

# Old "No. 1"

*The Story of Isaiah Thomas*

*& His Printing Press*

Old “No. 1”



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*The Story of Isaiah Thomas & His Printing Press*

Worcester, Mass.:

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

1989

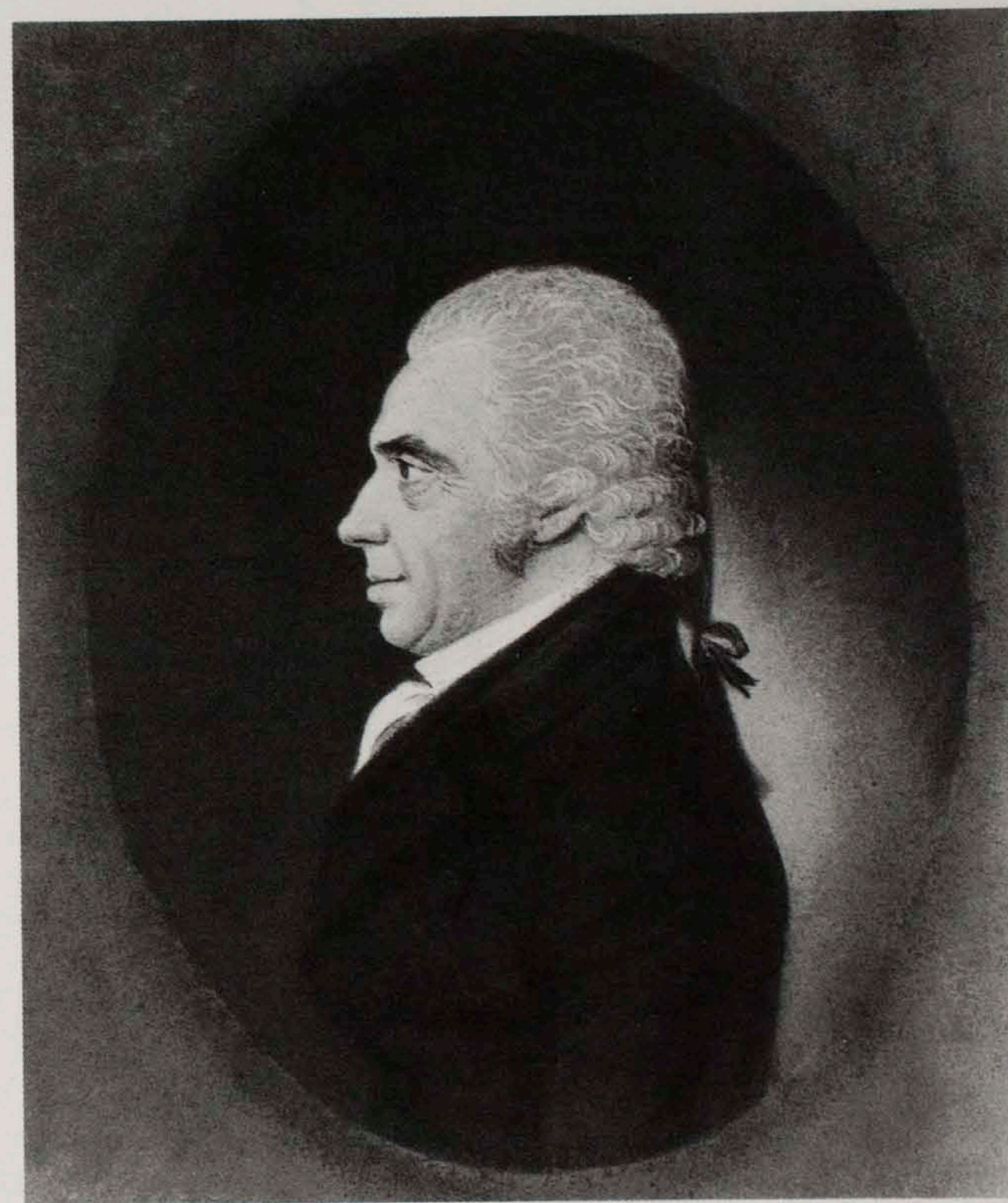
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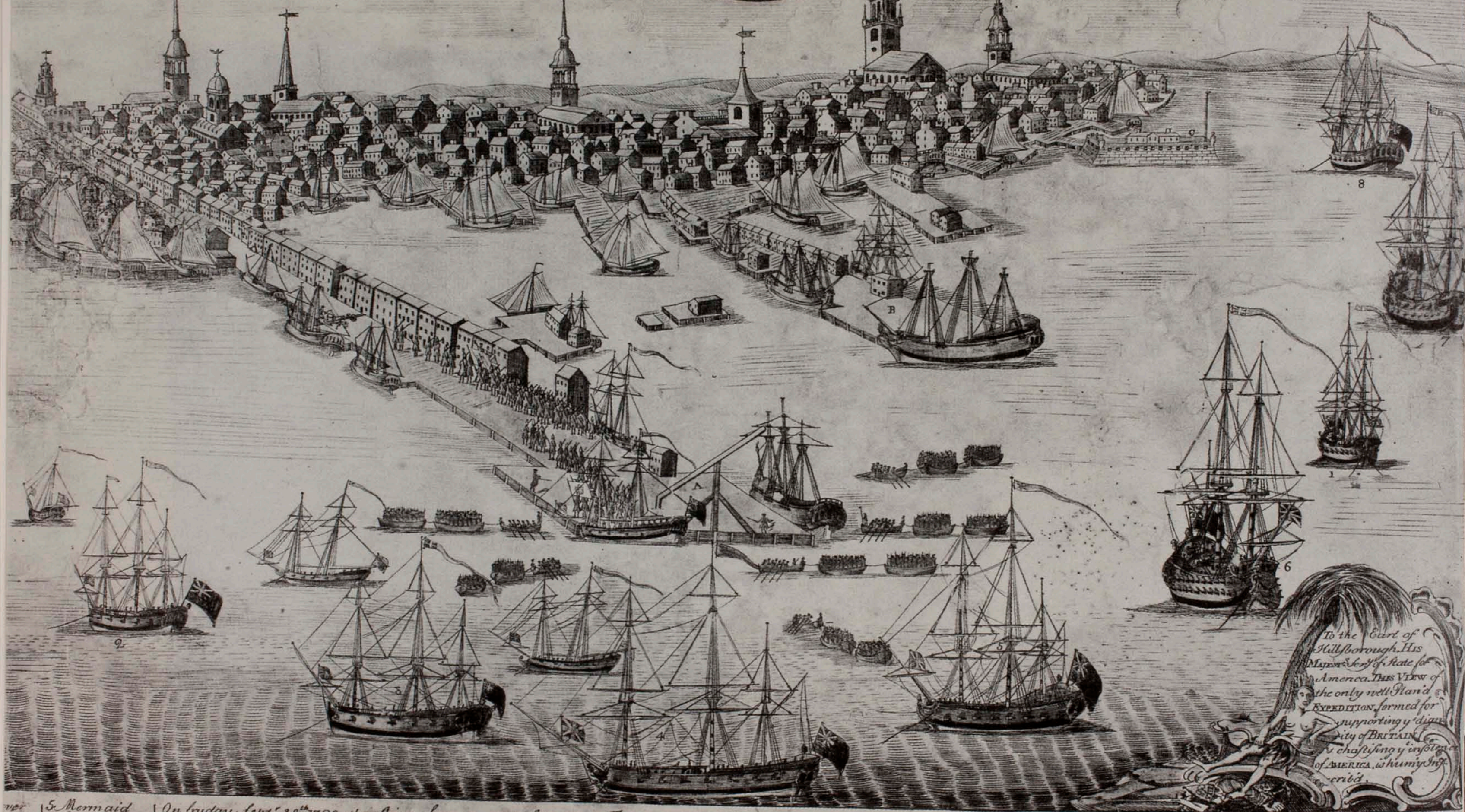
ON FEBRUARY 26, 1830, when he was eighty-one years old, Isaiah Thomas made a codicil to his will in which he preserved for posterity the printing press at which he had first learned to print nearly seventy-five years earlier. He described it as "a small old Printing Press, made in London, at which Press I worked when an Apprentice and which I bought when of age and began business in Boston." Over the long course of his life, Thomas had seen many changes in America and he knew the value of preserving the relics of the past. For this reason he stipulated: "This Press (for its antiquity) . . . I give to the American Antiquarian Society. It was made in the year 1747." He had founded the Antiquarian Society, the first national historical society in the country, nearly eighteen years before.

This was the same press that Isaiah had listed first ("1 English press, old — "No. 1") among the twelve printing presses he had in his Worcester shop in the year 1796. It took priority in Isaiah's mind even then, over forty years after he had first set type to be printed on it, and over thirty years before he made the codicil to his will. Of the eleven other presses he listed in his 1796 inventory,



*Isaiah Thomas in 1804.*

A VIEW OF PART OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON IN NEW-ENGLAND AND BRITISH SHIPS OF WAR LANDING THEIR TROOPS! J 1768



To the Earl of Hillsborough His Majesty's Secretary of State for America. This View of the only well Plann'd Expedition, formed for supporting the dignity of BRITAIN, & chastising the insolence of AMERICA, whimsy Interscrib'd.

See  
gal  
lin  
gon  
5 Mermaid  
6 Romney  
7 Launceston  
8 Bonetta

On Friday Sept: 30<sup>th</sup> 1768, the Ships of War, armed Schooners, Transports, &c. Came up the Harbour and Anchored round the Town; their Cannon loaded, a Spring on their Cables, as for a regular Siege. At noon on Saturday October the 1<sup>st</sup> the fourteenth & twenty-ninth Regiments, a detachment from the 59<sup>th</sup> Reg: and Train of Artillery, with two pieces of Cannon, landed on the Long Wharf; then Formed and Marched with insolent Parade, Drums beating, Pipes playing, and Colours flying, up KING STREET. Each Soldier having received 16 rounds of Powder and Ball.

A Long Wharf  
B Hancock's Wharf  
C North Battery

five had been imported from England (three in 1793), four were of American manufacture, and two were "rolling" presses of no specified origin. These other presses may well have been present in 1830, among the "other old Presses, in the loft of the old Printing house," but none was singled out to be preserved as "No. 1" was.

Old "No. 1" not only possessed "antiquity," it held profound associations for Thomas. Around it, Boston's Sons of Liberty had met in the heady days of Revolution. It was the centerpiece of Isaiah's printing office, which British authorities dubbed the "sedition factory." It had been spirited across the Charles River in the dead of night on April 16, 1775, to avoid seizure by British troops. Reassembled safely in Worcester, Massachusetts, some forty miles to the west of Boston, it had printed the first reports of the battles of Lexington and Concord with the bold headline "Americans! - - - Liberty or Death! - - - Join or Die!"

When Isaiah Thomas wrote the codicil in 1830—even when he took stock of his possessions in 1796—he was a wealthy and famous man. This was not the condition into which he had

been born. In fact, in the meager, almost hopeless circumstances of his youth, one would have been hard pressed to see the promise of success that that old wooden printing press provided for him.

Isaiah Thomas was born in Boston on January 19, 1749. His father was Moses Thomas, a ne'er-do-well with an itch for travel, whose forebears were modest merchants in Boston dating back to the mid-1600s. Isaiah's mother's maiden name was Fidelity Grant. She came originally from Rhode Island. Moses Thomas, whom Isaiah described one day as "not being of the most steady habits," died in North Carolina in 1752. After her husband's death, Isaiah's mother was ultimately able to keep only one of her five children with her. Through the Boston Overseers of the Poor, Isaiah was apprenticed to a Boston printer named Zechariah Fowle and his wife, with whom he was expected to stay until the age of twenty-one. What schooling Isaiah was to have he obtained before his service to Fowle. "Not more than six weeks' schooling in all, and poor at that," Isaiah later recorded. Isaiah and his master seem never to have gotten along. The older man was neither bright nor

◀ *Boston, 1774, engraved by Paul Revere.*

industrious, and they quarreled frequently. Isaiah's was therefore never a thoroughly happy apprenticeship, although he seems to have had the childhood of an average eighteenth-century town boy. His working hours were spent in the printing shop instead of in school, but with the unambitious Fowle as master these were not long or hard.

Fowle's printing shop was a small and ill-equipped operation even by the standards of its day. Still, the one printing press he had, being not much older than Isaiah himself, must have been handsome then. Its groaning strength would have fascinated the boy even in the shabbiest of settings. This press in Fowle's shop was to serve Isaiah well throughout most of the remainder of the century. It was strong and durable. It was movable, which paid Isaiah dividends years later, as will be shown. And it was thoroughly trustworthy as a printing machine.

Isaiah's first typesetting assignment, at the age of six, was a somewhat coarse broadside ballad entitled *The Lawer's Pedigree*. He had to stand on a bench to reach the type cases, and it took him two days to set the fifty-six short lines of the text.

### The Lawer's Pedigree,

Tune, *Our Polly is a fat Slut.*

A Beggar had a Beadle,	The Nun, she was with Child
A Beadle had a Yeoman ;	And so her Credit sunk
A Yeoman had a prentice,	The Father was a Friar,
A prentice had a Freeman :	The Issue was a Monk.
The Freeman had a Master,	The Monk he had a Son,
The Master had a Lease;	With whom he did inhabit,
The Lease made him a Gentleman,	Who when the Father died,
And Justice of the peace.	The Son became Lord Abbot :
The Justice being rich,	Lord Abbot had a Maid,
And gallant in Desire,	And catch'd her in the Dark,
He marry'd with a Lady,	And something did to her,
And so he had a Squire :	And so he had a Clerk.
The Squire had a Knight	The Clerk he had a Sexton,
Of Courage bold and stout ;	The Sexton had a Digger ;
The Knight he had a Lord,	The Digger had a Prebend,
And so it came about.	The Prebend had a Vicar ;
The Lord he had an Earl ;	The Vicar had an Attorney,
His Country he forsook,	The which he took in Snuff ;
He travel'd into Spain,	The Attorney had a Barrister,
And there he had a Duke :	The Barrister a Ruff.
The Duke he had a prince,	The Ruff did get good Counsel,
The prince a King of Hope	Good Counsel get a Fee,
The King he had an Emperor	the Fee did get a Motion
The Emperor a Pope.	That it might Plead be :
Thus, as the Story says,	the Motion got a Judgment,
The pedigree did run;	And so it came to pass,
The Pope he had a Friar,	A Beggar's Brat, a scolding Knave,
The Friar had a Nun :	A crafty Lawyer was.

BOSTON : Printed and Sold below the *Mill-Bridge*. 1788

*Lawyer's Pedigree. A ballad. Printed from the first Types handled by J. Thomas in 1788, when he was 6 years of age.*

*Isaiah's first typesetting assignment.*

But even this slow pace showed genius if, as he later implied, he received no help in selecting the italics and distinguishing the *d* from the *b*.

Fowle's press was an English-made wooden "common press." Although Isaiah later described "No. 1" as "smaller," it was of ample size and strength. Its heaviest timbers were of elm; other pieces were of oak or chestnut. The platen was mahogany, the hardware iron. The press was over six feet tall, about three feet wide, and six feet long. It was heavy, but it nevertheless had to be braced against the ceiling to prevent it from moving when worked. The motion of the pressman in pulling the handle of the press, called the bar, was similar to that of an oarsman rowing, his foot propped against a brace and the full weight of his body pulling the bar. When printing at speed, the rhythmical clacking and groaning of the press sounded not unlike a slow-running machine of today, but the power came from men, who at a good speed could produce only 250 sheets an hour.

The "common press" of that period was basically a heavy wooden frame constructed to stand on its own. It was not much different in its essentials

from the machine that Gutenberg had first printed on some three centuries before. Two heavy timbers, one below the carriage, one above the bar, contained the pressure the screw exerted when the bar was pulled. This pressure was distributed across the surface of the paper and type by the platen, a rectangular piece, usually mahogany, that was lashed from hooks by cord to the hooks of the hose, which housed and directed the press's screw mechanism.


When the type area was larger than the platen, which was usually the case (as for the typical newspaper of the day), the printing of one side of the sheet required two pulls. In this procedure, the pressman gave one turn to a handle called the rounce. This ran the type halfway in. He then gave a pull to the bar. Then he gave the rounce a second turn, running the type the rest of the way in. He pulled the bar again, and then, with two reverse turns of the rounce, rolled the type and a fully printed sheet out.

Isaiah stayed with Fowle until he was sixteen. A "serious fracas" led Isaiah to break his bond and set out for London, like young Benjamin Franklin had a generation or two before. Isaiah completed the first leg of his planned journey, arriving penniless

in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the 24th of September 1765, but he got no farther. From October 1765 until February 1766 he printed the *Halifax Gazette* for Anthony Henry, the only printer in that maritime community. Isaiah's conduct in Halifax demonstrates that he was not exactly an easy person to deal with himself. But a vital issue was at stake at that time. The issue was the Stamp Act of 1765, which required publications in the colonies to carry a revenue stamp. Young Isaiah felt this to be unfair to printers. From other papers, he reprinted news and commentary opposing the act and, for several issues, turned the printers' rules in the *Gazette* upside down in the press. Their wide bases printed heavy black lines, giving the paper the appearance of being in mourning. His ultimate act of defiance was to print the *Gazette* on stamped paper with the tax stamp in the wrong place and a crude woodcut of the devil jabbing at the revenue stamp with a pitchfork. For these increasingly provocative acts, Isaiah was at length fired and sent back to New England.

Isaiah made his way slowly back to Boston. Back home, he returned to work for his old master,



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tempt of A-  
MERICA, &c.  
ing down t  
Destruction  
fought



Deals clear the  
Way for the  
and STAMPS

**The NOV**

**AMERICA**  
**PHILADELPHIA**

There they found  
given Eo, two thousand to  
nothing at all. Now for  
Eo ran into a violent passion, and  
"You are to observe, he has used me ve-  
in not giving me three times as much, and  
"I won't go into mourning for him."  
said, "I don't think myself at all obliged  
him." Poor Reo sighed; "We had none  
of us any right to a shilling, said he; in his life  
time he was very good to us all, but one thou-  
pounds would have made me quite happy."  
The supposed corpse had heard enough; out he  
jumped from a closet, tweak'd Eo by the nose,  
kick'd Meo's breech, and with the assistance of  
his house keeper cuff'd them both out of the  
house; then caught Reo in his arms, and said,  
"My boy, thou deservest, and shalt have en-  
couragement; those sawning sycophants ought  
to be restored to the primitive nothing from which  
I raised them; but men of their disposition are  
sure to be miserable in every station: Thou hast  
a good heart, & shalt find I have a liberal hand."  
The honest old man made good his words, by an  
immediate absolute present of ten thousand  
pounds.

A letter from Boston, in New-England, men-  
tions, that amongst other schemes of public  
Oeconomy, a resolution has been taken to im-  
port no more Corn Spirits from England, in or-  
der to encourage their own distilleries.

Nov. 2. From the frequency of councils lately

brig, and their v  
not load one ship  
**WILMINGTON**  
Monday the  
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den counties, w  
seat near Brun-  
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was pleased to  
them relating to  
purport.

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the officers of th  
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destroyed, and  
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and expressed hi  
fort might be  
should be con- si

Devil woodcut, Halifax Gazette, Feb. 6-13, 1766.

Zechariah Fowle. The two soon argued and parted again, however. This time Isaiah resolved to travel to London via the Southern colonies and the West Indies. Once again he failed to reach the metropolis, but he spent several beneficial years traveling and working in the Carolinas and elsewhere in the South. He returned to Boston in the spring of 1770, at the age of twenty-one, with the first of his three wives and a strong desire to establish a successful newspaper.

After his return, Isaiah formed yet another partnership with Fowle and began plans to publish a newspaper to compete with and, he hoped, to prevail over the four other papers then being published in Boston. A sample number of the proposed paper was distributed for free on July 17, 1770. Then, on August 7, the partnership of Thomas and Fowle issued the first regular number of what was to become one of the most important and long-lived of American newspapers, the *Massachusetts Spy*. The *Spy* was, like all papers of its day, four pages long and of a page size similar to today's tabloid newspapers. Fowle was quickly overshadowed by his aggressive younger partner and

# The Massachusetts Spy.

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1770.

NUMB. I. (Gratis.)

Boston, June 17th, 1770.

PROPOSALS for printing by Subscription,

A new PAPER of INTELLIGENCE, entitled,  
THE MASSACHUSETTS SPY.

CONDITIONS.

I. This Paper will be printed with a fair Type, upon good Paper manufactured in this Province.

II. The Publication will be punctually every *Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.*

III. The Price to Subscribers, at the moderate Rate of *Five Shillings, Lawful Money per Annum.* One Half to be paid on the Delivery of the second Number, and the other Half at the Expiration of the Year after the second Publication.

IV. Those Ladies and Gentlemen, in this Town, who subscribe for this Paper, shall receive it every Publication Day at their respective Houses; and the greatest Care will be taken to send it to the most distant Subscribers with all possible Dispatch.

V. It shall be enlarged to double the Size of the first Number, as Occasion may require, without any additional Expence to Subscribers.

VI. Number II. will be published on the 31st instant, if a sufficient Number of Subscribers appear by that Time.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in by ZECHARIAH FOWLE, Printer, in Back-Street; and by ISAIAH THOMAS, Printer, in School-House-Lane, near the Latin School. Where Intelligence, Advertisements, &c. for this Paper will be thankfully received.

TO THE PUBLIC.

IT has always been customary for Printers and Publishers of new periodical Publications, to introduce them to the World with an Account of the Nature and End of their Design. We, therefore, beg leave to observe, That this small Paper, under the Name of THE MASSACHUSETTS SPY, is calculated on an entire New PLAN. If it meets with a favourable Reception, it will be regularly published *THREE Times* every Week, viz. *Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays*, (on two of which Days no News-Paper is published in this Town) by which Means, those who favour this Undertaking with their Subscription, will always have the most material of the News, which may from Time to Time arrive from Europe and from the other Parts of this Continent, on the Day of its Arrival, or the next Day follow-

Vessels, also a List of Births and Deaths, &c. and occasionally will be inserted *Short Pieces* in Prose and Verse, curious Inventions and new Discoveries in Nature and Science. Those who choose to advertise herein, may depend on having their ADVERTISEMENTS inserted in a neat and conspicuous Manner, at the most reasonable Rates. When there happens to be a larger Quantity of News and a greater Number of Advertisements than can well be contained in one Number, at its usual Bigness, it will be enlarged to double its Size at such Times, in order that our Readers may not be disappointed of Intelligence.

This is a brief Sketch of the Plan on which we propose to publish this Paper, and we readily flatter ourselves the Public will honour it with that Regard the Execution of it may deserve; and doubt not, it will be executed with such Judgment and Accuracy as to merit a favourable Reception.

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON, *May 5.*

IT is now pretty certain, that in the course of the present session of parliament effectual measures will be pursued towards the prevention of appointing military Governors to the different American provinces.

We are informed that Mr. Wilkes has purchased an annuity for his life with the 4000*l.* he obtained by his suit against Lord Halifax.

*May 8.* We are informed that 20,000*l.* will be wanted to defray the extra expences in America.

A friend of Mr. Wilkes's was observing to him that he was grown sate of late, "Can you wonder at that," (said the Patriot) when you consider I am an Alderman, and as fond of turtle as the fondest of them."

It is said to be in agitation to allow, by a public Act of the city of London, 1000*l.* a year out of the city chamber, to Mr. Wilkes for public services.

*May 9.* The examination of Capt. Preston's case, we hear, is put off till a more particular and authentic detail of these transactions is received.

All the letters, papers, &c. which can now way lead to this tracing the causes of a late melancholy event at Boston, are ordered to be laid before a respectable society.

It is said that the ministry have given audience that as the Troops are now withdrawn from the Town of London, they will not be ordered there again, unless it be

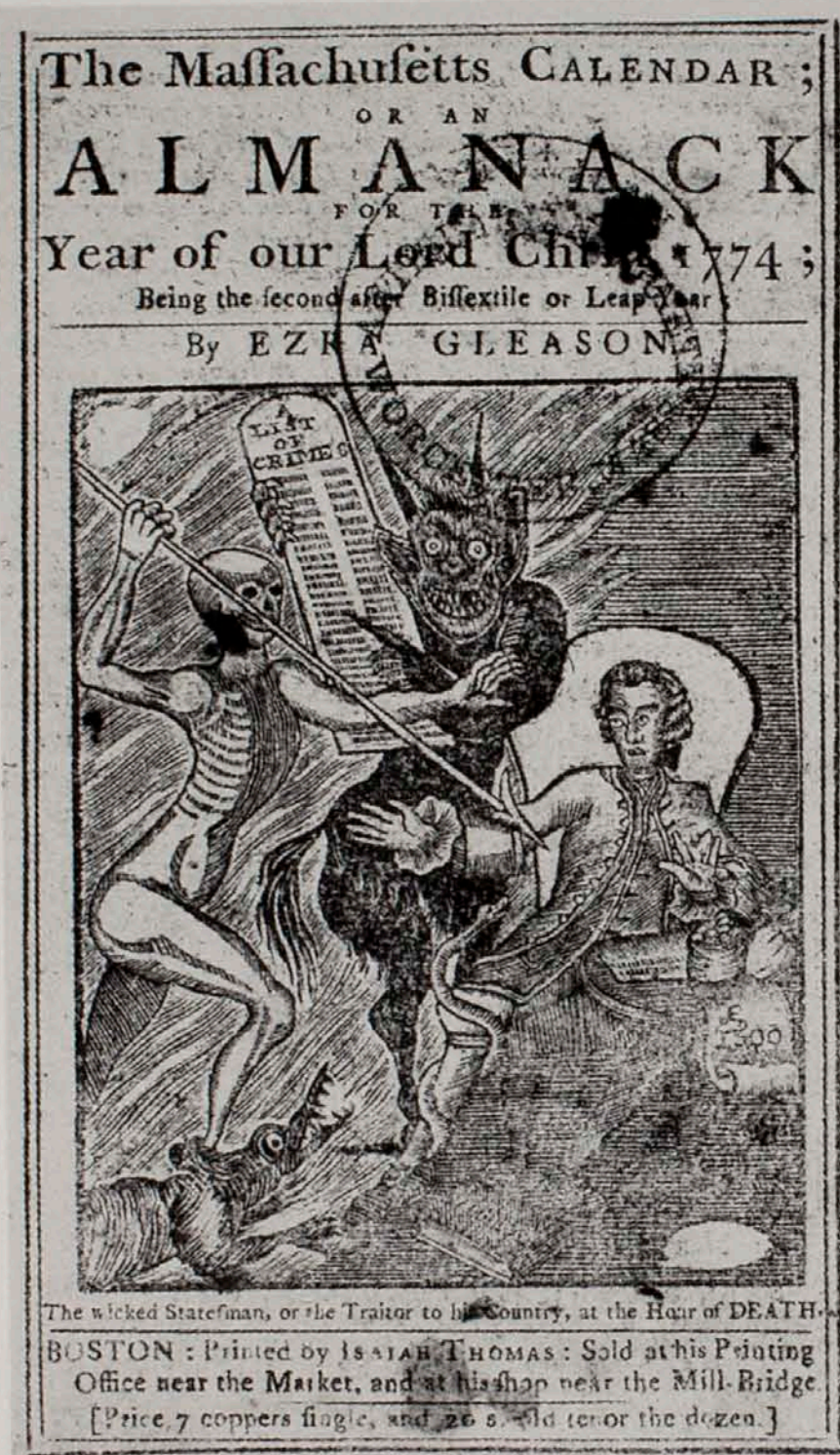
Sample number of the Massachusetts Spy.

agreed to sell his interest in the shop to Isaiah. A few months later the deal was completed when Isaiah acquired ownership of the plant by assuming Fowle's old debt and posting new security. The printing house equipment included the wooden press Isaiah later designated "No. 1." The *Spy* went on to gain the largest circulation in New England and a respectable distribution in other parts of the country (about 3,500 copies per issue altogether).

Isaiah took over the *Spy* during what, in the long historical view, were momentous times. He shortly began to experience the sort of difficulties that came as tensions grew between the colonies and their distant government in Britain. Though Isaiah had some qualms about which side to take early in the 1770s, he soon came down on the popular, or Whiggish, side in the rising debate that led to revolution, war, and independence. Taking the patriot side (and it became almost impossible *not* to take a side) almost certainly also represented good business judgment for a printer in Boston in those days.

During these tumultuous years, Isaiah was also running a normal printing and publishing business

based on such steady-sellers of the book trade as Ezekiel Cheever's Latin grammar. One series that would make his name familiar in households throughout the country began with the publication of *The Massachusetts Calendar, or an Almanac for the Year of Our Lord 1772*. The issue for 1775 was the first to bear the famous title *Thomas's New England Almanac*. The *Royal American Magazine*, which Isaiah began in 1774, was, according to Clifford K. Shipton, a biographer, "an important step in the development of American publishing." Isaiah took great pains with this publication, to the point of buying new type expressly for it. In it appeared important articles on history and science, the first American magazine publication of the words and tunes of songs, light reading in the form of love stories and "true confessions" from English magazines, and a "Directory of Love," a sort of "Dear Abby" of its day. Each issue carried engravings, some of them by engraver, silversmith, and soon-to-be midnight rider Paul Revere. In March 1775, Isaiah sold the magazine. The outbreak of war at Lexington and Concord the next month put an end to such ventures, at least temporarily.



*One of Thomas's popular almanacs.*

The role of Isaiah Thomas in the American Revolution is said to have been similar to that of his good friend and associate Paul Revere; he was not a politician or a policy maker, but he was a useful agent and his printing office and his publications, especially the *Spy*, were convenient focal points for Boston's opposition to the Mother Country. As an armed clash seemed more imminent, one of the first acts of the British authorities was likely to be the seizure of the presses. Isaiah consulted with John Hancock and other members of the Provincial Congress, who advised him to move his press to some country town where it would be safe and would be available to do their printing. On the night of April 16, he dismantled his press "No. 1" and packed up the rest of his equipment and with the aid of two friends got his press and types into a wagon and across the Charles River on the ferry to Charlestown. One of the friends was Timothy Bigelow, a Whig from Worcester, a small county seat about forty miles west of Boston. Bigelow sorely felt the need of a press to combat the strong Loyalist faction in his town. It was probably owing to him that the printing equipment was carted on to



Isaiah Thomas spent the rest of his famous career in Worcester, though his enterprises branched far beyond. After the Revolutionary War ended, he came, in time, to prosper. He established branch printing offices, publishing houses, a bindery, and book stores in Boston and numerous other towns and cities from Vermont to Maryland. He even practiced vertical integration of his business, as Franklin had, by buying a paper mill to supply his myriad operations. The scope of his printing and publishing output is impressive: important works in medicine, music, history, literature, children's books, schoolbooks, spellers, dictionaries, and bibles. He

Dead, the ice is about 4 or 5 ft. thick.

*First Worcester* Massachusetts Spy, 1775.

*Bind Kings with Chains.* From Psalm 149.

109

[An occasional ANTHEM, dedicated to the SINGING SOCIETIES of NEWBURYPORT, by their humble fervant HANS GRAM.—

CHARLESTOWN, October, 1794.

1st and 2d Treble. ANDANTE POMPOSO.

Praise, praise, praise ye the Lord, praise ye the Lord, praise ye the Lord.

(1st and 2d Tenor.)

(2 Tenors and Bass.)

Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of the fairs,

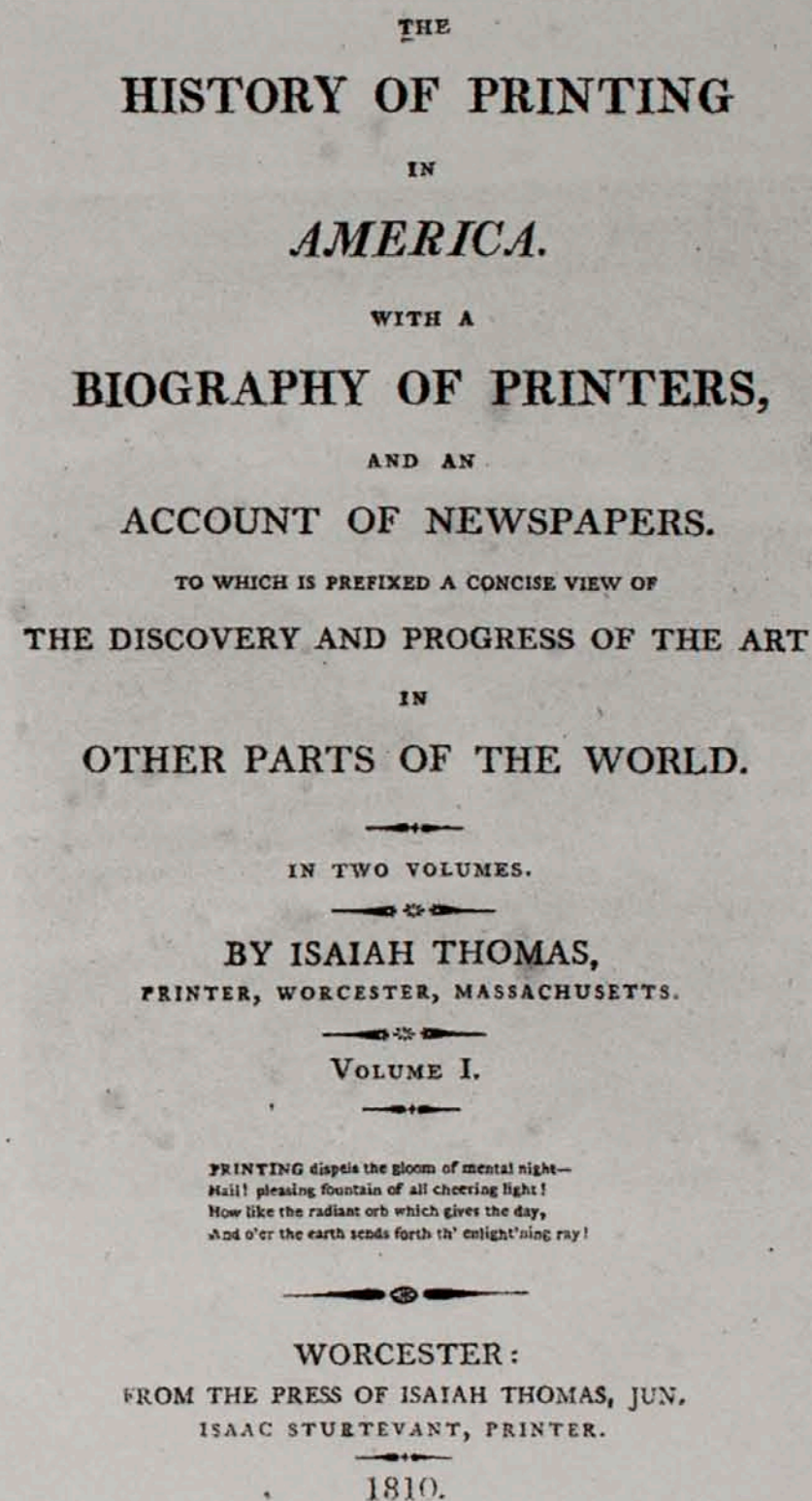
(2 Trebles.)

Sing unto the Lord a new song and his

praise in the congregation of the fairs.

published the first novel of American authorship and the first important work of local history. (The oft-repeated story that he attempted to print the first American edition of *Fanny Hill; or, Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* has proven to be unfounded.) Again in his biographer's words, "A great part of the American people learned their letters from his primers, got their news from his papers, sang from his hymnals, ordered their lives by his almanacs, and read his novels and Bibles. It was genius as well as opportunity which made him the first American capitalist of the printing business, for some of the rivals of his youth died in their old age in little one-room shops like that in which he began." He retired from active oversight of his empire of the printed word about 1802 and devoted the rest of his remarkably long and productive life to collecting, to scholarship, and to philanthropy. He amassed a remarkable collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, almanacs, and newspapers printed by his peers and predecessors. These he used as primary sources in writing his *History of Printing in America*, which he published in two volumes in 1810 and which, in an edition published a decade and a half ago, is

◀ Page from tunebook printed by Thomas & Andrews in 1794.





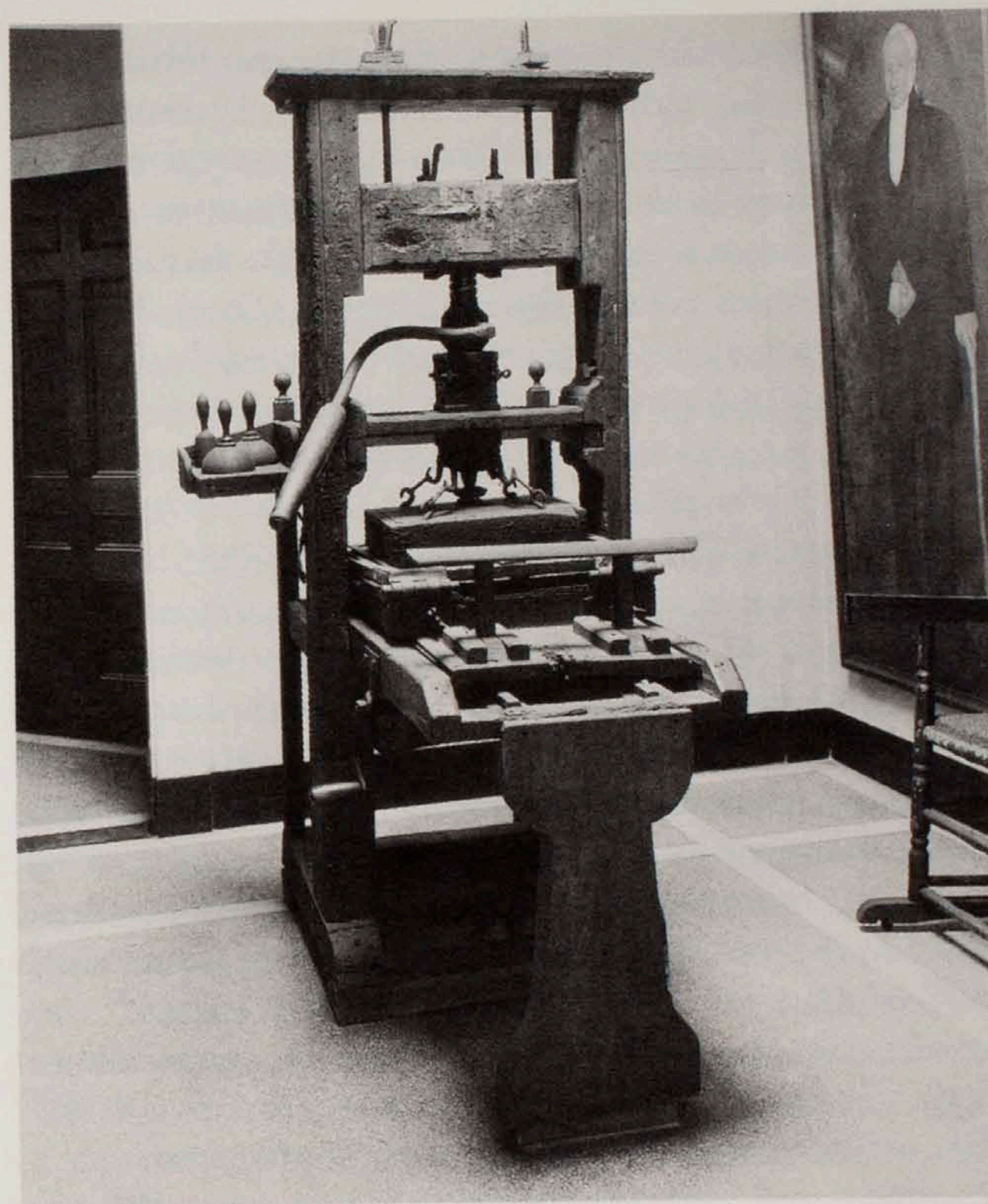
AMERICAN  
ANTI-SLAVERY  
SOCIETY  
*Original Library  
of American History*

still in print and still useful as a starting point for many a historical exploration. He established and endowed the American Antiquarian Society in 1812, in Worcester, to house his library and to preserve it and other raw materials of American history for the posterity of all who would come after him. One of his last acts was to draw the codicil to his will that provided a permanent home as well for old "No. 1," then to be found "with other old Presses, in the loft of the old Printing House," the wooden English common press that had helped start a revolution.

In 1876 "No. 1" was lent to the Campbell Printing Press and Manufacturing Company for exhibition at its building at the great Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. It was to appear as part of an eighteenth-century printing office put together by A. C. Campbell, the firm's president. The press at that time was not complete and Campbell undertook to restore it, but he had no real knowledge of the history of the press. The press remained with Campbell's modifications for the next hundred years.

Between 1876 and 1976, little besides general maintenance was done to the press as it remained at

◀ *American Antiquarian Society today.*



*"No. 1" before the restorations of the 1970s.*

the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. With the approach of the nation's bicentennial celebration, however, came renewed interest in both the historical accuracy and the authentication of Isaiah Thomas's printing press. This led to two restoration and refurbishing programs, both funded by the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, Inc., with additional support for the second from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities. The first restoration program, carried out by staff members of AAS and Old Sturbridge Village, readied the press for a celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of its Worcester printing debut. The second, directed by printing press historians at the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Virginia, involved a complete disassembly of the press, a thorough examination and detailing of its parts, the identification and treatment of problem areas in the wood, complete preservation treatment, replacement of inappropriate modifications, and reassembly for permanent display in Antiquarian Hall. It has left there only once since, in the late winter of 1989, to be the centerpiece in a reconstructed eighteenth-century printing office as

FOOD *for the* MIND.  
A MONKEY.

25

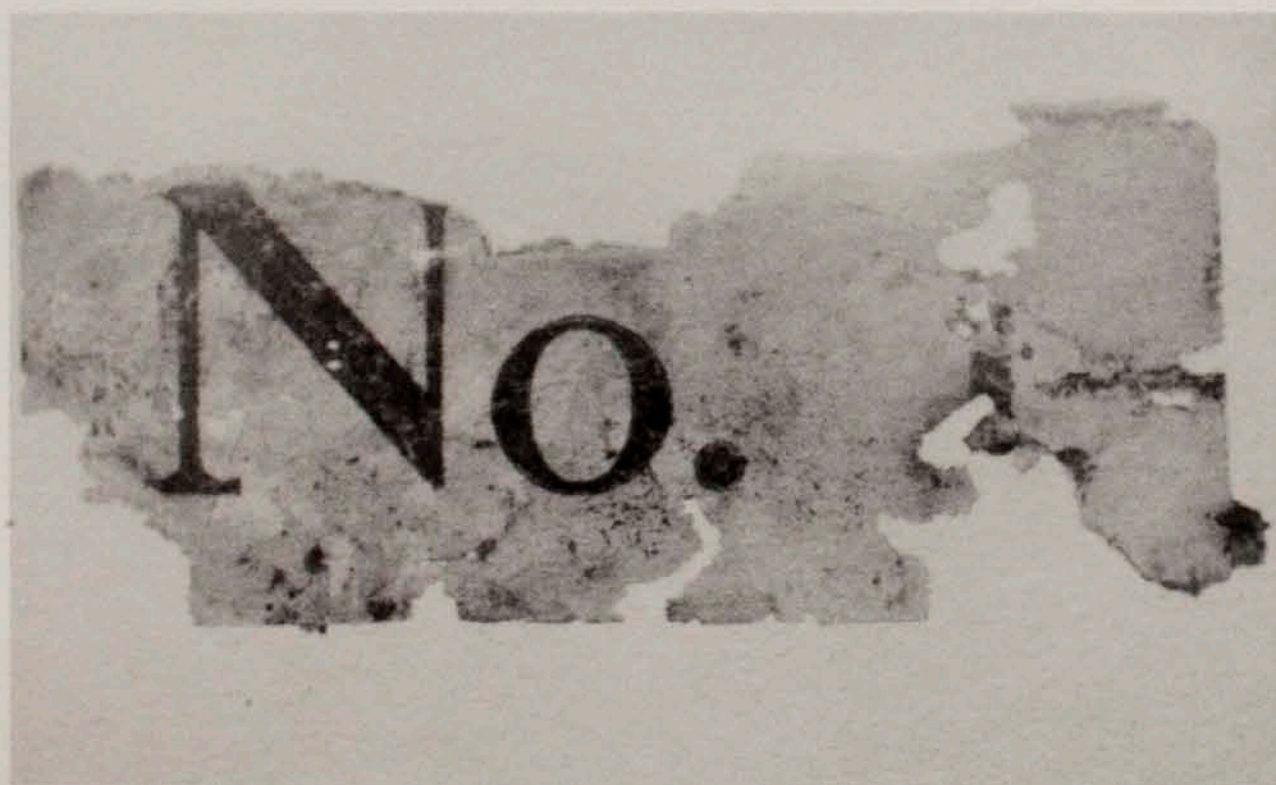


IF old stories say true,  
I could once talk like you;  
But for fear of becoming a slave

*"A Monkey," a fragment was found pasted to the press when it was restored in the late 1970s.*

part of the New York Public Library's exhibition on the role of the press in that other great eighteenth-century upheaval, the French Revolution.

In the course of the final refurbishing in the late 1970s, a discovery was made that directly associated the press with Isaiah Thomas and showed that it was probably still in service in the final decade of the eighteenth century. Layers of what appeared to be dirt, when removed carefully from the head of the press and cleaned, turned out to be fragments of pictures and other printed matter that had been pasted to the



"No. 1."

head of the press, possibly as one today might pin up a favorite cartoon at work. On one of these fragments, parts of a headline, drawing, and text were visible. A search of the Society's collections turned up an intact copy of the item of which the fragment was a part: the page illustrating "A Monkey" from a small children's book entitled *Food for the Mind*, printed and published in Worcester by Isaiah Thomas in 1794. Fully visible on the press was an old label that read "No. 1."

Old "No. 1" had had a profoundly useful life and was bequeathed to the American Antiquarian Society to be preserved for the benefit of the nation its use had played such a role in creating. Isaiah Thomas is famous today both for his many achievements in printing, publishing, editing, and bookselling and for his founding and support of the American Antiquarian Society, today one of the nation's principal independent research libraries. Thanks to his foresight, old "No. 1" is likewise notable as one of the few remaining examples of the early eighteenth-century British common press in the world today and also as a press that performed distinguished service in the establishment of the American nation.

Designed  
by Clinton Sisson.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
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