

For Dick Kouwenhoven
it's still about
the love of the craft

Earlier this year, on a clear Saturday afternoon, Dick Kouwenhoven was alone at Hemlock's printing plant in Burnaby, B.C. In itself this was not unusual since Dick has been known to work a few extra hours here and there. But this particular Saturday he wasn't there on official business. Instead, he was taking metal type, one letter at a time, out of a job case and assembling his son Richard's wedding invitation. It took him about 45 minutes to put the package together, including the reply card and the envelope—all in 14 pt. Garamond italic—sipping a little Merlot as he worked. Then he printed the 250 invitations on the manual Challenge Gordon platen letterpress the company keeps in its lobby. He did the same eight years ago when his daughter, Vanessa, got married, and also in 1967, for his own wedding to Clara. Setting type, says Dick, who was trained as a journeyman typographer in The Netherlands back in the early '60s, is like riding a bike—you never forget it. "I'm going to do that every so often. It's fun. And it's good for the soul," the 60 year-old adds.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRISTOPHER GRUNERT

By Filomena Tamburri

PRINTER of the year