

Margaret Hogarth, Chair
LAUC-R Committee on Research and Professional Development

January 18, 2011

I am applying for the 2011 LAUC Presentation Grant.

a) My research is focused on underground printing in communist Poland, 1976-1989. Presently I am studying the existing literature on the subject, and gathering background information in preparation for a research travel to Poland in the summer 2011. I plan to present a report from this trip at the 2011 APHA conference, and then assemble it into a published article or short monograph.

b) This grant is to be used for funding the presentation of a paper "*Our Gestetner keeps on turning—underground printing in communist Poland 1976-1989*" at the annual conference of the American Printing History Association (APHA) on October 14–15, 2011 in San Diego.

c) Preliminary budget for the presentation grant:

- conference registration: \$ 100
 - travel to and from San Diego \$ 100
 - accommodation (2 nights) \$300
 - food (2 days) \$ 100
- total requested: \$ 500

d) I am a librarian represented by UC-AFT.

e) Abstract: "*Our Gestetner keeps on turning—underground printing in communist Poland 1976-1989*"

In the 1970s and 1980s, Poland saw a "paper revolution," *i.e.* one fought, and won, with (printed) paper rather than guns and bullets. Breaking the communist state's monopoly on information and restoring free circulation of information and ideas began as pages typed on onionskin with carbon paper and passed around among friends. By the end of 1980s, it evolved into a sizable underground printing industry. Printers, "black revolutionaries," are the unsung heroes of this revolution. While virtually all historical writing on Poland under communism pays tribute to (and abundantly quotes from) underground publications, there is very little information on their actual production. Printing techniques, the kinds of equipment used and access to it, the organization and conditions of work, obtaining supplies, innovations and inventions, distribution procedures and networks, etc. have not been systematically studied. My paper will primarily concentrate on these technical aspects and details of underground printing.

f) This is the 2011 annual conference of the American Printing History Association. It will be held at University of California, San Diego, October 14–15, 2011.

g) I have applied for the APHA Mark Samuels Lasner Fellowship in Printing History to partially cover the expenses of my travel to Poland in the summer of 2011.

I deeply appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Gwido Zlatkes
Reference Librarian
Special Collections & Archives,
University of California, Riverside