

Machine Dossier for BEM2a-53
(Benton Pantograph)

Part II: Research

Chapter 2: Sources of Information

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The current distribution of this machine dossier is at:

<https://www.CircuitousRoot.com/artifice/letters/pantocut/benton/machine-dossier-bem2a-53/index.html>

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II.2• Sources of Information

II.2.A• Physical Artifacts

II.2.A.i• ATF Patterns

II.2.A.ii• Patterns at CircuitousRoot

CircuitousRoot owns two original ATF patterns. I acquired these in 2011 from Stanton Peters, the business partner of the late Henry Weiland (a noted collector of type machinery).¹

Scans of these two patterns are in the TO DO: [LINK TO](#) archive of source material

II.2.A.iii• Patterns Elsewhere

Several other private collectors have ATF patterns. The donations by ATF to the Smithsonian Institution may have included patterns (I'm not yet sure). I have not yet investigated them.

II.2.A.iv• Machine Equipment

II.2.A.iv.1• Equipment with BEM2a-53

Aside three quills, BEM2a-53 came with no associated equipment (tracers, leverage bars, etc.) We can learn some things by the holes left by this missing equipment, but this kind of information is limited.

II.2.A.iv.2• Equipment with Other BEMs

BEM No. 55, formerly at The Dale Guild Type Foundry and now at the Letter-kunde Press in Antwerp, has considerable associated equipment with it. Patrick Goossens has been very generous in allowing access to this machine.

BEM No. 99, now a part of the Gregory Jackson Walters Typographical Archive of The Printing Stewards, Inc., is a Type 2b machine which differs in many respects from BEM2a-53. Still, studying it may be useful. The Printing Stewards have generously allowed access to it.

The owners of BEM 60 (63?), Ed Rayher, and BEM 50, anonymous, have also been very helpful.

II.2.B• Archival Material

The ATF and Dale Guild materials formerly at the Dale Guild Type Foundry which is now with the Letter-kunde Press in Antwerp, contain important ATF and Dale Guild documents on ATF and Dale Guild matrix making protocols. This archive contains no technical information on the BEM itself. Tantalizingly,

¹I was purchasing typemetal from him and he very kindly gave to me several ATF artifacts from Weiland's collection.

it contains one half of one engineering presentation drawing of a Benton cutter grinder.

ATF donated considerable material to the Smithsonian Institution and to Columbia University. Sadly, much of this material has been scattered or deaccessioned. I have not yet investigated what remains.

ATF matrix making material also survives at the Cary Graphic Arts Collection of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). I have not yet investigated this.

II.2.C • Important Published Texts

The body of reliable technical and historical literature on the Benton is not large. Still, there have been several significant works. References in parentheses here are to the full entries for each work in the Bibliography.

- Cost. *The Bentons*. (Cost 2011).
- Currier. “Disciplines and Protocols” [article]. (Currier 2011).
- Currier. “Disciplines and Protocols” [short film]. (Currier N.D. [by 2016]).
- Kaup. “Modern Automatic Type Making Methods.” (Kaup 199).
- Rayher. “Swamp Press Turns Virtual Xenotype Cherokee Into Hot Lead Monotype.” (Rayher 2014).

Rehak. *Practical Typesetting*. (Rehak 1993).

- Photographic fragments of historical documents.
- Matrix, mold, and lining data.
- Protocols for BEM operation.
- Protocols for matrix fitting.
- Much more; this book repays a careful and thorough reading.