



C B A S

CINCINNATI BOOK ARTS SOCIETY

PYRAMID ATLANTIC'S BOOK ARTS FAIR AND CONFERENCE

Diane Stemper and I attended the Pyramid Atlantic's 8th Biennial Book Arts Fair and Conference in Silver Spring, Maryland, on November 19th, 2004. Entering the doors of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration building, we were greeted by Karen Wirth's book display with a copy of the *Mining the Lloyd* catalogue on it. As if this wasn't enough, we were treated like royalty with Cincinnati Book Arts Society on our nametags.

We were invited to participate in an after-hours round table discussion with representatives from other book arts societies who were attending the conference, including New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Idaho, Minneapolis, Iowa and Virginia. We took turns talking about our strengths and weaknesses.

Some interesting programs were discussed, including classes for high school teachers, programs targeting children at risk, an artist co-op for studio space, youth programs, affiliation with the state library, resident printers, foreign art exchange, 4-5 lectures a year, featuring an artist from the society once a month whose work was on display, and the annual publication of a limited edition book.

The exhibits were wonderful. Carol Barton was selling her new book and Julie Chen had some sculptural pieces that won one of the prizes. The lectures were equally inspiring. My favorite was Craig Dworkin.

Dworkin, formerly from Yale but now at University of Utah, spoke on Textural Prostheses. He explained the tension between the form and the theme of a book, the literal and the metaphysical, the paratexts (the indices and footnotes) and the body of the book. He also mentioned that in some books the footnotes are more interesting than the book itself. Quoting Johanna Drucker, an artist book is a book, which "integrates the formal means of its realization and production with its thematic or aesthetic issues."

Pyramid Atlantic was an energizing experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who wants to attend next year.

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BOOK REVIEWS FOR BOOK LOVERS

Robert Sabuda has done it again. In case you are not familiar with Sabuda's work, he appears to be the foremost pop-up master in the world. His latest book is entitled *America the Beautiful*.

In this seven double-page production, he has managed to illustrate the phrases of the title song with some amazing paper engineering in white, with touches of orange and black. "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" is a splendid bird's-eye view of San Francisco's golden Gate Bridge with expanding suspensions and roadway, and four little boats with glittering wakes.

"For Purple Mountain Majesties," there is Mount Rushmore and its four presidents, houses, trees, and even a tiny billy goat on a distant mountain.

On subsequent pages, there are constructions of the United States Capitol, the Statue of Liberty, and so on. Unexpected surprises to admire and marvel over will be found in his margin booklets. Like the anthem, it is indeed a national treasure.

I might mention that Sabuda has done a number of other books. One is comprised of the pop-up illustrations for *The Wizard of Oz* – a seven double-page wonder in full color, which includes a tornado, the Emerald City, and an aerial balloon, along with numerous surprises in his marginal additions.

Do not overlook *Alice in Wonderland*. Also in full color, this pop-up book includes the "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" (did you know he used silver plates?) and the exploding pack of cards. Surprises reveal a deep rabbit hole in the form of a tunnel book, plus more gems in side pockets.

Opening a book has never been so much fun.

©ALICE BALTERMAN

A big leather-bound volume makes an ideal razorstrop. A thin book is useful to stick under a table with a broken caster to steady it. A large, flat atlas can be used to cover a window with a broken pane. And a thick, old-fashioned heavy book with a clasp is the finest thing in the world to throw at a noisy cat.

✍️ MARK TWAIN

WANT TO JOIN!?

Do you love books, bind and sculpt books, write poetry, or make images that always seem to fold up into pages?

Then join the Cincinnati

Book Arts Society!

Visit our website:

www.cincinnatibookarts.org



BOOKS ON THE INTERNET

There are a great number of internet sites devoted to the book arts. In this article, I mention some of my favorites. I hope that these sites stimulate an exchange on the many sites other CBAS members favor. So let the discussion begin!

I am a member of the Guild of Book Workers:
<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byorg/gbw/>
Right now, the GBW site is highlighting the current show *In Flight*, commemorating the flight of the Wright Brothers.

One of the GBW links is to The Book Arts Web:
<http://www.philobiblon.com/>
It is one of the best on all topics relating to the book arts. You can spend hours easily navigating its large collection of links and references. I especially like the Book Arts discussion forum Book_Arts-L listserv. You do not have to subscribe to search the archives but if you want to ask a question or contribute you must subscribe. Its search engine is Google and extremely easy to use. The site is professionally maintained by Peter Verheyen, conservator at Syracuse.

Verheyden is also the publisher of a new e-journal:
<http://www.philobiblon.com/bonefolder/>
You must subscribe to receive *Bonefolder*. The first issue premiered last November. With a fine editorial staff, I know it will deliver high quality articles on the full range of interests to book binders.

The Canadian book arts scene is covered by The Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild, of which I am also a member. The CBBAG site is well laid out and easy to use. CBBAG has a perfectly developed program that supports book binders over a huge geographic area. They have an online gallery and links:
<http://www.cbbag.ca>

I am also a member of the Designer Book Binders. Annually, they publish the best journal of any society or guild. Their website is always fresh and includes a

news page that is very current. News from the continent as well as the colonies including Australia:
<http://www.designerbookbinders.org.uk>

The Society of Book Binders also represents British binders. Their site has an on line gallery and links:
<http://societyofbookbinders.com/>

Also from the other side of the pond is Book Information Website, a Dutch site dedicated to all aspects of books and the book arts. It has fantastic links throughout the book world:
<http://www.xs4all.nl/~knops/index3.htm>

Those are a few primary sites dedicated to general bookbinding. Some specialized sites include the Miniature Book Society <http://www.mbs.org> and the Moveable Book Society, with links to members' sites:
<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~montanar/mbs.html>

Industry supports useful sites. I buy leather from Harmatan and Hewit. Hewit publishes a biannual e-newsletter, *Skindeep*. It contains articles on leather treatments, uses, applications, embellishment, technical information, tools, etc. You must subscribe.
<http://www.hewit.com/skindeep.htm>

This to That is a website dedicated to all things glue. When you visit some of the society sites you find links to members' sites: <http://www.this-to-that.com/>

The best site of any book binder is an independent one, *The Book Art of Richard Minsky*. Richard is not just one of the finest fine binders, he is one of the most exciting book artists in the world. He has mastered finesse of the internet as well and you will love his site. I visit it every week: <http://minsky.com/>

So there you have it, some from my list of favorites. I hope each of you will send a note on your favorites so Lou can list them in the next CBAS newsletter: lkroner@cinci.rr.com. And now, back to the bench.
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www.cincinnatiartbookarts.org

BOOKWORKS 6

6th Annual Exhibit of the Cincinnati Book Arts Society

CBAS, Cincinnati Book Arts Society, announces its 6th annual exhibit at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The exhibit serves as a showcase for the book arts.

May 19 through July 3, 2005