



Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild

Annual Report

For the year ending December 31, 2020

President's Report

Well, this has been quite a year for everyone. In reviewing the activity reports from the chapters, it is clear that all have experienced a very serious decline in activity due to public health reasons, which is entirely understandable and in fact necessary.

At the same time, one of the most important aspects of CBBAG activity is the interaction among members through workshops, meetings, swaps, and simple informal gatherings. Despite CBBAG and its chapters not being able to offer most of these events in 2020, members were creative in seeking out opportunities to interact.

Early in 2020 I sent out a message to the membership explaining measures the board was taking to deal with a rather serious financial situation. As a result of those measures, plus strong Home Study course sales and rent relief, CBBAG was able to break even at the fiscal year end.

An important aspect of those savings were changes to the magazine. While we understand many of you were disappointed with one printed version last year, our new editor Joel William Vaughan has taken on the challenge and is exploring new ways of doing things and linking the magazine to online initiatives.

Art of the Book 2018 concluded its two-year, cross-Canada tour at the end of 2020. I am pleased to report that it was well received wherever it went. Toward the end of the tour, three venues had to cancel because of the pandemic, just as the exhibition was moving into eastern Canada. Happily, the Andrew & Laura McCain Art Gallery in New Brunswick stepped up, allowing the exhibition to be seen in that region. They were thrilled with the work and the local response to the show.

A small working group, comprised of members from a number of chapters, has taken the initiative to explore how to conduct online workshops through platforms such as Zoom. It is working! I strongly encourage you to participate in these workshops, which can be registered for through the CBBAG website, cbbag.ca. The group is also working on how to put the CBBAG Home Study programme online – a very important move.

The board, under the leadership of CBBAG's vice president Christine McNair, has initiated a chapter leadership table where board members meet online with chapter contacts to deal with matters of concern and share experiences. For example, ideas such as book swaps, virtual silent auctions, and individual chapter exhibitions have been discussed in detail. In short, CBBAG has a new a forum to move ideas such as these forward nationally. The table will meet every two months; if you are interested in participating, please contact Susan Corrigan at cbbag@cbbag.ca.

A major change for the organization in 2020 was the decision to close the national office and bindery, which was sublet from and shared with Paperhouse Studio, effective at the end of its lease on December 31, 2020. This was a difficult decision for the board to make, but even before the Covid-19 pandemic shut down in-studio workshops in mid-March, it was becoming clear that CBBAG could no longer sustain an office and bindery. Much thanks goes to the GTA Chapter and

its members for their hard work selling bindery furniture and equipment that could not be stored, packing up the bindery, and organizing the move of the CBBAG archives and workshop tools, equipment, and materials into a storage unit.

I would like to conclude with extending thanks from the board of directors to all of you for your patience and support in the past year.

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 2020 donations were gratefully received from members Susan Adams, Jocelyne Aird-Belanger, Cheryl Anderson, Peta Bailey, Heidi Bergstrom, Elsie Blauwhoff, Safaa Botros, Tara Bryan,



GTA Chapter chair Akiko Lamb surveys the CBBAG archival and bindery materials in the new storage unit at the end of moving day, October 14, 2020.

John Burbidge, Wendy Cain, Dr. John Collins, Mira Coviensky, Margot Cudmore, Maureen Da Silva, Rudy X Desjardins, Meena Dhar, Gwenda Dieleman, Leslie Drisdale, Susan Duffield, Scott Duncan, Martina Edmondson, Cynthia H. Fields-Belanger, Chester & Camila Gyski, Kathryn Hamre, Mary-Ann Haney, Karen Hanmer, Helen Harper, Sylvia Hart, Kelly Haydon, Barbara Helander, James K. Higginson, Stuart Hill, Helga Hobday, Kate Hodgson, Kim Hull, Noreen Humble, CL Ingalls, Jenny Iserman, Amy Jenkins, Kristina E. Komendant, Claudia Kutchukian, Anne Laird, David Lanning, Val Lem, Daniel Lisi, Norma Lundberg, Marlene MacCallum, Diane McKay, Manfred Meurer, Sharon Musgrave, Kathleen Noseworthy, Patricia Owen, Diana Patterson, Carolyn Qualle, Iona Reid, Ruth-Carroll, Joan Ryan, Genevieve Sampson, Murray Schellenberg, Norman Schmidt, Candace Snoddon, Maria Soteriades, Lisa D. Stanley, Shoshana Teitelman, Marie Tossios, Barbara Trott, Leslie Tsai, Keith Valentine, Debra Waker, Pamela Wilkinson, Rachel Woodhouse, and Alexandra Zmijowskyj.

Thanks go to Marianne Ishibashi for her generous donation of books, papers, tools, and other book arts supplies, and to Rose Newlove, who provided the appraisal for the donation receipt value.

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

Book Arts DVD Loan

In 2020 nine DVDs were borrowed by CBBAG members, the same number as in 2019 and consistent with previous years. Susan Corrigan is responsible for mailing out DVDs to CBBAG members. DVDs from the Guild of Book Workers standards seminars continue to be the most popular titles.

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.



Art of the Book 2018 at the Andrew & Laura McCain Art Gallery, Florenceville-Bristol, New Brunswick.

Exhibitions

As stated in my president's report, *Art of the Book 2018* concluded its cross-Canada tour in November 2020.

After opening at the Audain Gallery, University of Victoria, in August 2018 and being on display at the University of the Fraser Valley Library in fall 2018, the exhibition continued in 2019 at the University of Alberta (Edmonton), the Regina Public Library, the Centre culturel franco-manitobain (Winnipeg), and McGill University Library (Montreal).

The exhibition travelled to McGill University in early 2020 before travelling to the Craft Ontario Gallery in Toronto, opening on March 5, 2020. Ten days later the first Covid-19 pandemic lockdown began in Toronto, closing the gallery until the end of May. The gallery reopened from June 1 to July 15 with limited hours and access.

In the middle of all this, the organizing committee learned that the three scheduled Maritime locations would no longer be able to host the exhibition due to the pandemic.

However, through hard work and good luck, the Andrew & Laura McCain Art Gallery was contacted and it was able to host the exhibition from October 17 to November 14, 2020, much to everyone's delight.

The exhibition was returned to Victoria at the end of November and the organizing committee began the task of returning the work to the artists, which continued into early 2021.

I would like once again to express my thanks to all the artists who participated in *Art of the Book 2018*, to the donors and supporters, to the curators and staff of the venues, and to the members of the organizing committee and other local volunteers – Gale Buffett, Claire Carlin, Martina Edmondson, Frances Hunter, Trisha Klus, Denise Moraze, Marion Porath, Iona Reid, Dawn Skinner, Keith Valentine, Rebecca Villa-Arce, and Michael Zastre – for all their hard work on producing a successful exhibition.

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.

After poorer than usual sales in 2019, sales of Home Study titles more than doubled

in 2020 and were significantly stronger than in 2017 and 2018. Not only was it satisfying to see increased interest in this important CBBAG programme, the Home Study course sales contributed vital revenue to the organization, which was otherwise facing serious revenue shortages due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bookbinding I continues to be the dominant course sold, with eighteen copies sold in 2020 (compared to nine copies in 2019) and six copies of Bookbinding II sold (compared to two in 2019). Three copies of Bookbinding III and two copies of Finishing (none of either title sold the previous year) and four copies of Restoration & Repair (one copy in 2019) were sold in 2020. No copies of Marbling (one in 2019) or Introduction to Leather were sold in 2020.

Seventeen courses were sold to students in Canada and sixteen to students in the United States.

There were thirteen Monitoring Stream courses purchased (ten for Bookbinding I and three for Bookbinding II), with twenty courses in the Resource and Reference Stream (eight for Bookbinding I, three for Bookbinding II, three for Bookbinding III, two for Finishing, and four for Restoration & Repair).

The Monitoring stream is offered for Bookbinding I, II, and III. Successful completion of these Monitoring Stream courses count towards the CBBAG Certificate of Completion. Bookbinding I, II, and III are also offered in the Resource & Reference stream, as are Finishing, Restoration & Repair, Introduction to Leather, and Marbling.

Thanks go to Stuart Hill, the Home Study distribution volunteer; the continuing Monitoring Stream mentors Barbara Helander and Joan Byers and new mentors (as of 2020) Kari Bronaugh, Emily Loker, Rose Newlove, and Jan Taylor; and Susan Corrigan, who keeps tracks of registrations.

Membership

The number of members at the end of the year was 378, down from 441 in 2019. The geographical distribution of membership breaks down as follows: Canada 81.2%, United States 14.3%, and overseas 4.5%. In addition to individual,

family, life, and student members, there were 21 institutional memberships (primarily university and public libraries) and 25 exchange memberships with other bookbinding and book arts organizations.

Canadian membership (individual, family, life, student) is divided as follows: Alberta - 7.1%; British Columbia - 19.1%; Manitoba - 2.2%; New Brunswick - 0.2%; Newfoundland - 0.7%; Nova Scotia - 1.8%; Ontario - 57.1%; Quebec - 10.1%; and Saskatchewan - 1.7%.

Publications

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

The magazine was largely impacted by the first stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to budget constraints resulting from the lockdown measures across Canada, the board of directors decided that the spring/summer issue of the magazine would be replaced by a digital-only “Reader’s Choice” issue (11.1), containing articles originally published by CBBAG between 2010 and 2020.

Book Arts arts du livre Canada 11.2 was released in December and is the first hybrid issue in a new lighter format. The print edition contains 28 pages in a smaller size, which expand to a digitally-distributed 48 pages with additional content.

The most recent issue features entirely Canadian content. The print issue features an excellent guide to identifying fibres and colours in native and invasive plants, by Frances Hunter. The online edition includes a wonderfully photographed book tour of a project by Debra Frances and Rosmary Péloquin. Many thanks to Mirela Parau for her skillful translation of Frances Hunter’s work from English to French.

J. Hewit & Sons and Harmatan and Oakridge Leathers continued their support of the magazine by advertising within its pages.

A big thank you goes to Susan Corrigan, whose logistical advice I consult frequently and who organized this year’s mail-out, a large and much appreciated task.

Marching into 2021, the magazine aims to tighten and take advantage of the possibilities opened by the new hybrid

format. Digital distribution can allow for larger, hyperlinked, image-heavy articles, while continued print publication can embrace the analog possibilities of letterpress, and a reading-experience that cannot be replicated electronically.

We aim, then, to have our cake and eat it too, and look forward to the challenges 2021 will no doubt bring.

Joel William Vaughan, *managing editor*



Cover art in 2020.

Exhibition take down during a pandemic:

In 2020 CBBAG organized an exhibition of Ontario members' work in the first floor vitrines and display case at Artscape Youngplace in Toronto, held in conjunction with CBBAG's *Art of the Book 2018* travelling exhibit at the Craft Ontario Gallery.

Titled *The Book as Art: Interpretations*, the vitrines featured the work of Jenny Iserman, Liz Menard, Maureen Piggins, Christine Su, and members of the CBBAG Southwestern Ontario Chapter, coordinated by Jan Taylor. Maureen Piggins designed the poster for the exhibit and did publicity and James Spyker was lead hand on the set up of the exhibition. Much thanks go to both of them for their work on the show.

The exhibit opened on March 8, with a reception on March 12 organized by the GTA Chapter, with refreshments provided by James Spyker, and was to continue to April 4. However, the building closed to the public on March 17 when the Province of Ontario went into its first lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The building remained closed to the public for the rest of 2020, with limited building access beginning in July. Because of this, the artists were not able to take down their work until July 16, doing so under strict pandemic protocols.

Christine Su packs up her works on July 16, 2020.



Financial Report

The year 2020 did not unfold in a way that anyone envisioned, let alone the CBBAG board. Year over year, income declined by \$13,556 to \$64,584, which does not reflect the scale of change the Covid-19 pandemic brought about. CBBAG's keynote *Art of the Book 2018* exhibition tour was curtailed. Covid-19 related lock-downs from mid-March on severely reduced workshop revenue, rendering maintenance of the GTA bindery unsustainable.

CBBAG's sub-lease with Paperhouse Studio was terminated as of the end of 2020 and much of CBBAG's library and equipment were moved into storage. CBBAG benefitted from government rent relief, which offset the unanticipated moving expenses.

The Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment Fund provided \$11,592 in 2020, comprised of the regular distribution of \$7,728 and an additional \$3,864 made available due to Covid-19 effects. CBBAG reinvested the extra disbursement and contributed net \$1,136 to the OAF in 2020. The OAF endowment fund, managed in aggregate by professional investment managers, provides an annual payout in support of operating costs.

Strong Home Study course sales provided \$13,525 in revenue in 2020. The Home Study programme is being revamped and updated, with a launch date later in 2021.

Overall, expenses declined commensurate with the lack of workshops. At the 2019 Annual General Meeting CBBAG membership voted to suspend annual audits, reducing expenses materially, consequently there is no auditors opinion for 2020. CBBAG's magazine, *Book Arts arts du livre Canada*, was produced as one print plus a digital edition. CBBAG ended the year with a surplus of \$603, including interest from the Robert Muma Fund.

CBBAG's volunteer board of directors, including treasurer Barbara Trott, with the assistance of arts administrator Susan Corrigan, continued their careful management throughout 2020.

Barbara Trott, *treasurer*

Statement of Financial Position, December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents:	\$ 22,895	\$ 27,778
General Fund	48,740	48,551
Robert Muma Fund	0	0
Amounts receivable	0	1,065
Prepaid expenses	71,635	77,394
Liabilities	10,964	10,850
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,581	12,058
Deferred revenues	16,545	22,908
Fund Balances	48,740	48,551
Robert Muma Fund	6,350	5,935
General Fund	55,090	54,486
	<u>\$ 71,634</u>	<u>\$ 77,394</u>

Statement of Operations, General & Robert Muma funds For the year ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Donations	\$ 6,913	\$ 7,311
Exhibitions	1,995	3,301
Home Study	13,525	6,937
Magazine	200	750
Membership Fees	20,830	23,738
Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment	11,592	7,788
Other	309	1,320
Workshop	9,220	26,995
	64,584	78,140
Expenses		
Administration	17,688	20,875
Chapters Annual Allocations	3,140	1,881
Contribution to OAF Endowment Fund	5,000	800
Exhibitions & Events	1,263	650
Home Study	3,225	1,146
Magazine	6,008	8,980
Membership Services	3,881	4,310
Office Rental & Moving Expenses	9,994	9,163
Workshops	13,782	26,713
	63,981	74,518
Excess of Revenues/(loss) over Expenses	<u>\$ 603</u>	<u>\$ 3,622</u>

Regional Chapters Activities

CBBAG Alberta North

Submitted by Janice Peters & Dawn Woolsey

Alberta North had no formal meetings in 2020. In 2019 we decided to reduce the number of meetings in the winter months and move our annual book exchange from November to the following March. Unfortunately the lockdown was in force by then and we now hope the book exchange can take place outdoors in summer 2021.

Our annual CBBAG exhibit in August at the St. Albert Public Library was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic; however, in November a few current and former chapter members were included in an exhibit at the Art Gallery of St. Albert, titled *Guided: 20/20 Vision*. A collection of hanging books, both accordion and scrolls, were displayed open on the floor and rose vertically over 12 feet in height, suspended from the ceiling gridwork.

We did a small pilot project of linocut cards in November, printed on the letterpress by Dawn Woolsey, as access to the printshop was limited. The cards were mounted in an accordion book of prints and participants were also able to send them as Christmas cards. We now have a second project underway of small linocuts to be printed in February 2021, with participants each receiving two complete sets of prints to bind as they choose.

We have not tried moving meetings online, but will consider it if we are unable to resume regular meetings. We have no capacity to teach or conduct workshops online but are prepared instead to continue with book challenges and small group projects in 2021.

CBBAG BC Islands

Submitted by Jose Villa-Arce

Meetings

The chapter held only one meeting during 2020, on February 9, and it included:

- A table swap and paper sale
- A presentation by John Durno, University of Victoria. Library staff described their collection of historic digital equipment including the challenges of working with old digital media and file formats,

particularly as art forms

- Brief description of the status of *Art of the Book 2018* travelling exhibition
- Proposed workshops for 2020 (see below)
- Discussion of a proposed chapter exhibition on the theme *Off the wall: Redefining the Map* (see below)

Workshops

Only one workshop was conducted during the year, a cloth-bound book rebacking class led by Lorraine Butler.

Exhibitions

Art of the Book 2018

During the year, the exhibition travelled to Montreal and Toronto. Because of Covid-19, the showing in Toronto was limited, and the venues in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland found they had to cancel. Fortunately, the Andrew & Laura McCain Art Gallery in New Brunswick was able to accept the exhibition amid the pandemic, much to their delight.

Off the wall: Redefining the Map

This was planned to be a show between chapter members, including a collective exchange of views on pieces submitted. It was subsequently cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

CBBAG BC Lower Mainland

Submitted by Suzan Lee

Chapter Activities

Two sets of book arts goodies packages were sent to seven participating chapter members. The packages included:

- decorative papers from Paper-Ya
- rescued papers from Malaspina Printmakers
- decorative papers from Gina Page
- seasonal stencils (pine cones and snowflakes)
- samples of Gina Page stenciled work

Thanks to the positive feedback from participating chapter members, book arts goodies packages will continue in 2021.

Website Statistics

As of December 31, 2020, <https://vanbookarts.wordpress.com/> has 164 subscribers.

2020 - 16 posts published:

- 1,381 views
- 814 visitors
- 1.7 views per visitor

Top webpages viewed:

- 767 blogs
- 199 resources
- 68 contact/join

How visitors find our website:

- 556 Google
- 18 Wordpress.com

Top three views by country:

- 1,060 Canada
- 239 USA
- 18 UK

CBBAG Calgary

Submitted by Brian Queen

January 30, 2020, Kettle Stitch Bindery

We visited Kettle Stitch Bindery, owned and operated by Colin Bate. Colin is a long-time fixture of our Calgary bookarts community. He received his training in England under the ancient European Craft Guild system through a six year legally indentured apprenticeship. Prior to the Kettle Stitch Bindery which he operates out of his home studio Colin owned Colin Bates Books, a long-standing business in NW Calgary.

February 27, 2020 Rutland Park Community Association

We started off with show and tell followed by Carolyn Qualle who showed examples from her recent course *Book Structures of the Art of the Fold* by Hedi Kyle. Leslie Drisdale then told us about her trip to Italy to attend a Tomorrow's Past master class – a small international group of bookbinders who make modern conservation bindings for antiquarian books. Leslie showed her models of the Clip-on Cover and the Sacred Binding and discussed the clever attributes of these two binding solutions.

Booked meetings for March, April, and May 2020 were cancelled due to Covid-19.

CBBAG Greater Toronto Area

Submitted by Akiko Lamb

The best laid plans of mice and men . . . what a year 2020 was! Preparation had been made for an extensive package of planned events and workshops, never imagining how it would unfold.



Installation by James Spyker in one of the first floor vitrines at Artscape Youngplace, Toronto, January 19 - February 1, 2020.

The year began with a GTA Chapter exhibition of bookbinding/book art pieces in the first floor vitrines at Artscape Youngplace from January 19 to February 1, 2020. This exhibition featured the work of CBBAG members, James Spyker, Carolyn Eady, and Christine Su.

On March 12, 2020, the opening reception for *Art of the Book 2018* was held at the Craft Ontario Gallery in Toronto. The GTA Chapter provided support for a complimentary show, *The Book as Art: Interpretations*, at Artscape Youngplace, March 9 - April 4, 2020, with the opening party that same Thursday night. James Spyker and Akiko Lamb represented CBBAG, welcoming guests at both shows. The openings were timed so visitors could attend both openings with refreshments and social time at the CBBAG bindery. Thanks go to James for coordinating refreshments, and the setup and take down of both shows. The evening was quite successful and well attended.

Unfortunately, there was little further opportunity to enjoy either exhibit. The pandemic had been declared one day before and very quickly we were in lockdown.

We had been ready to go with Kari Bronaugh's full slate of workshops. We were looking forward to visiting book binder Michael Burke, from the UK, for a week of Islamic Box Binding. In addition, seventeen weekend workshops, along with Bookbinding I and Repair & Restoration, were scheduled.

The Open Studio on Thursday evenings, facilitated by James Spyker, was starting to develop into an environment fostering both education and community. Beginning to attract international visitors, one visitor from Milan posted on social media "A surprising good opportunity to build links between Italian and Canadian bookbinders! Thanks for the warm welcome."

The GTA Planning Committee, usually meeting twice yearly to plan upcoming workshops, started meeting monthly, coming together for nine meetings over Zoom.

This was precipitated by two events. The first event was the announcement of the lockdown.

We quickly shifted focus from offering/leading workshops to canceling classes. We were able to run four workshops before the lockdown and put up an online presence with Stuart Hill's Safeguarding Cross Structure Binding, one of four virtual workshops offered in 2020. Secondly, at our first meeting on June 15, we received a letter from CBBAG's president, Jose Villa-Arce, informing us of the board decision to not renew the lease on the office and bindery, expiring December 31, 2020. As a result, shutting down the bindery became our priority.

To make the necessary decisions we needed to predict our future. When, where and how would we be teaching - if at all? What of our physical assets - the equipment, tools, furniture and archives - should we keep, what should we sell? We decided to keep as much as would fit into a 10' x 10' storage unit. A unit convenient to transit and highways became our new home. Teams of volunteers, masked, gloved, and with sanitizer and wipes handy, met for three packing/moving days. On October 14 we made the big move before the second wave and further lockdown would have made things difficult if not impossible.

Thanks to everyone on our Planning Committee for their contributions whether volunteering to do the hard work of packing and moving the contents of the bindery, attending and contributing to all our many meetings, or stepping up in other ways, and especially continuing to keep the faith that we'll get through this together.

While we wait and see what the shape of the future looks like, we are exploring all our options. Keep going, keep doing till a shape emerges.

Bindery, Outreach, & Open Studio Submitted by James Spyker

CBBAG organized a member's show in the hallway outside of the bindery, which unfortunately opened March 12 just before the first lockdown in Ontario. From March 17 onwards CBBAG was not able to make use of the bindery for courses or other activities due to the pandemic.

The CBBAG board decided not to renew the lease for the bindery for 2021. Over the summer and fall the GTA chapter organized the removal of CBBAG equipment and archives from the bindery. Some larger pieces of equipment were sold and the remaining equipment and archives were moved to a rented storage unit.

Due to the pandemic no outreach activities occurred. The Thursday night Open Studio events did occur early in the year but ended after March 12 because of the pandemic.

Workshops Submitted by Kari Bronaugh

In 2020 the GTA chapter offered four in-person workshops and four virtual workshops. Member participation amounted to 66 Student Days for 57 students and generated \$6,570 in overall income.

We started off the year with a bang and four wonderful days of Crucial Box making with Don Taylor. We followed that up with two classes on Japanese Bindings and an exploration of Suminagashi (Japanese paper marbling) under the guidance of Stuart Hill. Then Liz Menard rounded out our in-person teaching with two days of print making!

So, obviously, 2020 was a year of grand challenges for our educational efforts. The bindery was closed to the public starting in mid-March 2020 and by the fall it became obvious that as an organization we needed to retire having a permanent bindery.

We started to look at online teaching quickly after the closure of our bindery to the public. We began with a test class in May with Stuart Hill teaching the Crossed Structure binding. Stu continued in the fall with an Introduction to Islamic Endbands. Barbara Helander ended up our fall online

teaching with two sessions of Festive Blizzard Book.

A working group led by the GTA Chapter was struck in the fall, with representatives from the GTA, Southwestern Ontario, Ottawa Valley, and BC Lower Mainland chapters and they worked out a plan that means any chapter can offer live workshops online using streaming software like Zoom. This initiative will continue past the pandemic period and hopefully will allow for many chapters to share knowledge and activities!



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, and organizing both primary and high-level workshops, including core courses up until March of 2020. When Covid-19 restrictions hit Canada all activities (except website updates) came to a halt. We did continue to be active with the implantation of the new Book Art Lab at Carleton University (off site).

Monthly Meetings

Attendance remained stable, averaging 15 members per meeting, up until March 2020. The programmes consisted of talks or activities directly relating to the book arts and also provided members with the opportunity to present their current or ongoing projects. These meetings will continue post-Covid.

Workshops

Only one workshop was held (due to Covid-19): January 11 - Limp Vellum Bindings with 11 participants. One CBBAG certificate core course was held in February (BBI with five participants). One individual attended a closed session core course in July (BBII).

Exhibitions

There were few opportunities presented this year and we unfortunately 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, resources, minutes from past meetings, workshops, exhibitions, and shows.

Book Arts Show and Sale

The chapter had hoped to host the 2020 CBBAG-OV Book Arts Show and Sale in October 2020 in conjunction with the Carleton University Book Arts Lab and planning was well underway. Activities were cancelled due to Covid-19. This event will take place post-Covid.



CBBAG Southwestern Ontario

Submitted by Arielle VanderSchans

This year has been unlike any other year. As we are all aware, lockdown came down on us in mid-March 2020. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic hit our chapter very hard and caused us to have a very quiet year. Just before lockdown there had been two courses offered: Introduction to Linocut and Models of Bookbinding Techniques: Endbands. Both of these courses were ultimately unable to get off the ground.

For outreach, in January of 2020 (how far away that seems now!), our chapter launched its own website which can be found at: <https://cbbagswochapter.wixsite.com/cbbagswo>.

The chapter also represented CBBAG at Grimsby's Wayzgoose, which moved to a virtual format for the pandemic, showcasing work by our members and sharing information about classes available through our chapter and the CBBAG organization.

Looking to 2021, the Southwestern Ontario Chapter will continue to support both traditional and contemporary bookbinding practices and related skills. We have plans in place to offer online courses and hopefully next spring we will be able to resume some in-person instruction.



CBBAG Saskatchewan

Submitted by Kathy Hamre

CBBAG Saskatchewan Chapter has drastically reduced its activities since Covid-19 has been active in the province.

- April 2020 meeting and workshop on Blizzard books was cancelled
- Two members located in Regina get

together monthly with other book artists for work bees where we bring our own project to work on. We meet in a large community hall with 10 - 15 feet of distance between us and we use masks and face shields

"Use What You Have" Book Swap
CBBAG Sask also launched a new swap/book exchange for the fall of 2020! In this swap participants are 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.
Timeline: The deadline to sign up for the swap was December 1, 2019. The completion date was originally September 2020 and that was postponed to Spring 2021 (potentially via Zoom if an in-person meeting is not possible). There are twelve participants with each participant making thirteen books. Some participants have completed their contributions and others continue to work on their books, some of which are getting quite elaborate.



CBBAG Board of Directors

Officers:

President - Jose Villa-Arce

Vice President - Christine McNair

Treasurer - Barbara Trott

Secretary - Suzan Lee

Directors-at-Large:

Kari Bronaugh

Patrick Miller

Arielle Vanderschans

Susan Corrigan - *Arts Administrator*



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