

### **Notes from conversation with Herb Johnson - October 25, 1993**

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EM - During World War 2, Dr. Leslie stopped publication of AD Magazine. Was it ever revived after the war?

If so for how long?

HJ - Was not started back up after war.

EM - In your timeline created for his 100th birthday, there is a gap between the late 1930's (WWII) and the 1960's.

What was Dr. Leslie doing during that time?

HJ - He and Sol were concentrating on the business of the Composing Room. After the war they had to buy all new equipment and solicit business to pay for all that. Were concentrating on growth of advertising work for the NYC area. During the war it was tough to get workmen yet they were very busy. From 1929 - 1945 they couldn't add any new equipment because of the depression. They were also doing work for nothing. PM and AD were produced to keep their name out there and it kept people working. In 1941-1942 they lost work men because of Pearl Harbor yet they gained printing. They probably made out well during the war and bought ne equipment after the war.

EM - In the tapes Dr. Leslie touches upon his help to the artists and intellectuals of Weimar and the Bauhaus.

People like Albers, Bayer and Gropius. Do you have more information on his role in these artists lives and careers?

HJ - Doc Leslie was Jewish. Helped any of the German artists get out of Germany. Not all were jewish. He helped Albers set up the Black Mountain College Press. He gave money when needed and tried to get them jobs. He wrote them up in PM to try to get them work.

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EM - What about other refugee artists?

Who did he help and when?

HJ - He helped Russian artists as well. His mother was a Russian. If they appeared in the magazine it was because he or the editor (Percy Seitlin) knew them. It also helped to get more work from the Composing Room.

EM - Has there been any major documentation (other than a few articles and obits) of Dr. Leslie within the Printing world?

HJ - No.

There is a complete set of PM and AD's in the Carey library as well as in the Archives. If there are any missing ask HJ.

Herbert Johnson also has negatives and photos given to him by Dr. Leslie.

Niece and Husband live in Connecticut. Inherited estate.

Catherine T. Brody - librarian at NY City Technical College knew him well.

Leslie was on the Board of a couple of journals.

Cooper Union archivist - advisory committee of art school