

FACT SHEET: ARION PRESS AND GRABHORN INSTITUTE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE, 2009.

The non-profit Grabhorn Institute was created in 2000 to preserve and perpetuate the use of the only fully functioning integrated typefoundry, letterpress printing, and bookbinding facility in the nation, operated by Arion Press and M & H Type in the Presidio National Park in San Francisco.

A PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION SUCCESS: In 2000, we succeeded in saving this historic facility from being dismantled, installing it in an appropriate building in the Presidio National Park, and beginning to train apprentices in use of the equipment. We now have capable young people working in each of the production departments. A viable non-profit organization, the Grabhorn Institute now runs the program of apprenticeships, public tours, and educational events concurrently with book publishing by Arion Press and the production of type by M & H Type.

THE ORGANIZATION: These combined operations have 12 full-time employees and an annual budget (2007) of \$1,443,811. In years prior to the 2008 downturn, it had a small annual surplus. Of 2007 revenues, 68 per cent was earned income from Arion Press publishing and M & H typesetting and type sales (Lyra Corporation). Income contributed to the non-profit Grabhorn Institute is from more than 450 supporters and grants from such sources as the National Endowment for the Arts, Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, Bernard Osher Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, and Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXCELLENCE: Arion Press is recognized as the world's foremost producer of limited edition books containing original art by contemporary artists. It publishes three to four books a year, which are made primarily by hand, by trained crafts people using a collection of equipment that is remarkable in its scale and historical significance. With work by such artists as Jasper Johns, Alex Katz, Kiki Smith, Jim Dine, and Martin Puryear, its books are collected by major museums and libraries and are recognized as among the great books of the twentieth century, for example, in the exhibition "A Century of Artists' Books" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1998.

THE NEXT CHALLENGE: Now we must put what we have saved on a permanent footing, thereby ensuring its use by future generations. This is best done under the stewardship of a non-profit organization. Therefore, in December 2007, we consolidated ownership of all the equipment, tools, furniture, and art works, the reference library, and the book inventory under the Grabhorn Institute. We have raised \$1.55 million toward the acquisition cost of \$1.85 million plus interest. We now seek gifts toward the final \$500,000 needed to reach our goal. Our long-range aim includes another \$3 million for an endowment, for a total of \$5 million.

A UNIQUE CULTURAL TREASURE: At stake is the future of an arts resource of importance to the nation and to the world, as the last place of its kind, where all of the traditional bookmaking crafts, from the making of type from molten lead, through printing and binding, are still practiced under one roof, on a daily basis, to produce fine books. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated it part of "the nation's irreplaceable historical and cultural legacy" under its *Save America's Treasures* program. The 500-year-old heritage of Gutenberg is continued here in the production of and printing from metal type. The site is of particular importance to San Francisco, as the embodiment of an unbroken tradition of printing and publishing, using equipment of nineteenth-century San Francisco fine printers and typesetting machines that were brought to San Francisco for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition.