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Remembering Mel Kavim 1916 – 2006

by Paul Parisi

man. His first passion was his family—his wife Phyllis and his children and grandchildren. His second passion was bookbinding—his business, Kater-Crafts, and his avocation as a hand binder and book collector.

I first met Mel in 1980 at an ALA meeting in San Francisco. Mel was president of the Library Binding Institute and I was a young binder who knew very little about the industry. Mel was an important figure at the Library Binders Relations Committee, the first meeting in many years that ALA had scheduled with library binders. Mel, as LBI president, was largely responsible for getting the LBI and ALA talking and working together to improve products and services offered by binders to libraries.

As a young man, at the time, I was a bit nervous. Mel went out of his way to make me feel welcome and to introduce me to librarians and binders. Mel was a staunch advocate of quality binding and his trade association, The Library Binding Institute. He immediately started selling me on the benefits of

Mel Kavim was a friend to all who knew him. He was attracted to people, genuinely interested in learning from everyone he met. He was a passionate

joining the LBI, since my company was not a member. Mel explained that binders, suppliers and librarians needed to work together through the LBI to improve product quality and the technology used to produce library bindings.

As the owner of Kater-Crafts, Mel had managed the growth of his start-up business to become the major West Coast library binder. He was proud of his company. Mel invited me to come to Pico Rivera to visit Kater-Crafts. When I tried to decline the invitation, he insisted that I come and, furthermore, I stay as a house guest with him and his wife Phyllis. I was soon to learn of the great love between Mel and Phyllis. They were a perfect couple—behaving like newlyweds after many years of marriage. I was treated to a special meal at a favorite Chinese restaurant and got to see and hear all about Kater-Crafts and the formative years of the bindery. Mel explained in detail all the management systems in place at the bindery. He showed off the quality of the work produced and the skill and passion of the staff. His greatest joy was showing me the treasures contained in the company conference room—all the great bindings produced for Hollywood stars and patrons of the book arts. I must say Mel treated me like part of the family.

The same evening at dinner, Mel and Phyllis told stories of their travels around the country and the world in search of bookbinding excellence. Mel told me he would always call on fellow binders when he traveled. In some cases, he

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Read more tributes to Mel, pages 2, 3, & 4



*Celebrating
71 years*

Our Mission

To maintain and encourage support for the highest quality standards for Certified Library Binders and to promote their benefits to libraries.

Our Purpose

To develop a spirit of mutual collaboration and cooperation among those engaged in library binding by encouraging and directing activities leading to constructive cooperation between our members, our customers, our suppliers and others related to our industry.

To champion our standards representing the best craftsmanship, quality and service for prolonging the useful life of printed library materials.

To improve the methods of the industry through research and testing, the exchange of experience among members and through educational programming.

To cooperate with and support libraries' efforts to promote preservation of library materials.

To engage in any other activity which the LBI Board of Directors decides would benefit the industry.

You Can Judge a Book by its Cover

A Tribute to Mel by Jack Bendror

My relationship with Mel first started as one between an engineer and a customer and it goes as far back as 1963 when he and his partner, Lou, purchased our Hydropress. From then on, we developed a very special friendship which, as an engineer, I enjoyed very much. I could write a book about my 43-year relationship with Mel; however, in this remembrance I will try to portray a few of the outstanding qualities which make me remember him.

Mel was very innovative and visionary in his thinking especially as it related to the necessity of automating the labor-intensive library binding industry. His partner, Lou, did not share his ideas. On many occasions I would point out the benefits of joining LBI but Lou would always object. In spite of the opposition, Mel proceeded to purchase the Rounder & Backer in 1966. It wasn't until the partnership was dissolved when Mel felt free to explore his ideas and move on. From this time forward he became one of our pioneering customers who purchased every machine we developed.

On the many visits to the bindery, I remember the TLC (Tender Loving Care) posters hanging over various areas of the bindery which reflected the care and love of quality which Mel instilled in everyone who worked with him. With the help of all three of his children, he built a modern bindery producing one of the finest quality products in the industry.

Both Mel and his wife, Phyllis, were very kind to me and my wife. I have fond memories of their gracious hospitality and their way of making me feel welcomed whenever they invited me to stay at their home both before and after Phyllis's death.

Among the many fond memories which describe the mind Mel possessed was a time shortly after he purchased the RB-7. He asked me to develop a casemaking gauge which took me by complete surprise. When I asked him what was wrong with the existing simple and inexpensive tool, his answer was the mechanism that drove the spine arms was too flimsy and wore too soon thus compromising the casemaking accuracy. My reply was if Mekatronics was to design a casemaking gauge, it would cost several times the cost of the present unit. Mel's answer was "did I say anything about price; I know you'll do it well so just do it". We went ahead and designed a new casemaking gauge which, following the development of the Hi-Tech RB-7, we named LOTEK™ and of which many were sold. Shortly thereafter, with his inspiration, the automatic Cord-Cutter integrated with the LOTEK™ was developed.

Mel was known as a man of fiercely determined convictions whose many innovations, personal interests and drive contributed greatly to the maturity of the profession of library and archival conservation. I always admired his collection of antique bookbinding machines and tools. Myself a collector, I mostly admired his beautiful collection of rare books. Sitting on my library shelf is the book "You Can Judge a Book by its Cover" which he published. Although miniature in size, it stands tall in my collection and will always be a reminder of Mel.

He also enjoyed a professional association with Bernard Middleton, England's foremost scholar-binder. He assisted Dudley Weiss, the Executive Director of LBI, with the acquisition of the Middleton Collection which is now housed in the reading room within the Cary Graphic Arts Collection at RIT.

Mel died as he lived - working. A man clearly dedicated to hard work, determination and almost remorseless in his pursuits. He will be missed by all of us.



Mel's miniature book
"You can judge a book by its cover"
A labor of love

Remembering Mel Kavin
(continued from page 1)

would not be welcome, because competitors did not want to give away "their secrets". Invariably, Mel explained, he was able to talk his way into most plants. He would learn from the experience and a new friendship formed.

As with me, Mel was eager to welcome fellow binders to his plant. He said he always learned something new when he showed off his plant and got to see it through the objective eyes of a competitor. Over the years, Mel opened his plant for the California Library Association, for the Guild of Book Workers, the Library Binding Institute and the American Library Association Institute on Library Binding that took place in Los Angeles. Mel was a teacher and mentor as well as a student of bookbinding.

Mel was a pillar of the industry. Whenever an important decision was discussed or a problem was facing the industry, you could count on Mel to speak up in favor of doing the right thing, which is not to say doing the easy or popular thing. Mel was a proponent of quality. He believed the bedrock principle of business is to produce the best product and service possible, always, and to trust the customer to recognize value. Saying Mel was old school in terms of traditional values does not mean that he was old-fashioned. There was nothing "old" about Mel. He was one of the first to recognize the value of automation and computerized services to take some of the labor out of a labor intensive business. Mel was one of the first to adopt the RB7, UBS, MD17, Ultrabind, System3 and ABLE. He was a leader in an industry full of strong binders.

Another aspect of Mel I was fortunate to share was his love of fine binding and miniature books. His skill and passion led him to form close friendships with many of the world's leading fine binders. Kater-Crafts produced many unusual hand bindings—each with its own story. The capstone of these projects would have to be the miniature book Mel commissioned called "You Can Judge a Book by its Cover".

Mel got many of his friends, luminaries of the graphic arts world, to collaborate on his project. I cannot imagine anyone but Mel could have pulled this off. Who could say "No" to Mel? Well the book turned out to be beautiful and a good read. I do not know if the project was a financial success, but I am glad Mel did it. It is a great testimonial to Mel and to Phyllis, to whom he dedicated the book.

I could go on and on, telling you what you already know. Mel was a very smart and talented man who cared more about sharing his talent than he did about personal aggrandizement. Mel loved to travel, to see the world and meet the book makers who were scattered around the world. Mel missed his wife Phyllis when she left him, much to soon, but he continued. He continued to come in to the bindery, to keep up relationships, to attend conferences, to enjoy working with his sons Rick and Bruce and his daughter Judy, as well as all the staff at Kater-Crafts. Mel attended the **Changing Book** symposium in Iowa City last year. He was as interested as ever in the trends and the prognosis for the book industry. When I asked Mel his opinion of the impact the digital age will have on the book industry, he laughed. "Books have survived more than one technology experts claimed would render them obsolete."

Like a good book, a good friend is a treasure more permanent than the paper, the printing, or even the binding. Mel was such a friend. We are all better for having known him. He is a role model who will continue to inspire us as a businessman, a father, a husband, a friend and a book binder.

Paul Parisi is president of ACME Bookbinding and can be reached at Paul@acmebook.com.

A Letter to Mel's Family

by Jack Fairfield

Rick, Bruce, and Judy,

I was greatly saddened to receive the email from Deb Nolan regarding your father's passing. I knew Mel for a very long time and always respected him and his great devotion to the craft as well as the industry.

I first met your dad when I was a young production supervisor at Hertzberg-New Method and Kater-Crafts was a Permabound dealer on the West Coast. Lawrence Hertzberg had invited a number of the binders to represent Permabound books as a sales agent, and Mel had the foresight to agree and make this a good addition to your business. The relationship lasted a number of years and when Mel was in Illinois visiting the HNM plant, he spent some time with me talking about library binding and our common interest in process and procedures. His inquisitive mind and gentle probing were effective and always present, and I was amazed he cared enough to seek out a young 25 year old to talk about binding. But he valued everyone's opinion and sought everyone's counsel.

A few years later I had an opportunity to visit the West Coast and accepted your dad's invitation to visit Katercraft. Once again, he was the consummate host. Picked me up at the airport, bought me a terrific lunch, and gave me all the time I wanted in the bindery. And all

the time he was engaging and interested in what I saw and what I thought. Mel was a wonderful host, and I always appreciated it very much. It is amazing to me that my first visit to Pico Rivera was 40 years ago.

As time moved along we were not as close and I know some of the competitive issues got in the way, but it was never personal. We agreed to disagree on some issues, agreed totally on others, and I always looked forward to seeing him and listening to his ideas. He was a very special individual, and we all knew it.

I am so pleased I saw your father last May in Tucson. I had not attended an LBI meeting for several years and when I was asked to make some remarks, I was honored to accept. One of the first people to come to me, after I finished my presentation on my views of the state of library binding and our industry, was Mel Kavin. He wanted me to know he appreciated my remarks and thought they had merit. In addition, he was his usual alert, interested, and polite self.

Mel was a role model for many and a truly remarkable individual. He will be missed, but more importantly, he will be remembered.

I consider it an honor to have known him. My deepest condolences to you for your loss.

Memorial Fund Contribution

Please accept my gift of \$ _____ to the Library Binding Memorial Fund.

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Please make your check payable to the Library Binding Institute and note Memorial Fund on the check. Mail to: LBI, 4300 South U.S. Highway One, #203-296, Jupiter, FL 33477. To contribute via credit card, please contact the LBI office at 561-745-6821.

LBI Establishes Scholarship Memorial Fund

In recognition of longtime LBI member, Mel Kavin, Kater-Crafts Bookbinders, a Library Binding Memorial Fund has been established.

The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarships for library binding educational opportunities. This fund will honor the memory of those, like Mel, who have made significant contributions to the library binding industry.

If you are interested in making a contribution, complete the form on this page or contact Debra Nolan at LBI, dnolan@lbibinders.org, for more information. A letter to the family acknowledging your contribution will be sent.



MEL KAVIN

Binder, Conservator, Patron of Book Arts

by George W. Cooke

The following was excerpted from an article which appeared in the March 1998 issue of The New Library Scene. Written by George W. Cooke, Director of the Oradell Public Library in Oradell, New Jersey, it tells a poignant story of a man passionate about conserving the written word. To read the full article, please visit www.lbibinders.org.

Mel Kavin likes nothing better than to usher guests through the great libraries and art collections in the Los Angeles area: the Getty Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum, the Huntington Library, the Norton Simon Museum, and the Los Angeles Public Library. He knows librarians and archivists in all these institutions and many more, because he has been binding their books and making their phase boxes for many years. Mel's stamina is legendary. He is a very early riser and on special occasions, as when entertaining a guest, he thinks nothing of tramping about museums, libraries, and public gardens from morning to night, upstairs and down, and then

In the old days, most binders were secretive and would not share information or let a competitor visit their plants. Mel welcomed every competitor...

George W. Cooke

driving 30 or 40 miles to a fine restaurant and show for the evening. He discusses the book arts with animation as he speeds along the bewildering maze of freeways, familiar

with every ramp, turn, and byway for hundreds of miles. Traveling with Mel for a day is a delightful, if exhausting, experience—and he is 81 years old! His children recently gave him a computer to use at home so he could slow down a little, but Mel continues to work the same hours, only now he surfs the net after he gets home at night.

Read about Mel's early years in Chicago, his Navy adventures and how they led him to a love for leathercrafts, the beginnings of Kater-Crafts, and how his love of books fueled his passion for conservation. Visit www.lbibinders.org for the rest of the story.

Mending Torn or Damaged Sheets *by Werner Rebsamen*

The ANSI /NISO/ LBI Library Binding Standard, Z39.78-2000 contains many specific technical specifications. On page 3, item 6.4, the word "Repair" refers to mending torn or damaged sheets with a transparent pressure-sensitive alkaline paper mending tape. The description also includes a phrase "unless the customer and the binder make special arrangements for use of alternative mending materials or repair."

Recently, a preservation librarian questioned this particular section and requested the following change - "*that all torn and damaged sheets are repaired with strips of Japanese tissue paper and paste.*" Questions from conscientious librarians present an

opportunity for dialog and clarification. In response, it may be best if we first look at the history of torn sheet repair followed by a review of current technologies. This may help to better explain why the Standard is written as it is.

How we used to repair damaged sheets

Let us go back to 1950, when this writer started a career as a bookbinding apprentice in Switzerland where I received an excellent, government controlled trade education. One of the tasks was the repair and rebinding of old books and documents. At the time, neither oversewing nor double fanning was known to us. Virtually all books were sewn through

the fold and, when a book was taken apart for rebinding, most of the outer folds were damaged and had to be repaired with strips of Japanese tissue paper. The first and last signatures (sections) received reinforcement on the back of the innermost folds so as to strengthen the relatively brittle, folded papers for the sewing process. I learned how to cook a starch paste (part of a midterm test!) 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 of the sheets, especially if the paper grain direction was perpendicular to the binding edge. Needless to say, such painstaking, time

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Mending Torn or Damaged Sheets (continued from page 5)

consuming work would these days be cost prohibitive if done in a commercial library binding environment, except in the department for book restoration and conservation. During my first year as a bookbinding apprentice in 1950, cost for labor was no object. I was paid the equivalent of a \$1.25 or a mere 5 Swiss Francs for a 52-hour week! Although apprentices were paid virtually nothing, all received an excellent education.

Mending each damaged fold creates problems. Although Japanese tissue paper is relatively thin, it builds up. Take a book with 30 signatures or sections. If only the outer fold is repaired, there are 60 layers of Japanese paper placed on top of one another. Add the paste and a good swell, the technical expression of a spine which is much larger than the actual bulk of the text block, develops. This causes many down-stream problems in binding including shifting and distortion when trimming, rounding, or backing. Trimming such a text block square is nearly impossible, especially if the signatures or sections are thin.

In the mid-fifties, Mr. Ehlermann, a German bookbinding machinery engineer, visited the edition bindery at which I worked, the largest in Switzerland. He promoted the benefits of double fanning and, as a result, the bindery purchased one of his revolutionary machines. In our hand and library binding department, it was quickly learned such a binding process eliminated all or most repair and reinforcing tasks. Due to these advantages, the double-fan process is now the foundation of commercial library binding. Without it, library binders would not be able to produce such cost-effective library bindings. Much earlier than the double-fan processes, oversewing provided the same advantages, but this binding process is, until these days, not known on the European continent.



Mending tasks on Commercial and Artifactual Items

As stated, despite double fanning and oversewing, library bindings often require torn sheets to be repaired. The “wet” process of using Japanese tissue papers is anything but cost-effective. Most libraries, except rare-book libraries and individual bibliophiles, would be willing to pay for such labor intensive tasks. This is why commercial library binders have carefully selected aging resistant transparent pressure-sensitive alkaline paper mending tapes.

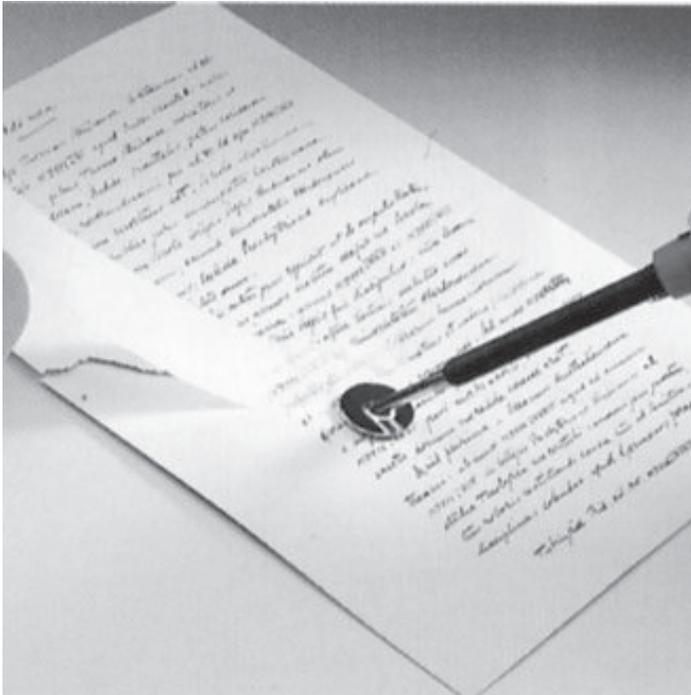
Why be so fussy about the qualities of mending tapes? Binders and librarians are all too familiar with the old, yellowing cellophane tapes people used to “repair” torn sheets which quickly yellowed, detached and left stains most difficult to remove.

As stated in the ANSI /NISO/ LBI Library Binding Standard, Z39.78-2000, a customer can make special arrangements for use of alternative mending materials or repairs with their
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commercial library binder. Bear in mind, however, more than 95 percent of our work is on commodity items. Archival artifacts require and deserve special treatments.

Those responsible for writing the new standard did a remarkable job of addressing this particular topic. The meaning of “artifactual value” can be found in the standard’s glossary. The best description in this regard may be found in the *Guide to the Library Binding Institute Standard for Library Binding* compiled by Jan Merrill-Oldham and Paul Parisi. In the section on repair, they refer to the mending materials specified and state the transparent pressure-sensitive alkaline paper mending tape is sometimes referred as “archival” mending tape. While it does not, in fact, meet the requirements for reversibility implied by the term “archival,” it has advantages over household-type tapes which have been used by library binders in the past. The new tapes are thinner and more flexible, resulting in a less stiff, more compatible mend, and best of all, they are easier to remove if

alternatives include mending with heat-set tissue and with Japanese paper and starch paste. Such archival repairs are time-consuming to execute, however, and it is unrealistic to assume they can be made routinely by library binders. If truly archival-quality paper mending is desired for text blocks to be library bound, the mending should be done by trained personnel in the library before volumes are sent for binding. This is not to say binders are incapable of performing archival-quality paper repairs. Such mending is simply an expensive endeavor for a commercial service. Therefore, it is more cost-effective for a library to perform such tasks in-house, particularly where non-rare, non-special materials are involved. If such mending is done in-house, the binder must be instructed accordingly.

Proven Archival Tapes

Although there may be many mending products on the market, this bookbinding expert is most familiar with a product used by library binders and museums throughout the world. A German company offering a range of

necessary, because they have a paper (rather than plastic) carrier which can be penetrated by solvents. However, there are problems associated with “archival” mending tapes. Like household-type tapes, they occasionally cause inks to bleed and adhesive may creep out around the edges of the carrier. Superior

self-adhesive products, Neschen (www.neschen.com) has earned an excellent reputation. In addition, they market laminating machines and a sophisticated de-acidification process. Their brand name for mending tapes is Filmoplast. Repeated, independent aging tests earned their products excellent marks with archives worldwide. As discussed in the previous chapter, let us look at three of their major mending tapes:

Filmoplast P – a self-adhesive, wood-free, ultra-thin and transparent special paper 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.

Filmoplast P90 is a new development with the same aging features as described. The difference, however, is it has long fibers which make it more tear resistant. In other words, if you need to mend and reinforce papers, this particular tape is a better choice.

Filmoplast R is a lesser known product but it may be a better choice for mending true archival products. It is an ultra-thin, wood-free, transparent special paper which 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, plasticizer-free acrylate copolymer. In a German bookbinding journal, *Bindereport*, it was described as a so-called technical

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Mending Torn or Damaged Sheets
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Japanese paper since it has similar aging characteristics as an original, handmade Japanese paper. The reason they called it “technical” is because paper is manufactured 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. The Neschen Company offers appropriate heat-sealing tools also. Why heat-seal when there is pressure sensitive tape? From a bookbinder’s standpoint, repairing a large piece of newspaper or poster is

an almost impossible task to execute with a long strip of a “sticky” pressure sensitive tape. It is much easier to do this by heat-sealing one little piece after the other. But there are other reasons for heat-sealing as previously stated in the *Guide on Library Binding*.

When asked what is best for the conservation of books and documents, David Neschen North America archival products manager, remarks “When talking about the difference

between Filmoplast P and Filmoplast R, it has been my experience the conservation community favors 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 a risk 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.”

Research reports are available on request from the Neschen Company. It should be stated, that LBI, for this publication, does not endorse any specific products. The items described in this article are used only as an example.

With regard to mending, what should a librarian do? First, determine if the item to be mended is archival. Then follow the advice given on page 7, item 5.3, in the *Guide to the Library Binding Institute Standard for Library Binding*. Even if a library has a repair department, all mending options should be discussed with your library binder. Most important, use only high quality mending tapes. Ask suppliers for copies of independent testing reports with regard to aging characteristics, pH value, adhesive strength, thickness, and temperature stability. Remember, good communications and quality materials are essential to the maintenance of a library’s precious collections.

Werner Rebsamen is Professor Emeritus at the Rochester Institute of Technology and the Technical Consultant to the Library Binding Institute. He can be reached at wtrebs@localnet.com.

Bookmobiles make permanent stops in Gulf Coast

News from the American Library Association

With more than 300 libraries signed up through the American Library Association (ALA) Adopt a Library program, examples of how school, public and academic libraries are helping their colleagues in the Gulf Coast continue to grow. As part of a series, the ALA will share examples of how U.S. libraries are making a difference in the region, starting with donated bookmobiles that have found permanent homes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Perhaps the most recent arrival is “Gertie,” donated by the Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library to the Jefferson Parish Library. Gertie will join a Cybermobile on loan from the Muncie (Ind.) Public Library at the end of March. The oldest continuously running bookmobile in the United States, Gertie logged only about 50,000 miles in her 43 years of service visiting Waukegan neighborhoods and schools. The bookmobile and its contents were donated as part of a larger relief effort organized by the Wheeling-based North Suburban Library System (NSLS) and the ALA. Gail Borden Library District Foundation provided the funds needed to transport Gertie - filled with over 300 boxes donated by the Lake Forest Library, Vernon Area Public Library in Lincolnshire, Warren-Newport Public Library in Gurnee, the Wilmette Public Library and some local schools and scout troops.

Muncie’s Cybermobile began serving as the temporary home for the parish’s Grand Isle Library on February 1. The Cybermobile is equipped with computers with Internet and library database access.

The first bookmobile to make a permanent move traded Maryland for Mississippi license plates in December. Through the Maryland Library Association, the Allegany County Library System donated its bookmobile to the Pearlinton Library in Mississippi, which serves as both a public and school library for the town of about 1,700. Library systems, companies and individuals donated funds to refurbish the bookmobile, add computers and stock it with 4,000 new books. Local companies and individuals also donated funds to cover the cost of fuel to drive to Mississippi. The bookmobile went into service December 19, 2005.

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E-Book Technology Protects Copyrighted Material

Micro Book International, Inc. announces proprietary electronic digital technology capable of protecting E-book and multi-media copyrighted material.

The MicroWriter™ program works in conjunction with and is integrated into the Operating System of the MicroReader to provide property rights content security through encryption. Content or files are encrypted in one of two modes, unit and non-unit specific. Unit specific encryption ensures the content can be accessed by one specific MicroReader. Non-unit specific encryption means any MicroReader can access the content. In both cases, the content cannot be copied. Multi-lingual text is possible because any file can be encrypted.

“Our MicroWriter™ technology will ensure publishers of electronic media are protected,” said David Freedman, CEO. “This will open a whole new chapter in the electronic book publishing business.”

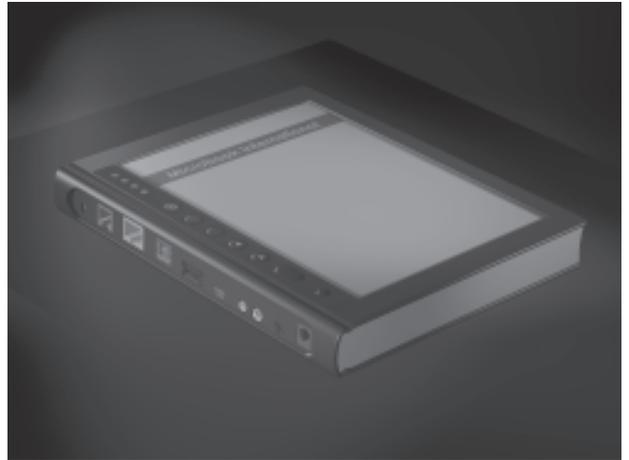
Electronic files can be resident on a Secured Digital (SD) Card © or stored in a Micro Book™ device. The proprietary technology protects

authors, publishers, and artists by preventing illegal distribution of their copyrighted material. All royalties will be secured, including the collection of payments to owners of the copyrighted material.

“Protecting publisher’s copyrighted material should certainly lead to increasing E-book sales.” said Freedman. “What Napster © accomplished with the music industry, we would like to offer to the book publishing business.”

The MicroWriter™ renders Micro Book™ intellitext format. This format contains all the information required to render text, including fonts and preserving the visual effect intended by the author.

Net sales for the United States publishing industry are estimated to have increased by 9.9 percent from 2004 to 2005 to a grand total of \$25.1 billion, while E-book net sales increased 44.8 percent to \$179.1 million during the same period according to figures released by the



Association of American Publishers (AAP). The sales figures in this report are based on year-to-date data in the AAP 2005 December Monthly Sales Report, the recently released U.S. Department of Commerce’s 2002 Census Bureau Report and other statistical data.

Founded in 1996, Micro Book International, Inc. manufactures electronic reading devices, which do not require computer literacy in order to acquire or read content on an E-book reader. The company also delivers the content in a model, which fits within the current publishing business of producing and selling books. For more information, please visit: <http://www.microbook.info>.

Bookmobiles (continued from page 8)

Also on their way soon to Harrison County, Mississippi, are two bookmobiles from the Geauga County (Ohio) Public Library. The bookmobiles were purchased by the Chesterland Rotary and stocked with more than 6,000 books from Geauga County and the Portage County Public Library. The bookmobiles currently are being upgraded mechanically and will head to Dayton Public Library the first week of May to pick up more books and funds before heading to Mississippi.

The Clearfield County (Penn.) Public Library said goodbye to its bookmobile on March 28, when it was donated to the Tapia Public Library of Bayou La Batre, Ala. Three elementary school reading classes made bookmarks for Alabama children and collected more than \$500 in donations. The Central Pennsylvania Katrina Reconstruction Task Force will transport the bookmobile to Alabama.

Library bookmobiles also were a part of immediate relief efforts. The Tyler Public Library in Texas, for instance, sent its bookmobile to a hurricane shelter to provide reading material to

Louisiana evacuees. The Dallas Public Library bookmobile made weekly stops to the city’s Reunion Arena, and library staff members provided craft programs for children and flyers listing library services and a walking map from the shelter to the Central Library.

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the bookmobile, which got its start in Washington County, Maryland.

According to the most recent federal data available, there are 864 bookmobiles in use across the country.



APPLICATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

When the Library Binding Institute (LBI) was formed nearly seventy years ago, adherence to the highest possible standard in library binding was one of the organization's founding principles. Upholding and advocating high standards continue to be an essential component of LBI's mission.

The importance of preserving the written word cannot be underestimated. Increasing awareness about the value of library binding is critical as is educating library professionals on the long-term care, preservation, and maintenance of their book and serial collections. As the premier resource on library binding information and education, the Library Binding Institute exists to support librarians in this endeavor.

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