
Ab Epistulis

Steve Peter

As I sit here writing this in the gentle hum of my overworked air conditioner, I can attest that summer has definitely reached the northern hemisphere. As the weather here has been heating up, so too has the planning for TUG 2013 in Tokyo.

Proposals are coming right now (the deadline is here, which focuses the mind), and from what I've seen so far, it looks to be an amazing conference, with a focus (as you would expect) on East Asian usage of \TeX , but with plenty of content for \TeX users of every level and linguistic requirement. Even if you aren't giving a presentation, consider joining us. The conference runs from October 23–26 at the University of Tokyo, Komaba, Tokyo, Japan. For full details, see the conference website at <http://tug.org/tug2013>.

Since I wrote for the last issue of *TUGboat*, we have had an official TUG election. I'm very pleased to be able to continue as president for another term (even if I am thinking of re-styling this as the vice president's column). On the board of directors, we have one director retiring, Jonathan Fine, and I'd like to thank him for his service on the board. Joining the board this year will be Arthur Reutenauer, whom many of you will know from various \TeX meetings in Europe and abroad. I first met Arthur a few years ago in Cork, and was immediately impressed both with how smart he is, and how approachable. (And of course, anyone who knows him knows that he wears many hats, most of them quite stylish!) Returning to the board are Kaja Christiansen, Steve Grathwohl (a.k.a. *Steve₂*), Jim Hefferon, Klaus Hoepfner, and David Walden. Candidate statements and photos are online at <http://tug.org/election>.

The \TeX Collection 2013 DVD has shipped to TUG members. I received my disc last week, and several friends have already installed the latest and greatest, and are playing around (re)discovering \TeX and friends.

Board member Boris Veytsman continues to write prolifically. Now online at the TUG website are new book reviews covering *Presentations with L^AT_EX* and *L^AT_EX Quick Reference* by Herbert Voß, and *Learning L^AT_EX* by David Griffiths and Desmond Higham. For these and other reviews, as well as discounts and more, see <http://tug.org/books>.

Until next time. Happy \TeX ing!

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Editorial comments

Barbara Beeton

Barry Smith, 1953–2012

My acquaintance with Barry was bounded by two telephone calls. The second, last December from Doug Henderson, informed me of Barry's death in October 2012.

The first call was much more upbeat. Early one morning in 1982, I picked up the phone to hear an unfamiliar voice asking if it would be possible to output the camera copy for a book on the Math Society's Alphatype. It was Barry. The book in question was the manual for Oregon Pascal, as prepared in \TeX 80 by Barry and his partner at Oregon Software, Dave Kellerman. Barry reported the successful creation in his report in *TUGboat* 2:2 (page 34) as part of his report on \TeX for VAX/VMS:

Well, it works — \TeX for the VAX running VMS is alive, available, and in production use. (Production use is defined by example — we've just finished a 192 page manual for our optimizing PDP-11 Pascal compiler that is entirely typeset by \TeX , including charts and diagrams.)

In the event, arrangements were made, and the output that emerged from the Alphatype was classy — much more attractive than other contemporaneous compiler manuals, which were often “typeset” on a line printer. The highlight, for me, was the section containing the “railroad diagrams”, syntax diagrams that presented in graphic form the Pascal grammar. These pages really tested the alignment of the Alphatype, to ensure that no rules (the drawn kind) were broken, and that they joined with the boxes at appropriate locations. Sadly, I've been unable to find an image of these pages on the web; they really looked spectacular.

Barry and David went on to form Kellerman & Smith, providing \TeX for the VAX. Then the Mac arrived on the scene. Before Barry and David went their separate ways (Barry to form BlueSky, devoted to the Mac, and David, Northlake Software, continuing with VMS), they cooperated on one more notable project for TUG: guest editing an issue of *TUGboat* (7:1, 1986), including a new design by a professional designer and a special cover drawing by Duane Bibby, which was also featured on that year's meeting T-shirt. The issue is on the TUG web site — take a look.

It's hard to accept that Barry isn't here any more. His contributions were always pushing the boundaries that other people took for granted. He will be missed.

Yet another DEK interview

In Vienna on May 16, Don presented the first annual “Vienna Gödel Lecture” of the Faculty of Informatics at Vienna University of Technology.

The lecture was videoed, you can watch it at <http://www.informatik.tuwien.ac.at/english/vienna-goedel-lectures/2013>. After the lecture, Don submitted to an “All Questions Answered” session, linked from the same page.

Don also took part in an interview, entitled “I was born a geek”. The transcript (in German) can be found at <http://futurezone.at/digitallife/15926-donald-knuth-ich-wurde-als-geek-geboren.php>. The interview is linked from the TUG interviews web page.

TeXdoc on line

For those who have excluded most documentation from their T_EX installation, but still need to look at package manuals from time to time, there is an online version of `texdoc` developed and maintained by “frequent contributors” to the site <http://www.texdoc.net/>, The server is maintained by Stefan Kottwitz, and the scripts by Paulo Cereda, both active contributors to `TeX.stackexchange`. The instructions are simple and the material well organized. Thanks, guys!

Fonts, typography, and printing — on the web and in print

“TypeRider” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3diZa7pmSys>) is a short video, the introduction to a game that “aims to revive interest in the history of typography through a multimedia world”. More details at <http://www.typerider.fr/>; release of the game is expected in September 2013.

Tibet: An Inner Journey, by Matthieu Ricard, has recently been reissued in paperback. One chapter is about a centuries-old print shop that uses engraved wooden blocks. Astonishingly, it survived the Chinese desecration of Tibet. It is still very active, printing both sacred Buddhist texts (in red) and secular material (in black). They also make some of their own paper using a native Tibetan plant. The text occupies only a few pages, but the story is illuminated by about a dozen pages of color photos. (Thanks to Elizabeth Tachikawa, the Unix T_EX office person at the University of Washington in the 1980s.)

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In memoriam: Barry Smith (1953–2012)

Doug Henderson

Barry Gordon Smith

1 September 1953–8 October 2012

A sad day has come to all that knew Barry Smith. He passed away after a long battle with cancer. The doctors gave him six months, and, as was his way, he lived his life developing Textures, the Mac version of T_EX, as if he would never do anything else — for almost another 2 years.

So optimistic he was in the last week that he didn’t even let on to those most dear to him how close he was to the end. He dearly loved Apple technologies and was very close to finishing an iOS version of Textures for the iPad.

I knew Barry as a coder like none other, and his energy for coding perfection burned like few that I have known in my life.

So it is with much regret that I inform everyone of Barry’s death. He was actively working on Textures for the Mac and iOS when he left us. He was strongly committed to making the best T_EX system possible and chose the Macintosh platform before I came to work with him in 1989. His passing is a loss for us all.

His work is at an end.