

## A PEARL PRIMER

There is a *mystique* about Golding Pearl presses.

That said, we will 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.

