



The
Canadian
Bookbinders
and
Book Artists
Guild

Newsletter

VOL.1 NO.1

PRESS RELEASE

A NEW CANADIAN GUILD IS FOUNDED

During the past year the activities of several dedicated individuals have led to the formation of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild. To name but two -

Jill Willmott, a bookbinder and book restorer, from Kingston, Ontario, perceived the need for a single cross-Canada listing of craftspeople working in the hand book arts and as a private venture undertook the task of collecting names and addresses of Canadian hand bookworkers, including paper makers, paper decorators, bookbinders, book restorers and paper conservators, both amateur and professional. In February 1983, she mailed a questionnaire to the 242 names she had collected. The response was about 50% and the comments were enthusiastic and encouraging. She then undertook the follow-up of sending each respondent a list of names and addresses and the tabulation of the answers to the questionnaire, in French and English.

Shelagh Smith, bookbinder, paper maker and decorator of Woodbridge, Ontario had been organizing seminars and workshops in the field as a private undertaking. She took up the challenge started by Jill Willmott. With the help of other bookworkers she organized a Founding Meeting, which took place in May 1983 in Toronto. Thirty-seven people attended and the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild was formed.

The aims of the Guild have been set in response to the needs expressed by those who responded to the questionnaire. They are

- to provide contact among workers in the hand book arts in order to foster a spirit of co-operation and kinship
- to provide access to education in the book arts
- to promote greater awareness of the book arts by the general public
- to advocate and promote high standards of excellence in the book arts

The Directors of the Guild for 1983 are

Shelagh Smith, President, Woodbridge, Ontario
Ann Tomlinson, Vice President, Port Hope, Ontario
Donald Taylor, Secretary, Toronto, Ontario
Morton Barken, Treasurer, Thornhill, Ontario
Betty Elliott, Director at Large, Etobicoke, Ontario.

Some activities that are being planned include a Newsletter to be published a minimum of three times a year, workshops, exhibitions (to include a travelling exhibition), a suppliers list.

EDITOR'S PAGE



Welcome to the first issue of the C.B.B.G. Newsletter. Inside this issue you will find reports from the different committees, and an outline of what the Guild is about.

We would like letters from you on what you would like to see in the Newsletter and any other comments that you may have on the Guild. This will give us a better sense of direction for the future.

We would first like to thank Jill Willmott and Shelagh Smith for getting this off the ground, and also to Glen Goliska of the Imprimerie Dromedaire for the design of our logo and letterhead, which was done to his usual high standards.

There is a form at the back of this Newsletter for membership. If you would like to join please fill it out in full. Membership NOW - means you will receive the next issue of the Newsletter in September (there will be three per year), suppliers list, copy of the constitution, updates on information regarding exhibitions, seminars, workshops, etc.

The membership fee is \$15.00 annually. This year we will have to charge for a full year even though it is June, this is to help offset the start up fees of the Guild.

The Guild is in need of someone who is able to translate the Newsletter into French for further issues.

We are also interested in any information that you may have regarding upcoming events, book reviews and people who are interested in writing feature articles on reports of past events.

Last of all we hope you enjoy the Newsletter and will help the Guild by becoming a member.

The Editor's copy deadline for the next issue is August 31, 1983. Please send all mail to:

The Editor
C.B.B.G.
26 Morningside Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.
M6S 1C3.

WORKSHOPS

The need for education in bookbinding in Canada, is so great and so diverse that it is impossible to meet it all at once. There are many people who have never touched paste brush to paper, who have a real desire to be binders. There are novices who are frustrated at the difficulties in proceeding past their present level of competence, and professionals who correctly feel there is always more to learn. There are librarians everywhere who know their collections are self-destructing but don't know what to do about it. There are book dealers who can't afford restoration for more than a small proportion of their stock and are doing un-professional repairs which damage the books.

Initially we plan a book list to be sent to those requesting it, a resource pool of teachers and their areas of expertise (hopefully we can encourage members in various parts of the country to urge colleges and art schools to sponsor workshops) and guild sponsored workshops of two types.

We are planning to sponsor workshops on either week nights or weekends, in sequence leading from one to another. For example, notebook to single section to multi-section cloth case. We also have plans for individual major workshops. There have been preliminary discussions with Gary Frost of Columbia University concerning a workshop on alternative and/or historical book structures, Hedi Kyle of the Book Preservation Centre in N.Y, workshops on paper decorating, conservation enclosures and library repairs, and Tini Miura of Tokyo, Japan - other methods of paper decorating and forwarding for novices, not beginners. We also hope to bring Bernard Middleton to Toronto, and other cities if possible, for a leather reback workshop at some time in the future and are looking into paper repair and vellum binding workshops.

Finally, I would very much appreciate information concerning members' needs and desires in the area of education.



PROGRAMMES

We are planning two major programme meetings during the coming year. These may be held in conjunction with visits from "foreign dignitaries" in the Book Arts field. It is hoped that Gary Frost, of the British Columbia University Library School's Conservation Programme will speak at our first meeting in October.

If there is sufficient interest, more frequent meetings will be planned to include talks by local book workers and perhaps an evening of mini workshops and demonstrations.

The Committee hopes to be able to provide transcripts of any papers presented so that out-of-town members will be able to benefit from programme meetings.



SUPPLIES

From Jill Willmott's questionnaire results it appears that the area of supplies presents one of the thorniest problems to Canadian binders and conservators, especially to those living outside of Toronto or Montreal.

To complement such lists as those of the Guild of Bookworkers and Designer Bookbinders we are planning a list of Canadian suppliers to be published in the Fall. Thus, we are looking for information on reliable materials and their suppliers. Testimonials and/or horror stories will be studied with interest and information on suppliers who do mail order business will be particularly gratefully received.

We also hope to be doing some lobbying on behalf of the membership. We already have three major firms interested in supplying bookbinding and related materials but they want to know what kind of volume they will be dealing with. If we can convince them and hopefully others that it will be worth their while to carry supplies for us and dole them out in humanly sized quantities they will be more likely willing to go ahead. What we like you to do therefore is to submit a list of your favourite materials and estimates of the quantities you consume in a year so that we can talk in definite figures to these sympathetic but hard-headed business people.

Another of our aims is to provide the possibility of group buying of materials which can only be purchased in large quantities. Distribution of such group buys is the major obstacle here. Let us know if you have any constructive suggestions and specific interests in this area.

EXHIBITIONS

The Exhibition Committee hopes to develop opportunities for members to participate in a variety of exhibitions which will focus primarily on the art and craft of bookbinding. Whilst fine or design bookbinding will inevitably be the focal point of some exhibitions, it is intended that other aspects related to bookbinding and the book arts will also be given exposure. We will be seeking ways and means of enabling some of our exhibitions to travel and also to invite travelling exhibitions to Canada.

Some of the goals outlined above are dependent on several factors, the two major ones being participation of the membership, and availability of resources and facilities. If anyone wishes to participate in helping to organize exhibitions and/or who knows of any contacts for exhibition facilities such as art galleries, libraries or access to display cases etc., please contact John Holmes, 29 Garwyn Crescent, Hamilton, Ontario. L8S 2H3. Home Phone: 529-4892. Business (416) 525-9140, Ext. 2080.

Specifically the Ontario Craft Council is interested in staging an exhibition of bookbinding with a tentative date of 1984. Looking ahead toward 1986, Courtland Benson is working towards putting together an exhibition to coincide with the World's Fair in Vancouver. Further details will be announced when available.



PUBLICITY

Publicity is an important activity in any organization and especially for a fledgling one seeking recognition and support. The Committee seeks members who will act as liaison between their local Community and the Guild. We need to establish local contacts with all media representatives, who cover arts and cultural activities. Also, we would appreciate receiving stories, announcements and accounts of events pertaining to the hand book arts. These can then be printed in our Newsletter and/or be circulated as a press release. The Publicity Committee would also appreciate receiving photographs and clippings for the Guild's records. If you would like to assist the Publicity Committee please contact either Susan Corrigan, 246 River Street, Toronto, Ontario. M5A 3R1 or Ann Tomlinson, 4 Baldwin Street, Port Hope, Ontario. L1A 1S1. Thank you - we need your active support in order to achieve our objectives.



Anatomy of an Antiquarian Bookseller [17500000]



Ronald Searle's anatomical *jeu d'esprit*, which graced the rare book catalogue commemorating John Grant's Centenary.
(Reproduced by kind permission of Ian Grant)