

LIBRARY ARTS CENTER

# Letterpress Studio



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Newport NH

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## Calling all Past Letterpress Student

As of this week (Sept 10) approximately three dozen students have taken the Letterpress Beginner Class. Now, we'd like to have students return to work on projects of their own, with guidance and help of a facilitator.

Several of the students are artists and say they look forward to printing words and images to be used in future artwork. The bold, graphic nature of letterpress printing is well-suited to using in mixed-media artwork.

But the nice thing about Letterpress Printing is *you don't have to be an artist to have a successful outcome!*

A set of wood-type calendar numbers has been added to the collection (by permanent loan). A personalized monthly calendar could be a future project!

## What about Inks?

The Ink we use at the letterpress studio is rubber-based ink. It has little or no odor, and it is cleaned up with odorless mineral spirits. The ink was donated in the large haul of items we received from the McElreavys, who own the building formerly housing Barrett Press.

When the cans are taped closed, as many of these were, the ink will stay usable for up to 20 years. I recently opened every can of ink and discarded any that were not usable. The colors students can select from includes all basic colors and a few extras.

## What's up with the "other" presses

Currently there are three presses in the Letterpress studio. Beginners learn the basics on a late 1800s platen press, with a clamshell action (picture two parts coming together as a clam shell does, to bring paper and inked type together.) (Young American secretary No 7)

The larger treadle-operated press can print larger projects and works on the same principle. I am currently looking into the cost of having a motor added to this press. (Chandler and Price 8 x 12)

Finally, the flatbed press can be used for proofing a project (to correct any spelling, spacing, etc.), or for art printing, such as linoleum block or posters. This press is inked by hand with a brayer.

## Demo at Apple Pie Crafts Fair

The fourth Saturday in August saw me, with the indispensable help of my husband, Greg, pushing a wheeled cart containing the Young American No. 7 Secretary Press up Pearl St. from the LAC studio to the Town Common. The Letterpress Demo tent got lots of attention from the *young* to the *curious* to the *experienced*. More than 150 coasters saying "Welcome to Newport" were printed and given away. It was great to see the interest!

***The same press will be at the Corbin Bridge Fest on October 12, for a day-long demo and coaster handout.***

**Scheduling** If you want to take a look at the LP Studio, or want to schedule a class at a time convenient for you, please call. My schedule is flexible.

**Thank you** to past student Deborah, artist Bea, and second-hand dealer Jan, for the donations of image print plates, and typeface.

See <https://leavesarefree.tumblr.com/ChristmasImages>



## A Link to our Language

"To Make an Impression"

While this figure of speech is a metaphor for doing something that makes you memorable, it's all tied up in a word for "printing." The Latin word *imprimere* means "to press into or upon." In British English, rare book dealers tend to refer to a print run as an "impression" (whereas American dealers call it a "printing"). It also survives on a slightly different track in our word *imprint*. Whether you're dressed to impress, making a good impression, or impressive in your [sporting] skills, you're borrowing a term that made it into English thanks to the **printing press**. Found at: [MentalFloss.com/article.93784](http://MentalFloss.com/article.93784)