A PEARL PRIMER

There is a mystique about Golding Pearl presses.

That said, we wil describe the four now used by many happy and enthusiastic Pearl owners.

There is a lot of confusion about Pearls, improved and original, numbers 1, 3, 8 & 11. There were others, but these are most numerous. How do you know them? Original Pearls are No. 1, (5x8) and No. 3, (7x11). The press is bolted to an iron base which has wooden drawers, 3 for the No.1, 2 for the No. 3. They have two rollers, no throw-off. The ink disk has a positive action.

The No. 3 weighs 350 pounds, the No. 1, less. The treadle design has a heart shape terminating with either a round disk or a raised *PEARL*.

The No. 8 (5x8) and No. 11 (7x11) are improved Pearls. They have three rollers and a throw-off. Instead of drawers in the base, they have a single door, hinged at the bottom with storage for 3 rollers. The ink disk can be set to revolve either clockwise or counter-clockwise. Ink fountains were available, but not seen often; none of the 5 Pearls that I've owned (1-1, 2-3, 2-11) have had a fountain, I did find one later. The treadle on both Nos 8 and 11 end with a rectangular plate with PEARL in raised letters. While the base on the improved models looks like the base and the press are a single unit, they can be separated. It involves hard work and skinned knuckles.

The No. 11 weighs 500 pounds, the 8 a bit less. The No. 1 looks slim and trim, the No. 3, fat. Nos. 8 & 11 look alike except the 8 is smaller.

All four are the same height. Serial number is top center on the bed On the left side of the base, cast in raised figures is the year it was made. On the right side is Golding & Co. Later Golding Mfg. Co. None had depressible grippers.

Good points: Light weight, quiet, easy to adjust. Worst feature: grippers not depressible. Large forms are a problem due to light weight.

If I think Pearls are such great presse, why did I sell the first 4 and be without a Pearl for four years? The No. 1 and No. 11 were perfect, sold to collectors. I was doing commercial work with 8x12 and 10x15 C&Ps. The first No. 3 was sold to a priter who wanted a Pearl, never mind substitute parts, it worked! Along came an 8x12 C&P N.S. I bought it. Sixteen years with the last Pearl; it went to make room for the C & P.

Last year, preparing to move north, I traded my 26" cutter for an 8x 12 Golding *Imprinter* Official. Needing a cutter, I called a man who earlier had sold me type. Yes, he would sell his cutter. In a corner sat a Pearl! I bought both.

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