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2017 Annual Meeting and Joint Session Details

The annual meeting of the BSC-SbC will take place on **May 29, 2017** during the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Ryerson University in Toronto. The meeting will take the form of a one-day conference on the theme of *Book Historical & Bibliographical Praxis in Canada*. The BSC-SbC hopes to encourage students, researchers, teachers, and professionals engaged with book history and bibliography in Canada to reflect on the foci, aims, methodologies, and practices of these two related disciplines.

In recognition of Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017, the BSC-SbC and the Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture (CASBC-ACÉHL) are also collaborating on a joint day to be held on May 30. The session's exciting title, *Bound by Three Oceans: Reading, Writing, Printing & Publishing in Canada since Confederation*, takes its cue from Congress's overarching theme of *The Next 150: Far and Wide*.

Details on the annual meeting and the joint BSC-SbC/CASBC-ACÉHL session will be posted at www.bsc-sbc.ca/.

Fisher Library Summer Seminar

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto invites applications for the inaugural Summer Seminar on the history and identification of book illustration. The three-day seminar will address the most notable techniques of book illustrations, including woodcuts, engravings, etchings, stipple, aquatints, mezzotints, lithography, wood engravings, steel engravings, among other processes developed before 1860. Divided into short lectures, hands-on sessions, demonstrations from local artists, and collection displays, the seminar will be led by Dr. Rowan Watson, Senior Curator Emeritus at the National Art Library in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

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The seminar will take place between June 5-7, 2017 to coincide with the end of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (May 27-June 2, 2017). Applications are open to librarians, archivists, scholars, antiquarian booksellers, and graduate students in Canada, with preference given to applicants whose work and/or research will benefit from attending the seminar. Registration costs will be covered for accepted applicants, which includes the registration fee, course materials, and lunch during the three days. Successful applicants are expected to cover their own transportation and accommodation costs.

Applicants are asked to submit an application form and a CV of no more than three pages by **Tuesday, January 31, 2017**. For further information, contact David Fernández at david.fernandez@utoronto.ca or visit the Fisher Library website: fisher.library.utoronto.ca.

Books, Books, Books! A Dispatch from Oak Knoll Fest 2016

Ruth-Ellen St. Onge

I moved to the United States in June 2015 to work as Assistant Curator at Rare Book School, and I'm happy to report that attending antiquarian and book arts fairs is now a mandatory part of my job. Most recently, I attended Oak Knoll Fest in New Castle, Delaware.

For the past nineteen years, Oak Knoll Fest has served as a venue for and a celebration of fine and private press books and their creators. In 2016, the theme of the festival was "The Texts of Private Press Books – Should They Come from the Past or the Present?" A free symposium featuring talks and discussions by printers, librarians, booksellers, and collectors took place on September 30 and was followed by the two-day book fair featuring over thirty exhibitors from the United States, Canada, and Europe. BSC-SbC members will be pleased to know that there was a dash of Canadian content during the symposium, as Mark Dimunation, Chief of the Rare Books and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, mentioned with great respect the works of the BC-based Barbarian Press in his talk on libraries and fine press acquisitions. Dimunation also made the point that the best way that curators and librarians can cultivate their collections of fine and private press books is to meet with and talk to artists and printers about their work, and also to provide a home for materials documenting the creation and reception of texts. My fellow RBS staff members and I were able to put this advice into action during the fair. We stopped by the stall of Gaylord Schanilec, the Minnesotan artist known for his wood-engraving and exquisite colour-printed books. Schanilec gave us a keepsake from his current collaborative project on the Mississippi River, *My Mighty Journey*, undertaken with John Coy. The keepsake broadside truly embodied the spirit of the great river as it was printed, he explained, with found materials like driftwood and shoreline debris.

Our next stop was at the stall of Abigail Rorer, a talented and prolific wood engraver and artist, who had just given a talk on her career in the fine press world at the Oak Knoll symposium. In 2010, Rorer completed an artist's residency in St. John's, Newfoundland, and I picked up her hand-coloured wood-engraving of two billing gannets, inspired by her trip to Atlantic bird sanctuaries. We were also at Oak Knoll, of course, to purchase items for the RBS collections,

and we were pleased to acquire the manifesto of Didier Mutuel, a provocative French book artist who specializes in etching. Mutuel's 2006 *Manifeste de l'acide brut*, a striking work almost haphazardly bound, will serve as an example in RBS courses on illustration processes and artists' books. Speaking with active book artists and printers was, for me, the highlight of the festival. Those of us who study the history of the book sometimes forget to remain attentive to the thriving world of book arts that surrounds us. Another highlight of the trip to New Castle was sifting through the three stories of books on books in the spacious Oak Knoll shop, an experience I would recommend to any book historian or bibliographer who happens to find themselves in the state of Delaware.

This year, the festival was marked by an air of poignancy. A week before the proceedings, the proprietor of Oak Knoll Books and the founder of the festival, Bob Fleck, passed away. He would, no doubt, be happy to know that in 2016 Oak Knoll Fest served once again as a lively event at which bibliophiles of all stripes and colours could meet, discuss, and of course, purchase beautiful books.

New Members

The BSC-SbC welcomes several new or returning members including:

Rasoul Aliakbari
Concordia University Library
Janice Dowson
Keith Grant
Margaret Mackey
Royal Ontario Museum Library & Archives
Stephen Webb
Lauren Williams

Bulletin Transition

Alana Fletcher has stepped down as Editor of the *The Bulletin/Le bulletin*. The BSC-SbC thanks her for her work. A new Editor will be appointed at the annual meeting in May 2017. In the interim, *Bulletin* business can be transacted by contacting the Chair of the Publications Committee: publications@bsc-sbc.ca.