

2015 Micro-Grant Winner Report #4

Project Title: "Portland's Type Casting Heritage Project, an Oral History."

By Rebecca Gilbert of Stumptown Printers and the CC Stern Type Foundry Museum

Summary of project:

The purpose of this project is to document, preserve & present the history of printing through the stories of our community members. *Portland's Type Casting Heritage Project* is an oral history project documenting the era of hot-metal printing in the Portland Metro Area, and is being done in cooperation with the C.C. Stern Type Foundry (a non-profit working museum). Since 2011, I have been interviewing retired printers and type casters regarding their job experiences during the 1950's-1990's.

Report on progress

I have been successful in interviewing four more retired or semiretired type casters & printers since receiving this grant: John Gannon, Bill Washburn, Dennis Gilliam & Ralph Sanders. I hope to complete at least three more within 2016. Additionally, the transcription of two interviews and a panel discussion is nearly complete. I'm looking forward to final review and permissions from the interviewees, then on to the work of getting these oral histories to archives.

I was able to use the micro grant toward the purchase a set of lapel microphones for interviews and also an omni-directional Shure microphone/cable/stand for multiple person recordings. The improvement in sound quality (and associated ease in transcription and editing) is notable. Thank you to the NHN for your support!

See our project website and some of the stories here:
<http://www.metaltype.org/ccstf/project/typecasting-heritage-project/>