



# Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild

# Annual Report

## For the year ending December 31, 2015

### President's Report

The Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild enjoyed another successful year in 2015.

CBBAG has picked up several new volunteers as a result of advertising on the Volunteer page of the website; thank you to members who have come forward to help with website and committee tasks.

There are a few items in particular which I wish to highlight:

*Art of the Book 2013* wrapped up its touring schedule in 2015, and initial plans for *Art of the Book 2018* were begun. CBBAG extends its thanks to the team in Calgary who managed *AB2013*, and is excited about BC Islands taking the lead on *AB2018*.

The new Communications Committee was established, and terms of reference for this group written and approved.

The Publications Team continues to provide CBBAG members with an informative, attractive product in *Book Arts arts du livre Canada*. They are to be commended for their continuing commitment to providing the membership

with such a high-quality publication, and to their commitment to providing bilingual content in each issue of the magazine.

The Workshop Planning Committee in Toronto deserves recognition for their continuing dedication to delivering educational programming for CBBAG. The programme enjoys success each year thanks to the commitment of the planning committee to organizing workshops and courses that appeal to a wide range of interests and skills. The enthusiastic participation of the many students in the programme is evidence of this appeal.

The National Education Committee began initial discussions on the possibility of a revision of the Home Study Bookbinding I Manual.

CBBAG welcomed Kelly Moore to the board as Communications Committee chair in March. The organization thanks outgoing past president Scott Duncan for his many years of service on the CBBAG board of directors.

The organization continues to find succession planning for board and committee members a challenge. At the

end of 2014, the board had a membership of only six directors of a possible fifteen. The board held a facilitated in-person meeting at the Toronto bindery in October, to discuss possible ways in which CBBAG might restructure the board and the organization's functions to serve the membership into the future. It was agreed to shift the board focus away from its operational tasks and to becoming a more strategic, policy centred group to guide the organization forward. Late in 2015, a proposal was prepared for consultation with the membership.

I would like to take a moment to thank all financial donors, as well as the dedicated CBBAG members who volunteered to work on the organization's behalf throughout 2015, including non-members who participate in groups at the chapter level. Your efforts on behalf of the organization are recognized, necessary, and appreciated. Thank you, and please continue to support CBBAG's local and national efforts; your energy and commitment are CBBAG's greatest resource.

Susan Corrigan and Meg Best continue to provide excellent administrative support to board members and to the organization



Bookbinding I workshop presented by the BC Islands Chapter and attended by (left to right) Iona Reid, Heidi Bergstrom, Ravana Eagleheart, Jean Wyatt, Jose Villa-Arce, Marion Porath, and Joan Byers (workshop instructor) and taking the picture was Michael Zastre, who also attended the workshop.

as a whole. Thank you, Susan and Meg, for your continued commitment and work on CBBAG's behalf.

This report is also an opportunity for me to thank the members of the board of directors for their support and service to CBBAG. I am grateful for your commitment and appreciate your efforts on behalf of the members and the organization.

In closing, support and funding from the Ontario Arts Council must be acknowledged. CBBAG received \$20,000 for 2015. As noted in the 2014 report, the OAC announced funding cuts, and CBBAG will receive a grant of \$18,500 for 2016. The OAC's continuing support for its operations ensures that CBBAG can continue to maintain and build programmes for the membership, and is greatly appreciated.

Mary McIntyre, *president*

## Book Arts DVD Loan Programme

After several years of inactivity, the CBBAG Book Arts DVD Loan Programme was relaunched in 2015. With much thanks to Betty Elliott and Betsy Palmer Eldridge for their hard work on reviving the programme, the catalogue of DVDs was updated and the DVDs reorganized for easier handling. Susan Corrigan then updated the web page with the catalogue of DVDs and also assumed the responsibility for mailing out DVDs to CBBAG members. By the end of December five members had borrowed a total of twelve DVDs, more than the previous several years combined.

## Donations & Grants

The Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Ontario Arts Council in providing support for CBBAG. The support of the OAC is important to its activities and greatly appreciated by CBBAG.

Each year many members send in donations with their membership renewal. Their assistance helps with the CBBAG's valuable programmes. In 2015 donations were gratefully received from members Elsie Blauwhoff, Tara Bryan, Stephan Canty,

Hélène Cazes, Gail Chin, Daniel Cohen, Dr. John Collins, Susan V. Corrigan, Mira Coviensky, Victoria Cowan, Patrick & Sule Dewilde, Odette Drapeau, Leslie Drisdale, Susan Duffield, Jacques Fournier, Greta Golick, Louise Granahan, Chester Gryski, Kathryn Hamre, Sylvia Hart, James K. Higginson, Joanna Hunt, Jamie Kamph, Kristina E. Komendant, Claudia Kutchukian, Roxanne Lafleur, Dayle Lambert, Janice L. Little, Norma Lundberg, Gabriele Lundeen, Marlene MacCallum & David Morrish, Crystal Maitland, Leonidas Maniatis, Paul McFedries, Leslie McGrath, Mary McIntyre, Diane McKay, Liz Menard, William Morley, Sharon Musgrave, Diana Patterson, Lisa Philpott, Jamie Pratt, Joyce Ryckman, Karen Smith, William Toth, Barbara Trott, Claire Van Vliet, and Elspeth Wood.



Samples of the work at the Ottawa Valley Chapter's 2015 swap "Envelop/per," one of the chapter's monthly meetings.

CBBAG thanks the many members and friends who responded to the fourteenth annual Year-End Appeal in 2015 – Meg Best, Elsie Blauwhoff, Betty Britschgi, Ruth Brown, John Burbidge, Wendy Cain, Susan Corrigan, Mira Coviensky, Tony Crowle, Maureen Da Silva, Betsy Palmer Eldridge, Graeme Ferguson, Jeanne Germani, James K. Higginson, Nancy Jacobi, Constance Jefferess, Cassandra Knapp, Monique Lallier, Beatrice Leroux, Janice L. Little, Marlene MacCallum, Leonidas Maniatis, Diane McKay, Lise Melhorn-Boe, Manfred Meurer, Nancy Moniz, Denise Moraze, William Morley, Brian Queen, Stanley M. Sherman, Dawn Simpson, Maria Soteriades, Ellen Spears, Anne Stinner, Keith Valentine, Jan Van Fleet, Debbie Waker, and Michael Wilcox.

The Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild is a volunteer organization. Without the many board members, committee chairs and members, regional

coordinators, and other volunteers who donated hundreds of hours of their time to CBBAG, it could not carry out all, or any, of its programmes. Their assistance is gratefully received and acknowledged.

Susan Corrigan, *administrative director*

## Exhibitions

### Art of the Book 2013

*Art of the Book 2013* wrapped up in 2015 with its final venue at Harriet Irving Library at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton from December 15, 2014, to May 29, 2015. The exhibition was very well received throughout the tour and shared Canadian talent with new audiences. The works were then returned to Calgary and dispersed back to their makers. The task of unpacking and repacking books was done by volunteers with the generous contribution of Brian Queen's work space.

Many thanks go out to all the volunteers who made this project possible over the years, they are too numerous to name but each knows the hard work and dedication it takes to make AB2013 possible. We also wish to acknowledge the sponsors, the Calgary Foundation, the Rosza Foundation and the Ontario Arts Council. Our congratulations go out to the BC Islands Chapter team who are already in the process of planning *Art of the Book 2018*.

Lee Churchill & Lisa Isley, *Curators AB2013*

### Art of the Book 2018:

In July 2015 the BC Islands Chapter membership agreed to accept the responsibility of conducting the *Art of the Book 2018* competition and the companion travelling exhibition.

An organizing committee was struck, with each member responsible for a specific task: Keith Valentine, organizing the venues; curatorial duties shared by Gale Buffett, Dawn Skinner, and Frances Hunter; fundraising divided into two, sponsorships led by Trisha Klus, and grants led by Marion Porath; background research, Martina Edmondson; committee coordination, Jose Villa-Arce.

The committee's work was greatly aided by the background and public information

documents, and very frank advice provided by Lisa Isley, the chair of the *Art of the Book 2013* organizing committee. This assistance positioned the committee to move quickly.

Based on this information, three priorities were set for the following six months. First, initiate contact with potential exhibition venues across the country. Ideally, the show should open in Victoria in the fall of 2018, have a venue in every province, travel west to east, concluding in Newfoundland in May 2021. Second, initiate funding efforts immediately. On the sponsorship side, to develop a major sponsorship proposal to AbeBooks, which has its headquarters in Victoria; with respect to grants to focus on the new requirements of the Canada Council of the Arts. And third, to work up the curatorial requirements to the point that they are substantially settled by April 2016, thus being positioned to answer detailed questions from potential exhibition venues and initiate advanced notice for both the competition and the travelling exhibition, in both official languages. By the end of 2015 substantial progress had been made on all three priorities.

Jose Villa-Arce, *AB2018 Coordinator*

## Home Study Programme

The CBBAG Home Study programme continues to be useful to binders over a wide geographic area. Each Home Study segment includes multiple DVDs and a manual.

In 2015 thirteen courses were sold, down from nineteen in the previous year.

Bookbinding I continues to be the main course sold, with six copies sold in 2015, compared to eleven in 2014. Two copies of Bookbinding II were sold, compared to four in 2014. Two copies of Bookbinding III were sold compared to none sold in 2014. One copy of Restoration & Repair was sold, similar to 2014; two copies of Finishing were sold in 2014, again, the same as for 2014.

There were five Monitoring Stream courses purchased, three for Bookbinding I and two for Bookbinding II, and eight Resource and Reference Stream courses (note that only Bookbinding I, II, and III are available in Monitoring Stream as well as Resource and Reference Stream).

Eleven courses were sold to students in Canada with two sold to students in the United States.

The National Education Committee, under whose auspices the Home Study Programme falls, began a review of the Home Study materials in 2015, starting with Bookbinding I manual.

Thanks go to Mercedes Cirfi Walton, Betsy Palmer Eldridge, Betty Elliott, Barbara Helander, Dan Mezza, Mirela Parau, Jan Van Fleet, Meg Best, and Susan Corrigan for their work on the Home Study Programme.

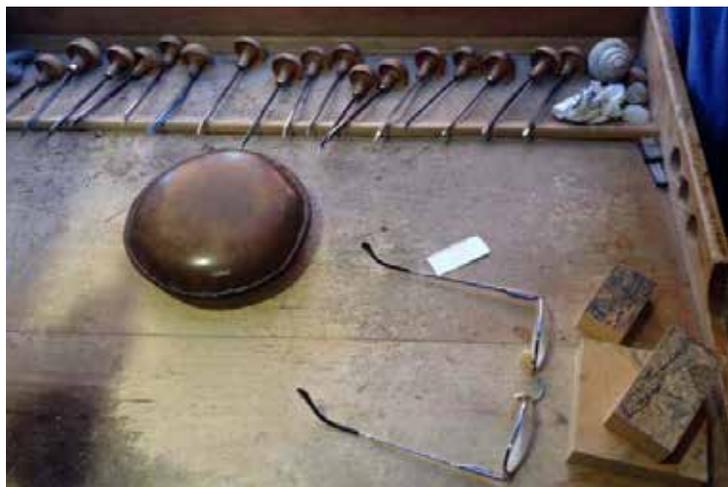
After ten years of mailing Home Study course materials to CBBAG members around the world, Elsie Blauwhoff retired as the Home Study distribution volunteer at the end of December and passed the torch to Stuart Hill. A special thanks goes to Elsie for her all her hard and diligent work on the Home Study programme.

## Membership

The number of members at the end of the year was 477. This figure is substantially down from last year's reported 604 members; however, due to problems with CBBAG's previous membership database, a large number of lapsed members were still recorded as being current. This issue was resolved with the transfer to the new online database.

The geographical distribution of membership breaks down as follows: Canadian 84% (up 4% from last year), American 14% (unchanged from last year), and overseas 2% (down 4% from last year). In addition to individual, family, life, and student members, there were 21 institutional and 24 exchange members.

The Canadian membership is divided as follows: Alberta - 7.7%; British Columbia - 17.4%; Manitoba - 1.7%; New Brunswick - 0.5%; Nova Scotia - 2.2%; Ontario - 57.7%; Quebec - 8.5%; Saskatchewan - 4.3%.



Some of Gerard Brender à Brandis's tools photographed by Jan Taylor during a CBBAG Southwestern Ontario Chapter visit to his studio.

In 2015 Michael Wilcox was presented a "Lifetime Achievement Award" and appointed a life member of CBBAG. Michael was recognized this year for his lifetime of work and dedication to the craft of fine binding, and for his long and continued support of CBBAG. He was a juror for two Art of the Book exhibitions (1998 and 2003). As well, he was nominated by CBBAG and received the Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence in the Crafts in 1985. Michael joins fellow life members Ann Douglas, Betsy Palmer Eldridge, Betty Elliott, Dan Mezza, Richard Miller, Shelagh Smith, Ellen Spears, and Don Taylor.

Rose Newlove was honoured as CBBAG's member of the year. A CBBAG volunteer since 2000, Rose has been providing instruction and inspiration at the CBBAG bindery since 2005. She was instrumental in finding a new location for the CBBAG office and bindery; and was part of the crew that planned the move, packed the bindery, and moved and set up the new space. Rose assumed the bindery workshop coordinator tasks from Ann Douglas in 2011.

Meg Best continued as the membership/workshop registrar in 2015 and thanks go for her hard work on CBBAG's behalf.

## National Education

The National Education Committee met five times in 2015 via Skype.

### Revision of HS BBI Manual

Revision of the Home Study Programme Bookbinding I Manual was the primary

focus of the National Education Committee during 2015. While the original objective was to reorganize the manual to correspond to the BBI videos narrated by Betsy Palmer Eldridge, by the end of the year the focus moved toward editing the manual for the benefit of those who purchase the BBI Home Study Monitoring Stream.

The following CBBAG members comprised the team working on revisions: Dan Mezza, Mercedes Cirfi Walton, and Joe Landry (resigned spring 2015). As well, some former Monitoring Stream students contributed their critiques and suggestions for improvement of the manual.

### Core Course Instructor Outreach

The NEC is charged with approving instructors for CBBAG core curriculum courses, according to the CBBAG Core Curriculum Instructor Position Description. Exceptions to conditions may be made where the NEC believes it is desirable to offer quality instruction to outreach areas of Canada, provided that the instructor has demonstrated exceptional skills.

In 2015 Joan Byers (BC Islands Chapter) was approved to teach Bookbinding II. She has taught Bookbinding I from her North Saanich BC studio since 2013.

### CBBAG Website

With the assistance of Mercedes Cirfi Walton (mentor for the Monitoring Stream of the Home Study Programme), the Home Study Programme section of the CBBAG website was edited and updated. There were no substantive changes made, other than those approved by the CBBAG board in the past.



Work from the GTA Chapter's Painted Hand Bound Journal Workshop

### Policies

In 2015 the NEC was involved in the revision of the DVD Lending Policy to clarify the borrowing procedure and associated costs.

### Members

During 2015 NEC members were:

Jan Van Fleet - Chair  
(Southwestern Ontario)  
Mary McIntyre (ex officio: CBBAG President)  
Barb Galeski (BC Islands)  
Joe Landry (Nova Scotia) (*resigned spring 2015*)  
Dan Mezza (Southwestern Ontario)  
Patrick Miller (Southwestern Ontario)

Jan van Fleet, *chair, National Education Committee*



## Publications

The CBBAG publications team thanks the board of directors for its confidence in the membership magazine *Book Arts arts du livre Canada*.

For the sixth year of publication the publications team continued to search out Canadian writers and subjects from coast to coast. We are always searching for new ways to find them. Please continue to send us your suggestions for topics.

E-Newsletters were sent on in January and July. Again, we encourage both chapters and individuals to submit items.

The spring 2015 issue included a profile of Wendy Cain followed by a profile of Margaret Lock in the fall magazine. We know there are other outstanding book artists in Canada. The team needs writers to send it proposals.

The publications team thanks all the authors, CBBAG members or not, who submitted articles this year. We also thank the publishers who so willingly sent books for review.

Advertising revenue remains steady. The publications team asks that readers consider the CBBAG magazine's advertisers when they need supplies: Columbia Finishing Mills, J. Hewit & Sons, Illytd Perkins Woodworking,

Papeterie St. Armand, The Japanese Paper Place, and Harmatan Leather.

In 2015 the team members relied on research, editing, and proofreading by publication team members Tara Bryan, Cathryn Miller, Caryl Peters, Meaghan Scanlan, Jan Van Fleet, and Mirela Pirau whose French language knowledge is essential to the magazine.

Starting with the Fall 2015 issue, Mirela Pirau is now the magazine's French language translator. Her first assignment was to translate "The Medieval Book Historian as Archeologist" by Adrienne Williams Boyarin. This article will be posted on the CBBAG website. We thank Carole Masure for her expert care of our earlier translations.

The magazine is lucky to have the stalwart team of Betty Elliott, Ann Douglas, and Deborah Douglas, led by coordinator Edna Hajnal, to package the magazine for mailing. Thank you all. And thanks go to Susan Corrigan for smoothing the path to publication and distribution, and to Mary McIntyre for her final proofreading before the magazine goes to print.

Frances Hunter, *chair, Publications Committee*



## Website

The new CBBAG website was launched in November 2014 and while there continued to be a few issues, generally the site is working well. CBBAG member Steven Brown is currently serving as CBBAG's IT person, helping with website issues that arise.

Board members and CBBAG's administrative director have continued to update the web pages. All but one of the past *Art of the Book* exhibitions are now online and the last should be added in 2016.

Efforts have begun to start to translate some of the web pages (many of the exhibition pages are available in English and French where the original print catalogues were bilingual). Several volunteers have come forward and have begun to work on translation for the website. Thanks goes to Mirela Parau who has translated the history of CBBAG page on the website.



# Financial Report

CBBAG had a successful financial year in 2015, with revenues exceeding expenses by \$938, thanks to the continued careful financial management by the board of directors and treasurer Barbara Trott.

CBBAG received \$20,000 in arts service organization operating funding from the Ontario Arts Council, for which it is very grateful.

Operational revenue decreased by \$4,026 compared with the previous year, primarily due to a reduction in workshop revenues. Minor positive and negative fluctuations in other revenue categories generally cancelled each other out. Membership fees rose by about 4%, while donations were down slightly. Home Study revenues remain strong and funds from magazine revenues were consistent.

Expenses in 2015 were down as well, corresponding to reduced workshop instructor fees. \$4,000 in "seed money" for *Art of the Book 2018* was sent to the BC Islands Chapter, which will organize the exhibition. Home Study expenses increased with the commencement of the revision to Bookbinding I. Membership services and office rental costs increased modestly in 2015, reflecting inflation.

CBBAG contributed \$8,500 to its arts endowment fund with the Ontario Arts Foundation in 2015. The fund is managed by professional investment managers and the annual payout, \$5,385 in 2015, supports operating costs.

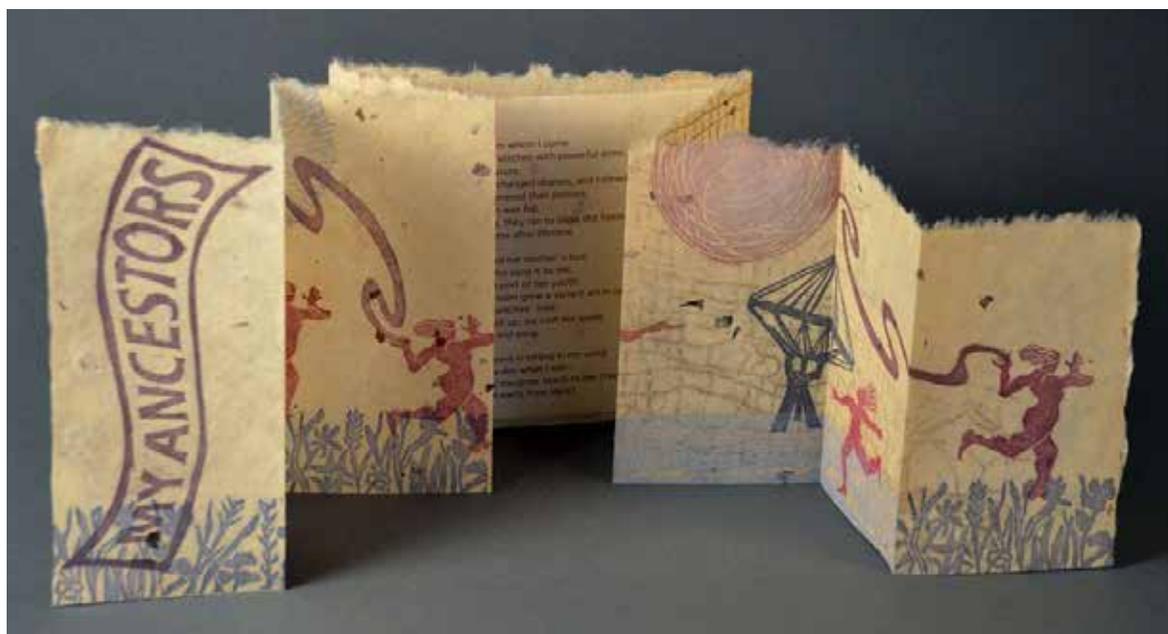
Barbara Trott, *treasurer*

## Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2015

	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current:		
Cash and cash equivalents:		
General Fund	\$ 49,964	\$ 46,673
Robert Muma Fund	26,551	26,487
Robert Muma Fund	3,940	4,834
Amounts receivable	6,657	3,895
Prepaid expenses	<u>87,112</u>	<u>81,889</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	9,287	10,239
Deferred membership and other fees and donations	25,503	18,380
Deferred grants	<u>20,460</u>	<u>22,410</u>
	48,249	51,029
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Robert Muma Fund	26,551	26,487
General Fund	5,311	4,373
	<u>31,862</u>	<u>30,860</u>
	<u>\$ 79,785</u>	<u>\$ 81,889</u>

## Statement of Operations, General Fund - For the year ending December 31, 2015

	2015	2014
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Government grants: Ontario Arts Council	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Donations	5,327	5,746
Exhibitions	3,623	2,974
Home Study	9,470	9,142
Magazine	1,702	1,782
Membership Fees	26,604	25,043
Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment	5,385	5,410
Other	1,049	181
Workshop	<u>32,018</u>	<u>38,133</u>
	105,178	108,411
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	26,290	25,666
Book Arts Fair & Events	413	1,158
Chapters Annual Allocations and Grants	3,324	4,724
Contribution to OAF Endowment Fund	8,500	5,500
Exhibitions	4,143	388
Home Study	3,746	2,489
Magazine	11,655	11,055
Membership Services	7,232	11,232
Office Rental	6,769	6,521
Workshops	<u>32,168</u>	<u>39,253</u>
	104,240	107,986
Excess of Revenues/(loss) over Expenses	<u>\$ 938</u>	<u>\$ 425</u>



Victoria Cowan:  
*My Ancestors*

20.3x18x18 cm

Each book in this varied edition of 15 is unique because of the hand-made nature of all the elements. Well... except that the text of my poem and the colophon were printed on my home printer.

The paper is an aged Yamato Chiri - the small inclusions are different in each sheet. I wanted a paper that would fold easily and print with sensitivity. The backs of the books are printed one at a time on an etching press., with various grid-patterned materials. All the images and the title panel are soft lino, relief-printed by hand. The ink is Akaui; it is soy-based and water-washable, as close to non-toxic as one can find. Though each book has the same layout, no two have the same palette; that includes the text which compliments the colours of the imagery.

# Regional Chapters Activities

## CBBAG Alberta North

Submitted by Janice Peters,  
Rena Whistance-Smith, & Dawn Woolsey

We have held six meetings, had two formal presentations, given one public workshop, prepared one exhibition and enjoyed one handmade book exchange this year. Members have also met informally on other occasions, such as the meeting and book display hosted by another arts organization.

In January we met at Bruce Peel Special Collections, University of Alberta. Jeff Papineau gave a very interesting and knowledgeable presentation on miniature books held in the collection at the library. Our prior handmade book exchange was miniature books, so we were all very cognizant of the challenges presented by working at a small scale and appreciated the opportunity to see some real masterpieces. Jeff graciously extended our meeting time to accommodate our enthusiasm.

Our next meeting was in April, when Kevin Zak spent an informal evening with CBBAG members talking about paper engineering and pop-up books. We were delighted to see some of the books in his collection, and we also brought a few of our own favourites to share. We were asked early in the new year by the Provincial Archives of Alberta to teach an Introduction to Coptic binding workshop as part of their public events program. After a number of delays prompted by the provincial election in Alberta, we were finally able to go ahead with this in late May. The workshop filled up very quickly, and we are considering offering similar workshops in the future. The chapter met again in June for an informal meeting and show and share, which included a short talk by one of our members who had spent much of the previous year in France and brought beautiful books to show and her observations on the different culture and practice of bookmaking there.

In July a number of members attended an artist book making workshop hosted by Harcourt House and *Also As Well Too* as part of their western Canadian tour called *Wandering Albatross*. They are based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and are in the formative stages of setting up an artist book library. An exhibition featuring the miniature books made in the last book exchange was set up at the St. Albert Library and ran for August and September.

We met again in September, for another show and share informal meeting and a look at the bookbinding tools that members find particularly useful.

Our final meeting of the year was late November, our traditional dinner at the Faculty Club followed by the meeting and this year's book exchange. This year we challenged members to tackle a structure that was new to them, with content of their choice. As usual, an interesting and well-made assortment of new books made its debut and was examined and enjoyed. These books along with last year's miniatures will form the core of the exhibition planned for 2016 in the Gallery at Milner, in Edmonton's main downtown library.



## CBBAG BC Islands

Submitted by Frances Hunter &  
Jose Villa-Arce

### Workshops

At the beginning of the year, the chapter in partnership with the national executive, continued the workshop mentorship initiative with Bookbinding II conducted by Dan Mezza. Under this initiative, one member of the chapter attends a workshop conducted by Dan, with the objective of subsequently delivering that workshop locally. This has happened, with Joan Byers conducting both a Bookbinding I and II workshop during the year, and in the process has attracted new members to the chapter.

In addition Martha Cole conducted a loose bindings workshop titled *The Sensuous Book*; Lorraine Douglas gave *The French Box* workshop; and Joan Byers, in co-operation with the Alcuin Society, the *Flowers in Heraldry* binding workshop. For all these workshop, the total attendance was 60 participants, including an Introduction to Bookbinding at the University of Victoria.

### Special Relationship – University of Victoria

As a result of the collaborative effort between the chapter and the staff of Special Collections in the McPherson Library, university staff have been regular presenters at chapter meetings, using the holdings in Special Collections to explore the history and development of printing, bookbinding, or book design and publishing. This has given chapter meetings a very different tone and has become a very popular agenda item with members. It has also resulted in a co-operative venture between the chapter and University of Victoria staff to conduct a two-hour Introduction to Bookbinding, which was attended by eighteen faculty and staff.

### Field Trip

On July 5, chapter members participated in a field trip to Alanna Simenson's new workshop in Sooke, a rural community outside of Victoria. Alanna had recently re-located from New Westminster, BC, continuing her relationship with Barbarian Press. Alanna is a young, very talented bookbinder, well matched to the standards of Barbarian Press. Members without exception were impressed with the examples of her work with and for the Press.

### Art of the Book 2018

The chapter voted to accept the invitation of the board to take on the challenge of sponsoring the *Art of the Book 2018* competition, and subsequent travelling exhibition. The chapter quickly established an organizing committee – Frances Hunter, Dawn Skinner, and Jose Villa-Arce – with four



Martha Cole, with *The Sensuous Book* participant Gail Austin, checking decorated cloth made during the BC Islands Chapter workshop.

reporting tasks: Venues [Keith Valentine], Sponsorship [Trisha Klus], Grants [Marion Porath], and Curatorial [Gail Buffett, Dawn Skinner, Frances Hunter]. Everyone moved quickly to their tasks hoping for tangible results early in the new year. The chapter wishes to thank the Calgary Chapter in general, and Lisa Isley in particular, for her forthright advice and guidance in assisting us in working through the thicket of issues involved.

### Chapter Exhibition

The chapter began planning a month long exhibition on various aspects of the book to run in the fall of 2016 at the Sidney Museum.



## CBBAG BC Lower Mainland

Submitted by Suzan Lee & Gina Page

The CBBAG BC Lower Mainland Chapter participated in seven activities this year:

(a) Workshop with Suzan Lee: Making a Portfolio, Saturday, March 14, Creekside Community Centre, Vancouver

(b) Workshop with Candace Thayer-Coe: Suminagashi Marbling, Saturday April 25, Creekside Community Centre, Vancouver

(c) BC Lower Mainland CBBAG Book Arts Fair, Saturday, June 20, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch. The exhibitors were as follows:

The Alcuin Society

Neil Baker, Pie Tree Press

Susan Carr, Book Artist

CBBAG BC Lower Mainland Chapter

Malaspina Printmakers Society

Charles Mayrs, Book Artist

Julie McIntyre, Woodcut Artist

Kathy Nash, Bookbinder

Paper Maker's Press (Ann Vicente)

Seawrack Press (Gina Page, Book Artist)

Candace Thayer-Coe, Paper Marbler

West Coast Calligraphy Society

(d) Annual General Meeting, Saturday, June 20, White Spot Restaurant, Vancouver

(e) Word Vancouver, Sunday, September 27, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, with demonstrations by:

Gina Page - Mini Tunnel Books

Suzan Lee - Case Binding

Suzan Lee - Bookbinding Tools

Kathy Nash - Longstitch Journal/Notebook

Jessica Tremblay - Maze Books

Candace Thayer-Coe - Suminagashi Paper Marbling

(f) Workshop with Kathy Nash: Making a

Ribbon-Bound Hardcover Book, Saturday, October 24, Creekside Community Centre, Vancouver

(g) Alcuin Wayzgoose, Saturday October 31, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch

Blogsite Statistics: 50 blog posts have been published since the launch of the chapter's website <http://vanbookarts.wordpress.com> in September 2011. As of December 31, 2015, the website had 74 followers.

2015 - 5,606 views in total. 15 views per day.  
2014 - 4,867 views in total. 13 views per day.  
2013 - 3,398 views in total. 9 views per day.  
2012 - 3,029 views in total. 8 views per day.

In 2015, the three most popular web pages were:

1. Home page / Archives - 2,308 views
2. Workshops - 1,291 views
3. Resources - 540 views

The Workshops and Resources web pages are heavily utilized. These pages connected 2,261 visitors to 92 book arts related URLs.

In 2015, the top three countries that viewed the website were:

1. Canada - 4,409 views
2. United States - 652 views
3. United Kingdom - 126 views



Ann Vicente, one of the exhibitors at the BC Lower Mainland CBBAG Book Arts Fair, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch.

## CBBAG Calgary

Submitted by Brian Queen

The Calgary Chapter met twice in 2015. On June 29 about 12 people met at member Pat Strakowski's house for show and tell and to discuss future meetings. On August 29 a handful of members met to package and ship *Art of the Book 2013* exhibition pieces back to the artists.

In October Brian Queen sold CBBAG products at the Friend of Dard Hunter trade fair held at The Banff Centre and received many compliments on the quality and content of CBBAG's magazine, *Book Arts art du livre Canada*.

## CBBAG Greater Toronto Area

Submitted by Greta Golick

The GTA Chapter offers its members monthly evening workshops or lectures held at the bindery or at other locations. Many of our members also attend CBBAG workshops at the bindery. Several of our members volunteer at promotional events such as Wayzgoose in Grimsby and at The Word on the Street and the OCADU book arts fair held in Toronto. Elsie Blauwhoff has managed these outreach and promotional activities for many years and the GTA Chapter and CBBAG have benefitted from her efforts and dedication.

The following evening workshops were conducted this year by a number of our members:

Fabiana Mattos Salvador: Portfolio

Betsy Palmer Eldridge: Modified Star Binding

Stuart Hill: Onion Skin Binding

Sue Smith & Gabriele Lundeen: Diagonal Pocket Notebook

Barbara Helander: Portable Cradle

Rose Newlove: Saddle-back Book

Kevin King: Calligraphy

The average workshop attendance is 8 people. The cost is \$30 per person and participants leave with an item made during the 2-hour workshop.

We scheduled two evening lectures. In January 2015 Robert Wu discussed his design bindings commissioned by the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto. The talk was held in the Archives Reading Room, which provided a private and intimate setting for the evening. Wu's books

and drawings of his designs were available for us to see the connection between his initial ideas for a binding and its finished state.

In October, Jeff Peachey came to Toronto as the Patricia Fleming Visiting Fellow in Bibliography and Book History at the University of Toronto. His memorable lecture "Pulled to Pieces: Life as an Independent Book Conservator" at the Faculty of Information was attended by a large audience, including several GTA Chapter members. He also met with the GTA Chapter at the bindery where he demonstrated making his Delrin Folder. This was followed by a show-and-tell of our favourite bookbinding tools.

Our November sale allowed members to sell paper, bookbinding tools, and supplies. As last year, holding the sale before the holiday season contributes to its success and is also an anticipated social event for our chapter.

We had meetings in March and September to plan and organize our activities. For more information contact: GTA Chapter - CBBAG at [cbbag.gta@gmail.com](mailto:cbbag.gta@gmail.com)

### Toronto Workshop Planning Committee Submitted by Kari Bronaugh

In 2015 the GTA Chapter offered 40 workshops; twenty-two ran and eighteen were

cancelled from lack of enrolment. We experienced a noticeable up-tick in enrollment in core courses of Bookbinding I and II. Member participation amounted to 366 student days for 124 students and generated \$32,142.50 in overall income.

The Toronto Workshop Planning Committee was happy to have had visiting artist Marlene Pomeroy offer a popular course creating painted hand bound journals. Print maker and book artist Liz Menard returned to CBBAG to offer Etching Basics, utilizing the new etching press that is now at the bindery for member use, in the spring and Printmaking: Drypoint & Monotype in the fall. The committee was also thrilled to have book artist Lise Melhorn-Boe teach a lively course on Basic Pop-Ups.

Mid-summer, Betsy Palmer Eldridge offered Paper Treatments for Binders to a full house and had the luck of the sun for a full backyard of paper bleaching. Robert Wu also offered an enrichment course on French Endbands. And GTA Chapter executive member Gabriele Lundeen also offered a well-attended course on Chinese Thread Books.



Marlene Pomeroy, left, teaching the Painted Hand Bound Journal workshop, with Haley Bergstrom. Haley and her mother Heidi, members of the BC Island Chapter, were visiting from Victoria.



NS members Kristen MacLean, Larry Colwell, and Christina Clorey make miniature book ornaments at a workshop taught by Joe Landry and Katherine Victoria Taylor, December 2015.

we would start a semi regular email newsletter as that was the form of communication preferred by the group.

Fall 2016 was a busy time for CBBAG NS. In September we hosted an informational booth at Word on the Street Halifax, where we had a variety of books on display as well as a free pamphlet book making demonstrations. In October many of us attended the Gaspereau Wayzgoose where we partook in printing and book related lectures.

December saw our first free workshop taught by Katherine Victoria Taylor and Joe Landry. Members were given the opportunity to make a miniature half leather binding holiday ornaments out of scrap material donated by Joe Landry and the Letterpress Gang. Then to finish off the year we had our annual potluck hosted by Joan Dawson.

### CBBAG Ottawa Valley Submitted by Roxanne Lefleur

The Ottawa Valley Chapter operates on a programme year that runs from September to June. The group does not operate in July and August. The Annual General Meeting is held in June each year.

Overall, the Ottawa Valley Chapter is strong and well. We maintain an active schedule of meetings and workshops. The chapter is in a good financial state and we have a small supply of bookbinding tools for conducting workshops. In 2015, we started the process of creating an equipment lending programme, for which we acquired a leather paring



At an Ottawa Valley Chapter monthly meeting, swap participants present their bound sets of swapped envelopes, with inserts, titled "Envelop/per". Foreground: work by Gayle and Stephen Quick; background, left to right: Madeleine Rousseau, Vivienne Edwards, and Shlomo & Wendy Feldberg.

machine. At the executive level, the events coordinator's position was officially retired in favour of ad hoc committees to plan events and exhibitions, and a co-chair position was created, as a transitional role to chair, each with a mandate of a year. This new position has yet to be filled and therefore has not been fully implemented. We also started the process of revising and completing procedures for our regular activities and describe the various roles that members play inside and outside the executive.

1. Facilities: We continue to hold our meetings at the Sandy Hill Community Centre. The City of Ottawa makes this centrally-located facility available for a very reasonable price for non-profit organizations. As of September, we were able to secure a more spacious room, perfectly suited for our needs. In 2015, we held most workshops in another City of Ottawa facility, the Routhier Community Centre, while three workshops were held at member's studios. Like the SHCC, the RCC is very reasonably priced and centrally located, with easy access by public transit and a large, free, parking lot. We were able to secure the space at RCC for the entire 2015-2016 workshop program. To compensate the members who lend their studios, we have been giving them free registration to the hosted workshops.

2. Meetings: The monthly chapter meetings continue to be well attended, with an average of 22 members (4 more than last year). The

"show and tell" portion of the meetings has grown since last year to take a considerable portion of the 2 hours we allot for the meetings as members have been very active. For this reason, the executive business is held prior to the meetings, by email or in person, and is reported to members at the beginning of the meeting. Our scheduled activities, which include either a hands-on activity or a talk, have been very well received, drawing in as many as 31 attendants per month.

3. Workshops: We continue to use Eventbrite successfully, an online service for advertising and managing sign-up and payments to our workshops. We embed the modest Eventbrite fee for each subscription into the workshop fee. Most of our workshops have been sold out, and only one was cancelled due to low registration. Members are encouraged to inform the chapter of workshop topics they would like or would be willing to offer. We continue to offer a workshop per month during our active programming time (September to May). In 2015, we offered: Altered Books, Wunderkammer, Caterpillar Stitch Binding, Bookbinding 101, Cross-Structure binding, Sewn Boards Binding, and workshops by invited instructors Dan Mezza, who gave Bookbinding 2 and Introduction to Leather, and Martha Cole for the Sensuous Book.

4. Collaborative Projects: We invited members to participate in our 2015 swap, envelope/per. The 19 participants, created

envelops with inserts, all of similar size, which they presented and exchanged at the February meeting. They then bound/assembled the sets of 19 envelopes and presented them at the April meeting. These and other examples of our swap projects will be featured in the exhibition, Swap Meet / L'échange to be held at the Shenkman Arts Centre in Ottawa in February 2016.

5. Publicity, Advertising, Promotion: The chapter is working hard to utilize new avenues of advertising to increase our visibility across the region. It is vital that people interested in the book arts know that we exist and that we can provide them with a wide variety of activities and support. Work needs to continue to improve our overall presence. All members must be part of our overall communication strategy and get the word out. In addition to regular (monthly or more) email blasts, our chapter also represented the guild at various venues in the Ottawa Valley. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we provided information, demonstrations and hands-on activities to all ages at Manotick's Dickinson Days, Culture Days at the Cornwall Public Library, and the Ottawa Small Press Book Fair. Our chapter is a member of the Ottawa Arts Council, and as such a link is provided on their site to ours. We were also invited to write an article about CBBAG and our chapter, which was published in their e-news and posted on their website in both English and French on November 30th. See: <http://ottawaartscouncil.ca/en/council-news/blog/canadian-bookbinders-and-book-artists-guild>. As a result, we had a record number of visits to our website for several days.

6. Website: Our chapter website is another way in which we keep members informed of chapter activities plus make information available to interested parties: [www.cbbagottawa.wordpress.com](http://www.cbbagottawa.wordpress.com). We started a revision process in 2015 and plan to have the site fully updated, with new content, including resources and news, its search ability optimized, and most content translated in French. It currently contains information on our meetings, workshops, exhibits and shows, and an online gallery to feature our activities and our work.

7. Fundraising: The chapter has not done any direct fundraising this year, but with the success of the workshop and funds from National, we remain in solid financial position. Members are reminded that donations made through CBBAG national directed to this Chapter are eligible for charitable tax credit

receipt. Members are encouraged to suggest fundraising activities for the chapter to consider.

8. Exhibitions: 2016 CBBAG Book Arts Show. No exhibitions were held in 2015. Instead, we promoted the guild at regional events (see above section 6. Publicity, Advertising, Promotion), and started planning the next CBBAG Ottawa Book Arts Show and Sale which will be held on May 14, 2016, in Ottawa. Challenged to find a lead and an affordable venue, we were unable to host this biennale in 2015.



## CBBAG Saskatchewan

Submitted by Robin Canham

Timeline:

- April through May 2015 – BB1 with Kathy Hamre, offered in Regina
- April 2015 – “Passing the Torch” exhibition at the Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre, including the “Books About” events and fair, Regina Beach SK



## CBBAG SW Ontario

Submitted by Nancy Latchford

The activities for 2015 started in January/February with instructor Dan Mezza teaching the CBBAG core curriculum course Bookbinding II. We moved forward to March with Gail Rhynard, a very creative artist/teacher from our own group, who taught a two-day workshop to six students on Exploring the Accordion Book. Our big workshop in September/October with Martha Cole was a three-day class with 11 students; “The Sensuous Book” was a huge success with all participants delighted to be involved.

Three other courses were planned, but were cancelled due to insufficient registration.

Several members took a Stratford Studio Tour in November, first visiting the studio of Gerard Brender à Brandis, an eclectic charming world. This is a real insight to an artist living his work. If you get a chance, this is a must visit in Stratford. We rested with a wonderful lunch at a new restaurant, The Red Rabbit, followed by an educational afternoon in the studio of Marlene and Mike Pomeroy – Mike with an old American press and Marlene with an extensive number of truly wonderful

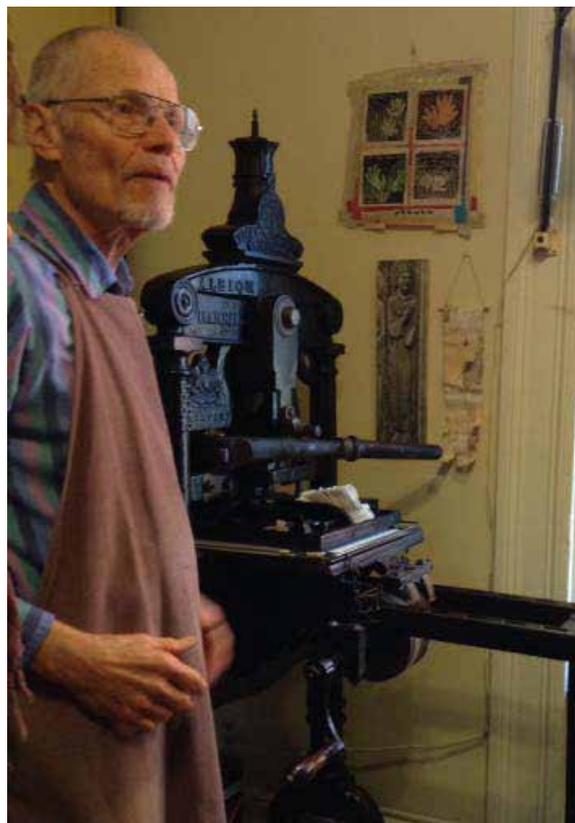
artists books. We were joined in the afternoon by special guests Micaela Fitzsimmons, Manager of Collection and Exhibits at the Stratford Perth Museum, who is also an etching press expert, and Marianne Brandis, writer and sister of Gerard Brender à Brandis.

We have two book-related groups that meet in members’ homes. There is no fee and each participant takes a turn instructing a book form or technique. The Journal Group of eight participants is the longest running; it met seven times in 2015. The newer group – the Alternative Book Forms Group – has seven participants and met six times during the year.

Autumn included our standard yearly meetings, the Planning Meeting held in September and our Annual General Meeting held in October. The Annual General Meeting was well attended. This included a show and tell plus a sale of Japanese papers from Mary Louise White, and artists books, paste papers, etc. from Marlene Pomeroy.



Carole P Kunstadt: Sacred Poem LXX  
This is one of a number of non-touring works from “Art of the Book 2013.” Other non-touring works included in the Calgary opening exhibition were by Reg Beatty, Linda Carreiro, Victoria Cowan (see page 5), Guylaine Couture, Liz Davidson, Francisco Miguel Perez Fernandez, Ann Stinner, and Don Taylor.



SWO chapter member Jan Taylor took this photo of Gerard Brender à Brandis when she and other members visited his studio as part of chapter studio tour.

## CBBAG Board of Directors 2015

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Meg Best - *Membership & Workshop Registrar*

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