

CBBAG Ottawa meeting minutes
14 February 2024

In person: Amy Jenkins, David Rosenberg, Kiah Russell.

Zoom attendance: Bronwyn Glover (from Hamilton), Karen Hanmer (from Chicago), Tiffany E Moore (from Calgary), Diane Parkin, Beth Rose (from Burlington), Christina Thiele, Larry Thompson (from Merrickville), Weathervane Press.

General meeting info and exchanges (Amy Jenkins, chair):

- no updates from CBBAG National
- Kindred Spirits Exhibition, in connection with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Lucy Maud Montgomery (LLM) event:
 - deadline for participation had been extended – and is now passed. However, check with Barbara Helander to see if you can still get in.
 - so far only 40 applications
- Books Arts Show (being organised by CBBAG-OV):
 - scheduled for Saturday May 25, from 10am to 4pm
 - the Symposium planned in conjunction with the Show will not go forward as SSHRCC funding was not secured
 - tables for the Show are free (CBBAG-OV will be underwriting the costs)
 - 28 tables have been spoken for (info from Tiffany EM)
 - there are some 60 tables still available (info from Patti Harper of CU Library, via Larry T)
 - suggestion from Beth R: ensure good signage to find the venue
- Marketing/advertising of the Show:
 - Kiah R and Diane said an upcoming meeting would be addressing these issues (in response to query from Amy).
 - Amy asked for posters to be in print and poster versions that anyone can send out to potential attendees
 - Tiffany EM and Amy have been working on a contact list for upcoming workshops: would the Show committee like a copy? Resounding 'Yes!' from Larry.
 - An update will be presented at the March CBBAG-OV meeting.
- From Diane P: she has 16 drying felts, if anyone is interested – Larry T has said he'll take them.
- The SWAP signatures are due at the March meeting, with a final deadline of June.

Amy concluded this section of the meeting by announcing that she would be stepping down as chair in June. She committed to the position for two years, which will end in June. The Ottawa chapter has been recovering well since the pandemic and things are running well.

Show and Tell:

- Amy had been to Barbara Helander's 'Star Book' workshop and showed her star book, bound with a long ribbon. David and Kiah had also attended the workshop. She said the fun is when you open it, to create the star shape. But it should not be confused with either a carousel book or an accordion book. David and Kiah showed their star books as well. Helander had given them other suggestions on how to present the pages, and Amy showed a maquette of some of these ideas. Amy commented that the workshop start time of 9am on a Saturday morning should probably be avoided – nevertheless, the day was a lot of fun.
- Diane P: has been experimenting with Japanese sashiko stitching on cloth for use as book covers. Beth made a suggestion to paste it onto Japanese paper. Christina commented that she'd come across sashiko in connection with clothing repair.

Presentation:

Bronwyn Glover has been the Archive and Book Conservator at McMaster University Library for the past year and a half, where she takes care of the William Ready Division of the Archives and Research Collections: maps, archives, books. There are some 40,000 items which date from before 1800, and some 60,000 which are from after 1800. Her task has been to survey the pre-1800 books, to check on their status.

After this daunting enumeration, Bronwyn launched into a presentation of some eleven books she'd chosen to present to the CBBAG members, including such information as their titles, authors, dates of both publication AND dates of subsequent binding, and locations where known. The condition of the books presented was also provided in some cases.

The titles presented included:

- *Studies in Book Arts*, John Ruskin, 1907, Hammersmith, London
- *The Book of Thel*, William Blake, 1902
- *The Kelmscott Chaucer* – a very early William Morris edition
- *Le nouveau testament*, 1677 – original binding
- a collection of songs – published in 1727, binding from 1866
- *The Vicar of Wakefield*, 1776 – scale board binding, in fragile condition. This use of wood (poplar or chestnut) was common in American binding.
- *The History of England*, 1793 – English landscape binding
- *The Bible*, 1668, printed in Cambridge, binding added later in the 18th century
- *The Noble Science*, 1893
- a 2-volumn church history, with Cathedral binding ca the 19th century
- *Le Pot pourri*, 1764, Paris

Final CBBAG – OV minutes from 14 February 2024

The following URL leads to one of the Library's current exhibits: 'Wherein She Plainly Shews: Women of the Printing Trades in the Hand-Press Era':

<https://expo.mcmaster.ca/s/wherein-she-plainly-shews-women-of-the-printing-trades-in-the-hand-press-era/page/wherein-she-plainly-shews-women-of-the-printing-trades-in-the-hand-press-era>

After the presentation, there was time for questions and answers:

- Amy: how do you get your books?
 - Bronwyn: through purchases, donations
- Amy: how do you determine provenance?
 - Bronwyn: There's a librarian who takes care of all incoming donations
- Christina: what's been the most beautiful book and the weirdest one?
 - Bronwyn: *The Book of Hours* is very pretty, Perhaps more cool than weird is a 1500s text, which has a more recent binding
- Tiffany: how far into the survey have you gotten?
 - Bronwyn: About a quarter of the way through – about a thousand items have been done so far. The books are arranged by size.
- Tiffany: what will you do with the information gathered from this survey?
 - Bronwyn: she and a colleague will give a talk about them at an upcoming conference.
- Beth [to Larry]: are there rare books at Carleton?
 - Larry: yes, but the collection is small and intended for students to study and handle – nothing so valuable that it has to be locked away. In fact, a history professor had recently asked them [the CU library] to collect not great copies of rare items, so that they could be handled by students. At present, there are no plans to restore any of the damaged ones in the collection.

The meeting ended at 7:25.