



Newsletter

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Betsy Palmer Eldridge

**Recipient of the
2009 Lifetime Achievement Award**



Peter D. Verheyen

**Recipient of the
2009 Laura Young Award**

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Peter D. Verheyen is winner of the 2009 Laura Young Award for service to the Guild of Book Workers. Peter began his involvement in the book arts while a pre-law undergraduate work-study student in the preservation department at the Johns Hopkins University Library, then led by John Dean. At that time, Hopkins' preservation department hosted

a very active apprentice training program, exposing Peter to all facets of the field. In 1984, his senior year, Peter took a semester off to intern in the conservation lab of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg, Germany. During this time Peter decided to pursue bookbinding and conservation as a career. After graduation, he returned to Germany to begin a formal apprenticeship in hand bookbinding at the Kunstbuchbinderei Klein in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, passing his examinations in 1987. He also studied at the Centro del bel libro Ascona in Switzerland. After an internship with Frank Mowery at the Folger Shakespeare Library, he worked in Chicago at Monastery Hill Bindery, then with William Minter. Peter left Chicago for Yale University Library and then in 1993 become rare book conservator at the Cornell University Library, once again working with John Dean. In 1995 he established the conservation lab at the Syracuse University Library, where in 2008 he was named head of preservation and conservation.

Peter served on the board of the Guild of Book Workers in a variety of positions for fourteen years. As Exhibitions Chair he curated *Fine Printers Finely Bound Too*, *Paper Bound*, and the monumental *100th Anniversary Exhibition*, really two exhibitions, including the historical and contemporary portions. As Publicity Chair he brought the Guild online. He has presented at Standards formally, in 2001 demonstrating the Vellum Over Boards binding, and informally in several Friday Forum poster sessions.

His most significant contribution to the field is his pioneering use of digital technology to build community by sharing information and encouraging discourse on all aspects of the book arts. The impact of Peter's work has been global; worldwide there are over 2300 subscribers to Book_Arts-

L, the listserv created by Peter in 1994 – a visionary act, as it predated widespread use of email, especially among this community of slow adapters of technology. Topics on the list cover all manner of technical concerns, educational and professional issues, and philosophical discussions on art and craft. The accompanying Book Arts Web remains the foremost resource in the field, with tutorials, online exhibits, supply directories, professional and educational opportunities, numerous external links: a literal one-stop shopping place for book arts information. For the many practitioners, both novice and veteran, who have no local experts or mentors to call on, the Book_Arts-L and Book Arts Web are a professional life-line.

In 2004 Peter founded *The Bonefolder*, an open access, online book arts journal; an in-depth extension of the Book Arts Web. The semi annual journal enjoys a broad, global readership of significant articles on the same broad variety of topics, written by established and emerging experts, and peer reviewed by an editorial board of leading binders, book artists and conservators.

Peter is himself an accomplished binder. He exhibits his work internationally, nationally and regionally. His binding was awarded the *Harmatan Leather Award for Forwarding* in the Society of Bookbinders' 2003 Competition. Through his published articles and exhibition of his bindings, he has popularized structures previously obscure in the United States such as the Springback, Millimeter binding, and Vellum over Boards.

Peter was on the juror panel for the Guild of Book Workers 2009-11 traveling exhibition, *Marking Time*. He also served as juror for both the 2006 Helen Warren DeGolyer triennial binding and design competition and the Bright Hill Press inaugural artists' books exhibition in 2002. It is a credit to Peter's broad knowledge, interests, and open mindedness that he would be honored to serve as juror for two such diverse exhibitions.

Peter Verheyen's Book Arts Web is online at www.philo-biblon.com

Karen Hanmer

Photo by Steve Sartori, Syracuse University Photo and Imaging Center.