



# Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild

## Annual Report

For the year ending December 31, 2019

### President's Report

It is uncommon to start a president's report on the past year with a reflection on current events, but these are extraordinary times.

I would first like to extend on behalf of the board of directors the best wishes to all our members, your families, and neighbours.

We know that a very substantial part of being a member of CBBAG is social interaction. Clearly normal chapter activity is being diminished by the Covid-19 pandemic. As our colleagues in the United States have shown, there are other ways to interact and I expect virtual meetings and events will provide new and innovative ways to meet and interact.

Please take care.

Given the very high level of government involvement in addressing the current health challenge and supporting the economy, we can anticipate that funding to not-for-profits will be seriously impacted. Thanks to decisions the board has made over the past two years, we find ourselves no longer depend on any form of government funding – this is good.

However, we can anticipate negative impacts on revenues, particularly from workshops. At the same time, the board was able to double the annual chapter

allocations for 2020, which should help chapters cope with the current environment.

In 2019 I sent out a membership-wide email requesting input from the membership regarding four areas: decrease in membership renewals; no candidate to produce *Art of the Book for 2023*; ongoing financial challenges; and running with a smaller board. The board was very pleased with your responses – it gave us a grass roots view of the organization, and continues to guide board activity and decisions.

During 2019, *Art of the Book 2018* was shown at the University of Alberta, Edmonton; the Regina Public Library; the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain at Winnipeg, and McGill University Library, Montreal – all to strong acclaim. While the future of the *Art of the Book* exhibitions is not clear, your feedback as given the board interesting options which will unfold over the coming year.

Because of the successful fund raising by the organizing committee for *AB2018*, the exhibition fund had a surplus which was donated to the Robert Muma Fund, leading the board of directors to review and revise the guidelines for the fund allowing chapters to apply in aide of workshop or for

the purpose of producing future *Art of the Book* exhibitions.

Across the country we have noticed chapters diversifying the type of workshops being offered, with a great emphasis on the art book, creating opportunities to apply bookbinding skills, and creating local shows of the works of CBBAG members, many done in partnerships with local libraries.

Jose Villa-Arce, *president*

### Donations & Grants

Each year many members send in donations with their membership renewal as well as at other times in the year. This generous support helps with the CBBAG's valuable programmes. In 2019 donations were gratefully received from members Cheryl Anderson, Grace Andrews, Gail Austin, Sarah Belanger, Heidi Bergstrom & Haley Bergstrom, John Burbidge, Wendy Cain, Gail Chin, John Collins, Susan Corrigan, Mira Coviensky, Leslie Drisdale, Laurence Duffar, Susan Duffield, Scott Duncan, Martina Edmondson, Jacques Fournier, Chester & Camila Gryski, Kathryn Hamre, Mary-Ann Haney, Sylvia Hart, Barbara Helander, James K. Higginson, Stuart Hill, Helga Hobday, Kate Hodgson, Noreen Humble, Jenny Iserman, Amy Jenkins,



CABBAG Saskatchewan Chapter members' work from "By the Book: CBBAG SASK Works" at the Central Branch of the Regina Public Library, March and April 2019.

John Johnson, Jessica Joyce, Carole Kunstadt, Claudia Kutchukian, Roxanne Lafleur, David Lanning, Val Lem, Val Lem (in memory of Ellen Spears), Beatrice Leroux, Norma Lundberg, Marlene MacCallum, Elaine Mahon, Fabiana Mattos, Diane McKay, Manfred Meurer, Yehuda Miklaf, Rose Newlove, Diana Patterson, Magdalena Koziak Podsiadlo, Julia Pope, Carolyn Qualle, Iona Reid, Jennifer Robertson, Norman Schmidt, Candace Snoddon, Maria Soteriades, Lisa D Stanley, Sandra Thomas, Barbara Trott, United Way Regina, Liana Van Der Bellen, Ellen Whelan, Rena Whistance-Smith, Elspeth Wood, and Alexandra Zmijowskyj.

it could not carry out all of its programmes. Their assistance is gratefully received and acknowledged.

## Book Arts DVD Loan

In 2019 nine DVDs were borrowed by CBBAG members, fairly consistent with previous years. Susan Corrigan is responsible for mailing out DVDs to CBBAG members. DVDs from the Guild of Book Works seminars continue to be the most popular titles borrowed. A full list of the DVDs is available on the CBBAG website in the Resources area and members are encouraged to borrow the DVDs for the cost of postage to and from Toronto.

## Exhibitions

*Art of the Book* is the premier juried exhibition of members' work for CBBAG, held every five

years. *Art of the Book 2018* is the eighth exhibition coinciding with the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Canadian Bookbinding and Book Artist Guild. The project was undertaken by the BC Islands Chapter.

After opening at the Audain Gallery, Visual Arts Building, University of Victoria, in August 2018 and being on display at the University of the Fraser Valley Library in fall 2018, the exhibit continued its two-year, cross-Canada tour as follows in 2019:

- Edmonton, Alberta: January 22 - February 16, 2019 - Fine Arts Building Gallery, University of Alberta
- Regina, Saskatchewan: May 18 - July 21, 2019 - Creation Cube, George Bothwell Branch, Regina Public Library

- Winnipeg, Manitoba: August 15 - October 3, 2019 - Centre culturel franco-manitobain
- Montréal, Quebec: November 1, 2019 - February 15, 2020 - McGill University Library
- Toronto, Ontario: March 5 - 15, June 1 - July 5, 2020 (after being closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic) 2020- Craft Ontario

A scheduled stop at the Harriet Irving Library at the University of New Brunswick in 2020 was cancelled due to renovations at the library. The scheduled stop at the Mary E. Black Gallery, Nova Scotia Centre for Craft and Design was cancelled due to rescheduling at the gallery in wake of closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As well, the scheduled stop at the Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, also for 2020, was cancelled due to a cutback in funding to the craft council in wake of the pandemic.

Jose Villa-Arce, *chair*,  
AB2018 Organizing Committee

## Home Study Programme

The CBBAG Home Study Programme continues to be useful to binders over a wide geographic area. Each Home Study segment includes a USB drive with the audio-visual material and a printed manual.

Overall, sales were down in 2019, with only thirteen purchases, compared to twenty-two the year before. Bookbinding I continues to be the main course sold, with nine copies sold in 2019, compared to fifteen in 2018. Two copies of Bookbinding II were sold, the same as the previous year. One copy each of Restoration & Repair (the same as 2018)



CBBAG board member Robin Canham (right) speaking at the Art of the Book 2018 opening at the Regina Public Library.

As well, CBBAG thanks Betty Elliott for the donation of tools to the CBBAG bindery and Marianne Ishibashi for the donation of tools, bookbinding materials, and equipment.

CBBAG thanks the members who responded to the sixteenth annual Year-End Appeal in 2019 - Tara Bryan, Susan Corrigan, Mira Coviensky, Betsy Palmer Eldridge, Betty Elliott, Cynthia Fields-Belanger, Jeanne Germani, Mary-Ann Haney, Kelly Haydon, James K. Higginson, Cassandra Knapp, Anne Laird, Daniel Lisi, Marlene MacCallum, Margaret Mah, Lise Melhorn-Boe, Denise Moraze, Ruth Nuesch, Patricia Owen, Brian Queen, Oris Retallack, Madeleine Rousseau, Lisa D. Stanley, Catherine Thomas, Keith Valentine, Debra Waker, Leslie Walthers, and Rachel Woodhouse.

The Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild is a volunteer organization. Without the board members, committee chairs and members, regional coordinators, and other volunteers who donated hundreds of hours of their time to CBBAG,



Barbara Mader at the Show and Share session during Art of the Book exhibition in Regina.

and Marbling (none in 2018) were sold, but no copies of Bookbinding III (three sold in 2018), nor Finishing and Introduction to Leather were sold, neither of which were sold in 2018. Nine courses were sold to students in Canada and four to students in the United States.

There were four Monitoring Stream courses purchased, three for Bookbinding I and one for Bookbinding II, with nine courses in the Resource and Reference Stream (five for Bookbinding I, two for Bookbinding II, and one each for Marbling and Restoration & Repair).

The Monitoring Stream is offered for Bookbinding I, II, and III, and successful completion of these Home Study courses in this stream count towards the CBBAG Certificate of Completion. Finishing, Restoration and Repair, Introduction to Leather, and Marbling are only offered in the Resource and Reference stream.

Thanks go to Stuart Hill, the Home Study distribution volunteer; the current Monitoring Stream mentors Barbara Helander and Joan Byers; and Susan Corrigan, who keeps tracks of registrations.

## Membership

The number of members at the end of the year was 441, down from 517 in 2018 and 484 in 2017. While 2019 followed an *Art of the Book* exhibition year, which traditionally increases membership as people join (or rejoin) CBBAG to enter the juried competition, that does not account for the total drop in membership from the previous year.

The geographical distribution of membership breaks down as follows (compared to the previous year): Canada 85% (83%), United States 10% (11%), and overseas 5% (6%). In addition to individual, family, life, and student members, there were 23 institutional memberships (primarily university and public libraries) and 28 exchange memberships with other bookbinding and book arts organizations.

The Canadian membership (individual, family, life, student) is divided as follows (compared to the previous year): Alberta - 7.0% (6.7%); British Columbia - 19.6% (16.7%); Manitoba - 2.2% (2.3%); New Brunswick - 0.5% (0.5%); Newfoundland - 0.5% (0.5%); Nova Scotia - 2.2% (2.3%); Ontario - 54.8% (58.0%); Quebec - 10.5%

(9.5%); Saskatchewan - 2.7% (3.0%); Yukon - 0% (0.5%).

Rose Newlove was awarded a lifetime achievement award in 2019. Rose was the GTA workshop coordinator for many years, a CBBAG board member from 2001-2003, and took on an ongoing project to make boxes and slip cases for the library.

In addition to her volunteer work with CBBAG, Rose orchestrated the both the 2012 and 2017 CBBAG office/bindery moves and devoted countless volunteer hours to packing, dismantling and reassembling equipment, recycling and discarding items, and organizing the rest of the volunteers for both moves.

CBBAG chapters are invited to nominate volunteers of the year for service in their regions. In 2019 the Alberta North chapter nominated Dawn Woolsey and the GTA chapter nominated Kari Bronaugh.

CBBAG saw the loss of one of its founding board members, Ellen Spears, in 2019. Ellen played a central role in CBBAG's successful development of its education programmes and almost single-handedly produced the audio-visual materials for the CBBAG Home Study programme, filming and editing the course materials, as well as the CBBAG videos – now part of the DVD loan collection – for over two decades. She has left an impression on CBBAG that will not be forgotten.

## Publications

Thank you to the board of directors for its support of *Book Arts arts du livre Canada*.

The magazine went through a transitional stage in 2019, prompted in part by CBBAG no longer receiving an operating funding grant. For 2019, CBBAG switched from the semi-annual 48-page print publication to a one-print/one-digital publication schedule. The spring print edition was published at the standard size, while the fall digital edition, published and made available to CBBAG members on its website, expanded to 63 pages.

Both issues featured largely Canadian content: the spring issue featured a profile of Alan Stein, written by Tom Smart, and the fall issue featured a profile on the work of Lise Melhorn-Boe, by Rebecca Korn.

Articles touched on the new spaces opening up for book arts across Canada's many



Alan Stein, proprietor of Church Street Press in Parry Sound ON was featured in Joel William Vaughan's inaugural issue as managing editor of *Book Arts arts du livre Canada*.

universities, as well as new "Book Tour" and "Instructional" sections. Each issue featured at least one article translated into French by CBBAG member Mirela Parau, for whose expert work I am grateful.

Columbia Finishing Mills, J. Hewit & Sons, and Harmatan Leather continued their support of the magazine by advertising within its pages. CBBAG members are encouraged to consider their products when in need of supplies and materials.

A big thank you to Jan Van Fleet, who offered her close eye and helpful insight throughout the editing process. Thank you to Barbara Trott and Susan Corrigan for overseeing the mailing process (both the initial mail-out, as well as sending individual issues to new members). Many thanks to Susan Corrigan and Frances Hunter, additionally, for being available for frequent consultation while the managing editorship changed hands from Frances to me.

Looking to 2020, the magazine is on a firm footing, but will continue with a one-digital issue in the spring and a print issue in the fall. In response to the aforementioned budget alterations, we will also save on shipping costs by reformatting to a lighter format. Flash Reproductions, CBBAG's new printer, is helping us make this switch while maintaining the level of production quality demanded by CBBAG membership. I look forward to the new challenges 2020 will bring

Joel William Vaughan, *Managing Editor*

## Student work from chapter workshops:



Student work from the Greater Toronto Area Chapter's Bookbinding I class, taught by Barbara Helander in May 2019.



Tiffany Moore led a full class making cloth covered drop spine box, presented by the Ottawa Valley Chapter in May 2019.

## Financial Report

The year 2019 began a financial transition for CBBAG, as was the first year since 1998 that no financial operating support was received from the Ontario Arts Council.

Year over year, revenue from operations decreased by \$83,651, to \$78,140, reflecting the effect that donations and exhibition entry fees associated with *Art of the Book 2018* had in 2018, as well as the loss of OAC funding. Further, workshop revenue declined by \$21,884 and Home Study Programme revenue was \$6,937.

The Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment Fund provided \$7,788 in 2019. The OAF fund, managed by professional investment managers, provides an annual payout in support of operating costs. CBBAG contributed \$800 to its endowment fund with the OAF in 2019.

Aggregate expenses by dropped by \$69,020, largely due to the absence of *AB2018* exhibition expenses. In recognition of CBBAG's transition, its magazine, *Book Arts arts du livre Canada*, was reduced to one print issue (as well as one digital issue), reducing expenses by \$4,750.

Overall, revenues exceeded expenses by \$3,622, \$3,000 of which was transferred to the Robert Muma Fund.

Again in 2019, CBBAG's financial statements received a qualified opinion from the auditors. This happens because individual chapters' revenue, expense, and asset information is not included in the CBBAG general fund.

CBBAG's volunteer board of directors, including treasurer Barbara Trott, with the assistance of arts administrator Susan Corrigan, continued their careful financial management.

Barbara Trott, *treasurer*

### Statement of Financial Position, December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current:		
Cash and cash equivalents:		
General Fund	\$ 27,778	\$ 22,177
Robert Muma Fund	48,551	44,857
Amounts receivable	0	6,320
Prepaid expenses	1,065	500
	<u>77,394</u>	<u>73,854</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	10,850	10,035
Deferred membership and other fees and donations	12,058	12,955
Deferred grants	0	0
	<u>22,908</u>	<u>22,990</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Robert Muma Fund	48,551	44,857
General Fund	5,935	6,007
	<u>54,486</u>	<u>50,864</u>
	<u>\$ 77,394</u>	<u>\$ 73,854</u>

### Statement of Operations, General & Robert Muma funds For the year ended December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Ontario Arts Council Grant	\$ 0	\$ 7,671
Canada Council for the Arts Grant	0	810
Donations	7,311	42,940
Exhibitions	3,301	13,925
Home Study	6,937	9,608
Magazine	750	1,195
Membership Fees	23,738	28,808
Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment	7,788	7,505
Other	1,320	450
Workshop	26,995	48,879
	<u>78,140</u>	<u>161,791</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration	20,875	24,044
Book Arts Fair & Events	576	487
Chapters Annual Allocations	1,881	2,590
Contribution to OAF Endowment Fund	800	7,000
Exhibitions	74	39,771
Home Study	1,146	1,869
Magazine	8,980	13,730
Membership Services	4,310	7,648
Office Rental	9,163	9,051
Workshops	26,713	37,348
	<u>74,518</u>	<u>143,538</u>
Excess of Revenues/(loss) over Expenses	<u>\$ 3,622</u>	<u>\$ 18,253</u>

## Regional Chapters Activities

### CBBAG Alberta North

Submitted by Janice Peters & Dawn Woolsey

Alberta North had a quiet year. We started the year by attending the January 24 opening of *Art of the Book 2018* in the Fine Arts Building Gallery at the University of Alberta. This was followed by a regular show and share meeting in March, with photos from the *AB2018* and a look at the catalogue and impressions from those who were able to attend. We decided at that time to reduce the number of meetings in the winter months and move our annual exchange book challenge to the end of March instead of November/December.

We had our end of the year meeting in November and selected a theme for the exchange due in March 2020. Unfortunately, illness and other challenges faced by the organizers precluded more scheduled meetings in the spring and fall, but we continued to get together in small groups informally throughout the year.

Our CBBAG exhibition in the St. Albert Public Library in August was titled *Books, Boxes and Blocks* and included the exchange books from 2018 – books in containers – and a selection of blocks demonstrating various papers and treatment techniques. Chapter members have also shown their work in other exhibitions and our library book box was again in use for several classes at the University of Alberta.



### CBBAG BC Islands

Submitted by Jose Villa-Arce

The year 2019 served as a time of regrouping and renewal after the three years of organizing and launching *Art of the Book 2018*, which served as an inspiration of what can be achieved in bookbinding and the book arts.

#### Workshops

This year appears to be a transition year regarding workshops. One Bookbinding 1 workshop was conducted during the year, with two in attendance. At the same time, chapter members were increasingly meeting in small groups to refine their bookbinding techniques, with increased emphasis on improving competence.

Learning from the experience of staging *Art of the Book 2018*, chapter members began planning for an all members show for 2020

At the same time, there has been a building interest in paper making, with the chapter investing in acquiring paper screens for use of member on individual projects.

#### Meetings

The chapter held two meeting during the year, one in February and another in November. Both were held at the McPherson Library of the University of Victoria with guest speakers from the University.

- Dr. Marcus Milwright, who is an art historian, a professor, and the director of the Medieval Studies Program at the University of Victoria: Architecture and Ornament in a Pair of early Islamic Qur'an Frontispieces.

- Heather Dean, Associate Director, Special Collections, MacPherson Library: Status of University of Victoria's Centre for the Book. Heather outlined the steps to date: formation of an internal working group, preparation of a vision with emphasis on engaged experiential learning, preparation of a very preliminary budget, reach out to stakeholder groups such as CBBAG and the Alcuin Society. Funding is a formidable challenge, some printing equipment has been acquired, and Heather gave the group of the space identified to house the printing lab. This represents a significant development for a substantial partnership with the University of Victoria.



### CBBAG BC Lower Mainland

Submitted by Suzan Lee

Our chapter had no in-person activities in 2019. We continued to provide an online one-stop-workshop listing of book arts related workshops held locally.

2019 web statistics

- 2,619 views
- 1,604 visitors
- 1.6 views per visitor

Top pages viewed

- 1,900 blogs
- 184 resources
- 105 contact/join

How visitors find our website

- 735 Google
- 43 Wordpress.com
- 32 Facebook

Top 3 views - country

- 2,065 Canada
- 391 USA
- 29 UK



### CBBAG Calgary

Submitted by Brian Queen

#### May 29:

It was more than five years since the chapter members met. How time flies! The chapter commenced meeting again with an organizing meeting on May 29, where the members caught up and explored ideas for a fall and winter schedule (it doesn't usually meet over the summer). There was also have a brief tour of Brian Queen's papermaking studio.

#### June 26:

This meeting was held in two parts. It started off with a show and tell, where members had the opportunity to show their current work or work of interest to them (finished, unfinished, beginner or advanced, whatever other members are up to!). For the second part of the meeting members were asked that they bring materials to share (paper, fabrics, threads, etc). Members then collected materials that interest them to be used to create a book to share at the September meeting. The only guideline was that it was a book structure, allowing members to let their creativity free and play with their collection of materials to create something for the upcoming September meeting at Lake Bonavista Estates clubhouse, hosted by Lynda Rive.

#### September 26:

For the first meeting of the fall, members were asked to bring the book structure they made with the materials collected at the June meeting so all could see what wondrous and clever things can be made from a random collection of materials! Even members who didn't participate in the collecting and making of a book over the summer joined in Lake Bonavista Estates clubhouse, again hosted by Lynda Rive.

#### October 24:

The October meeting was held at Brian Queen's residence in Calgary. The theme was bookbinding tools, either brought along (if not too heavy) or telling others about their favorite binding tool. As well, the usual show and tell of new work or work of interest (finished, unfinished, beginner or advanced) was held.

## November 28:

The November meeting was hosted by Cameron Treleven of Aquila Books in Calgary. As always, it was a very popular event where Cameron opened his store exclusively to CBBAG members. An antiquarian bookseller, Aquila Books specializes in books dealing with Polar Exploration, Western Canadiana, Mountaineering, the Canadian Pacific Railway, as well as many other areas. He also deals in medieval manuscripts, prints, historic photos, autograph letters, postcards, antique scientific instruments, and the occasional antique book press.



## CBBAG Greater Toronto Area

Submitted by Akiko Lamb

The GTA Chapter continued to offer its members workshops at our bindery (shared with Paperhouse Studio) and other locations. At events throughout the GTA and beyond, outreach volunteers represented and promoted our organization. Planning meetings occurred in April and November.

Promotionally we continue to reach out to existing and prospective members, with our local website, <https://cbbagtoronto.com/> where we offer a direct link to GTA Chapter updates of classes and events. We continued with our Instagram and GTA Facebook presence and participation in outreach events.

James Spyker continued facilitating Thursday evening open studios, an opportunity to work on ongoing projects or participate in group activities. As bindery manager, James posted online information of procedures and equipment use the shared space. Quarterly meetings between GTA Chapter, Paperhouse Studio, and CBBAG's arts administrator Susan Corrigan, gave us an opportunity to discuss and sort out issues of the space, a useful tool for a happy bindery/studio.

Central to our organization, the Planning Committee met in April and November to review our completed activities and brainstorm how we go forward. The group numbers about 14 or so with a strong representation from our cohort of teachers. Kari Bronaugh, workshop coordinator, plays a key role in setting our class offerings for the next two quarters. In fact, in recognition of her contributions, Kari is the GTA Chapter's Volunteer of the Year for 2019!

The GTA Chapter completed another successful year, reaching out to our members and yet-to-be members with our passion for bookbinding and the book arts. This success is attributable to our cohort of teachers passing on their knowledge and skill to our students. Chapter volunteers provided leadership in programming, bindery management, communication, finance, and outreach into the community, contributing hours and effort to the work of the GTA Chapter. Thank you all.

## Bindery & Open Studio

Submitted by James Spyker

The GTA Chapter continues to host an open studio evening every Thursday at the bindery. As part of our outreach mandate these evenings are PWYC and are open to both CBBAG and Paperhouse Studio members. Attendees sometimes work on their own projects and sometimes take it as an opportunity to ask for help or share ideas and techniques. Even when everyone is working on their own projects there is a real community building that occurs around working in a shared space. As well this year, a few international book artists from Europe and South America, in town for other purposes, took advantage of open studio coming by to see our space and learn about CBBAG and share their experiences.

During 2019 the GTA Chapter and Paperhouse Studio continue to work out our sharing of space, keeping flex space a priority so both groups can carry out our individual and joint programming. James and Akiko exhibited their *Elevate* installation in the Paperhouse Studio juried exhibition "Luxury & Value."

## Outreach

Submitted by James Spyker

The GTA Chapter participated in four outreach events during 2019: The Word on the Street, the Bound Book Arts Fair held at the historic Arts & Letters Club, and the Scriptus Pen and Ink show in Toronto, and the Print Fair and Expo in Oakville. GTA members volunteered their time and expertise at these events, showing samples of their work as well as the CBBAG magazine and other publications. Across these events, in 2019 our volunteers talked to many hundreds of people about CBBAG and its programs and added more than 100 new people to our email list where we share information about workshops and events.

## Workshop Programming

Submitted by Kari Bronaugh

In 2019 the GTA Chapter offered 37 workshops. Member participation amounted to 269 workshop days for 149 students and generated \$26,995 in overall income.

The GTA committee was thrilled in November to host a guest instructor from Montreal. Delphine Platten offered two fully booked sessions of the Benjamin Elbel structure, *The Elbum*. Delphine apprenticed with the marvelous Odette Drapeau and opened her own atelier in November 2017. It was a great experience for students and we are looking forward to hosting Delpine again in the future!

For the core curriculum, which continues to experience strong student interest, the GTA Chapter offered BB1, BB2, Leather Workshop/BB3, and Paper Treatments for Binders, variously taught by Barbara Helander, Don Taylor, Rose Newlove, and Betsy Palmer Eldridge.

Don Taylor and Mary McIntyre offered their popular Gothic Binding and Book Hardware courses to kick off the year. Akiko Lamb offered a chock-full class making an Inspired Flutter Book to warm up February. Carolyn Eady did a full weekend of printmaking and bookbinding focusing on producing a mini-edition. Stuart Hill continued exploring our mini-course format with a variety of limp bindings offered. Stu also offered a Japanese Scroll course, enjoying some pre-codex bookmaking with a big group!

Don brought in spring with his Binding Single Sheets four-day course and Barbara ended summer out with a Star Book Variations weekend.



Barbara Helander (standing) lead a Star Book Variations workshop in August with students Wanda Squire, Lily Yee-Sloan, Amy Jenkins, and Debbie Waker.

Fall saw two fun weekends of Alternative Finishing (hello Phillip Smith!) with Don Taylor and a big pile of Tiny Books with Carolyn Eady!

We experimented with both paper and course format with an Open Studio day hosted by James Spyker discovering some of the marvels in Hedy Kyle's Art of the Fold – Fishbones, Spiders, Trees, and Ziggurats were all in play!

James and Akiko rounded out our year with James doing his BIG Pamphlet course which let students practice using the bindery's plough. Akiko did a step-by-step artist book weekend for a festive group!

## CBBAG Ottawa Valley

Submitted by Spike Minogue

The Ottawa Valley Chapter continued to promote the book arts in eastern Ontario and western Quebec by holding monthly meetings, having constant website activity, organizing both primary and high-level workshops (including core curriculum courses), presenting exhibitions, and holding our ever-popular Book Arts Show and Sale. We have been very active both in the design and implantation of the new Book Art Lab at Carleton University here in Ottawa.

### Monthly Meetings

Attendance has remained stable, averaging fifteen members per meeting. The programmes consisted of talks or activities directly relating to the book arts and also provided members the opportunity to present their current or ongoing projects.

Some of the programmes included: Bookbinding at the National Archives of Malta; Historic Bookbinding in Montefiascone; Blind Tooling using Decorative Finishing Tools; Matchbox Challenge; Image Transfer Techniques; Flea Market; Wooden Books and Byzantine Binding; "De mère en mer" the Making of the Book; Fold Paper Night; Hands on Mini Demos; Movie Night; etc.

### Workshops

Eight workshops were held during the year with an average attendance of nine participants per workshop:



Folding the Winter Away: a great two-day workshop held in Ottawa in March. Cherryl Moote lead students through Gelli plate mono printing on day one and making three wonderful folded book structures on day two.

- January 12: Free Play Day
- February 9: Nag Hammadi
- March 9+10: Folding Winter Away -
- April 12+13: Marbling Paper
- May 11: Drop Spine Box
- September 21: Bookbinding 101
- October 26: Free Play Day
- December 14: Rounded Boxes One

CBBAG certificate core curriculum courses were held (BBI).

### Exhibitions

Few opportunities were presented this year and, unfortunately, we did not participate in any bricks and mortar exhibitions. We do have a constant online exhibition on our website.

### Website

The chapter continues to revamp its website [<https://cbbagottawa.ca>] and endeavours to improve the information it provides.

The website hosts many pages including: monthly meetings and programmes, minutes from past meetings, workshops, and exhibitions and shows. We have added resource pages as well.

### Book Arts Show and Sale

The chapter will host the 2020 CBBAG-OV Book Arts Show and Sale in October 2020 in conjunction with the Carleton University Book Arts Lab and planning is well

underway. This show has proven to be a great activity to spread tremendous outreach to the public at large.

## CBBAG Saskatchewan

Submitted by Kathy Hamre

CBBAG Saskatchewan Chapter, in conjunction with the Regina Public Library, Central Branch, hosted a small book show *By the Book: CBBAG SASK Works*. This show was on display from March 15 to April 30, 2019, and was a huge success! There were fifteen Saskatchewan book artists showcased and the Melfort Calligraphy Guild contributed some book works as well. The display was well received and had wonderful comments.

CBBAG Saskatchewan also participated in a number of programmes offered in conjunction with the Regina Public Library, which hosted *Art of the Book 2018*.

May 8: May Flowers Stitched Pamphlet with Gerda Osteneck:

- *Make a floral bouquet pamphlet containing handmade paper embedded with wildflower seeds that can be planted in the garden or in a tea cup. Makes a great spring-time gift.*

June 2 + June 5: The Art of Papermaking with Helen O'Connor

- *A papermaking demonstration. Learn how to form sheets of paper from various plants, weeds, oriental fibres, cotton linens and recycled papers. You will see how to create pulp paintings and three-dimensional works.*

July 6: Accordions Galore with Leann Clifford:

- *Snakes and More Accordion perfect for children*
- *Padded Accordion perfect for adults*

Also during the *Art of the Book 2018* exhibition, CBBAG Saskatchewan held a *Gathering of Friends* where members were invited to display and talk about their finished projects, get feedback on works in progress, or just float around some ideas for future work.

A guided tour of the *Art of the Book 2018* exhibition was also offered to CBBAG Saskatchewan members and to the public.



Cindy Per at the Show and Share session during "Art of the Book 2018" exhibition in Regina.

A number of CBBAG members offered workshops throughout the year:

- October 18 + 19: Kathy Hamre and Robin Canham offered two workshops to the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild: Bookbinding 101: Link Stitch Journal and Not Your Average Journal: Australian Piano Hinge (also sometimes called the Slot and Tab Accordion Spine).

- October 19 + 26: Gerda Osteneck offered a workshop on Eco-dyeing and Boiled Books:

*Eco-dyeing is a simple, fun way to discover the range of colourful designs transferable from garden scraps to papers and fabric. Some plants naturally transfer their unique features enthusiastically while others benefit from adding a contrasting dye to the hot water bath. It's always exciting to see what you get! You will make a book using watercolour paper, assorted garden scraps, and a selection of dyes.*

- November 10: Susan Mills offered a one day workshop on Accordions and Concertina Bookbinding:  
*The accordion or concertina is one of the earliest book structures and one of the most versatile. It can be viewed page by page or in its entirety. It works well in any size and with almost any paper. It can expand to accommodate inclusions such as photos. As the accordion is hinged rather than sewn, it avoids visible threads in the centre fold of a two-page spread. The concertina guard is used in conservation binding.*

CBBAG Saskatchewan held "A Day in Lumsden" on October 27. This was a chance for everyone to get together and discuss books, book art, bookbinding, and

so much more! Participants brought items for "showing and sharing." This was a time for ideas to percolate, to discover some inspiration, and to meet kindred spirits.

"Use What You Have" Book Swap: CBBAG Saskatchewan also launched a new swap/book exchange for the fall of 2020! In this swap participants will be required to use materials that they already have in their stash. The materials can be used to make any form of book desired, and the books don't all have to be the same. In addition, we want participants to provide information about the materials they are using by including a colophon as part of the book, or as a separate document. The deadline to sign up for the swap was December 1, 2019. Completed books will be due in September 2020.



## *CBBAG Southwestern Ontario*

Submitted by Arielle VanderSchans

As in previous years, the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of CBBAG continues to support both the traditional and contemporary bookbinding practices and related skills. We strive to adapt to a changing audience and members with diverse interests and needs.

Dan Mezza offered two of the CBBAG core curriculum courses in London this year:

- Restoration & Repair Part II
- Bookbinding I

In addition, Dan held three other workshops. Two, Sewing Structures and Endpapers, were from a new series we created, Models of Bookbinding Techniques, and a five-day workshop on the Cambridge Panel Binding.

A one-day workshop on Star Books was offered by Cheryl Wallace at the Lee Valley store in London. Jennifer Robertson offered a Mat Cutting and Mounting workshop, also at Lee Valley. Marilyn Book offered a one-day workshop on miniature books at the Lee Valley store in Waterloo.

The Alternative Book Structures Group is still going strong and meeting every six weeks to explore new and alternative binding structures. Jan Taylor, a member of this group, also gave a presentation to the Embroiderer's Guild of London about bookbinding, both the historical

and artistic aspects of the craft. Jan Van Fleet and I have also been involved with the Embroiderer's Guild in teaching five different bindings for fabric covered books. These books feature embroidery and textile art created by the students of the class and will be on display to the public at the Guild's Textile Showcase at the end of April.

For outreach, Jan Taylor and Marilyn Book offered courses through the Woodstock Art Gallery during January and February 2019. There was also the submission of a descriptor for the chapter, with website, email, and Facebook information to The Expositor Community Guide, which informs the public of artisan groups in the area.

Once again, we participated in the Grimsby Wayzgoose in April 2019, showing work by our members and talking with the public about the classes available through our chapter and the CBBAG organization.



## *CBBAG Board of Directors 2019*

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