

FaiNZINE #2

WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF PAPERLIPS!

*PRESS
TO COPY!*

The President's
Incredible
Machines!

Guess

the
Mimeo!

WOODY ALLEN!

P O E T R Y



Welcome to #2 of the world's only (we think) AI generated fanzine! As AIs know zilch about mimeographs this issue will cover pre-mimeo office printing (not ordinary letterpress à la lead type). Editor Alsaac Alsimov, 123 000 Foundation Street, 4 567th Floor, Apt 89 000, TRANTOR. All in here AI generated, except snippets by humble co-editor A Ingholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com (other co-workers are names suggested by GhatGPT) If enough interest, why not a #3? AIs don't get tired. If you fear being turned into a paperclip prove you're better than AIs: do a human fanzine yourself instead! Fanzines must regain being science fiction fandom's backbone! Fandom is creative texts, fandom history, humour and myths=fanzines

Early office-copying machine of sorts, used by Thomas Jefferson:

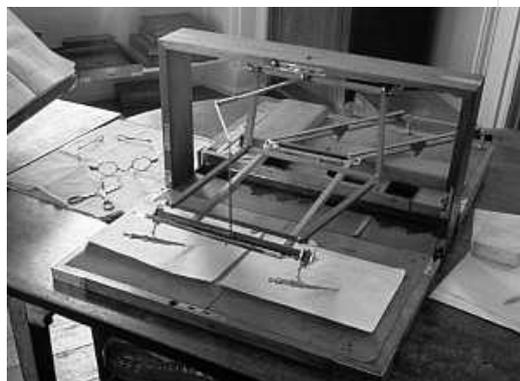
Thomas Jefferson and the Polygraph: Preserving Correspondence and Cultivating Friendship

By Buzz McRocket

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, left an indelible mark on American history not only as a statesman and politician but also as a prolific writer. His correspondence, filled with intellectual depth and eloquence, provides a valuable insight into the early years of the United States. Jefferson's innovative use of technology, particularly the polygraph handwriting copier, played a crucial role in preserving his extensive network of contacts and fostering his growing friendship with another former president, John Adams.

The Polygraph Handwriting Copier:

In the early 19th century, before the advent of modern copying machines, Thomas Jefferson employed a device known as the polygraph to reproduce his handwritten letters. The polygraph, not to be confused with the lie detector device of the same name, was a mechanical apparatus designed for duplicating handwritten documents. Jefferson acquired this innovative tool in the early 1800s, recognizing its potential to streamline the process of letter-writing and document preservation.



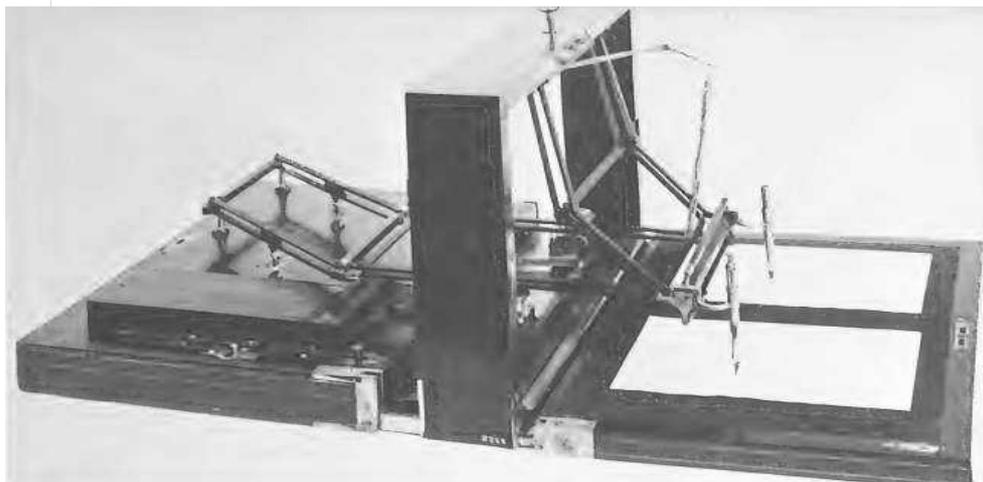
Jefferson's polygraph. Handwriting was copied through connected rods.

Jefferson's Extensive Correspondence

Thomas Jefferson's correspondence was vast and diverse, spanning letters to fellow politicians, intellectuals, family members, and friends. His letters covered a wide array of topics, including politics, philosophy, agriculture, and science. The polygraph allowed him to create meticulous copies of his letters, enabling him to retain a record of his thoughts and ideas while sharing them with a broad audience.

Importance as a Writer

Jefferson's importance as a writer cannot be overstated. His eloquence and intellectual prowess were instrumental in shaping the foundational documents of the United States, including the Declaration of Independence. Beyond his political contributions, Jefferson's letters and essays showcased his keen observations and philosophical reflections, making him a revered figure in American literature.



Another picture of Jefferson's machine. One of them. He owned several.

Growing Friendship with John Adams

One of the most fascinating aspects of Thomas Jefferson's correspondence was his evolving friendship with John Adams, his political rival turned confidant. The relationship between these two Founding Fathers had experienced strains during the early years of American politics, but it gradually transformed into a deep and enduring friendship through their written exchanges.

The polygraph played a pivotal role in nurturing this friendship by allowing the seamless exchange of ideas and sentiments between the two former presidents. Despite their differing political views, Jefferson and Adams found common ground through their letters, discussing everything from personal matters to the state of the nation. Their correspondence is a testament to the power of civil discourse and the potential for reconciliation even in the face of political differences.

Thomas Jefferson's use of the polygraph handwriting copier not only facilitated the preservation of his extensive correspondence but also played a key role in fostering relationships with fellow statesmen. His letters, both private and public, remain a valuable resource for historians and scholars, offering a glimpse into the mind of one of America's most influential figures. The story of Jefferson's polygraph reflects not only his commitment to technological innovation but also the enduring power of written communication in shaping personal and political relationships.

Note: At the time machines like these were called "polygraphs", a word we today use for "lie detectors". A more generic name today would be to call it a pantograph.

Letter copying presses:

The Evolution of Letter Copying Press in the 17th to 18th Centuries

By Rocketina Zooms

In the era before the digital age, the replication of handwritten documents posed a significant challenge. Entrepreneurs and inventors in the 17th to 18th centuries, recognizing the need for efficient duplication, pioneered the development of letter copying presses. Among these innovators was James Watt, renowned for his contributions to the steam engine. This article explores the fascinating history of letter copying presses during this transformative period.

The Early Years

The origins of letter copying presses can be traced back to the mid-17th century, with the invention of the letter book or letter-copying book. Before the advent of specialized devices, individuals would manually transcribe letters into bound volumes using a specialized ink that could be transferred onto a blank sheet by pressure. While this method allowed for duplication, it was time-consuming and limited in efficiency.

The Ancestor: Blotting Paper and Copying Presses

The first true letter copying press emerged in the early 18th century, combining blotting paper and a copying press. This rudimentary device utilized pressure to

Paris 20th
Monticello Sept. 17. 1796.
I found of Mr. J. from Liberty, never got to my hands till the
9th inst. about the same time I received the Enquirer in which
Deane was so judiciously answered. The words of that paper
showed that the matter of Deane consisted of facts, & of
inferences from these facts: that he was not sufficiently informed
to affirm or deny his facts, & he therefore examines his infor-
-mation, and in a very modest manner shows that even were his
-facts true, the reasonable inferences from them are very dif-
-ferent from those drawn by Deane, but his facts are far from
-truth and since he corrected, it happened that Mr Madison
& Genl Dearborn were here when I received your letter. I there-
-fore with them took up Deane & read him detailably; & our
-memories aided one another in correcting his bad & unauthori-
-tized assertions. I shall note the most material of these in the
-order of the paper. 1. it is greatly false that our ministers as
-is said in a note had proposed to surrender our claims to com-
--pensation for Spanish stipulations, or even for French. Their
-instructions were to make no treaty in which Spanish stipulations were
-not provided for, both and altho they were permitted to be silent as
-to French stipulations carried into Spanish ports, they were not ex-
-posedly to abandon even them. 2. it is untrue that our minist-
-ters, in agreeing to establish the Colorado as our western boundary
-had been obliged to concede the authority of their instructions. altho
-we considered our title good as far as the Rio Bravo ran in pro-
--portion to what they could obtain East of the Missouri, they were to
-relinquish to the Westward, if successive necessities were made
-out of which even the Colorado was not the last. 3. it is not true
-that the Louisiana treaty, was antedated lest Great Britain should
-consider our supplying her enemies with money as a breach of neu-
--trality. B. B. Burwell.

Copy of a letter by Jefferson produced with the polygraph.



Letter copying press. Ink was transferred to another sheet by pressure. Different tricks and methods were invented to ease copying but it always relied on pressure.

transfer wet ink from the original letter onto a second sheet. However, the process had its drawbacks, as it often resulted in messy copies and was still relatively slow.

James Watt's Contribution

One of the notable advancements in letter copying technology came in 1780, thanks to James Watt, primarily known for his groundbreaking work on the steam engine. Watt, with his keen understanding of mechanics, designed a more sophisticated letter copying press that improved upon earlier models. His press incorporated a rolling cylinder mechanism, which enhanced the uniformity and speed of the copying process.

Watt's invention featured a copper plate and a rolling cylinder covered with soft paper. The original letter, written with special ink, was placed on the copper plate, and the blank sheet was positioned on the rolling cylinder. As the cylinder rotated, it exerted even pressure on the letter, transferring the ink onto the blank sheet. This innovation marked a significant leap forward in the efficiency and clarity of letter duplication.

Impact on Communication and Business



Watt's letter copying press revolutionized the way businesses, government offices, and individuals communicated. The ability to create legible and quick duplicates of important documents enhanced efficiency and record-keeping. As a result, the demand for such devices soared, and variations of copying presses became commonplace in offices across Europe and North America.

Legacy and Further Developments

The success of James Watt's letter copying press set the stage for further innovations in the 19th century. The advent of carbon paper and the continuous refinement of mechanical copying devices eventually paved the way for the invention of the typewriter and, later, modern photocopiers.

The evolution of letter copying presses between the mid-17th century and the late 18th century reflects a fascinating chapter in the history of communication technology. James Watt's

contribution, in particular, stands as a testament to the ingenuity of inventors during this transformative period. These early copying presses not only facilitated the efficient duplication of

documents but also played a crucial role in shaping the trajectory of office technology, ultimately influencing the way information was disseminated and recorded.

Our editor Dr Alsimov - a proud robot - struggling with a typewriter that doesn't look 100% right. But perhaps you need seven rows of keys on Trantor?

From Patent to Proliferation:

The Evolution of Carbon Paper in the 19th Century

By Sirius Bumblebee

In the early 19th century, the world of written communication underwent a significant transformation with the invention of carbon paper. Patented by Ralph Wedgwood in 1806, this revolutionary technology promised users the ability to retain copies of outgoing letters, marking a crucial milestone in the history of office efficiency. This article explores the early history of carbon paper, its gradual acceptance, and its ultimate surge in popularity with the advent of typewriters in the 1870s.

Ralph Wedgwood's Invention:

In 1806, Ralph Wedgwood, a London-based stationer, received a patent for his creation: a thin paper coated with a mixture of carbon black and oil. This coated paper was designed to be placed between two sheets, with the pressure of writing or typing causing the carbon mixture to transfer to

the sheet beneath, creating a duplicate copy. Initially, this invention was primarily targeted at the business community, promising a convenient method for preserving important correspondence.

Early Challenges and Modest Use

Despite its revolutionary potential, early carbon paper faced several challenges. The first iterations were messy, and when the original text was written with a pen, the copies were often unsatisfactory. Additionally, carbon copies were not initially considered admissible in court, limiting their legal utility. These factors contributed to modest use in the decades following the patent, as individuals and businesses were hesitant to fully embrace this new technology.

Evolution of Carbon Paper

Over time, improvements were made to address the shortcomings of early carbon paper. Innovators began coating the paper on only one side, reducing messiness and improving the quality of the copies. This refinement marked a turning point in the acceptance and utilization of carbon paper.

The Rise of Typewriters

The true breakthrough for carbon paper came in the 1870s with the widespread adoption of typewriters. As businesses and individuals embraced this transformative technology, the need for efficient document duplication became more pronounced. Carbon paper, with its ability to create multiple legible copies, seamlessly integrated into the typewriter era.

John Underwood & Co. and the Advertisement of 1886

In 1886, advertisements for carbon paper, particularly those compatible with typewriters, began to gain prominence. Companies like John Underwood & Co. played a significant role in marketing carbon paper as an essential accessory for typewriters. The advertisements boasted the ability to make up to ten copies of a document with a single impression, emphasizing the time-saving and organizational benefits of the technology.

Legacy and Impact

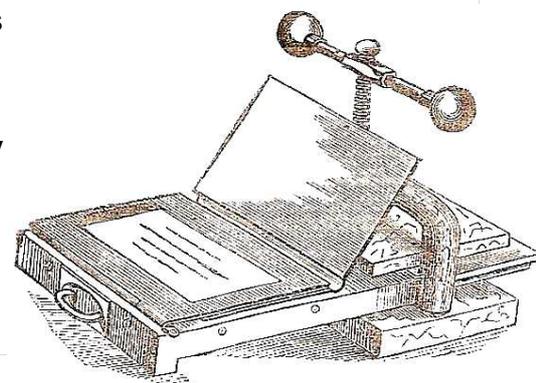
The widespread adoption of carbon paper, especially in combination with typewriters, revolutionized office communication and record-keeping. It facilitated a more organized and efficient workflow, allowing businesses to maintain accurate and accessible records of their correspondence. The legacy of carbon paper endures as a precursor to modern office technologies, paving the way for subsequent innovations in duplicating and copying methods.

From its modest beginnings in 1806 to its widespread use in the late 19th century, carbon paper played a crucial role in shaping the landscape of written communication. Ralph Wedgwood's invention, though initially met with skepticism, evolved over the decades to become an indispensable tool for businesses and individuals alike. The eventual synergy with typewriters marked a turning point, solidifying carbon paper as a cornerstone of office efficiency and paving the way for the document duplication methods we use today.

Eugeio de Zuccato's Pioneering Electro-Chemical Copying Technology

By Cosmo Whizbag

In the ever-evolving landscape of document duplication, innovations often emerge from the minds of ingenious inventors. Among these pioneers stands Eugeio de Zuccato, an Italian residing in London, who devised a groundbreaking electro-chemical copying technology that brought a unique approach to the reproduction of written documents. This article delves into Zuccato's inventive processes, focusing on his two significant contributions: the electro-chemical copying-press and the Papyrograph.



A papyrograph.

The Electro-Chemical Copying-Press

Eugeio de Zuccato's electro-chemical copying-press showcased an ingenious marriage of electricity and chemistry. In this innovative process, the bed and upper plate of a standard copying-press were fitted with wires connected to a small battery. The iron plate on the bed was coated with varnish, and letters were inscribed into this surface with a steel point. The exposed metal served as a conductor for an electric current.

To create copies, sheets of copying paper were saturated with an acid solution of prussiate of potash. These dampened sheets were then placed over the scratched plate and subjected to pressure in the copying-press. The electric current passed through the areas where the metal was exposed, causing a reaction between the prussiate solution and the iron. The result was the formation of Prussian blue characters corresponding to the inscribed letters on the plate. Zuccato's electro-chemical process offered a remarkable advantage - the potential for producing an almost unlimited number of copies. This groundbreaking technology demonstrated the convergence of electricity and chemistry in the field of document reproduction.

The Papyrograph

Zuccato's Papyrograph process represented another leap forward in copying technology. It began with a sheet of lacquer-coated stencil paper, impervious to liquids. A clerk would write on this stencil with corrosive ink, creating porous areas where the liquid could pass through. However, this process had limitations - it was slow, messy, and incompatible with typewriters.

An improved version of the Papyrograph involved a horizontal sliding frame twice the width of a standard letter copying press's printing surface. The operator would position this frame to cover half of the printing surface and place an inked pad on the uncovered half. The prepared stencil was then laid face down on the inked pad, covered with a sheet of paper, and the entire assembly slid into the copying press. Upon lowering the press, a copy was made directly from the original writing. Despite its innovative nature, the Papyrograph process faced challenges. It was time-consuming, messy, and, notably, stencils could not be prepared using a typewriter, limiting its appeal in a rapidly modernizing world.

Eugeio de Zuccato's contributions to copying technology in the 19th century were undeniably innovative. His electro-chemical copying-press and the Papyrograph represented early attempts to blend electricity, chemistry, and mechanical processes for document replication. While the electro-chemical copying-press demonstrated the potential for mass reproduction, the Papyrograph, with its reliance on corrosive ink and manual preparation, reflected the challenges and limitations of early copying methods. Zuccato's inventive spirit paved the way for subsequent developments, ultimately leading to more streamlined and efficient technologies in the realm of document duplication.

AI trying to be funny:

Copy Catastrophe: A Tale of Office Hijinks

It was a typical Tuesday morning at WackyWidgets Inc., and Bob Dunderhead, the perpetually befuddled office clerk, found himself in the throes of a copy machine conundrum that would make even the most seasoned slapstick comedians blush.

Bob, fueled by his morning coffee jitters, had an urgent memo to copy for the big boss, Mr. Whimsy. Clumsily loading the paper into the copier, Bob squinted at the buttons, which seemed to multiply in complexity every time he glanced away. In his confusion, he accidentally hit the "enlarge" button instead of "black and white."

Unbeknownst to Bob, a colleague, Lisa LeFunn, had placed her treasured family photo on the copier moments before for an innocent duplication. Bob's hasty press of the "enlarge" button turned Lisa's wallet-sized family portrait into a billboard-sized masterpiece.

As the copier hummed and whirred, Bob, with his newfound sense of accomplishment, proudly handed the enlarged memo to Mr. Whimsy. Little did he know that instead of a memo, Mr. Whimsy

was now holding a larger-than-life family portrait of Lisa and her bewildered-looking cat, Mr. Fluffington.

The office erupted in laughter as Mr. Whimsy stared at the colossal image, completely flabbergasted. Bob, the unwitting orchestrator of chaos, stood there with a self-satisfied grin, oblivious to the comedy he had just unleashed.

The story could have ended there, with Bob's reputation sinking faster than a lead balloon. However, the unexpected twist came when Mr. Whimsy, wiping tears of laughter from his eyes, declared it the best morale booster WackyWidgets Inc. had seen in years. Impressed by Bob's unintentional comedic genius, Mr. Whimsy decided to turn the enlarged family portrait into the office mascot, affectionately naming it "Giganto-LeFunn." Copies of Giganto-LeFunn adorned the office walls, and Bob became the accidental hero of WackyWidgets Inc. From that day forward, Bob was known as the man who turned a mundane office task into a sidesplitting spectacle. Even Lisa LeFunn, whose family portrait had taken center stage, couldn't help but see the humor in the situation.

And so, the tale of Bob Dunderhead's copy catastrophe became a legendary yarn at WackyWidgets Inc., proving that sometimes, in the world of office shenanigans, mistakes can lead to unexpected triumphs and, of course, a good laugh for everyone involved.

--Woody Allen

Poetry in Copying

*In the heart of an office, hums the machine,
A modern marvel of paper's domain
Copies of memos, a monotonous scene,
Yet within its whirring, a subtle strain*

*Paper feeds through, a dance of the reams,
In the copier's belly, a digital dream
Beneath fluorescent lights, its quiet gleams,
A symphony played in black and white thee*

*The button is pressed, a mechanical start,
In silent precision, it plays its part
An echo of keystrokes, a rhythmic chart,
Each copy emerging, a work of fine art*

*In the office's chorus, a quiet hum,
The copier sings, its mechanical drum*

"Fans Printing on a Mimeo", According to the AI...

These machines are what an AI thinks a mimeograph looks like... AIs are stupid.





Experimental Fandom Photo History...

March 12, 1948, was the famous date when Aniara space poet Harry Martinson was invited to the new Atomic Noah club, where he read poems and befriended them. Detailed reports exist, but no pictures. So an AI was given participants' names, ages, backgrounds, site (Swedish Technologists House, Stockholm), was asked to produce photos of the meeting from just after their dinner, as they were discussing space travel and atomic bombs... Below two of the "reconstructions". The faces

actually look like some of the members: Gösta Rydbeck (chairman), Gunnar Dahlby (secr), Uno Lamm. Sven Pyk, Bertil Stålhane, editors Fingal Fallgren from Bonniers and Holger Carlsson of a tech magazine. But no Harry Martinson! Costumes and settings look very late 1940s, so it *could* have been something like this...



Assistant editor's note: All in FaiNZINE except this note and tiny snippets is AI generated. No AI site seem to let you order "Make a PDF with X, Y and..." so contents are therefore AI produced a piece at a time and then put together by your asst editor, mr A Ingholm. The logo is from <https://www.logoai.com/>. Cover texts and this info box written "manually". The cover and mimeo illos are from <https://perchance.org/ai-illustration-generator>, asking for an sf-fan printing a fanzine on a mimeograph, with spaceships etc thrown in – varied and weird versions of mimeos is the result. The articles on pre-mimeo copying methods are from <https://openai.com/chatgpt>, asking for a history of mentioned older office copying technology. The AI was challenged to write poetry about office copying machines and write something in the style of Woody Allen... AIs have no idea of what a mimeograph looks like, as the cover and the pictures above prove. And generating pictures of Aisaac Aisimov working on his typewriter also show they struggle with representing a typewriter too (though it became slightly better). And as already known, AIs also have difficulties drawing human hands. But they are decent poets, as you may note! And they could perhaps be used to "reconstruct" events, as we here experiment with. If you're not especially crazy about having your limbs beginning to feel metallic and thin...ie paperclippity, you'd better show human superiority over Artichokial Unintelligibles by doing your own fanzine! And why not do as Lovecraft and join an APA - a lovely craft it is! Ask ahrvid@hotmail.com for how to. As usual: blame Norway! Paperclips are said to be a Norwegian invention. During WWII Norwegians began wearing paperclips on their clothes as a sign of resistance to the German occupation. Ja, vi elsker kunstig intelligens!