

The first Vandercook

AN IMPROVED PROOF PRESS

THERE IS on exhibition at the Inland Printer Technical School a proof or rather hand press of new design that deserves special mention.

The accompanying illustration shows the general appearance of the machine, which is known as the Vandercook Press, and is the invention of R. O. Vandercook, of Chicago.

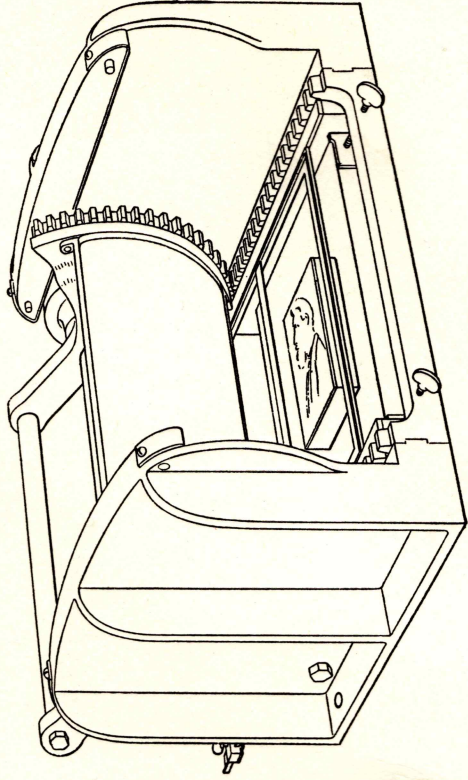


Fig. 1.—The Vandercook Press.

It is constructed on the "rocker" principle, by which it is impossible for the rocker to pull away or dip into its work. The bed is a heavy solid casting, with type-high iron bearers and gear rack. The operation of the rocker (or platen) in taking an impression is shown in Fig. 2. The wheels on the rocker travel in exact parallel with the type-high bearers below, over the entire printing surface. These wheels, while taking an impression, are prevented from pulling away from the work by solid ways which face downward, and which are firmly supported at the sides. The impression is taken with the initial position of the rocker being on either side of the press. The rocker advances far enough on the extension of the racks and gears to clear the bed sufficiently for inking and preparing for the next impression. The rocker is made to carry a regular cylinder press tympan three-sixteenths of an inch thick. The tympan is held in position by clamps similar to those used on Gordon presses.

THIS KEEPSAKE is a reprint of material in the March, 1909 issue of *The Inland Printer*, Volume 42, Number 6. These may be the first printed references to the new Vandercook press, published months before the official start of the company, and giving the address of the magazine for any contacts. The keepsake is printed for the occasion of Fritz Klinke's visit to the San Francisco Center for the

The position of the form which is to be proved is shown in Fig. 1. The stock to be printed is placed above the form on a depressible frisket, which holds the stock away from the form until the moment of taking the impression. The frisket is made with a simple but effective device for printing to register. The frisket is pushed quickly out of the way to clear for inking, and then back again in register for the next sheet.

Because the rocker can not pull away from or dip into the work, it is possible to print a single hair-line letter or a half-tone with the same number of tympan sheets.

The construction of the machine shows that the pressure is bound to be absolutely uniform all over the printing surface, therefore it makes no difference on what part of the bed the work is placed, and it is possible to print hair-lines and cuts in combination without make-ready.

An interesting test to which the machine was subjected was to take the smallest letter that would stand alone on its own feet and put it on the bed of the press, when it printed perfectly, although the letter had no side supports whatever during the impression. The same letter was then put on one side of the bed and on the other side some heavy blocks were placed. The press gave a perfect impression of the combination without any make-ready being used. Should it be desired to use a make-ready,

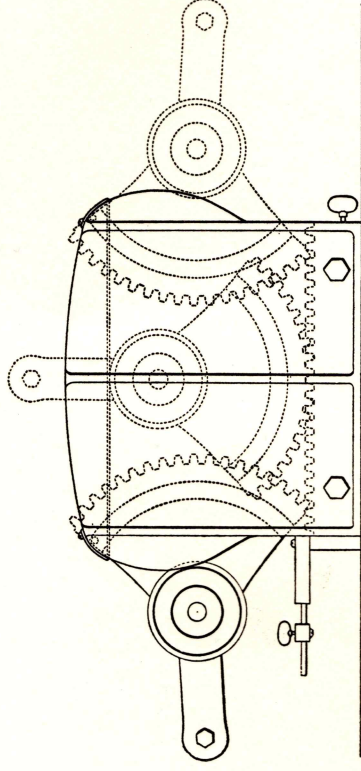


Fig. 2.—Position of rocker of Vandercook Press when taking impression.

it can be readily seen from the manner in which the tympan is held on the rockers that it is a simple matter to do so. The simple and accurate sheet-registering device materially lessens the time and trouble in taking three-color progressive proofs and proofs of ordinary jobs in color.

With this machine customers can be furnished with proofs of work on stock to be used in less time than any other method of proving, although only soft proving-paper is used by the old methods.

Book on December 27, 2003 to discuss the Vandercook press and its history. The Vandercook ad and the figures are printed from photopolymer plates; text set in Linotype Caslon no. 2 and hand-set Caslon 337. Proved on a Vandercook 325G and printed on a Heidelberg K s cylinder press in an edition of 250 copies at:

THE Vandercook Press

Does better work

Does more work

Does quicker work
than other proofing machines

It will take a single hair-line letter standing alone, or a half-tone, on the same tympan.

—make no difference to the work in what part of the bed it is placed; that is, the impression is absolutely uniform all over the printing surface.

—produce pressure, when needed, far in excess of any other machine.

—print on any kind or thickness of stock to perfect register.

It is operated with one-third less motions than the Washington Hand Press, and is therefore more speedy.

—with a sheet-registering device that insures perfect register for three-color work.

—so handily that it is better, quicker and cheaper to run limited editions on this press than to make ready a power press.

Its construction is so designed that it is practically unbreakable and astoundingly simple.

The introductory prices are very low, viz.:

For platen, 6 x 11 inches,	-	\$ 50.00
" " 8 x 14 "	-	75.00
" " 10 x 17 "	-	115.00
" " 12 x 21 "	-	150.00

The machine is now on exhibition at The Inland Printer Technical School, 120-130 Sherman Street, Chicago, where it can be seen and operated by any one interested. Contracts now made for delivery in sixty days. Address

R. O. VANDERCOOK

120-130 SHERMAN STREET, CHICAGO

Care of Inland Printer Technical School