



# The ENDPAPER

Newsletter of the Library Binding Institute

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## **Library Binding Discussion Group Meeting at ALA Midwinter Meeting – San Antonio, TX January 21, 2006**

Approximately 45 people attended the Library Binding Discussion Group meeting held during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio on Saturday, January 21.

Chaired by Laura Cameron, the meeting began with remarks by Jay Fairfield, President of the Library Binding Institute (LBI). Fairfield gave an update on the library binding industry and discussed trends such as the move to on-demand printing and short-run binding. He highlighted LBI's newly expanded website commenting that the site was created to serve as a resource for librarians and customers of library binders. Fairfield also noted the *Guide to the Library Binding Standard* is in the process of being updated. The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) division of ALA will retain the rights to the Guide but will allow LBI to print and provide hardcopies for customers and make it available as a PDF on LBI's website. LBI's sponsorship of a new ALA ALCTS preservation award was discussed. The LBI George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Grant Award is being established by the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS) of ALCTS to honor the memory of George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg, early leaders in cooperative preservation programming and strong advocates for collaboration in the field of preservation. Pending approval by the ALA, the first award could be presented as early as midwinter 2007. Fairfield concluded his remarks by highlighting that LBI is reviewing the role it plays in the marketplace. Diversity among products and services offered by library binders is encouraged within the industry so as to replace the declining library binding revenue. Despite this, Fairfield assured the group that binders would still maintain their core binding services.

Tom Teper, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, followed Fairfield with an update on his soon-to-be-published sourcebook on library binding. Teper briefly explained the history of the book's origin and indicated that the book will be useful to all types of libraries including special collections, public libraries and general collections. More information on the book's publication should be available by the ALA Annual Meeting in June 2006.

Following Teper's remarks was an open discussion on the demand for library binding workshops. The group responded overwhelmingly in the affirmative, emphasizing that successful workshops would likely be regional in nature and offered at an affordable rate. Participants discussed the subject areas that might best benefit their staffs within the context of a library binding workshop. Suggested topics included how to prepare materials for binding, the identification of materials upon return, quality control, overall understanding of process, options available beyond leaf attachment, communicating with a commercial binder (understanding common terminology), understanding products and options for both bindings and services, and the importance of library binding.

This discussion prompted a participant from the ALCTS continuing education group to indicate that library binding was missed at their educational summit meeting, held earlier in the week. She will follow up to determine if it can be added to the curriculum.

General policies for outsourcing reformatting to library binders were discussed, including circulation trends (heavily circulated is preferred), physical condition of the item, and policies regarding monographs and serials.

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*(Library Binding Discussion, cont'd from page 1))*

Some library binding trends noted by the group included more monographs being bought and sent for binding than in previous years, however; with more monographs also comes the practice of deferred binding that cuts heavily into what is sent to the commercial binder. Another practice is having paperback books bought on an approval plan go out to a commercial binder first for binding. This allows for a quicker track to the stacks and could be used as a cost-saving program.

Product evolution was then discussed. Overbinding surfaced in reference to books that are bound with materials that are used due to history rather than what may be best for the book. Quality does not always mean strength. If

### **Heckman Bindery Inc. and ICIBinding Corporation Merge to Create The HF Group**

Heckman Bindery Inc. and ICIBinding Corporation, have combined resources, talents and expertise to form a new organization, **The HF Group, LLC**, with a client base throughout the continental United States, as well as Alaska and Hawaii.

Jay Fairfield, President of ICIBinding Corporation said, "Libraries and library binders have experienced dramatic changes in our industry. With declining volume and escalating costs, the merger makes sense on several levels." The library binding industry has faced many challenges in the last few years.

Those challenges are no small part of this decision to combine resources. Library budgets for binding are shrinking. In some cases, journals are no longer bound at all. In addition, many libraries are receiving information in electronic format only and moving to paperless offerings. As a result of these changes, revenues continue to decline and costs continue to escalate. This merger allows the HF Group to continue to provide quality service to customers more cost effectively.

"This is a unique industry that has faced many challenges in recent years," said Jim Heckman, Vice President of Heckman Incorporated. "By joining forces, we will be better positioned to address and meet those evolving challenges."

there are more products and technologies to be used, a partnership with libraries must be established.

Debbie Nolan, LBI executive director, announced that an ALCTS preconference workshop is scheduled to take place, Friday, June 23, in New Orleans, in conjunction with the ALA Annual Meeting. Offered in a morning and afternoon module, the workshop targets senior library staff as well as those working on the front line. More information on the workshop can be found on LBI's web site at [www.lbibinders.org](http://www.lbibinders.org), and on the ALCTS web site, [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org), in the coming months.

*Thanks to Laura Cameron, discussion group chair, for sharing her meeting notes.*

### **Strong Support for Library Binding Shown During ALA Midwinter Meeting**

*By Debra Mills Nolan, CAE*

If you read the report on the Library Binding Discussion Group meeting, held January 21, in conjunction with the ALA Midwinter Meeting, you will see there was much interest in library binding. (See first article in this *Endpaper* issue.) Nearly 40 preservation librarians shared their enthusiasm for library binding workshops, publications, and trends. I found the dialogue instructive and refreshing.

LBI has many supporters in ALA who are active in ALCTS including Laura Cameron, Library Binding Discussion Group chair; Kate Contakos, Book and Paper Committee chair; Jeanne Drewes, ALCTS PARS Programming and Publications Committee chair; and Genevieve Owens, ALCTS Programming Committee chair. I was inspired by the conversations I shared throughout the weekend with these esteemed leaders who continue to champion library binding education and publications within ALA. Charles Wilt and Julie Reese, on the ALCTS staff, have been great friends to LBI as well.

During the ALA Midwinter Meeting, I also had a chance to meet with the instructors for the library binding workshop to be held Friday, June 23, in New Orleans – Julie Arnott, Notre Dame Libraries; Kate Contakos, NYU; Jean Ann Croft, University of Pittsburgh; Andrew Hart, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and J C. Noyes,

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*(Strong Support for Library Binding, cont'd from page 2)*

Bridgeport National Bindery. Their insights into present day library binding challenges and issues will benefit those who attend the workshop. Please be sure to share the workshop details, which can be found on LBI's website, [www.lbibinders.org](http://www.lbibinders.org), with your colleagues and customers. A flyer will soon be available for you to print from LBI's website. You may copy and distribute this to help spread the word.

Library binding has several fans and supporters many of whom I had the pleasure to meet and/or reconnect with during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. I am grateful for the time they so generously commit to the cause and their profession. We need to continue the dialogue, I am convinced, now more than ever.

**LBI Spring Annual Meeting  
Sheraton Sand Key Resort  
Clearwater Beach, FL  
May 5 – 8, 2006**

Rate: \$155 single/double  
Rate Good Until: April 4, 2006  
Make reservations by calling 727-595-6111

Mark your calendars for LBI's spring meeting to be held May 5 – 8, 2006 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. Located on the Gulf Coast, the resort offers something for everyone including a state-of-the-art fitness center, poolside activities, fishing, golf, and tennis programs. It is 21 miles west of Tampa's International Airport and ninety minutes by car from Disney, Sea World, and Universal Studios. Look for more meeting information and your registration form to be sent to all LBI members via email in February.

**Friday, May 5**

2:00 pm - Registration Desk Opens  
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm - LBI Board of Directors Meeting  
6:00 pm to 6:30 pm - LBI 75th Anniversary Presentation  
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Welcome Poolside Cocktail Reception



Sheraton Sand Key Resort

**Saturday, May 6**

8:00 am to 9:00 am - Continental Breakfast  
8:00 am to Noon - Supplier Table Top Displays  
9:00 am to Noon - General Session  
10:00 am to 10:30 am - BREAK  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm - LBI Golf Outing  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Suppliers Reception/Dinner on the Beach

**Sunday, May 7**

8:00 am to 9:00 am - Continental Breakfast  
8:00 am to Noon - Supplier Table Top Displays  
8:30 am to 9:00 am - LBI Annual Meeting  
9:00 am to 10:00 am - In-Depth Review of LBI's Financials  
10:00 am to 10:30 am - BREAK  
10:30 am to Noon - Supplier Presentations  
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm - OPTIONAL Extracurricular Activity  
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Cocktail Reception  
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm - President's Dinner

**Monday, May 8**

8:00 am to 9:00 am - Continental Breakfast  
8:00 am to 11:00 am - Supplier Table Top Displays  
9:00 am to 9:30 am - Werner Rebsamen Technology Update  
9:30 am to 11:00 am - General Session  
11:00 am - Meeting Ends

## Postal Reform Legislation Could Dramatically Boost Stamp Prices

(January 30, 2006 posting on [WhatTheyThink.com](http://WhatTheyThink.com))

Washington, D.C. - A senior U.S. Postal Service official warned today that passage of pending postal reform legislation, when coupled with the Bush Administration demands on military retirement costs, could increase stamp prices by as much as 20 percent in the near future.

The bill scheduled for Senate action would require the Postal Service to become the first federal agency to pre-fund its retirees' health benefits while the Bush Administration is insisting that the agency absorb the military retirement obligations of its employees, also a first for the federal government.

"Under current law, the Postal Service has managed to keep the cost of postage below the rate of inflation," said Tom Day, Senior Vice President for Government Relations. "But this bill not only strips the Postal Service of much of its management authority but almost guarantees a hefty rate increase."

Day said that should final legislation require the Postal Service to pre-fund retiree health benefits and retain a \$27 billion obligation to fund military retirement benefits for its employees, postage rates could increase by up to 20 percent. That would be in addition to any rate increase necessary to fund postal operating costs. The postage rate increase that was effective on Jan. 8 was implemented solely to generate the \$3.1 billion necessary to fund an escrow account resulting from 2003 legislation.

Postal operations are funded entirely by the sale of postal products and services, not through tax revenue.

Commenting on the Senate version of a postal reform bill, S. 662, Day said that it does not provide the Postal Service with necessary rate flexibility.

"The bill will keep the Postal Service tied to the current rate-making method, which is layered with a Consumer Price Index rate cap. We would have no new ways to grow revenue and mail

volume to continue to support universal service," he said.

The bill also grants a new Postal Regulatory Commission broad new authority to override practically any operational decisions the Postal Service makes, from the deployment of processing equipment to the award of a contract.

"In this divided system, there will not be an entity to hold accountable for the performance of the Postal Service," Day said.

The Postal Service's Board of Governors wrote the full Senate yesterday, expressing its opposition to the Senate bill.

"We believe there are critical elements missing from this bill, as well as numerous burdensome provisions that would make it extremely difficult for the Postal Service to function in a modern, competitive environment," the Governors wrote.

"It is with regret that, in carrying out our fiduciary responsibilities and in keeping with our concerns that the Postal Service be able to provide the quality of service and reasonable rates to which the

*"In this divided system, there will not be an entity to hold accountable for the performance of the Postal Service." Tom Day*

American people have become accustomed, we must oppose passage of this bill."

Day said that the Postal Service has worked hard over the years with all concerned parties involved with this attempt to modernize postal legislation.

"Unfortunately, we could not convince congressional leaders to consider our serious concerns with parts of the legislation," he explained.

The Postal Service expressed similar concerns regarding the House of Representatives version of postal reform legislation, H.R. 22, passed in 2005.

## Technical Director's Report

By *Werner Rebsamen*

### Mending Torn or Damaged Sheets

Back in the 1950's when I was a bookbinding apprentice in Switzerland, I received a good education on how to repair and rebind old books and documents. At that time, neither oversewing nor double fanning was known to us. Virtually all books were sewn through the fold and, when taken apart for rebinding, the outer folds were damaged and had to be repaired with strips of Japanese tissue paper. The first and last signatures or sections also received a reinforcement on the back of the innermost folds so as to reinforce the relative brittle, folded papers for the sewing process. I learned to cook starch (paste) and spent considerable time repairing individual books - each wet strip had to be placed between board strips to initiate the drying process. Worse, the wet process distorted some sheets, especially if the paper grain direction was perpendicular to the binding edge. Needless to say, such painstaking work would command a higher salary these days! During my first year as a bookbinding apprentice in the 1950's, I was paid the equivalent of \$1.25 for a 48-hour week!

Mending each damaged fold created problems. Although Japanese tissue paper is relatively thin, it builds up if stacked. Take a book with 30 signatures. If you repair only the outer folds, you have 60 sheets of paper placed on top of one another! Add the paste and you have a good size "swell," the technical expression of a spine that is much larger than the actual bulk of the text block. A swell causes many more downstream problems. Just try trimming, rounding and backing such a book and you will run into many difficulties, especially if the signatures or sections are thin.

In the mid-fifties, Mr. Ehlermann, a German bookbinding machinery engineer, visited our edition trade bindery, the largest in Switzerland, and sold us a double fan machine. In our hand and library binding section, we learned quickly that such a binding process eliminated all the repair and reinforcing tasks. Only a few, if any, torn sheets had to be repaired. Because of these advantages, the double fan process is now the foundation of commercial library binding. Without it, we would not be able to produce

such cost-effective library bindings. Much earlier than the double-fan processes, oversewing gave us the same advantages, but as stated, this binding process is, until these days, not known on the European continent.

Now back to mending. As stated, despite double fanning or oversewing, library bindings often require torn sheets to be repaired. The "wet" process of using Japanese tissue papers is anything but cost-effective. Nobody, except rare-book librarians or bibliophiles, would be willing to pay us for these labor intensive tasks. This is why commercial library binders have selected transparent pressure-sensitive alkaline paper mending tapes.

As stated in earlier editions of *The Endpaper*, a NISO voting librarian recently objected to wording in the current ANSI/NISO/LBI library binding standard referring to the use of transparent pressure-sensitive alkaline paper mending tape and suggested that we go back to using Japanese tissue papers and paste. If one reads the following phrase, "*unless the customer and the binder make special arrangements for use of alternative mending materials or no repair.*", one can see that if a customer wants torn sheets repaired with Japanese tissue papers, they can request it but they must also be willing to pay for such a labor intensive task. Customers need to understand that 95 percent of our work is on commodity items. Archival artifacts are, of course, different. Those responsible for writing the ANSI/NISO/LBI specification did a remarkable job of addressing this particular topic. The meaning of "artifactual value" can be found in the standard's glossary.

Some library binding establishments use 3M's invisible tape to repair torn sheets. This is acceptable for text book repair or anything else requiring nonpermanent work. The customer, of course, will have to give permission. An economical tape should not be used on artifacts, keepsakes or any items of value. One company which has earned an excellent reputation as a supplier of archival mending tapes the world over is Neschen ([www.neschen.com](http://www.neschen.com)). They offer a comprehensive range of self-adhesive products, and market laminating machines and a sophisticated de-acidification process.

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*(Technical Director's Report (cont'd from page 5))*

Every library binder should already be familiar with Filmoplast, a mending material especially developed for libraries and archives. Repeated, independent aging tests earned this product an excellent reputation with archives worldwide. I assume that most LBI members are familiar with **Filmoplast P** – a self-adhesive, wood-free, ultra-thin and transparent special paper that is coated on one side with a solvent-free, age-resistant and permanently elastic acrylate adhesive. It has anti-aging properties as certified by the Foundation for Paper Technology. In a slightly alkaline range, it has no negative effects on documents. With a sufficient buffering-capacity, it also aids in the prevention of possible acid damages. Best of all, it is an environmentally friendly material and recycles via normal paper waste. However, some of our members may not be familiar with the following mending tapes:

**Filmoplast P 90** is a new development that has the same aging features as described. The difference, however, is that it has long fibers which make it more tear resistant. In other words, if you need to mend and reinforce papers, this is a better choice.

A lesser known product is **Filmoplast R** which is an ultra-thin, wood-free, transparent special paper that neither contains lignin nor hemi-cellulosis, but has a high percentage of alpha-cellulosis. These tapes are coated on one side with a heat-activated, plasticiser-free acrylate copolymer. In a German bookbinding journal, it was described as a so-called technical Japanese paper because it has similar aging characteristics as an original, handmade Japanese paper and it is made on a paper making machine. Despite the long fiber structure, it is very transparent and an ideal product to repair torn sheets on valuable documents. Neschen offers appropriate heat-sealing tools. Why heat-seal when you can have a pressure sensitive tape? Try to repair a large piece of newspaper or a poster. It is much easier to do this by heat-sealing one little piece after the other.

Neschen USA's David Dannhauser, archival products manager for North America, recently commented on the conservation of books and documents: *"When talking about the difference between Filmoplast P and Filmoplast R, it has been my experience that the conservation*

*community favors the type R because the adhesive is not as prone to migrating as the self-adhesive tapes. Once the heat is removed, the adhesive 'sets'. The pressure sensitive tapes, because they do not dry out, remain in what we call an "active" state and there is the risk that over time they will migrate further into the paper - making removal at a later date more difficult. In this case, we are talking about general mending and not "archival" preservation. This might be something of a moot point."*

For us bookbinders, it may also be of interest that Neschen offers a variety of reinforcing cloth tapes with the same, high quality self-adhesive coating. For technical product specifications, and or catalogs on Neschen products, go to their website. For specific questions, contact David Dannhauser, david.dannhauser@verizon.net, 800 434-0293. The Neschen warehouse is located in Kansas and their coating facility in Maryland.

## **The Print Media – Contradictory News Items**

We all hear the news about "old-fashioned print media" in an electronic age. On my desk I have two contradictory stories. One is from MIT's *Technology Review* writing that "there is no law giving print magazines a monopoly on thoughtful writings."

The authors believe that Web publishing, in particular, can make our brand of technology coverage more timely, accessible, and interactive. No argument with that. The other is an article from the January 9 *Business Week* – "Call it Gutenberg's Revenge." This article covers many web failures and reports how Webzines are launching print versions to boost their readership and advertising. An adjoining article deals with the e-book. Remember how back in 2001, everyone feared this? Well so far, despite of all the promotion, e-books have captured only 0.2% of the 944 million books U.S. publishers sold worldwide in 2004. Now Sony is making an effort to enhance this market with all new products.

## **New 30 Books a Minute Hardcover Line**

Muller Martini just announced an all new 30 books a minute hardcover book line and which will be introduced during an open house, March  
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*(Technical Director's Report (cont'd from page 6))*

9 to 11, at its factory in Bad Mergentheim, Germany. It is an ideal solution for short runs, especially for those who are getting into hardcover binding. Best of all, it should be noted that this new 30 books a minute line can later be upgraded to a 60 books a minute line.

Kolbus introduced such a line during DRUPA. It has been a great success as they sold, as reported in a German bookbinding journal, one hardcover binding line a week. However, according to Art Crawley, VP Sales of Kolbus America during Print05, none to the North American market. Is this an indication that the majority of hardcover bound books are being produced elsewhere?

### **Something to Think About...**

"Stewardship is easy and inexpensive to claim; it is expensive and difficult to honor, and perhaps it will prove to be all too easy to later abdicate." - Clifford Lynch (from Connie Brooks presentation to the Preservation Administrators Discussion Group, June 21, 2006, "Update on Digital Repository Certification".)

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