

Quarto

Guild of Book Workers
Midwest Chapter
Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 3
Summer 2002

News from your studio

Joanne Kluba of St. Louis has updated her website at www.paperbirds.com. It features images of her limited edition books, photograph and wedding albums, personalized journals, and calligraphy.

Emily Martin of Iowa City has also updated her website by adding three new book projects. Please see www.emilymartin.com to investigate.

Jean Buescher of Ann Arbor will exhibit her work as part of the Siena Heights University Art Faculty Exhibition Aug. 20 to Sept. 19 in Klemm Gallery on the campus in Adrian, Michigan. A discussion and reception is set for noon Thursday, Sept. 12, in the gallery. For more information, visit www.sienahs.edu/~art/ or contact the Art Program at (517) 264-7860.

Volunteer Opportunity

From our Treasurer/Program Chair

by Cris Clair Takacs, Chardon, OH

It is time for me to step down from office. By the next meeting, I want to have a new Treasurer/Programs Chair installed. I have been an officer in the Midwest Chapter since 1983, I think. The exact date is shrouded in the mists of time, but I know I accepted the post in a cornfield near Bloomington the first time we had our annual meeting there. So it seems appropriate that I end it there.

Financially, the chapter is in great shape. We started the *Stone Eye* exhibition and catalog project with around \$2200. We got a loan from the National GBW for \$3500 so we could get the catalog made. Sales have been slow but steady. I have just authorized the repayment of the loan and we have \$2025.76 in our treasury, with sales still coming in. WE DID IT!!!!!! By next spring, the catalogs will all be sold and the new Treasurer/Programs Chair fresh. More details on the post in the next *Quarto*. Thanks for everything!

Stone Eye Update

by Jeanne Drewes, East Lansing, MI

The exhibition of the Midwest Chapter's *Stone Eye* has continued its travels and is now in Chicago at Northwestern University Library, after traveling from the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas in Lawrence to the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Next stop will be the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. The exhibit opens the day before Standards begins and the opening reception will be in the exhibition space. Having the Standards conference in a Midwest venue is always welcome but particularly so this year when we can also highlight the talents of members through the *Stone Eye* exhibition and catalog.

The sales for the *Stone Eye* catalog have been steady with the highest sales for the deluxe edition. The "eye" stone is truly unique. If you were planning on buying your copy at Standards please don't wait as the deluxe edition may be sold out by then.

All of the catalogs are assembled and packaged thanks to many, many members and friends of this project. My list of people to thank is growing and will be published in the next issue.

In the previous issue I asked for volunteers to staff the Midwest Chapter table at Standards. I have heard from a number of members. If you plan on attending Standards please also consider spending 15 minutes staffing the Midwest table. We will have a laptop computer to show the *Stone Eye* multimedia catalog, information about joining the Midwest Chapter, and information on the donors who helped make the catalog possible. I believe the table will be located just outside the entrance to the exhibitors hall, a great place to see everyone and visit with friends. The sign-up sheet for times to staff the table will be at the registration table. Take advantage of this opportunity to show your support for the Midwest Chapter by volunteering to staff the table during part of one of the breaks or before or after the sessions. Contact me about specific times to work at drewes@msu.edu or (517) 432-7486. I look forward to seeing you at Standards.

The Archaeology of Medieval Bookbinding Book Review

by Rebecca Shaffer, Lexington, KY

The Archaeology of Medieval Bookbinding. By A.J. Szirmai. Aldersgate, England, & Brookfield, Vt.: Ashgate Publishing, 1999. xvi, 352 pp. \$165.00. ISBN 0-85967-904-7

The Archaeology of Medieval Bookbinding establishes the standard for scientific study of bookbinding. That Dr. Szirmai comprehensively examined the earliest codex forms from their emergence through their dominance confirms his work as foundational for future studies of western bookbinding. The authority of his discussion is based on a review of literature, previous scholarship, historical technical manuals, and close examination of 1000 confirmed period bindings. He accessed international collections, private and public. He discusses the cultural circumstances of the development of bookbinding structures and techniques. He examines the evidence of destruction, disassembly, repair, and preservation and he thoughtfully discerns the problems of alterations caused by aging materials. All of this information and evidence is gathered and presented in an organized manner. Dr. Szirmai logically interprets their significance and develops an intelligent discussion. The text is not just engaging, it is fascinating. Copious footnotes at the end of each chapter and frequent in-text references are complementary. In a collegial fashion, previous sources are corrected or confirmed. Inferences are rare. When a firm statement cannot be made he presents possible interpretations based on information and evidence. An inclusive bibliography supports all secondary sources.

Dr. Szirmai introduces "Part One: The "Mediterranean Heritage" with single-quire Coptic codices from (single) extant leaves from the 2 c. CE. He observes a continuum through Ethiopian, Islamic, and Byzantine codices. The scholarship of "Part Two: The Medieval Codex in the Western World" reveals an evolution to Carolingian, Romanesque, Gothic, and limp bindings. Each focused discussion establishes characteristics of binding traditions and observes the variations that appear in a chronology or by geographic locale. He has taken a statistical approach to developing these categories. He references quantitative differences in individual books as opposed to groupings or traditions in order to establish a "significant quotient" of uniqueness or of "initial appearance of change in technique." By plotting these characteristics he discerns trends and inceptions as opposed to unique episodes or regional practice. His objective observations are free of cultural bias.

Is this long-awaited study perfect? No. I will observe that problems are trifling to one degree or another. English is not Dr. Szirmai's first language but that is his editor's problem – and minor it is. There are a couple of photos his editor passed and should not have. His time-line references are at times confusing...where was his editor...? Neither chronological, regional, nor art historical references

Stone Eye in Cincinnati

by Gabrielle Fox, Cincinnati, OH

The Midwest Chapter's Binding Exhibition, *Stone Eye*, was in Cincinnati for the month of July. The exhibition was displayed in the main entrance foyer and atrium of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in downtown Cincinnati. The cases in this part of the library are flat and placed in two long rows spaced widely so that patrons coming in can walk through and look as they are headed into the library or stop and spend a little more time without blocking the entrance.

A large carpeted alcove to the left of the cases leads to an outdoor garden that could be seen through the floor to ceiling windows at the back of this room on the side. This is where the closing reception was held on Wednesday evening, July 24th.

The Cincinnati Book Arts Society and the Public Library co-hosted the two guests Gray Zeitz of Larkspur Press and Richard Taylor, the author of *Stone Eye*. After a brief list of thank you's from GBW, care of Gabrielle Fox, Gray read some of his poetry, both from his recently published collection, *No Time Lost in Whetting*, as well as a few others not yet in print. Richard followed and also read some old and some very recent poems. They both took this opportunity to thank us all for organizing the exhibition and catalog and binding the books!

CBAS provided light refreshments. A few catalogs and books were sold. And then about twenty of us headed down to Nicholson's, a local Scottish restaurant that serves wonderful things like fish and chips, scotch eggs, curried spring rolls, and Guinness beer. We didn't sell many catalogs locally, but it looks as if we may have sold a few bindings!

Lisa Michetti installed the exhibition and has left her job here to attend the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa where she will begin her master's in Fine Arts. However, she is already considering transferring to the Book Arts Program!



seem to bear witness; rather technological characteristics alone are referenced.

Ideas and words are the *raison d'être* for books. The best books are well conceived and well written. While this book is superbly conceived and exceptionally written, outstanding illustrations and distinctive photographs help bridge the occasional disjoint between text and apparent intent. The importance of a common and succinct vocabulary cannot be minimized with such pivotal scholarship. Graphic displays creatively illustrate Dr. Szirmai's well-articulated thesis: that bookbinding is a continuous process. Scientific method perfectly demonstrates this and his is the method established as the model for future research. We have the textbook for scholars, students, and the greater audience and it is well worth the ten-year wait.

Workshop Opportunity in Cleveland Three Coverboard Structure

The Midwest Chapter of GBW, in conjunction with the Ohio Preservation Council (OPC) and the Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society (NOBS), will host a lecture by Jan Sobota on Tuesday, October 8th, 2002. Jan will be visiting from the Czech Republic and will give a presentation on the 3-Board Structure and show slides of the Museum of Binding in Loket, Czech republic.

The lecture will take place at 7 PM in the Dan Pier Room (located on the second floor) of The Kelvin Smith Library of Case Western Reserve University. The address is 1111 East Blvd. in Cleveland, Ohio. The Library is located next to Severance Hall. There is a parking garage located under the library and the cost for parking is \$7. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information contact Ellen Strong strongbind@hotmail.com or Cris Takacs crisctakacs@alltel.net.



Three Coverboard Structure

by Jan Sobota, Loket, Czech Republic (who once upon a time lived in the Midwest for a spell)
submitted by Cris Clair Takacs

Recently, a new trend in bookbinding has evolved based upon the experience of restorers with old and new bindings. They have found that some old, historic bindings that were bound without the creation of shoulders along the spine edge of the text block to accommodate the book boards lasted longer than newer books bound using the shoulder technique. Several prominent binders from various countries are researching new bookbinding techniques and are using a new binding technique that trends.

Many types of structures and designs can be created without using the shoulder technique. Aesthetically, there is not much difference between bindings using the shoulder technique (ie. French and German bindings) and bindings without shoulders. The latter have been found to be more durable.

We have developed a new technique which we call "Two or Three coverboard Structure" that utilizes a new binding technique without shoulders. This method is accomplished by modifying the boards to the text block. It is possible to create very interesting designs using this particular structure. For more information see www.jsobota.cz.

Workshop Opportunity in Cincinnati Miniature French Binding

On October 19 and 20th, Joy and John Tonkin of Canberra, Australia, will present a workshop on making of a miniature French binding. The workshop will cover the "Simplified Binding" that developed in Paris in the nineteen eighties as an alternative to traditional French binding. The name is somewhat misleading, as it is a fine binding technique. The spine assembly of leather and hollow-back card is made and affixed to the bookblock before the boards. The boards are chamfered to zero on the spine edge and covered before affixing which gives much more flexibility of choice of materials and colours. It is a very versatile binding, being very useful for relatively quick bindings (clean-cut edges), use of metal or wooden boards (again clean-cut edges), some restoration of old books, as well as for very elaborate designer bindings.

During the workshop a small book of twelve sections will be sewn, lined, and rounded, a leather spine made and affixed, boards covered in Japanese paper and added, and a title piece adhered to the front board. Precise techniques for miniatures will be featured.

The workshop will be held at the Art Department of the College of Mount St. Joseph in suburban Cincinnati, Ohio, October 19 and 20, 2002. Registration cost is \$120 per person. To register, contact Mark Palkovic, 620 Clinton Springs Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45229; telephone: (513) 556-1964; e-mail: Mark.Palkovic@uc.edu.

The Tonkins run a book arts business in Canberra, Australia. They specialize in conservation and restoration of rare books, works of art on paper, and one-off fine designer bindings. They also run a limited edition press. John commenced binding in the 1970s and studied in Ascona, Switzerland and Paris. Joy is a graduate of the University of Canberra in paper conservation and has studied in Ascona, Switzerland. Both exhibit nationally and internationally.



FYI

The Newsletter Editor is moving to Kansas! I don't yet have an address, so if you need to contact me before mid-October, please direct your inquiries to one of the co-chairs. Thanks! Whitney

Book Artist to Visit Oberlin, Ohio September 9th

Oberlin College students and local residents are in for a treat during the month of September. Returning students will be greeted by a temporary exhibit in the Main Library by Book Artist Richard Minsky. Minsky has been both thrilling and upsetting the bookbinding establishment ever since 1973, when, as a 25-year-old disciple of Brown University's bookbinding classicist Daniel Gibson Knowlton, he suddenly "started going in a different direction." Beginning with an 1834 copy of Pettigrew's *History of Egyptian Mummies* repaired and wrapped by Minsky in binding sheets of mummifying linen emblazoned with one single small turquoise like an ancient scarab.

In 1974 Minsky founded the nonprofit Center for Book Arts in New York City (www.centerforbookarts.org/). Since then, this Center has since held hundreds of exhibitions, lectures, and workshops, as well as offering a variety of extended classes taught by the most creative craft bookbinders in the world.

In his edition of *Minsky in Bed*, Richard Minsky reveals the (mis)adventures of his love life. The text and commentary are highlighted by the author with historiated, hand-colored and gilded (and inhabited) initial letters. As with the books of the 15th century, methods of production evolved with the edition and no two copies are the same.

Since 1993 Richard Minsky has been working on a series about The Bill of Rights. The current offering is a edition of twenty-five sets of ten bookworks. Minsky has found a way to exemplify the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution as artworks. For each amendment he has chosen a text that either directly addresses the issue, is an example of what happens when that right is violated, or makes us think about the right in a new way. For the First Amendment, protecting freedom of expression, for example, he burned a copy of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* and placed the charred volume in a stained-glass windowed reliquary.

September is a particularly appropriate month for the exhibit as "Constitution Week" falls in September. The Oberlin Art Department and the Library will also be hosting a gallery talk at 4:00 PM, followed by a lecture by Mr. Minsky at 4:30 on September 9th in the Main Library. For more information on Minsky, see www.minsky.com/billofrights-edition.htm and for more information on the exhibit, contact Ed Vermue, Special Collections and Preservation Librarian, (440) 775-8285x264 or ed.vermue@oberlin.edu.

Happenings

continued from page 6

Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, MCBA. Book Arts Sampler with Jeff Rathermel, Allison Chapman, and Julia Welles.

Sept. 29, MCBA. Longstitch Books with Janet Carroll.

Oct. 28, Hollander's. Single Sheet Sewing with Cindy and Tom Hollander.

Sept. 30, Hollander's. Paperback Book Covers with Tom and Cindy Hollander.

Sept. 30-Oct. 21, MCBA. Introduction to Bookbinding with Jana Pullman.

Oct. 3-17, MCBA. Marbled Paper Projects with Linda Koutsky and Steve Pittelkow.

Oct. 3-24, CCCCBA. Liquid Light with Marina Draghicchio.

Oct. 5-6, Hollander's. Finishing Techniques in Fine and Design Binding with Don Etherington and Monique Lallier.

Oct. 5-6 and Oct. 13, MCBA. Boxmaking Intensive with Jill Jevne.

Oct. 5 & 6, CCCCBA. New-Fangled Silkscreen with Maggie Weiss.

Oct. 7-Nov. 11, CCCCBA. Paper Surfaces with Shawn Sheehy.

Oct. 9-30, MCBA. Stiff Leaf Binding & Variations with Sara Langworthy.

Oct. 10- Nov. 14, Hollander's. Italic Calligraphy: Extended with Diane Stum Fekete.

Oct. 11-13, CCCCBA. Into the Blues: Indigo Dyed Shibori with Barbara Bansley.

Oct. 12, Hollander's. Polaroid Transfer to Paper with Linda Soberman.

Oct. 12, MCBA. Simple Casebound Book in a Day with Steve Pittelkow.

Oct. 12-13, MCBA. Artist Book Multiples with Visiting Artist Ken Leslie.

Oct. 12- 13, MCBA. Beyond White Sheets: Pigmenting and Dyeing Handmade Paper with Jeff Rathermel.

Oct. 12-13, CCCCBA. Materials: Found and Altered with Jamie Thome.

Oct. 13, Hollander's. Creating Watermarks on Paper with Dard Hunter III.

Oct. 13, Hollander's. Decorative Sewing Techniques

Happenings continued on page 7

Happenings

continued from page 4

for Bookmaking with Eileen Wallace.

Oct. 19, Hollander's. Illuminated and Decorated Letters with Diane Stum Fekete.

Oct. 19-20, MCBA. Decorative Bindings: The Crossed-Structure and The Secret Belgian with Emily Martin.

Oct. 19-20, College of Mt. St. Joseph, Ziv Art Building, Cincinnati. The Simplified Binding in Miniature with Joy and John Tonkin of Canberra, Australia. Contact Mark Palkovic at (513) 556-1964 or Mark.Palkovic@uc.edu.

Oct. 19- 20, MCBA. Small Books with Jody Williams.

Oct. 26-27, Hollander's. Multiple Cover Book with Piano Hinge with C. Renée Jarmolowicz.

Oct. 26- 27, MCBA. The Unbound Journal with Roslyn Stendahl.

Oct. 26-27, MCBA. Inside/Outside: House Box with Journal with Terry Garrett.

Oct. 28-Nov. 18, MCBA. A Personal Book with Lin Lacy and Kirstie Zahansky.

Oct. 29-Dec. 17, CCCCBPA. Bookbinding II with Christine Fabian.

Nov. 2, Hollander's. Photo Album with Brass Posts or Ribbon Binding with Tom and Cindy Hollander.

Nov. 2- 3, MCBA. Little Boxes with Jody Williams.

Nov. 2-3, MCBA. Traditional Marbling with Steve Pittelkow.

Nov. 2, 9, MCBA. Embossed Copper Journal with Linda Koutsky.

Nov. 3, Hollander's. Advanced Photo Transfer Techniques with Linda Soberman.

Nov. 5, 12, and 19. Hollander's. Letterpress Printing with Jim Horton.

Nov. 5-26, CCCCBPA. Beginning Papermaking with Jamie Thome.

Nov. 6-7, MCBA. Ethiopian Coptic Stitch Books with Colleen Mullins.

Nov. 8-10, CCCCBPA. Long Stitch Extravaganza with Pamela Spitzmueller.

Nov. 9, Hollander's. Omega Star with Cindy Hollander.

Nov. 9-10, MCBA. Leather Bound Journals and Albums with Gena Ollendieck.

Nov. 9-10, MCBA. Paper and Light with Ann Marie Kennedy.

Events/Lectures

Oct. 4. Hollander's, Ann Arbor. *Fine and Design Binding Brown Bag Lunch with Don Etherington and Monique Lallier.*

Oct. 8. 7:00 PM. Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Tower Room, 3rd floor, 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati. *Claire Bolton of Alembic Press, Oxford, England.* See www.cincinnatibookarts.org for more information.

Oct. 8, 7:00 PM. Dan Pier Room, Kelvin Smith Library, Case Western Reserve University. *Jan Sobota on the Three Coverboard Structure.* For more information contact Ellen Strong or Cris Takacs crisTakacs@alltel.net.

Oct. 18, 7:30 PM. Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. *Joy and John Tonkin on Australian Bookbinding.* See www.cincinnatibookarts.org for more information.

Meetings

Oct. 11-12. St Louis, MO. Twenty-Ninth Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies at Vatican Film Library, St. Louis University. For more information see www.slu.edu/libraries/vfl/cnf02prg.htm.

Oct. 11-14. Covington, KY. The Miniature Book Society Twentieth Conclave. For more information check www.mbs.org or phone Mark Palkovic at (513) 556-1964.

Exhibits

September 21-February 3, 2003. Harold Washington Library, Special Collections Exhibition Hall, Chicago. *BOOKS: Chicago Bound and Bedecked.*

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Minneapolis, MN 55415
612-338-3634
www.mnbookarts.org/main.html

Columbia College Chicago Center for
Book & Paper Arts (CCCBPA)
1104 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL
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www.bookandpaper.org.

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Happenings

Happenings will focus on events occurring in the Midwest area, except for Calls for Entries, which will have broader coverage. Please send any information to Whitney Baker, Newsletter Editor (address at left). Abbreviations appear at the end of the section.

Classes/Workshops

Sept. 5-Oct. 3. Hollander's. Book Arts Workshop: Content and Structure with Jean Buescher.

Sept. 7-8. Hollander's. Paring, Pasting, and Binding with Leather with Tom and Cindy Hollander.

Sept. 14. Hollander's. Photo Transfer to Paper with Linda Soberman.

Sept. 14-15. MCBA. Sculpted Round Boxes with Leather With Visiting Artist Jim Croft.

Sept. 15. Hollander's. From Folded Forms into Artist's Books with Jacqueline Sullivan.

Sept. 21- 22. MCBA. Boxmaking Made Easy with Jody Williams.

Sept. 21-22, MCBA. The Collaged Journal with Terry Garrett.

Sept. 22. Hollander's. Hinged-Lid Box Making with Tom and Cindy Hollander.

Sept. 23-Oct. 28, MCBA. Sculptural Hanging Lamp with Kristin Wallner.

Sept. 24-Oct. 15. CCCCBPA. Mask Making with Shyla McGill.

Sept. 26-Oct. 31, MCBA. Introduction to Book Arts with Jeff Rathermel, Allison Chapman and Julia Welles.

Sept. 26-Oct. 31. CCCCBPA. Sculptural 3-D Handmade Paper Books with Nancy Vachon.

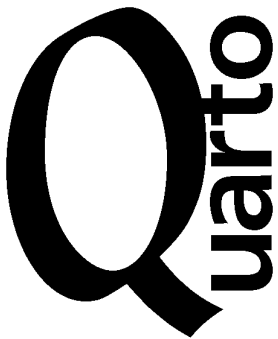
Sept. 28. Hollander's. Papermaking with Karen O'Neal and Scott Wettlaufer.

Sept. 28, MCBA. Vellum Strap Binding with Janet Carroll.

Sept. 28-29, MCBA. Wire-Edge Binding in a Box with Jill Jevne.

Sept. 28-29. CCCCBPA. Tool Making with Jim Croft.

Happenings continued on page 4



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