

CBBAG - OTTAWA VALLEY

Minutes

December 11, 2019

Theme: Bookbinding at the National Archives of Malta, with Bronwen Glover

Workshops

Tiffany's workshop on half-leather binding did not take place, as the number of participants was only 2. It might be rescheduled. In December, Spike will teach rounded boxes. Six have signed up for this workshop, to be held on the 14th. The next one, in January, on limp vellum binding, is full, with 12 signed up.

BB2 has not been announced yet. Spike will ask if people cannot take it, why not? Would it be the days, which would include Fridays, or the dates, over two weekends?

The State of CBBAG

Wendy Feldberg asked about the discussion of the president's message, as reported last month. It was noted that the latest journal issue came out in pdf format, not printed, indicating dwindling resources at National. It is also hard to get volunteers to join the Board. At present, there is nothing to offer to members.

Treasurer

No report. A question was raised: can we use CBBAG money for events? If approved and within reason, yes.

Swap

We now have 10 participants in the swap. Eleven copies will need to be produced, with the extra one being for the archives. The theme is fire. Sheets are due in March, with bound books in May.

Janet Jancar

Spike went to visit Janet, who had a box of books to donate, which included many old CBBAG newsletters. Phil has offered to scan and copy them. Most of her books were in French. Janet was connected with the chapter in Montreal. Since she also had some marbled paper, Spike suggested that she get a table at the next Book Arts Show. The topic of tax receipts came up, as Janet wants one for her books, estimated to be worth \$106. In addition, she has map drawers, which she would like to sell.

Show & Tell

Thanks to Tiffany, who brought a tin of chocolate fingers! Steve distributed his and Gayle's annual Christmas offering, 2019 Christmas keepsake, which includes two stories by Stuart McLean. This is the tenth year that they have made books. 130 copies were produced this year.

Program

Bronwen Glover spoke about her 2 month internship on book conservation, in 2017, in Malta. Malta, which is a 90 minute ferry ride from Italy, was the most heavily bombed place in Europe during World War 2. In addition to its being a very Catholic place, it features very old free-standing structures, dating from 3500 BC. The salt pans from Roman times are still in use. Bronwen lived in Mdina, where everything is made of limestone.

The Notarial Archives were set up in 1640. This is a legal deposit library, where lawyers had to submit their papers. A decree stated that everything had to be bound. Now books in limp vellum bindings have been wrapped in paper. The hanging tabs, which identify the books, are unique to Malta. Recently books have been placed upright, which is not good for them, as many of the books are heavy. Different styles of binding can be seen among the books. Bronwen is very interested in the history of bindings.

Volunteers sort and read the manuscripts. Many have been written in Italian. There is still lots to be done. Bronwen had a picture of some manuscripts wrapped in medieval parchment, which looked like the music scores. Many of the bindings had been numbered with a Sharpie in the 1990s. Now the problem is how to remove those marks. The paper itself is still good. There were pictures showing repairs to the books. One of the side trips offered was how to make iron gall ink, in someone's studio.

In answer to a question, books are now being placed in boxes, since they have moved out of that building. It was not a big space to work in.

Next Meeting

January 8 The history of calligraphy, with Rick Draffin

13 in attendance