

BOOKBINDING | BOOK MANUFACTURING | PRESERVATION | DIGITIZATION  
COMMERCIAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT | LIBRARY DEPOSITORY SERVICES

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Boston Trade Sale to Superior
- HF Group Welcomes Houchen Bindery
- Watson Notebook Replica
- LBS - A Valued Supplier and Partner
- Meet Danielle Creech

## NEWS

### HF Group Welcomes Houchen Bindery

In the second quarter, *Houchen Bindery*, of Utica, Nebraska, merged with HF Group, LLC, strengthening the business and expanding overall service capabilities. The merger adds breadth to HF Group's current range of services in library binding, soft cover to hard cover prebinding, textbook rebinding and digital print and bind services.

Damon Osborne, formerly President of Houchen, is now a partner and Vice President of HF Group, Nebraska. Damon and his experienced staff will continue to meet the service needs of colleges and universities, public libraries, schools, new & used book sellers and printers. "Our owners have known one another for many years, occasionally worked together on industry projects, and are very pleased to combine our companies and work together going forward in our challenging industry", commented HF Group CEO, Jay Fairfield.

### Boston Trade Sale to Superior

In the first quarter of this year, *Superior Packaging and Finishing*, of Braintree, Massachusetts, acquired the Boston-based specialty trade binding division of HF Group. Superior has more than 100 years of combined experience in both the packaging and high-end finishing industries. The addition of HF Group's trade binding expertise rounds out their service offering and will enable the company to grow the book business in the Northeast.

Paul Parisi, and other members of Boston's trade binding team, have joined Superior to provide their expertise as they build the operation. Paul remains an owner and partner at HF Group.

## PROJECTS

### "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you."

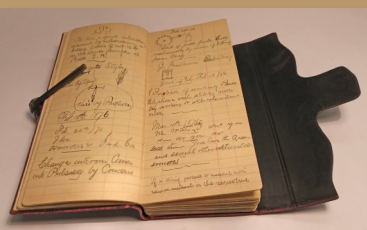
Because of our unique capabilities, HF Group is frequently called upon to work on projects involving rare and valuable items. Once such project was to produce a replica of one of the notebooks maintained by Thomas A. Watson, assistant to Alexander Graham Bell. The notebook in question was the one in which Bell summoned Watson to record the first-ever telephone conversation on March 10, 1876.

The content, which was provided on PDFs, was printed on Mohawk Via Vellum cream paper and trimmed to size. The notebook was bound in a blackberry-colored goatskin with a string grain from England, and it was designed to match the original, based on specifications and detailed photographs supplied by Melissa Wasson, Assistant Archivist at AT&T.

The notebook replica will be displayed for the public at the AT&T Archives and History Center in New Jersey, opened to the page that reads, "*Mr. Watson, come here, I want you.*"



Original



Replica



Original, left

Replica, right



## BEHIND THE SCENES

### ***LBS – A Valued Supplier and Partner***

Since HF Group was founded, we have relied on LBS, Inc., our largest supplier, to provide the materials we need for our case-binding operations.

LBS had its beginnings in library binding but, in 1980, its owner, Fritz James, focused the business on bookbinding supplies. Today, LBS is one of the largest converters and distributors of bookbinding materials in North America providing, cover materials, endsheets, cover board and reinforcing products for the bookbinding, photobook, menu, packaging and stationery industries. The company also prints book covers for children's books and textbooks. Through its Corporate Image division, they supply binders and enclosures for the marketing, advertising and conference markets. LBS' Archival Products division provides protective enclosures for the preservation and conservation community.



#### L to R Back Row

Steve Deaton – VP, Operations, Joe Dunham – LBS VP, Sales; Rob Mauritz – President and CEO; Brian Aust – CFO

#### L to R Front Row

Tom Noeuy – Production Manager; Chris Paxson – Vice President; Sherri Molka – Account Manager

In 2014, James retired, and the company was sold to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Under the direction of President and CEO, Rob Mauritz, the company has maintained its reputation for providing the best possible products and exceptional service.

LBS continues to be our critical partner, enabling HF Group to provide our customers with the short turn times and reliable service they've come to expect. To say that our businesses have been intertwined for 30 years would be an understatement. But it is certain that, without LBS as our partner, our customers would not be as well served as they have been in the past or will be going forward. We greatly appreciate all that Rob and his team at LBS do for us. Thank you LBS!

## PEOPLE

### ***Meet Danielle Creech!***

Since 2006, Danielle has been Associate Conservator and Conservation Manager of ECS-Midwest in North Manchester, Indiana.



A native of St. Louis, Danielle has fifteen years of experience and became interested in the library preservation field while earning her Master of Library Science at Indiana University Bloomington. While a student, she had a work-study job in the E. Lingle Craig Preservation Lab, which became a full-time position after her graduation. It was her supervisor at the lab who brought an ECS-Midwest position to her attention.

From a young age, Danielle had an interest in libraries. Her first job in high school was that of a library page. During her undergraduate education at the University of Missouri, Columbia, she worked in their special collections department.

Danielle's favorite hobby is high-strategy board games, and she has a collection of more than 200 games. She also likes to read, paint and create design bindings for her favorite books. She also enjoys hiking for relaxation and nature photography.

*It is with mixed emotions that we announce that Danielle Creech will be leaving HF Group to accept a new position at Washington University in St. Louis, where she will run their preservation and digitization division. While we will miss her greatly at HFG, her opportunity is an excellent one and a natural progression for her professionally. We are excited for Danielle as she takes this step into the academic market. She will do an excellent job, as she has always done for our company. We look forward to a new working relationship with Danielle in the future.*

*- Jim Heckman, VP, HF Group*