

Books Arts on the Internet

There are a great many sites now on the internet devoted to bookbinding and to all things related to the art of the book. This is the first in a series of occasional pieces about these sites and what is to be found there. Before I move on to talking about these sites, I should like to mention our own website, created and maintained by David Roberts. It has recently been updated, and continues to be revised and enhanced; it looks very nice. The news page will now be updated weekly so that members will be able to access up-to-the-minute information about exhibitions, competitions, talks and other events – see the address at the end of this article about how to do this. There are biographies on all the Fellows with images showing examples of their work. Associate members also have the opportunity to submit an image and text (100–150 words). The site has a long annotated list of related links, organised under various headings such as Bookbinding & Book Arts Associations, Book dealers, Calligraphy, Paper, Private Presses, Type & Printing and Suppliers. It made a very useful starting point for my own explorations of the web. I thought this time I would look at the sites from some of the book arts and bookbinding associations in Britain and North America.

Our sister society, **The Society of Bookbinders**, (<http://www.societyofbookbinders.com>) also has a website, and it is well worth checking out. It contains a Gallery of the winning entries in its international bookbinding competition for 1999, 2001 and 2003. Although no replacement for seeing the books ‘in the flesh’, the entries are accompanied by descriptions and the judges’ remarks, which I found fascinating.

On to North America, and one

website I return to again and again is **The Book Arts Web**, (<http://www.philobibliion.com>). As David has mentioned in his own round-up, it is one of the best links to all kinds of topics relating to the Book Arts. It is maintained by Peter Verheyen and is very well presented and easy to navigate. Its main offering at present is to promote a ‘challenge’ for a ‘Worldwide Springback Bind-O-Rama’, asking people to design and complete a *creative* springback binding, in either the English or German style. By the time you read this the deadline will have passed, but you should be able to see an online exhibition of competition entries.

This website has accumulated a large collection of links and references – I can spend hours clicking on and reading about a diverse range of topics. Peter has actually loaded his bibliographies onto the site as well, including a list of contents for every issue of *The New Bookbinder* up to volume 22 (2002). To access this, put your cursor over the ‘Reference’ section at the top of the home page and a drop-down menu will appear. Click on ‘Bibliographies’ and on that page click on ‘Bookbinding’. The page is divided into monographs and journals, and if you click on ‘Journals’ you should get the listing for *The New Bookbinder*.

The Book Arts Web also provides easy access to the Book Arts Discussion Forum at Book_Arts-L Listserv. You don’t have to subscribe to search its archives, but here you will find the most obscure book arts topics under discussion. If you want to post a question or join in you will need to subscribe. I have found it extremely useful for finding out things (and the more I learn, the less I feel I know). The Book Art Web’s home page is the easiest way into it. In fact, it has set up Google as its

search engine, so it is extremely easy to use. I love it.

At present the Book Workers Guild, (<http://www.palimpsest.stanford.edu/byorg/gbw>), in the United States is showing its latest triennial exhibition, which is travelling the country until 2005. Called *In Flight*, its theme is tied in with the centenary of the Orville brothers’ first flight in 1903. The online gallery contains images of the work of forty guild members. The exhibition itself is on show at the Columbus College of Art & Design in Columbus, Ohio, until 29 October 2004, but will then travel to other locations in the United States: see later in this newsletter for details.

Finally, **The Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild**, (<http://www.cbbag.ca>) has a very nicely designed site. It has some thoughtful touches, such as a page that discusses what is meant by the book arts, and another on how to find somebody to repair a book. It is well laid out and easy to use, well worth a visit for seeing what is happening on the Canadian book arts scene. Its online gallery is of a recent exhibition of binding and printing by Don Taylor and Will Rueter, at the Paper Place in Toronto. It celebrates twenty years of a friendship in the book arts. Its exhibitions pages include the Guild’s *Art of the Book* exhibitions of 1998 and 2003, plus an exhibition called *Millennium in a box*.

Sylvia Carlyle, London

Designer Bookbinders: <http://www.designerbookbinders.org.uk>

If you have any relevant news or information that you want included on the website, please email: webmaster@designerbookbinders.org.uk, by the previous Friday and it will appear on the website the next Monday.