

CBBAG Ottawa meeting minutes 11 October 2023

In attendance: Amy Jenkins, Kelly Moore, Susan Pinard, Diane Parkin, Wendy Parlow, David Rosenbloom, Madeleine Rousseau, Kiah Russell, Christina Thiele, Kyla Ubbink.

Via Zoom: Holly Dean, Spike Minogue, Diane Parkin, Beth Shepherd, Weathervane Press

General meeting info and exchanges:

- Amy J (chair) started the meeting by announcing that CBBAG National will be organising a Lucy Maud Montgomery travelling book exhibit next year, starting in Charlottetown next May-June, after which it will move to various cities; the Ottawa location will hopefully be at Carleton University. Amy has introduced Carleton's Patti Harper of the Library to Barb Helander, who is looking for one to two volunteers from each CBBAG chapter. Details are on the CBBAG National website, under "Kindred Spirits".
- With respect to the upcoming Books Arts summit for May 2024, Kiah R said there'd already been a meeting of the volunteers; in answer to a question from Amy, Kiah said that Patti H would know if a SSHRC request had been made.
- Madeleine R handed out a one-page description of the upcoming SWOP. The theme will be "A special place" - She drew attention to the format (landscape mode, 5in x 10in final dims).
- Amy is still looking into the location of the CBBAG-OV SWAP archive, contacting Genevieve Sampson and perhaps Susan Pinard.
- Workshop updates (details on Eventbrite, as they become available):
 - 27-29 Oct + 3-5 Nov: Bookbinding I, to be led by Tiffany. At present, there are 5 registrants, the minimum required.
 - 25 Nov: Single-section variations, to be led by Kelly
 - 2 Dec: boxmaking, to be led by Kyla
 - 27 Jan, 2024: The Star Book, to be led by Barbara Helander (coming from Toronto)
 - 24-25 Feb: long and link stitching, to be led by Andrew Huot
 - 17 Mar: paper marbling, to be led by Patti H
 - 27 April: knife sharpening, to be led by Tiffany
 - 7-9 June + 14-16 June: Bookbinding II, to be led by TiffanyThese can also be found on the CBBAG-OV website.
- Christine M was absent so no updates from CBBAG National.
- Amy noted that Steve and Gayle of Weathervane Press have posted some info on the May 2024 books arts exhibit (part of the summit) in their Letterpress Gazette

Show and Tell:

- Madeleine showed a small book, using a binding technique known as Flat-Style Australian Reverse Piano Hinge binding. It has some features of a piano hinge, but the hinge is inside, hence the name 'reverse piano hinge'. It can take 10-15 minutes to put a book together with this technique. Madeleine used sheets of her eco printed paper

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for the signatures and a medium weight sheet for the accordion fold paper that will form the hinge. The book lies flat and the signature can be taken out and put back using a small strip as a slider. The instructions are very clear on the blog of Alisa Golden, the author of several books on book arts:

<https://makinghandmadebooks.blogspot.com/2012/12/instructions-book-structure-from.html>

- Madeleine also mentioned an exhibit at the Galeries d'art et expositions in Gatineau, across from the Canadian History Museum ['La Bibliothèque, une exposition collective', running until this Sunday, 15 October 2023], which had fabulous artwork. There were huge installations inspired by *The Library of Babel*, by Jorge Luis Borges. She found it very whimsical, visual and three-dimensional.
- Beth spoke about an upcoming exhibit at the Nepean Creative Art Centre, to be called 'Picturing the Invisible'. She showed her entry: an accordion lenticular page. Each fold has two sides: the first side of all folds showed one image (a beetle), while the other side had another image (a scene with plants). Each image had been cut into strips and then glued onto one or the other side of each fold. When held up and viewed from one side, the complete first image was visible. When viewed from the other side, the second image could be seen, with no trace of the first.
- Kiah spoke about the first paper marbling class they'd had earlier today with 2nd year English students. It went very well; the students had a lot of fun working up designs. Larry T will be posting videos to the Book Arts Lab's Instagram account.
- Kyla will be doing a workshop in December (Saturday the 2nd) on drop back boxes in the Books Arts Lab from 10am til 5pm. Minimum enrolment 10, 15-20 max. All materials included in fee; see Eventbrite. Similar to the box and book she brought to show the idea.

We took a break at 6:40pm; returned at 6:50.

Second hour:

Spike M spoke about her experiences for the first year of a 2-yr program at the North Bennet School, a tradeschool, in Boston.

Beginning with a brief backgrounder on herself, Spike has experience in graphic design and typesetting, and has held various positions in CBBAG since 2012. She went to North Bennet for bookbinding, where there's a heavy emphasis on traditional methods on all aspects of book production.

The first year has focussed on the fundamentals, done over and over, with variations, until a high skill level is achieved. Included in the basics is a grounding in making one's own tools from scratch. The final project was to make a case for all the books made during the year.

The second year (from what she's seen) is applying those fundamentals to various projects, expanding the materials (e.g., 'real' gold [not gold leaf], leather) and tools. There are guest instructors for specific subjects, as well as field trips to many sites and museums in Boston and the surrounding area. Again, the aim is to refine one's skills in all aspects of traditional bookbinding. As Spike herself is often more interested in fun and whimsy, the traditional straight-and-narrow is sometimes confining -- 'a challenge'. The final project for the second year will be to make a fine binding display book, with text rather than blank pages inside.

For amusement, Spike downloads texts from such sources as Gutenberg and binds them – without constraints.

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As an addendum, Spike said that the next CBBAG magazine would have a large section devoted to Michael Wilcox.

To end the meeting, Amy put out a call for programming ideas for the Nov and Dec CBBAG-_V meetings.

The meeting ended at 8pm.