

2001 LIEBERMAN LECTURE

Johanna Drucker on *Iliazd: The Poet Publisher and the Art of the Book*
25 September at the Smithsonian Institution

THE AMERICAN PRINTING HISTORY ASSOCIATION is pleased to announce that Johanna Drucker, Robertson Professor of Media Studies at the University of Virginia, will deliver the 2001 Lieberman Lecture on 25 September at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Her subject, *Iliazd: The Poet Publisher and the Art of the Book*, focuses on Ilia Zdanevich (1894–1975, known as Iliazd), one of the most important avant-garde figures of the twentieth century. Iliazd's career began in the late 1910s with the production of typographic works in the context of Russian Futurism. His mature publications—issued in Paris from the 1940s onward, often in collaboration with such major artists as Ernst, Picasso, and Miro—combined Modernist sensibility with a unique vision of the *livre d'artiste*. A poet with a printer's experience, Iliazd asserted the viability of the book as a modern art form with aesthetic capabilities equal to that of painting or sculpture.

Johanna Drucker has both a scholarly and creative commitment to the book as an art form. She began printing her own limited editions in 1972, subsequently producing more than three dozen volumes, many of which experiment with typography and layout. Her scholarship centers on visual representations of language and the history of experimental poetry, the alphabet, and artists' books. She is the author of *Alphabetic Labyrinth: The Letters in History and Imagination*; *The Century of Artists' Books*; and *The Visible Word: Experimental Typography and Modern Art, 1909–1923*.

The Lieberman lecture, given annually at a different host institution by a distinguished figure in the history of printing or the book arts, commemorates J. Ben Lieberman (1914–84), founder and first President of the American Printing History Association. Past speakers include John Randle, Barry Moser, Claire Van Vliet, G. Thomas Tanselle, and Paul Needham. Free and open to the public, this year's event is co-sponsored by APHA, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, with the assistance of the Graphic Arts Division of the National Museum of American History, Behring Center.

The lecture takes place on Tuesday, 25 September, at 4:30 p.m. in the Carmichael Auditorium, located on the ground floor of the National Museum of American History, Behring Center, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. It will be preceded, from 2:00 to 4:15 p.m., by demonstrations of type founding and 18th- and 19th-century printing presses in the Graphic Arts Exhibition Hall on the Museum's third floor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Telephone: 202-357-2240; E-mail: libmail@sil.si.edu.