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Publisher Profile: A.K. Peters, Ltd.

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Publisher Profile — A. K. Peters Ltd.

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A. K. Peters Ltd.

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Number of employees: 7

Co-founders: Klaus & Alice Peters

Number of books published: 120 +

Number of journals published: 2 - *Experimental Mathematics*
and *Journal of Graphics Tools*

Important publications: T. Möller, E. Haines, *Real-Time Rendering*; J. Jones, A. Flynn, B. Seiger, *Mobile Robots: Inspiration to Implementation*; Barbara B. Hubbard, *The World According to Wavelets*; Philip J. Davis, *The Education of a Mathematician*.

Founded in November 1992, **A. K. Peters** carries on a long-standing tradition in scientific publishing. **Alice** and **Klaus Peters** had previous careers as editors of prestigious book lists at **Springer-Verlag**, **Birkhäuser Boston** and **Academic Press**. **A. K. Peters Ltd.** program focuses on: Computer Science (Graphics, Geometric Design, Robotics, CHI) and Mathematics, including textbooks, professional reference works, research monographs, and journals, as well as electronic kits to build autonomous, programmable robots.

Editor's Note: What makes **A. K. Peters Ltd.** special? I asked that question to my good friend, **Roy Hoyer** (who has extensive experience as a scientific and technical bookseller at **Stanford University Bookstore** and **fatbrain.com**), and he said: "What stands out for me is the way they (**Klaus & Alice**) follow their personal enthusiasms into new territory, the result being cutting edge books in hot areas.... In summary, they are a wonderful example of publishing for the love of the subjects and personal respect for their authors."

Background: In 1964, **Klaus Peters**, who had just joined **Springer Verlag** in Heidelberg, Germany, as editor for the mathematics program, taking a leave of absence from the **University of Erlangen**, was called into the office of the legendary publisher **Ferdinand Springer**. **Springer** had added a mathematics program to his company in the early twenties in response to a distress call from the mathematical community, led by **Richard Courant** and **David Hilbert** and this had led to the establishment of such famous series as *Grundlehren der Mathematischen Wissenschaften* and *Ergebnisse der Mathematik*. The purpose of this exclusive meeting with **Springer** was a speech about the *raison d'être* for a publisher, the service to authors to facilitate and maximize the dissemination of their ideas. This memorable moment, shared later with his partner and co-publisher **Alice Peters**, has determined their work and motivated their sometimes-risky endeavors.

Both **Alice**, a computer scientist and mathematician, educated at the **University of Chicago** and **Klaus** started out as scientists and have dedicated their lives to the service of the academic community. They founded **Birkhäuser Boston** in 1979 and today they run **A. K. Peters, Ltd.**, a small yet very prestigious publishing company.

Alice and **Klaus** make every effort to maximize the distribution of their books and serve the scientific community as well as libraries whose budget crunch is an all too familiar challenge.

Additional Reading: See **Andre Schiffrin's**, *The Business of Books*. A lucid account of the implacable changes that have occurred in the publishing industry during the closing decades of the 20th century.

Adventures in Librarianship from page 50

versity Library, has just become a Grandma, can you believe it? Congratulations **Kitty**! And you don't look a day over... well, whatever. You know what I mean.

Those bobsie-twins **Martin Nihoff** and **McGrew Hill** just bought a vacation home together outside Charleston. They say they want to be closer to me and the conference, but I think they're pulling my leg. Could it have been the mild winters and the softening real-estate market, boys? Anyway, welcome to the low country!

Guess who I sat next to on the plane

home from **Mid-Winter**? The oh-so-fabulous and flagrantly-overcommitted **Betsy Dash**, former **ALA** VP, current **CORK** Secretary, Chair of the Photocopying Discussion Group, Vice-Director of the **Mid-RIF Library Consortium**, President of her state's chapter of the **National Audubon Society**, and the mother of two high-school wrestling champions! Did you know that **Betsy** has special dispensation from all the major airlines to use their oxygen masks in non-emergency situations? I didn't.

More Mergers! **Inventa** has merged with **Strauss & Strauss** under the chairmanship of the oh-so-hirsute **Roger Shime** (formerly with **Pub Publications**), who last year forged that historic union between **Strauss** and **Uber**

Verlag. Because **Inventa** owns a majority share of **Uber Verlag**, that may mean that **Inventa** in fact owns itself. Seems unlikely though, doesn't it? **Roger** is going to get back to me on that one. Thanks, **Roge**!

And thanks to all of you who responded to the **ATG** annual "Where Do You Stand?" survey. This year it looks like 58% of you are opposed (that's up from 55% last year!), while only 22% are in favor. That leaves a lot of fence-sitting librarians in the undecided category. Is this a trend? I hope not!

Maybe y'all knew this already, but I sure didn't. **Averatech's** super-fabulous and almost-never-offensive **Gloria Dayos** has a cat named **Charles**... that's right, she

continued on page 54