



A Newsletter by and for the Graphic Communications & Production Technology Department of Vancouver Community College

Welcome to the first issue of *The Ink Rag*. We're proud to present our newsletter to you, the students and staff of the GC&PT Program at VCC – and also to those industry reps who may receive this humble publication. While we had a few bumps getting to this issue (as expected – and more will surely come), you hold in your hands the result of our collective efforts. *The Ink Rag* is a forum for communicating among ourselves as students and staff. It's also the first tangible product of working together as 2nd year students, a concrete result of our studies in print production, and a kind of 'dress rehearsal' for the yearbook we'll be producing later next year through our model company, Inkinc. We want all our readers to know that this is their publication as much as it is ours, and we welcome your comments, questions, and contributions. We'll be rotating our jobs for each issue of *The Ink Rag*; next month's editor will be Phillip Torrance. Our plan is to publish in the middle of each month, but it will likely be out later in January and March. Enjoy!

– Tom Snyders, for the Ink Rag staff

## A dedication and invitation

We would like to dedicate this first issue of *The Ink Rag* to John Hamilton, our department head, who is presently away on sick leave. Many of you may not yet know John, but all of us profit daily from his having been here in terms of the equipment and resources we have at our disposal. A fundraiser *sans pareil*, tireless worker for the students and staff of GC&PT, and one heck of a pressman, John, we miss you and hope that you are on the mend. In addition to our thanks and appreciation, consider this our invitation to you to attend the Christmas party. It just wouldn't be the same without you... plus we aren't sure Lisa will let us get away with all the hijinks we have planned. We need you!

— The InkRag staff

## CreoScitex Tour

by Phillip Torrance and Dave Valente



Photograph by Jozsef Coo

\$400,000: that was the price tag of Creo's newest plate setter, the Lotem 2400 DPI. On Tuesday, December 4th, the second year class attended a tour at Creo, one of the world's most respected software and hardware developers for the graphic arts industry, and previous employer of our Acting Department Head, Lisa O'Neill.

George Molnar, a former student of the GC&PT program here at VCC, guided us through a most impressive facility where the level of technical sophistication was apparent from the moment we arrived. First, George took us through the showroom, an immaculately clean space where Creo's latest hardware products are

demonstrated to potential buyers. There we were shown many of Creo's latest devices, such as their CTP (computer to plate) platesetters, and combination platesetter/proofing devices, which use the latest laser technology (designed by Creo) to burn images without requiring film. The Trendsetter Spectrum Proofer was a very impressive machine as well. Powered by a Dell computer with four 833 Mhz processors (in the configuration we saw), this dual purpose device can image either proofs or plates, depending on the media that is mounted in the device. The system produces contract proofs that reproduce halftone dots using a thermal imaged dye transfer process. ...continued on page 2





Cartoon by Dave Valente

## CreoScitex ... continued from page 1

Next we were taken to a very elaborate demonstration room with a giant plasma screen TV and a theatre-like setup. Here we were shown some of Creo's latest software products, such as their newest and most innovative program, InSite. InSite allows various users to communicate with each other conveniently — customers, designers, and printers together — streamlining the process of job submissions and status tracking, and facilitating online collaboration and remote proofing for approval. (The ability to review a document online and pass on the control of its editing tools is great!) It also integrates with another Creo program called Prinergy. Prinergy handles all of the preflighting for jobs, a design that will revolutionize the printing industry for years to come.

The list of products and services offered by Creo is long and cannot be summed up in a short newsletter. What was most amazing about Creo, though, was the level of passion for the company and its goals that the employees had. Every employee that we spoke to referred to the company with enthusiasm and pride, all of them sharing in the same company vision of designing, as a team, a flawless workflow from beginning to end.

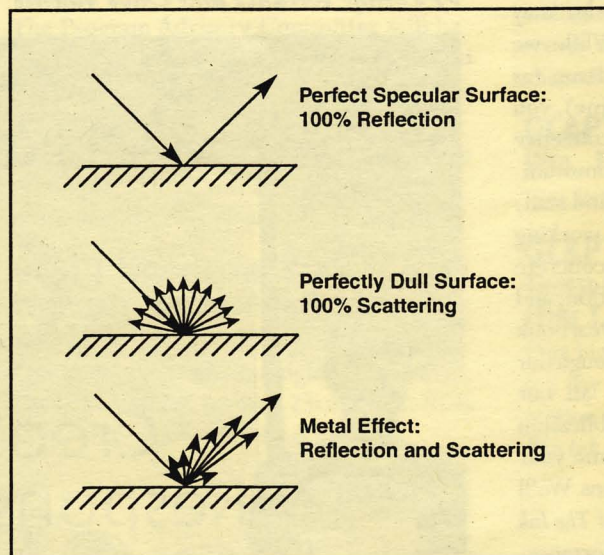
It was great to visit a Vancouver-based company which is a global leader in producing pre-press equipment and technology, and as we left their large building I could not help but wonder what else is being developed right now, and what we have to look forward to from them in the future.

# Metallic Inks

by J. Harder

Since it's getting near Christmas, I thought I'd write about something glitzy and ornamental. Metallic inks are popular at this time of year, and I think their history is interesting.

Metal pigments were first used about 1,000 BC. The Egyptians first used it in the form of thin gold sheets to gild wooden or bone ornaments. Through trade, this art eventually spread to China, India, and later to Europe.



## Overlapping metallic particles create a shining surface

When the gold was being hammered, small flakes would break off. After a while it was discovered that these pieces could be incorporated into a vehicle and applied on a substrate, and the history of metallic inks and paints began.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, nuns and monks would often use this ink along with water-based paints to illuminate their special books. A good example of a handmade book around this period is *The Book of Kells*. The monks would often write on animal skins (vellum) or parchment. The skins created a smooth surface for ink absorption. *The Book of Kells* required 150 calf skins.

At that time metallic inks would be mixed with sepia (ink of cuttlefish), gall nuts (growths on trees), or iron vitriol (a metal compound). Gold and silver are expensive, so these pigments could only be used for the rich. Substitutes needed to be found so

that the average person could enjoy these beautiful manuscripts. Bronze and copper were found to give a good gold luster, and tin was later found to make a good replacement for silver.

It wasn't until the 19th century that metallic pigments were manufactured on an industrial basis. One important person who improved this process was Sir Henry Bessemer, who invented a stamping process for pigments. Charles Hall and Paul Herroult

both invented a type of smelting which allowed aluminum to be used as a replacement for silver and tin. This technology was very dangerous, due to the fact that the new Bessemer process often caused an explosive reaction when mixed with air.

In 1930, E.J. Hall found a way to make the process safer by improving the milling process of aluminum. Finally, in 1980 the mirror-like appearance of the aluminum pigment was perfected. Today's metallic inks are a byproduct of this innovation.

Metallic inks have often been associated with environmental concerns when it comes to packaging food products, as high amounts of metal can cause serious harm to the body. However, due to advancements in technology, the heavy metal content in metallic inks is now quite low. Water-based metallic inks have been developed that deliver superior brilliance on a multicolour press.

New technology has led to new uses for metallic inks. For example, new paper disposable phones have been developed which have their electronics printed with gold ink. In addition, this ink is often used as an alternative to foil stamping.

In conclusion, here are a few tips when using metallic inks. A high gloss or coated paper is always best for maximum reflection. Metallic inks make a dramatic statement on dark paper. Finally, make sure that your ink is rub resistant and won't flake.



## THE INK RAG

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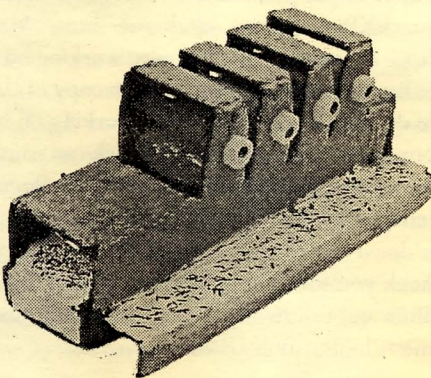
email: [inkrag@yahoo.ca](mailto:inkrag@yahoo.ca)

We welcome your questions,  
feedback, criticisms, and contributions.

If you're interested in contributing your writing or artwork, feel free to contact any of the second-year students to find out more about what we're looking for, and the proper formats and file types for submissions.

## Introducing the GingerMaster CD

...the only 4 colour press YOU CAN EAT!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New year!



Baking and photo by Tom Snyders

# Caught in the web

## APPLE

[WWW.APPLE.COM](http://WWW.APPLE.COM)

For all Mac owners out there this is an indispensable site that offers all kinds of late-breaking news in the world of Mac. One highlight of the site would have to be the support section. This area offers you all kinds of downloads, updates and product specs. Another great feature is the discussions area. Here you can post up your troubles or success stories with the Mac.

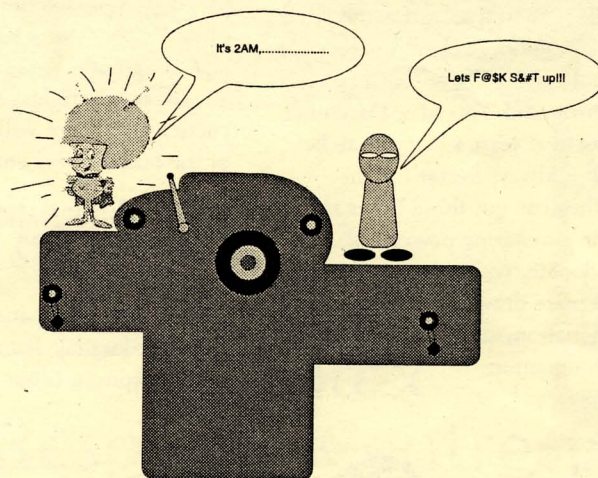
## ADOBE

[WWW.ADOBE.COM](http://WWW.ADOBE.COM)

This is an invaluable site for all you creative types out there. No matter what kind of design you're into, this site has the goods for you. From demos on all their latest software, to tutorials from industry pros, this is a site that excites. They also feature profiles on various movers and shakers in the world of design. P.S.: don't forget to take a look at the expert centre... goodies galore!

— Kerry Anderson

"...BUT IT WAS WORKING PERFECTLY YESTERDAY!"



MUST HAVE BEEN THE GREMLINS!

Cartoon by Rudy Montejo



Photo of actual Christmas gift by Kerry Anderson

**CANADA POST**  
**WHEN IT'S GOT TO GET THERE**  
**...IN THE WORST WAY.**



# Upcoming Events

## WIN MONEY!

50/50 Draws will take place every Thursday at 2 pm in the GC&PT foyer. Tickets can be purchased from Kelsey, Dave, Jeff or Rudy from Year Two, starting on the Tuesday prior to the draw. The price of tickets is 50¢ each or \$1 for three. Proceeds of the draws go towards GC&PT events, including our Christmas party. The winner of the first draw was Malcolm of Class Three, who walked away with a cool \$27. You could be next! And remember, the more people buy tickets, the bigger the prize will be... so buy more tickets!

## FEED THE HUNGRY THIS XMAS

GC&PT is collecting donations for the Food Bank this holiday season. Each non-perishable food item you donate will get you a ticket for our prize draw held Thursday, December 20th (prize worth at least \$25): one ticket per item. Cash is always better for the Food Bank – they can get three times the food with their purchasing power – so for every \$1 you donate, we'll give you *three* tickets for the prize draw! See Nancy to make a food donation, and Krystina (Yr. 2) to make a cash donation.

## GC&PT XMAS PARTY THURSDAY DEC. 20, NOON, RM. 114

Don't forget that our department's Xmas party will take place Thursday, December 20th at noon in room 114. Pizza and pop will be provided, and if you can bring some baked goodies or snacks to share, please do. There'll be gift draws as well, and if you feel like entertaining us with a song, joke, poem or anything like that, bring it on – it might even win you a prize, so let's see your silly or serious talent! This is your party... come have fun with your fellow students and staff!

## PAC MEETING TUESDAY, JAN. 15TH, 5:30 PM, ROOM 114

The Program Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss the GC&PT program and offer advice on what may be done to improve it in the future. We need two class reps to attend, so talk to Lisa O'Neill if you want to participate. There will also be an election of the board's new chair at this meeting.

## GC&PT INFORMATION NIGHT WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23, 6:30-7:30 PM, RM. 120

Our annual information-night will take place Wednesday, January 23rd, 2002, from 6:30 – 8 pm in room 120. This is an

opportunity for anybody interested in finding out more about the program to meet with instructors, tour the facility, and ask questions, so if you have any friends who might be interested in attending, tell them about this night.

## HEMLOCK PRINTERS LTD. OPEN HOUSE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2002, 6-8 PM 7050 BULLER AVENUE, BURNABY BC

This open house is an opportunity to tour a high-end printing company, and a great chance to see what this industry's all about. This night has been set up to expose students from various local schools (secondary and post-secondary) to the printing industry and to give representatives of the industry a chance to see what we here at GC&PT are all about. Not only that, it's a great chance to network, and well worth the trip.

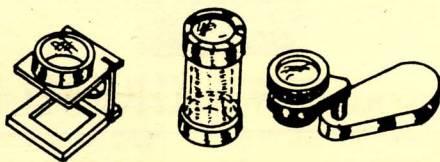
## GC&PT INFORMATION NIGHT WED., FEB. 20, 6:30-7:30 PM, RM. 120

(See listing for January 23 for more info).

## GC&PT OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 2002 (TIME T.B.A./RM. 114)

Our big Open House is coming up... this is a day not to miss! Look for more information on this in the January issue of *The Ink Rag*.

# In The Loupe



## AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN WITH A TECHNICAL FOCUS

by Bob Grahame

Here is a spot where you may check for short bits of technical information. I'll start you off easy this installment. I am busy working on a document that will provide you with a better understanding of computer and network usage in the Graphic Communications & Production Technology (GC&PT) department labs. Here are a few points as a preview:

- Keep food, drink, and all coats and packs on or under the centre tables in the labs. This will minimize grime and dirt on the keyboards, mice, and screens.
- Please do not install any software on the lab Macs.

- If you are using a Zip disk to transfer your files to your PC at home, make sure that the PC formatted Zip is not used as a working disk. Copy your files to GAPP Files and into a folder with your name on it, then copy back to the Zip for transfer once your work session is complete.

- Only store currently active files (required for the course you are in) on the server. Make sure you have a backup on a Zip disk. At the end of a course, remove your files from the server and keep them on a Zip disk or have us burn a CD.

- CD burning services are available. CDs are \$2 for the CD and burning charge. Fill in the form available at Inking and then submit

your files to the Inking server (regular GAPP server login) in: Customer Job Submissions/Ready to Burn on CD.

- If you are having trouble printing from QuarkXPress, make sure you set the correct Printer Description in the Settings tab of the QuarkXPress print dialogue box. Also please remember that if you're working on a file housed on the server, make a copy of the file on your hard drive before working on it, as opening a file over the network can cause file corruption that may render your document useless.

Thank you for taking the time to read these points and follow them carefully. Until next time – logout Bob Grahame.