



Filigrane: a History of Watermarks

May 14, 2009 - September 5, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-5pm **Admission:** Free

Location: 1324 West Clay Street, Houston, TX 77019 Tel: (713) 522-4652 Fax: (713) 522-5694

Web Address: www.printingmuseum.org

Public Programs: *free admission*

- **OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, May 14, 2009; 6:00pm-8:00pm**
- **Papermaking demonstrations led by Kathy Gurwell:** Attendees will learn how to pull a sheet of paper from a vat of pulp, using a mould and deckle. Then they will couch the sheet and learn how to press and dry the paper. Basic papermaking at home will be covered.
 - **Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 1:00pm**
 - **Saturday, August 1, 2009 at 1:00pm**

The Museum of Printing History is pleased to present *Filigrane: a History of Watermarks*. This exhibition features a survey of papermaking in Europe and the United States from the sixteenth century to the present, with a special focus on the art of the watermark. Important themes explored in the exhibition include the earliest history of watermarks, the significance of imagery, and the contemporary uses of fine paper for limited edition books and prints. On display, visitors to the exhibition will see the tools of the trade, including moulds and deckles, as well as examples of watermarks from Europe and America from the last four hundred years.

Watermarks represent the signature or trademark of a papermaker. Usually depicted as the outline of an image, like a flower or animal, or letters or a coat of arms, the basic process involves using a wire attached to a screen, so that when the screen is pulled through the vat of paper pulp, it settles less in those areas. The watermark is clearly visible when the sheet of paper is held up to the light.

Watermarks are very useful in examining paper because they identify paper mills, paper sizes, dates of production, and the quality of paper.

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