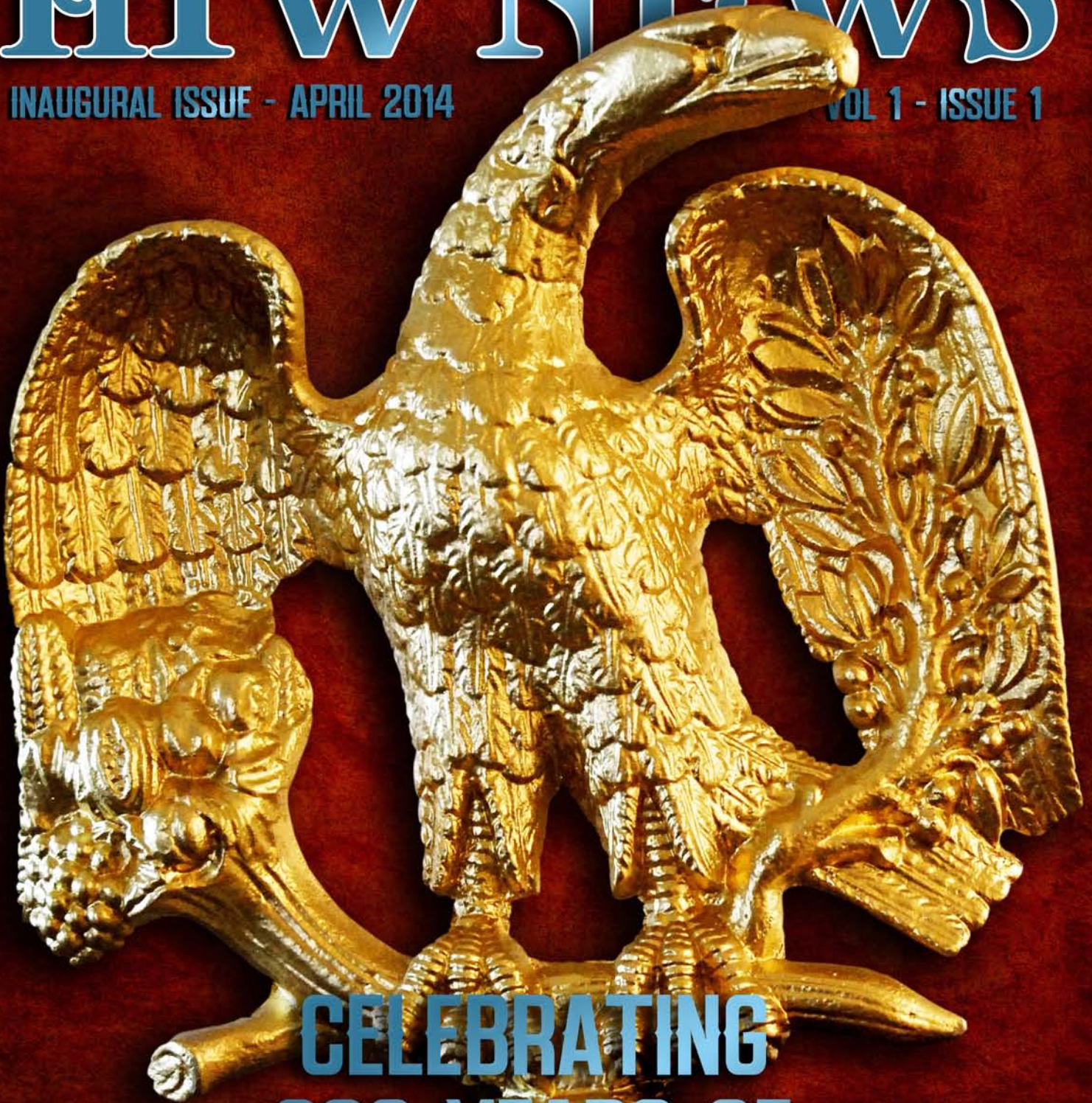


HIW NEWS

INAUGURAL ISSUE - APRIL 2014

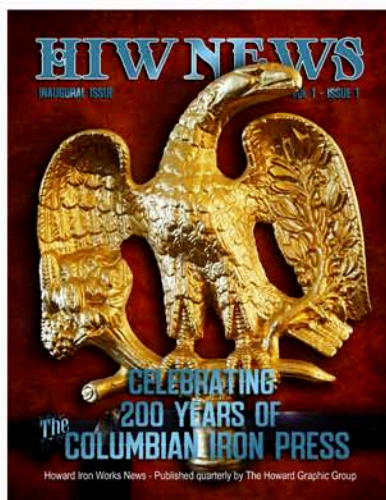
VOL 1 - ISSUE 1



The

**CELEBRATING
200 YEARS OF
COLUMBIAN IRON PRESS**

Howard Iron Works News - Published quarterly by The Howard Graphic Group



The inaugural issue of HIW News celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of what was arguably the most beautiful piece of machinery ever designed, bar none, The Columbian Iron Press. Invented by George E. Clymer, of Philadelphia, PA, the first Columbian Iron Press was built in 1813, before his move to England in 1817 where he continued to produce the presses in London. Although the Columbian enjoyed tremendous success in England, ironically, it was not well received in America. Many variations of the Columbian were produced by various manufacturers in UK and Europe until as recent as 1913, evidenced by the appearance of the press in the 1913 sales catalogue published by Harrild and Sons.

Read the full story on Page 4

HIW News is published quarterly by



Printing Museum and Restoration

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www.howardironworks.org



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News

Welcome to Howard Iron Works Printing Museum and Restoration

After many years of direct involvement in the printing industry, Nick and Liana Howard set about to build a museum of printing history with focus on machinery from the 1830's to 1950's. This period of history has been considered to be possibly the most prolific and important time in the development of printing equipment and processes in the history of communication.

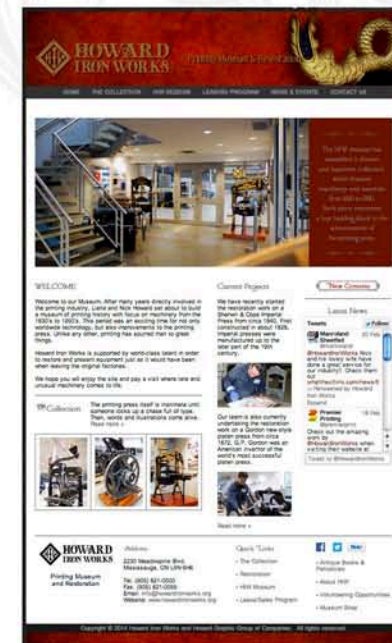
The collection features a large selection of printing presses – from the highly decorated Columbian, Washington and Albion presses, to the more utilitarian varieties, and the rather rare Acorn and Stanhope presses.

In addition to the printing presses, HIW Museum also showcases bookbinding, typesetting and related machinery, collectibles, as well as an impressive selection of books, trade journals and ephemeras of the period.

HIW is supported by world-class talent in order to restore and present this equipment just as it would have been when leaving the original factories more than a century ago. Each piece of equipment is carefully dismantled, expertly cleaned, and reassembled.

The collection is currently housed within the facility of Howard Graphic Equipment in Mississauga, Ontario. A plan to build a permanent home for the museum is underway with a projected completion date of early 2015. The museum plans to build a working 19th century print-shop where a new generation of print artists can learn and be inspired.

Once completed, the HIW museum will be available for private functions. Most importantly, it will realize the Howards' ultimate goal in building the museum which is their way to give back to the print community via the use of the future facility for philanthropic purposes.



Howard Iron Works website, www.howardironworks.org, was officially launched in mid December 2013, as a pre-announcement to the opening of the museum. Constantly updated, the website serves as a place where visitors can stay informed with HIW's various activities, new projects and new acquisitions.

Visit our website

www.howardironworks.org



A newly acquired 1834 Clymer & Dixon Columbian is shortly joining 15 other Columbian presses in our inventory. This Columbian was manufactured during George E. Clymer's lifetime.

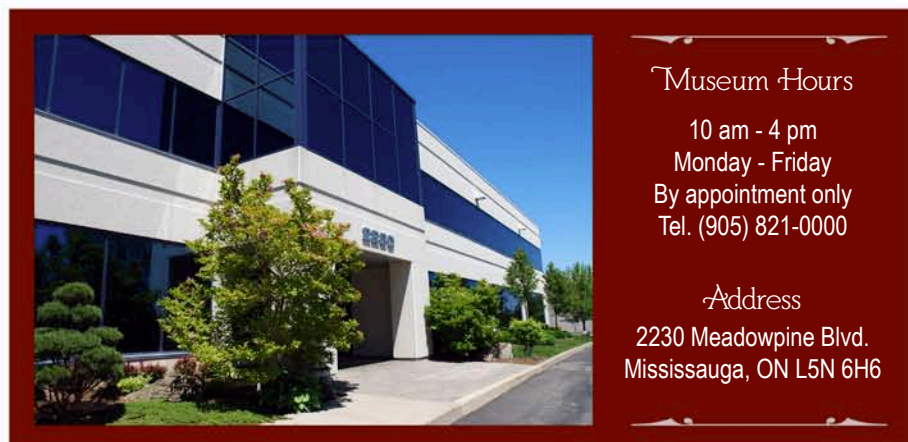
Earlier this year, HIW acquired the letterpress equipment belonging to Livona and the late Keith Watkins, of Logan, UT. The Watkins collection includes an Acorn press, and a St. Louis Foundry Washington press. The restoration work on both iron presses has begun.

Among recently completed projects is the work on a beautifully restored

Imperial Press built by Sherwin & Cope, circa 1840.

Our platen press collection has also grown with the addition of an 1872 G.P. Gordon New Style platen, a New Champion press, and an 1886 Golding Jobber #7, which features elaborately hand-painted decoration the press is famous for.

The HIW team is also currently undertaking the restoration work on several other machines, such as a unique K.Krause guillotine, and an 1865 Hopkinson & Cope Columbian press.



Museum Hours

10 am - 4 pm
Monday - Friday
By appointment only
Tel. (905) 821-0000

Address

2230 Meadowpine Blvd.
Mississauga, ON L5N 6H6

200th ANNIVERSARY

COLUMBIAN PRESS

INVENTED
1813
BY

GEORGE E. CLYMER

"If the merits of a machine were to be appreciated wholly by its ornamental appearance, certainly no other press could enter into competition with 'The Columbian'. No British-made machinery was ever so lavishly embellished. We have a somewhat highly-sounding title to begin with; and then, which way soever our eyes are turned, from head to foot, or foot to head, some extraordinary features present themselves - on each pillar of the staple a caduceus of the universal messenger, Hermes - alligators, and other draconic serpents, emblemize, on the levers, the power of wisdom - then, for the balance of power (we, rude barbarians of the old world, make mere cast-iron lumps serve to enforce our notions of the balance of power) we see surmounting the Columbian press, the talons Jove's thunderbolts, combined with the olive-branch of Peace, and Cornucopia of Plenty, all handsomely bronzed and gilt, resisting and bearing down All Other Power!"

Thomas C. Hansard (1776-1833), London Printer & Publisher, upon the Columbian's debut in England in 1817

Shown here is a
1851 Columbian
Press in Howard
Iron Works
Collection

GEORGE



CLYMER

2013 saw the bicentennial of a major milestone in Printing. One George Clymer from Philadelphia dreamed up a revolutionary printing press. One, for the first time, that did not need a wine screw to create an impression. Using a series of levers, Clymer was considered the first person to devise then build an all iron printing press in mass production.

Many credit England's Lord Stanhope for building the first all iron press (1800 AD) but it was Clymer who supplanted wood-framed machines and the screw. Finding little interest in his home town of Philadelphia, Clymer sought more fertile pastures in England.

He arrived in London in 1817, secured his patent for the Columbian and went to work. It is well documented that the British press were both appalled and amused by the brazen decorations Clymer had cast into his press. From the American eagle clutching Jove's bolts and holding the cornucopia of plenty, to the sea serpents and caduceus symbol on the staples, the Columbian press was and still remains the most ornately decorated printing press of all time.

As time went on, there were various company changes. Clymer took a partner in Samuel Dixon to form Clymer & Dixon, then on his passing in 1834, subsequent further changes (1845) with the new name of Clymer Dixon & Co.

By 1851, William Carpenter, an employee, purchased the company but this is also the beginning of the end of exclusivity as patents expired and many more firms were busy making copies of George Clymer's Columbian. The unique design

was copied not only in England but also in France, Holland and Germany. Each with modified albeit national symbols in place of the original ornaments.

George Clymer lived from 1754 to 1834. In his time he changed printing history and opened the door for more thoughts and ideas in developing the printing press. It is said that Clymer was a showman and marketer. One only needs to take a glance at a Columbian to realize that. But much more important is the knowledge that Clymer built something incredibly successful and, some say, far superior to the Cope's "Albion press" launched only a few years after his arrival in England.

Irony of all irony, HIW Collection also includes a Hopkinson Cope Columbian press from circa 1865. It seems even Cope had to succumb to copying Clymer.

This American Yankee has gone down in history, not for the wild decorations of his machine, but for the machine itself.

The only place Clymer failed to get attention was, funny enough, in America. No American Columbians are said to exist from the few that were built between 1813 and 1817. The oldest known Columbian is #10 from 1818.



Welcome to Howard Iron Works where the tasks of restoring each piece of equipment to its original condition is taken seriously by the HIW Restoration Team.

Each machine is carefully and completely dismantled, inspected for damage, and fully documented to ensure completeness prior to putting them through the restoration processes.

The cleaning processes may include sandblasting, immersion in specially formulated soak, surface restoration, sanding and polishing prior to advancing them to the painting stage.

Structural repairs & remanufacturing of damaged or missing components are par for the course in the restoration of these century-old pieces of equipment.

Thorough research of the historical background, technical information and special characteristics of each machine is a must to ensure authenticity and true respect for the technology of the era.

Final assembly of the restored machines and components are done under the expert eye of our experienced technicians.

The decorative detailing of the equipment is achieved by hand respecting the artistry of the past generation.



IRON PRESSES



In this issue, **GALLERY** focuses on the iron presses in the HIW Collection which features more than 30 iron presses of various types and ages.

Our collection boasts some of the rare and most remarkable presses of the era, including a Stanhope, an Acorn press, Albions, Washingtons, and also 16 Columbian presses - ranging in age from 1830s to 1900s.

Shown here are only some of the iron presses that have been restored. If you click on the images, you will be able to view the details and additional photos, and explore our site.

We hope you'll enjoy the visit



**HOWARD
IRON WORKS**

info@howardironworks.org
www.howardironworks.org



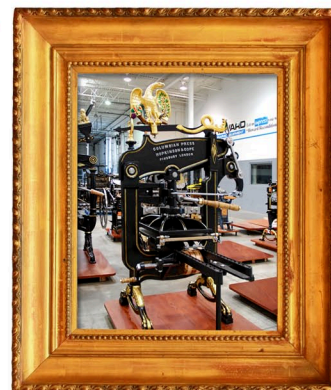
1851
Clymer Dixon
Columbian



1840
J.P. Lejeune
Albion



1865
Hopkinson
& Cope
Columbian



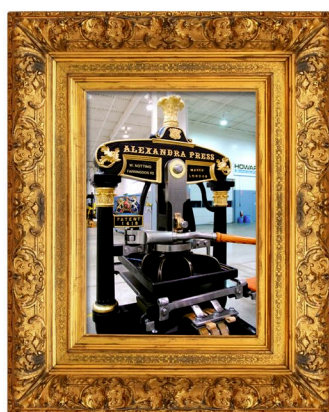
1886
V&J Viggins
Columbian



1840
Sherwin
& Cope
Imperial



1900
Shniedewend
20th Century



1883
W. Notting
Alexandra

