

The Printer's Miscellany.

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The Uses and Abuses of Inking Rollers.

There is no material used in the "Art Preservative" which requires more attention and judgment than inking rollers in order to produce first-class work.

Very many rollers are often re-cast from no other cause than ill usage, and often the blame will be laid upon the roller-maker instead of where it properly belongs—the pressman. We will not attempt a long article upon the above heading, but in a brief manner show some of the abuses which rollers receive and the remedies therefor.

First.—A too great haste in putting rollers into use after casting, thus depriving them of proper seasoning.

Second.—A too frequent washing when new, thereby destroying their natural suction or tack.

Third.—The use of strong lye and other deleterious fluids in washing, especially upon new rollers; causing the face to become tender, crack, pull out, and peel.

Fourth.—Carelessness in setting rollers too hard, causing them to melt out of shape, and not producing clean work.

Fifth.—Not using proper methods to preserve them when out of use.

Sixth.—A lack of judgment in not adapting fit and proper rollers to the various kinds and styles of presses in use.

To offset the abuses mentioned, we would suggest the following:

First.—Always order your rollers in advance of immediate needs, that they may have sufficient time to season and form a face upon the surface which protects them from the wear and tear in passing over the form, and which will prevent a too rapid washing away of the natural suction or tack. To determine when a roller is properly seasoned and fit for use, run the fingers lengthwise over the surface; and if smooth and with a gentle rebound, it may be considered

ready and fit for use, but when it feels sticky and adhesive to the touch and shows the marks of the fingers plainly upon the surface, it is unfit for use, as there is not surface enough formed upon its face to render it tough and durable. After rollers have become properly seasoned and are not required for immediate use, rub oil over their surface and allow it to remain there until the rollers are needed, simply wiping off the oil with cloth or paper before going to press.

Second.—Do not wash new rollers any oftener than absolutely necessary, as too much dampness destroys the seasoning, besides making them tender.

Third.—In the place of lye and other spirituous fluids, wash them in oil until considerably old (which is by far the most preferable way). After washing with oil remove the same with cloth or paper and do not sponge or rinse with water; this method applies to rollers when new, but when rollers are old and dead from constant use and exposure, a weak lye may be used after washing with oil, with beneficial results.

Fourth.—Use care in setting rollers, especially upon large power presses, see that they are set gently, running free from much friction other than is natural.

Fifth.—When not in use every day put them away in a cool dry box with the ink on, which prevents them from drying up, or collecting moisture from the atmosphere, washing them a short time before going to press. For rollers in daily use, wash them at the end of every day's work.

Sixth.—Always order rollers (as regards firmness) according to the style of press used and work to be done. Slow running book and job presses will run a much softer roller than a high speeded newspaper or job press, although judgment must be exercised in certain cases where particular kinds of presses require opposite directions.—*Typographic.*

To employing printers and printers in search of employment we offer the free use of our columns in advertising their wants. The only condition that we will impose is that the advertiser state his requirements in as brief a manner as possible.