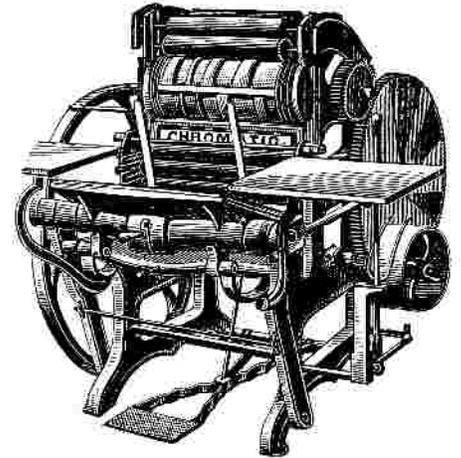


THE CHROMATIC PRINTING PRESS

Although the **Chromatic Printing Press** was only manufactured for a few years, the story of the company is a long one. We'll start with the press first. I have gathered this information from several sources. The press could be operated by treadle or steam (see picture). It would produce between 1000 and 3000 impressions per hour. The 1000 per hour was probably the maximum output if treadle operated. This press printed three colors with each impression.

No size is given in any specification list, but the average platen press printed an area of 10 x 15 inches. Some claim the press was in production from 1871 to 1873. It looks like a regular platen press except the ink disc was replaced by an ink cylinder. The cylinder was made in segments and each segment could have a different color of ink. A press like this would have a lot of required maintenance and a long set-up time. I don't think that was a concern to the shop owners at that time. Labor was cheap then. Looking at the printed copy with a magnifying glass, you can see where the ink was starting to bleed into the adjoining color. They must have stopped the press every so often, cleaned the rollers, and restarted the run. Very time consuming, but the result is stunning.



In August 1873, Thomas T. Renick died, leaving a will, and appointing his brother Benjamin executor of his estate. At the time of his death, Thomas T. Renick held an interest in a commercial firm, known as Tower, Claassen, & Co., Soon afterwards, Benjamin purchased the interest of Tower in the company, and then the firm name was changed to that of B. F. Renick & Co. Therefore, Benjamin owned part of the firm and was executor for his deceased brother's portion of the firm. He used some of the money from his brothers' estate to invest in the business. Since he was now part owner of the business and the name was changed, the law considered this a different business and he acted wrongly in using the money. Both of these envelopes are addressed to J. Edwards Fay. He was the attorney for B. F. Renick.

