

CBBAG - OTTAWA VALLEY

Minutes

May 9, 2018

Theme: Artists' Book Content

Chair

The next and last meeting of this season will be our AGM, when we conduct planning for the coming year. Ideas for workshops and programs are welcome. Elections will also be held in June. Steve is finishing his two-year term as Chair. Having different people with new ideas/work would be great for our Chapter.

We received an email from the Renfrew Public Library, looking for someone to do a talk. Everyone thought that Paul would be a good candidate for this. Steve will ask him.

A new member, Wanda, was present. She is a writer and maker of soft doll books, and had with her a box of delightful miniature books, sewn with the coptic stitch, some with old photos, and necklaces. She agreed to come to Saturday's Book Arts Show.

Book Arts Show

Everything is in place for the Book Arts Show, with 30 tables and 27 vendors coming. This is what we had 2 years ago. Spike has prepared the floor plan, with many copies available. There will be publications to be sold as well. A door prize will be offered again, a certificate for Bookbinding 1. Spike will be there at 8:30 to set up; the show will open at 10 am. The CBBAG table will need to be manned. The event was easier for Spike to plan this time.

Show and Tell

Béatrice had 2 sewn-board books, from the 3-day course she had attended in Montreal. One of the books she used had been thrown away, so this one became her prototype. Sebastian had his book from Bookbinding 1, which had a cover made of hand-dyed cloth. Nancy French also took Bookbinding 1, for the second time, and was happier with the results this time. She and Spike took a classic marbling course, of 3 days, in Toronto, using colours with beeswax mixed in. These papers can be polished afterwards. In addition, she had coptic-stitched books that she had taken to Grimsby.

Spike had a box, covered with Nancy's marbled paper, that could hold pencils, and had hidden compartments. She also attended two marbling courses, one of them being Nancy's workshop on the weekend, where she discovered a new pattern. It looks like wood. She found new places to put her marbled paper, for example, on her computer and her phone. Her granddaughter, Addison, attended on Saturday.

Julie had a selection of the papers she had created at Nancy's workshop. She mentioned as well the Collège Ahuntsic, northeast of Montreal, where retired printers work: L'Atelier Typo of the [Musée de l'imprimerie du Québec](#) is situated at 999, avenue Émile Journault, Montréal, in the Institut des communications graphiques et de l'imprimabilité (l'ICI), where hands-on courses are also offered.

Responding to this month's challenge, Larry showed his box made with bone clasps.

Workshops

Bookbinding 1 ran in April and was successful. The free play day in April attracted about 13 people. Sales also took place during that time. Nancy's workshop had 9 people. We have heard from Grimsby that people there want marbling workshops.

Monthly Challenge

The topic chosen this time was celebration.

Announcements

Open Doors Ottawa will take place June 2-3. At LAC, there will be an exhibition of new acquisitions, at the building on Wellington Street. Holly spoke about a 5-day workshop, "Lovely Creatures", September 3-7, with Seth Apter, in Burritt's Rapids. It will include mixed media painting and book making. On May 19, Larry will be giving a talk in Merrickville, about his book, *Ecclesiastes*.

Website

Roxanne mentioned the new content on the website. People have been clicking a great deal on the Book Arts Show and the marbling workshop. In response to a question, no one is maintaining the Facebook page. With regard to photos of the monthly challenges, it is a lot of work to put them on and maintain the website. A virtual exhibit would be a good possibility. Roxanne will ask Wendy to do blurbs, stories to link the photos to the exhibit.

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Program

Larry's topic was content in books. He said being asked to speak about content was rather like being asked to talk about the Northern Hemisphere, in that it is very general. For a long time, it was assumed that there was no division between the mechanism of delivery and the content. Can the content be the vessel? Can the vessel be the content? Tablets, scrolls and the codex all came from the idea of writing. Some books extant today are over 1,000 years old. The book has protected the content. Some libraries have chained books. Gradually, content became separate from the vessel. Consider a beautiful Fabergé egg: is it art? Conflict existed between the idea of fine arts and book arts. Publishing nowadays is competitive, with the goal being to make money. The notable exception is the small press world. On the other hand, book arts is a cooperative collaboration. It's a niche, where people aren't looking for money, a contradictory thing, such as "gentleman rogue". Ask yourself, what does the content look like? What does the vessel look like?

Larry spoke about why he chose Ecclesiastes for his latest book. It was a good fit, as Ecclesiastes was as cranky as Larry was at the time. It was a tribute to his mother. The text was rigid, but the context of the illustration was not. Creating 70 wood engravings gave him the chance to practice. He reminded us of one of our first swaps, Doors and Windows. When put all together, it was stellar. Finally, what is it that makes your heart sing? Use that.

We were delighted to look through "Millennium in a Box", a box of various structures, which included a scroll by Martha Cole, tunnel books and broadsides. This was organized by CBBAG National and made in 2000.

Next Meeting

June 13, AGM

17 in attendance