

The number of printing machine operators, for example, was nearly halved from the fourth quarter of 2007 to the fourth quarter of 2009.

The **International Typographical Union** (ITU) was a [labor union](#) founded on May 3, 1852 in the [United States](#) as the National Typographical Union. In its 1869 convention in [Albany, New York](#), the union—having organized members in [Canada](#)—changed its name to the International Typographical Union. As of its dissolution in 1986, the ITU was the oldest surviving [trade union](#) in the United States.

The ITU was an [industrial union](#) with members involved in many aspects of the printing trade. For the first five decades of its existence, the union wielded influence greater than its raw numbers. Informally known as "[printers](#)", typographers were educated and [economically mobile](#), which enabled them to influence the political process more readily than [blue-collar](#) workers could.

The nature of the printing industry also provided the printers with economic strength. [Newspapers](#) existed in virtually every major urban center in every section of the U.S. and Canada, and with them came the typographers' union. Printers had the ability to shutter the employers' mouthpiece, giving the union more power than the employer could muster.

During the [Great Depression](#), the ITU introduced the 40-hour work week across the industry at no cost to employers as a way to share the fewer jobs available. That ITU initiative spread to other unions and has since been codified across the labor sector by federal legislation in the U.S. establishing the 40-hour work week.

Women, namely Augusta Lewis, Mary Moore and Eva Howard, were permitted to join the union in 1869, making the ITU one of the first unions to admit female members.

Chartered later in 1852: Detroit, #18

Technological developments in the late-1800s such as the development of [lithography](#) and [photography](#) led to diversification and specialization among printers.

International Printing Pressmen Union of North America (IPPU), International Brotherhood of Bookbinders (IBB), International Stereotypers' and Electroplater's Union, (IS&EU).

On October 1, 1910, James B. Mc Namara, an ITU member and his brother. Joseph J. Mc Namara, secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers placed [a bomb in the L.A. Times building](#), killing 21 people. Famed attorney [Clarence Darrow](#) defended the brothers. They were convicted of the bombing and murder.

The [Mergenthaler Linotype](#) machine was used by newspaper printers from the 1880s to the 1970s. Technological progress again confronted the ITU in the post-war period. A number of new advances — including [offset lithography](#), [flexography](#), [relief print](#), [screen printing](#), [rotogravure](#), and [digital printing](#) — greatly reduced the number of workers needed in the modern printshop and newspaper composing room.

On December 31, 1986, the [Associated Press](#) printed the following with a dateline of Colorado Springs, Colorado:

The International Typographical Union has ceased to exist, and most of its staff was laid off at national headquarters here. Most of the 60 workers are continuing on a temporary basis with the Communication Workers of America, with which the ITU merged, said ITU spokesman Bill Frazee. The ITU ended operations on December 31, 1986. On January 1, 1987, the union joined the CWA as its Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector. CWA has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. and employees working for the sector will transfer there in two to four months, Frazee said. The International Typographical Union was the nation's oldest union, chartered nationally in 1852. Its membership peaked in the 1960s at 100,000 printers. But since computerization of the business, membership has dropped to 40,000 working printers and 35,000 retirees.



ITU_Gold_mailer-1



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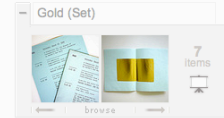
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Additional Information

Immaterial Labor → “labor that creates immaterial products, such as knowledge, information, communication, a relationship, or an emotional response.” (108)

→ almost always mixes with material forms of labor

immaterial labor “tending toward the hegemonic position” – is concentrated in a few countries – IL is today in same position that industrial labor was 150 years ago – not global but exerted hegemony over all forms of production. Today labor has to informationalize, become intelligent, affective, communicative.

“labor with a high affective component is generally feminized, given less authority, and paid less” (111)

consider... the increasingly indefinite division between work time and leisure time ... when production is aimed at solving a problem or creating an idea or a relationship, work time tends to expand to the entire time of life. An idea or an image comes to you not only in the office but also in the shower or in your dreams.”

Fordism/post-Fordism: → p-F labor relations smaller-scale, flexible systems

IL transforms production from assembly line to “innumerable and indeterminate relationships of distributed networks” (113)

“Information, communication, and cooperation become the norms of production, and the network becomes its dominant form of organization”

“The technical systems of production therefore correspond closely to its social composition: on one side the technological network and on the other the cooperation of social subjects put to work”

exploitation is ... “the capture of value that is produced by cooperative labor and that becomes increasingly common through its circulation in social networks.”

Productive energies of labor

→ key characteristic of IL – to produce communication, social relations, and cooperation.

— “becoming common” — (114)

hegemony of IL as evidenced by transformation of society in its image → distributed networks.

More problematic is the fact that precarity seems to conflate two categories of workers that are at opposite ends of labor market segmentation in postindustrial economies: pink collars working in retail and low-end services (cleaners, janitors, etc.) under constrictive but standardized employment norms; and young talent temping for cheap in the information economy of big cities around the world: the **creative class** of strongly individualistic workers illustrated by managerial literature.

Graphic design practice. Subtopics / frames of interest: LABOR, TRADE, MARKET, VALUE. ARRANGEMENTS SET-UPS RELATIONSHIPS: - STEALING – FREE – BORROWING – BUYING – BARTERING. ACKNOWLEDGING TOOLS: - SOFTWARES – DEVICES – MACHINES. REUSING RECYCLING REINVENTING. ARCHEOLOGY – GRAPHIC DESIGN RELATED (INVISIBLE) HERITAGE – TOOLS HERITAGE. USING AVAILABLE SOURCES (INFORMATION AND CONTENT SELF-GENERATING) – the ‘new’ magazine, TV or news → FACEBOOK, etc. – it is about quality and character we believe work should have, and current working setups are not a platform for that kind of work. - research operational model that enables experimentation – against “production line that is going too fast” – Detroit opened our eyes. Detroit is honest, reality and (maybe) the future.