACLITUS WAS RIGHT...

During my teen years as a member of AAPA I especially loved the give-and-take between publishers of letterpress journals and those who dared to pollute the bundles with (ugh!) mimeographed offerings. I was unable to get to conventions in those days, so I can't say if the "mimeo-messmasters" were treated as less than first class members, but judging from my experience in later years, I would guess that all attendees were cordial and any disparaging comments were made in jest.

On my return to AAPA some fifty years later I found no mimeographed journals, but photocopied ones were common while those letterpress gems from the fifties had all but disappeared. Computer technology seemed to have opened doors for all of us. In just a short while, however, I discovered that the cost associated with creating hard copy was prohibitive for anyone who wanted to do a lot of publishing, as I did after my hiatus of so many years. I was discouraged, to say the least, but then came my first convention—in Tampa in 2003!

How great was my enjoyment at meeting so many ajayers and getting to know those giants of AAPA! I loved every minute of it. I was like a child in a candy store and I was certain that my unbridled enthusiasm must have marked me as a rank amateur, brash and ignorant and fresh off the turnip truck. Then I met J. Hill Hamon.

Aside from being the most knowledgeable person I have known, J. Hill had that rare talent for making one feel at ease. He loved good conversation, as do I, and we passed a lot of hours talking and talking and talking. One of his ideas had to do with AAPA and a way for members to publish without the usual expense: *do it electronically*. He saw this as the future salvation for groups such as AAPA. I agreed with his concept and we began to publish e-journals. In essence, this was like being blindfolded in a dark room looking for a black cat that wasn't there. We had ignited a firestorm among the elite of AAPA, most of whom saw e-journals as a way to certain death for the group, so they took arms against what they perceived as a sea of troubles and e-journals were banned from any serious consideration as journals.

It appears now that the worm has finally turned. The ideas and proposals of our President and others in office will bring new opportunities for expansion. This bodes well for the continued growth of AAPA. I regret that J. Hill passed away before seeing his predictions become reality.

The passing years eventually restrict our level of activity, and I am no exception. My best wishes go to those who continue to give their time and effort to our group.

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