

Quarto

Guild of Book Workers
Midwest Chapter
Quarterly Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor to Change Helm

by Whitney Baker, Outgoing Newsletter Editor,
Lawrence, KS

I would like to thank the various officers and *Stone Eye* volunteers I worked with so closely during my tenure as *Quarto* newsletter editor. It has been an enjoyable experience, but new obligations force me to pass the reins to someone else. I will look forward to discovering how Michele shapes the newsletter and will enjoy reading about upcoming Midwest Chapter events. It has been a pleasure to serve GBW in this manner and I encourage the Midwest Chapter membership to get involved and volunteer!

I asked Michele to write a blurb to fill us in on her background and skills. Her response to that inquiry appears to the right.

Hope to see you at future Midwest Chapter meetings!

Message from the New Newsletter Editor

by Michele Pollock, Incoming Newsletter Editor,
Inver Grove Heights, MN,

Starting with the next issue, I will try to fill Whitney's shoes as editor of *Quarto*. In light of this change, she asked me to introduce myself in this, her last issue.

I am a book artist and poet who has a book currently traveling with the *In Flight* exhibition and poetry published in various regional and national journals. For me, book art is an extension of my poetry, a way for me to manifest my written words in the physical world, and nearly all my books are built around specific poem(s).

In my "real" life I work full time as a Marketing Communications professional and I am nearly half-way through an MFA program in Creative Writing. My husband and I live in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. I am fortunate to live very close to the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, where I have had tremendous opportunities to expand my experiences into traditional bindings, letterpress printing, and, most recently, wood engraving. I am excited to take over editing *Quarto*, and look forward to working with many of you to develop content and facilitate communication throughout this great organization.

Michele may be contacted at pollock.writing@comcast.net.

Message from the Chair

by Jim Canary, Bloomington, IN, currently in Mozambique, working at the National Archives (Thank God for email, says Jim)

Many thanks to Whitney Baker for the wonderful job she has done as editor of *Quarto*. She has also found a replacement for the position, Michele Pollock, who will be starting with the first newsletter of the new year. Thanks also to Rebecca Shaffer, who is currently researching and working on bylaws and organizing our chapter archives.

This past month Julia Miller drove a Ryder truck from Ann Arbor to Bloomington bringing all of the Guild journals, newsletters, and directories that had been in a storage building that was being rented by the Guild. Julia has been handling the requests from new members and others requesting back issues. The Indiana University Preservation Department is now relieving Julia of this duty and will archive and service the materials. We sent out twenty some packets the first week before I left. Thanks Julia for working on this project and for the killer ride down here.

I have spoken with Liz Dube about the spring meeting at Notre Dame and we are looking at the weekend of the 23rd of April. We will be working on the program and will post all of the news of the spring meeting in the next newsletter. I anticipate this issue coming out in mid-February. I will contact Eric Alstrom to post on the website a brief note about the meeting as soon as details are finalized.

There has been a concerted effort of the National Guild to complete our backlog of videos covering the Standards presentations. We shared in the expense of adopting a video

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Report from the Czech Republic

by Cris Clair Takacs, Chardon, OH

In September, my husband Bob and I went to Europe. The trip began in the Czech Republic. First Prague, then Pilsen, then Loket to see Jan and Jarmilla Sobota. Jarmilla said that the buses did not run regularly, but Bob figured out the schedules and we wheeled our belongings over the bridge into to the medieval Czech town. Inquiries at the tourist office got us to both the shop (closed) and then the twisted back street where we looked in vain for No. 5. Short Street, few numbers . . . frustration.

"Wait. I know this is the right street. I can smell bookbinding paste." I began peeking in windows and saw . . . a bookpress. I banged on a window. Screaming commenced. Jan and Jarmilla let us in and pointed out the little enameled No. 5 that Jan has been meaning to put on the door. Luckily the deadline that they were preparing books for had been extended.

Drinking began. Jan said that he had a young ram killed to celebrate our visit. "So many of those book people are vegetarians, but I thought you and Bob would appreciate it." It was a two- year old ram. It had been castrated, so it did not have that smell." Well, yes we did appreciate it. The ram had lived a good life and being roasted over an open spit next to a river is a pretty good way to go.

After my fifth Gambrinus beer (Gambrinus=Patron Saint of Beer), I found that I could read the lips of the woman sitting across from me, listen to Jarmilla sitting next to me, and sing along in "perfect Czech." (They had drunk considerably more than I had.). Jan was pleased.

While these preparations had been going on, Jarmilla drove us to Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) and showed us the sites. "This is where I had an apartment. This is where Jan had his studio. Over there the communists had a huge statue of Lenin."

The day after the party, Jan drove us to Marienske Lasne (Marienbad) and then to the monastery where he had bound books, the house he had lived in, and the fishery he had swam to and "liberated" fish for his farewell meal the night before escaping communism.

Bob and I also visited the Museum of Design Bookbinding in Loket. The museum opened in 2001 and was originally housed in the formidable "Black Tower." It has lots of stairs. Now the bindings are in the Town Hall of Loket and signs throughout the town direct tourists to it. The Sobotas are working on getting a catalog together of the exhibits. It is a hard, expensive task, but they will get it done.

They are both doing well and report that since last Christmas they have been getting enough commissions so that they no longer have to make "little things" to get by. Jarmilla's sister now runs the book arts shop.

I have slides of our trip and I promise to bring them to the next Midwest Chapter meeting and not to forget them in the motel room. Honest.

From the Chair

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with the Rocky Mountain and the Lone Star Chapters. Other chapters are doing the same and we are making progress on editing and completing the videos. Our copy will be put on deposit with the Guild Library and Video Collection at the University of Iowa. Contact Jane Meggers if you wish to borrow anything from the library at jane-meggers@uiowa.edu

Once again thanks to everyone and welcome Michele.

Review of BookFest

by Jeanne Drewes, East Lansing, MI

It was a lovely fall day in Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 14 for the first BookFest held in the Kerrytown District. A mix of booksellers, bookbinders, authors, poets, and book artists provided demonstrations, readings, conservation tips, and items for sale. Members of the Midwest Chapter of the Guild who had their own booths to sell their creations included Jean Buescher, Susan Hensel, and Julie Fremuth. Tom and Cindy Hollander, also members of the Midwest chapter, were key creators of the event and artfully arranged and coordinated the successful day's happenings. Shannon Zachary, Tom Hogarth, and Leyla Lau-Lamb, all conservators at the University of Michigan Libraries and members of the Guild, staffed a University of Michigan Conservation Lab booth.

The BookFest included a booth for the Guild of Book Workers sponsored by the Midwest Chapter. Chapter members Jeanne Drewes, Pam Rups, and Jean Buescher staffed the booth, handing out information about Guild membership, and selling aprons, Guild catalogs, and the Midwest chapter's *Stone Eye* exhibition catalog on CD and in print. Over \$250 worth of materials was sold during the event, which started at 11 AM and ended just before 5 PM. The event was very well attended. In spring 2004 Ann Arbor will host its first Book Festival. For more information see www.aabookfestival.org. For more information about the BookFest see www.kerrytownbookfest.org.

Exhibits

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Through January 3, 2004, MCBA. *Paper and Metal.*

Through December 13, CCCCBPA. *Only On Paper: Six Centuries of Judaica from the Gross Family Collection.*

Ongoing, Hollander's. Book Art Exhibit featuring Regional Artists.

Lectures

January 17, 2004, 7 PM, MCBA. Rubber Stamp Art with Visiting Artist John Held, Jr.

Call for Entries

April 29-May 1 2004, Wells Book Arts Center, Wells College, Aurora, New York. The Wells College Book Arts Center invites book artists to participate in its juried national exhibit, *Matter & Spirit: The Genesis and Evolution of the Book*. This exhibit will be on display during the month of April 2004 on the Wells College campus in Aurora, New York, and will be part of the major national symposium of the same name, to be held at Wells from 29 April to 1 May 2004. The **deadline for submissions is 16 January 2004**. The entry fee is \$20 for up to two items, with checks made payable to the Wells College Book Arts Center. Flat pieces should be framed and ready to display. All work should be sent insured, in re-usable containers, with return postage included. Please do not send slides as jurying will be from actual works. For more information on the exhibit please contact Peter Verheyen at verheyen@philobiblon.com or at 315-443-9937 or see http://aurora.wells.edu/%7Ewbac/bookarts/evnt_symp_mns03_exhibit.html

March 1-April 9, 2004, *An Open Book*, National Juried Artist Book Exhibit, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH. **Slide deadline January 8, 2004**. Artist books included in this exhibit should be able to be displayed without being handled. One of the major problems with showing books in an exhibition is that too often the books are shown under glass, closed up so that just the cover is exposed or one page of a book is displayed. Think about how your book is to be displayed. One of the most accessible book forms is the accordion fold but there are many other forms that can be displayed so that a book can be seen in its entirety when displayed in a case or on a pedestal. This exhibit will exploit that idea. Artwork must be original and completed within the last four years. See http://www.tri-c.edu/art/docs/index_exhibitions.htm for entry form.

Exhibited in 2004. International Competition for a Bookbinding Design. While appreciating that the development of the Art of Bookbindings is dependent on many aspects of design and construction, the MDE (Meister der einbandkunst) wishes with this competition to promote specifically the cover, or surface design of a book. The organisers believe, that in order to achieve this, a drawn, or two dimensional presentation will allow the opportunity for a wide range of artists and designers to participate, hopefully with surprising results which will attract the attention of a wider public. Artists without experience or knowledge of bookbinding design are encouraged to participate on equal terms with those who have specialised in this field of artistic creativity, the only necessity being to concentrate on the board and spine surfaces. Indeed this freedom of expression encourages all artists to take part. Those who wish to research the historical and traditional aspects of bookbinding design can enrich their experience by means of internet or visiting library collections. It is however important to remember that it is the personal vision which is paramount. The competition will take place on condition that participation fees for 2000 participants worldwide have been registered by **01-06-2004**. If at this time the number of participants has been obtained, the entry form and a registration number will be distributed, and the participants can start with their project. For information and entry forms: MDE - Organisation August Kulche Square Marie Louise 57 B-1000 BRUXELLES/BELGIQUE Tel: + 32 (0)2 230 70 96 Fax: + 32 (0)2 230 65 44 For further information see www.mde2004.org. Organised by: A. Kulche - rg. Reimann, MDE- Meister der Einbandkunst-Internationale Vereinigung e. V. Heinrichsallee 72, D-52062 Aachen, Deutschland.



New publication

Poor Press presents *13 Duotones: Venividivici* by Liese A. Ricketts, called "one groovy concertina book about photography." Order by email at liese@uchicago.edu for \$20.



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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

November 30, Hollander's.
Clam Shell Box with Tom and
Cindy Hollander.

December 2 and 9, UICB,
Linotype Studio, Mossman
Business Services Building.
Free Linotype Tutorial with
Larry Raid.

December 6, MCBA. Paper
and Metal and More
(workshop with kids) by Ellen
Ferrari.

December 6, 7, 13, 14,
Hollander's. Growth: A
Collaborative Limited Edition
Artist Book with Susan Hensel.

December 7, MCBA. Holiday Lights (with
kids) with Lori Brink.

January 6-February 24, 2004, CCCCBPA.
Letterpress II with Stacey Stern.

Addresses:

Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA),
1011 Washington Ave. South, Suite 100,
Minneapolis, MN 55414, 612-338-3634,
www.mnbookarts.org/main.html

Hollander's, 407 North Fifth Ave., Ann
Arbor, MI 48014, 734-741-7461,
www.hollanders.com

**Columbia College Chicago Center for
Book and Paper Arts** (CCCCBPA), 1104
S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60605, 312-344-
6630, www.bookandpaper.org/home.html

**University of Iowa Center for the Book
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