

CBBAG - OTTAWA VALLEY

Minutes

November 13, 2019

Theme: Paul Champion-Demers on his classes in Italy

Workshops

For the free bookbinding day, held October 26, about 10 or 12 mostly new people came, with quite a broad range of questions. Spike was impressed with one fellow, who did good stitching, which he had learned on his own. She showed double fanned perfect binding to another attendee. In reply to a question about whether we got names or emails for those people, the answer was no. Getting registration without payment on Eventbrite would be ideal, or having a book at the event for recording this information.

Tiffany will be offering half leather binding with a single signature on November 23. In December, Spike will teach rounded boxes, one workshop that was given before and was good. People going to this workshop can take any shaped item and will then make a box with it.

A minimum of 5 sign-ups is required for workshops. If there were only 4, the instructor would be paid \$50 less.

Treasurer

We have not really spent any money. We've mostly been planning workshops.

Book Arts Show

The show has been confirmed for May 16, 2020, at the library at Carleton University. Spike and Larry were there yesterday. In the next two weeks, messages will go out to vendors. Help will be needed with promotion. Perhaps a new poster could be designed? Vendor tables will cost about \$50, which is a good price. Carleton will not be charging us a fee to hold the show there.

The State of CBBAG

There was a lot of discussion about the future of CBBAG, following the email that had been sent out previously by the president. Membership has been declining, and now grants have been denied, both by the Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council. Our chapter is self-supporting, and is the biggest and most active one in Canada. (As well as being the best looking!) We will watch and see how things develop over the coming year.

Swap

Madeleine needs to know by December who will be participating in this year's swap. The theme is fire. She has 9 names so far. Sheets are due in March, with bound books in May.

Program

Paul gave a great talk about his visit to Montefiascone, Italy, in August, 2019, for a month-long study of historic bindings. He had not travelled a lot, so this was a challenge for him. Montefiascone is a small fortress town with narrow streets, and in August it was very hot, in addition to being wine celebration month. Dinners were held on tables on the streets, or in someone's backyard. The food was incredible, with different families doing the cooking. Tables would come out at night. There were music festivals every night, and on the medieval weekend, the streets were decorated and people wore costumes. On one weekend, Paul went to Fabriano and made paper.

Four classes were offered, each lasting one week. He took all four: recreating the medieval palette, luxury French Romanesque limp binding, small format wooden board bindings from Germany and the Low Countries and a Sikh binding of the 18th century. Classes were taught in English. Hot stamp tools were used on the cover of the small format German binding. They also made various clasps for books. The students came from all over, and some have been going every year. We were delighted to see the books that Paul had made.

Learn more about the [Montefiascone Conservation Project](#) and its study programme.

Book Arts Lab

Larry spoke on the progress of the Lab, on which he has been working the last two years. The grand opening is planned for November 19, at 5 pm. Email him if you want to visit the lab for your own tour. He will be there for 20 hours per week, with a 3 hour class on Monday mornings.

The print room has been set up and there will be a demo. The bookbinding room has not been set up yet. Spike offered to take some tools next week. Donations to the lab will be accepted and tax receipts will be given. Most things have been donated, for academic purposes, so will mostly be used by students. Larry needs to convince the professors to use the modules. The focus is liberal arts, with more experiential learning, to give another facet to their studies. Steve Jobs took a calligraphy course and that gave him his idea for Apple. Apparently, 60% of students don't know how to work together. The hands-on experience is so valuable. Larry compared his work with students to working on a scroll.

Show and Tell

Tiffany showed the books she intended to make in her workshop. Madeleine made a clamshell box with her own marbled paper, after having taken Tiffany's workshop on that topic. In addition, she showed papers she had marbled in the summer, using the Suminagashi style, which does not require alum.

Spike had a 100% finished Alice collection, which consisted of several levels. The tiny books were placed in drawers, with magnets in the back, to hold them in place. Some drawers had small items, such as a bottle and a tea cup. Each book has been signed. Fifteen whole sets have been made, and will be sold.

Nancy French sold some of her marbled papers to Carleton University, through Larry.

Announcements

The Ottawa-Gatineau Printmakers Connective is having a show of prints called Food for Thought. It is being held at the Nepean Creative Arts Centre, in Bells Corners, and will run until January 9, 2020.

The Art of the Book show is now in Montreal at McGill University Library, and will run until February 14,

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2020. Afterwards, the exhibition will move to Toronto.

Next Meeting

December 11 Présentation: *Bookbinding at the National Archives of Malta* avec Bronwen Glover

15 in attendance