

The Endpaper

December 2013

A Newsletter from HBI and the Library Binding Institute



**Hardcover
Binders
International**
Library Binding Institute

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A Letter from Duncan Campbell, HBI/LBI President

Dear HBI/LBI Members and Friends,

On December 6, 2013, the agreement to finalize the merger between the Book Manufacturers' Institute (BMI) and Hardcover Binders International/ Library Binding Institute (HBI/LBI) was signed. The merger will become effective January 1, 2014, and, going forward, HBI/LBI will be known as the *Library Binding Council*, established within BMI.

HBI/LBI members will remain on their current dues schedule for the next two years, 2014 and 2015, after which all companies will follow the BMI dues structure. Membership dues invoices for 2014, will be mailed from the BMI office shortly after the first of the year. All *Library Binding Council* members will appear in the annual BMI Directory as members of the *Library Binding Council*. Those who are members of both associations will be designated accordingly.

The *Endpaper* and *ShelfLife* will continue to be published and include information relevant to BMI members in addition to HBI/LBI members. The first meeting of the *Library Binding Council* is tentatively scheduled to take place during the BMI Management Conference, May 4 - 6, 2014, at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, Fort Myers, Florida. More information on this will follow in the coming weeks.

Debra S. Nolan, CAE, will continue with the merged organization through 2015. Her primary focus will be to support and staff the *Library Binding Council*, manage the production of the *Endpaper* and *ShelfLife*, and provide services to HBI/LBI members to ensure an orderly transition into BMI. She will continue to represent the association at the ALA Annual Conferences, remain involved in coordinating the HBI/LBI oriented sessions at the BMI conferences,



Duncan Campbell

and continue the HBI/LBI toolkit maintenance. The current HBI/LBI website will initially remain live as will the email contact information associated with HBI/LBI.

Werner Rebsaman has been asked to serve as the *Library Binding Council* technical consultant. Both Debra and Werner will report to the *Library Binding Council* chair, who is currently the HBI/LBI president. The chair of the *Library*

Continued next page

Also in this Issue...

- Industry Headlines
- Technical Director's Report – *Warp-Free Cover-Boards? There Are None.*
- Executive Director's Report
- Something to Think About

Binding Council, if not a duly elected member of the BMI Board of Directors, will be an ex-officio member of the Board.

Both associations anticipate that there is much to be gained by combining resources during a time in which the library binding and book manufacturing industries are experiencing significant changes. This merger provides the best opportunity for both associations to continue to represent the interests of their members in this changing environment, and to continue to provide world class support and services for members, member's customers, and ultimately the consumer.

Please feel free to contact me, duncan@campbell-logan.com or Deb Nolan, dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org, for additional information. I wish you an enjoyable remainder of the year and a successful start in 2014.

Best Regards,



Duncan Campbell
HBI/LBI President
Campbell-Logan Bindery

BMI Management Conference May 4 - 6, 2014



Make plans to join us for the BMI Management Conference at the beautiful Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa in Fort Myers, Florida.

The resort boasts captivating views of Sanibel and Captiva Islands on Florida's Southwest Gulf Coast.

Get all the latest information on the conference by clicking [here](#).

Industry Headlines

Congratulations Butch and GPO!

Congratulations to HBI/LBI member Walter "Butch" Wingo, Government Printing Office, on the following article that appeared in, *In-plant Graphics*, "GPO Among Best Places to Work in Federal Government." Access the full article, by going to <http://www.inplantgraphics.com/article/gpo-among-best-places-work-federal-government/1?sponsor=newsletter%2Fe-news&e=wtrebs%40metrocast.net>.

Congratulations Houchen Bindery!

Congratulations to HBI/LBI member Houchen Bindery, on the following article that appeared in the *Omaha World-Herald*, "Goodfellows: Owners of Utica, Neb., Bindery Turned Gifts to Them into Gifts for All." To access the full article, go to <http://www.omaha.com/article/20131206/NEWS/131209304/1016>.

Preservation Week, April 27 – May 3, 2014

Mark your calendar for Preservation Week, April 27 – May 3. Libraries and other institutions can use Preservation Week to connect our communities through events, activities, and resources that highlight what we can do, individually and together, to preserve our personal and shared collections. For more information, go to <http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/preswk>.

Twelfth International Conference on Books and Publishing, November 8 and 9, 2014, Boston

The 2014 Conference Special Focus is "Disruptive Technologies and the Evolution of Book Publishing and Library Development." For more information, go to <http://book-sandpublishing.com/the-conference>.

2014 Graph Expo, September 28 – October 1

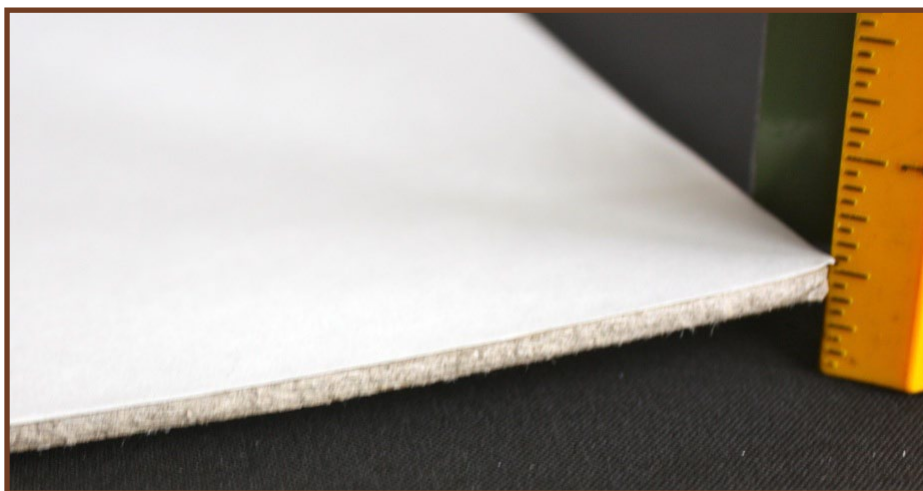
Mark your calendar for "the industry event spanning the realms of Print, Online and Mobile...the most innovative exhibition of digital, inkjet, offset, flexo and hybrid technologies in 2014." For more information, go to <http://www.gasc.org/graphexpo14.aspx>.

Technical Director's Report Werner Rebsamen

Warp-Free Cover-Boards? There Are None.

For those of us assigned to analyze problematic hardcover bindings, the season for warped cover boards is again just around the corner. When the weather is cold and the relative humidity is very low, paper products and wood react, their fibers adjusting to the environment. In your home, you may notice wood shrinking. In some severe cases, you may even hear a sound. During periods of higher humidity, those fibers swell. On an improperly installed hardwood floor, the panels may warp upwards. This happened to one of our neighbors, resulting in expensive repairs. In short, we must try to understand what is going on in order to find

the necessary solutions and skills to cope with such potential problems. Mother nature is always in control. As for us bookbinders, there are no such things as warp-free cover boards. One exception may be Plexiglas panels, used on parchment covers. No paperboard is strong enough against the forces of parchment. But those are problems with which hand bookbinders need to cope. As I published in previous articles, it is what you do with the boards that count.



Praised as the "industry's most Warp-Resistant Board" after mounting a sheet onto one side only. Photo courtesy of Werner Rebsamen.

I recently received a mailing from a cover board supplier who introduced a remarkable new quality cover board. Luckily, they were smart enough to call it a "Most Warp-Resistant Cover Board, the most dimensionally stable board in the industry." They even challenged us to test the board in the dishwasher! After all the testing I have been involved in as part of the industry and at the LBI/RIT book testing laboratory, I couldn't resist the challenge. After all, this was

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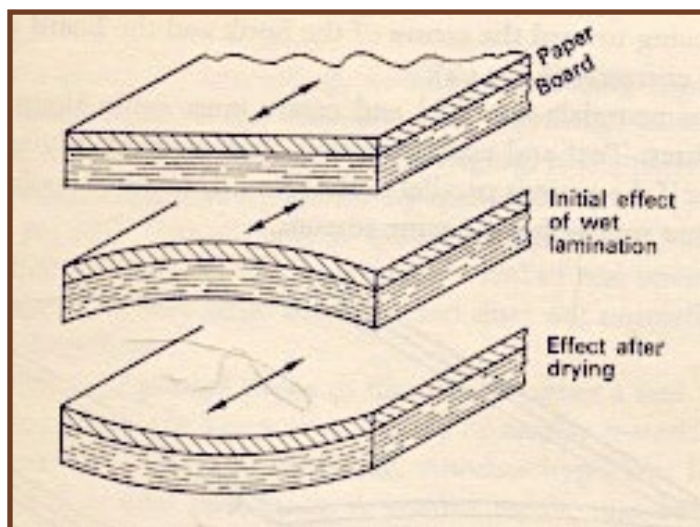


Paperboards after completed dishwasher test. Identical .120 calipers used. Only the chip board distorted. Photo courtesy of Werner Rebsamen.

an entirely new experience. I have no idea what our highly skilled paperboard people and scientists think about such a very unusual paperboard test. For an honest comparison, I selected five other brands of paperboards as well: a binders board, an unknown cover board sent by a library binder in the re-certification process, laminated boards and a chip board. Only the chip-board distorted and disintegrated. The high quality laminated board structure came apart, most likely because the water dissolved the adhesive used. The binders board, an embossing board, the unknown board and this all-new cover board had almost identical results. After drying, they were all equally slightly distorted. In other words, I believe that such a dishwasher challenge is a useless cover board test, unable to help us reach any valid conclusions.

If you are wondering why, consider the ingredients used to make paperboards. Paperboards are made from paper waste and there is no uniformity. Seldom are virgin fibers used. Worse, our paperboard manufacturers must deal with recycled paper waste, sometimes recycled many times over. Every time paper is recycled, the fibers get shorter, after which they breathe, shrink and expand differently. Our dedicated paperboard scientists try to create, and succeeded in manufacturing reliable, dimensionally stable cover boards. But in the end, it is what **you do** with the cover board that counts. The magic word is equalization. In other words, you need to, and it is your responsibility to balance these forces. To demonstrate, I took that new cover board sample, which measured only 8x8

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Schematic of how paperboards react to laminating them with paper or cloth. Photo from Finishing Processes in Printing by AG Martin.

inches, and mounted a single sheet of an endpaper onto one side only. After drying for a few days, the cover board warped as expected, lifting the edges upwards 3/8 inch. If I had mounted the same paper onto both sides, using the same grain direction and casing-in adhesive, that board would lay flat on the table, as I would have put equal forces to work. Of course, that isn't really possible. To construct a book-cover, we may have a cross-grained, laminated paper on one side and an endpaper on the inside. The covering material is glued onto the board with hot protein glue, the casing-in adhesive is a water-based PVA. In some cases there may be cloth on the outside and a laminated endpaper on the inside. That laminated endpaper will not expand and pull the cover inward as expected, usually resulting in warped boards.



Cover de-warping as observed at the HFGroup-Acme Bindery. Photo courtesy of Werner Rebsamen.

The first thing people not familiar with these forces do is call the board suppliers/manufacturers and blame them for a rejected job. I have served as an expert witness on many court cases dealing with this very issue. Board manufacturers and suppliers were never at fault. For this reason, and in order to create a balance, a hardcover binder needs to de-warp the book covers before casing-in. High-speed Kolbus and Muller Martini hardcover binding lines de-warp the covers automatically. Sometimes that is sufficient but, in my opinion, it is usually not enough. If you joined us at our Boston meeting, while visiting the HFGroup-Acme Bindery, we saw a fellow de-warping book covers. Paul Parisi, our tour guide, clearly stated that this minor added labor cost is his best insurance to avoid warped book cover panels. This is, in my opinion, a fine example of equalization.

In conclusion, one should always should use dimensionally stable cover boards, adjust the caliper to the dimension of the book and, most of all, always try to be in control of those forces on either side of the cover board. A book-

binder can be compared to a circus rope-dancer, one who tries never to fall down on either side! Of course, to support the dancer's weight, the rope must be of an exceptional quality as well. Our dedicated cover board manufacturers and suppliers always try their best to get you to the other side without losing your balance. Cheers to them!

May the New Year be a prosperous one in good health.

Werner Rebsamen is Professor Emeritus of the Rochester Institute of Technology and the technical consultant to HBI and the Library Binding Institute. He can be reached at wtrebs@metrocast.net.

Executive Director's Report

Debra S. Nolan, CAE



A New Chapter for HBI/LBI

As we embark on the next chapter of HBI/LBI, soon to become the Library Binding Council (LBC) of the Book Manufacturers' Institute (BMI), I'd like to acknowledge all members of HBI/LBI for your commitment to excellence in the important work that you do, longstanding dedication to this association, and willingness to move forward for the good of the whole.

Despite the change in name and format of the association, much of the same activity will continue on your behalf. Werner Rebsamen and I will support the work of the LBC, much as we have with HBI/LBI, through December 31, 2015. You will see the continuation of the *Endpaper* and *ShelfLife*, which going forward, will feature content of interest to all members of the merged association. I will represent you at the ALA Annual Meetings and maintain the Library Binding Toolkit. We will all have an opportunity to gather as a group at the BMI conferences, including the upcoming conference, May 4 – 6, 2014, at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, Fort Myers, Florida.

BMI members, leaders, and staff should also be acknowledged for the professionalism and care with which they have approached the merger. The face-to-face, phone, and email conversations throughout the year generated a substantial amount of activity! Your flexibility and perseverance are very much appreciated.

Finally, HBI/LBI president Duncan Campbell, deserves to be singularly recognized for his leadership throughout the process. It is rare that someone is able to facilitate discussion on such complex issues, while navigating the steps necessary to move forward, and at the same time, make time to listen to members' concerns and questions. Additionally, Duncan's kindness, thoughtfulness, and genuine care of the process and those to be impacted have been truly remarkable. Thank you, Duncan, for your leadership this past year and into the new year.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and prosperous 2014. Please know that for the time being you can still reach me at dnolan@hardcoverbinders.org and 561-745-6821. I look forward to continuing on this journey with you and to seeing you at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa in May!

Something to Think About

"There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts." — Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist.