A Sewing Presentation

Stitches and Sewings for Bookbinding Structures

Presenter  Betsy Palmer Eldridge
Photos  Anna Prior
Layout  Brian Maloney

GBW/CBBAG
Standards Seminar
Toronto
2008
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This booklet was designed as a handout for the Sixty Sewing Structures presentation session at the GBW/CBBAG Standards Seminar held in Toronto in October, 2008. It is based on the digital images of the demonstration boards originally prepared for the Designer Bookbinders conference in Oxford in 1994, which in turn stemmed from a sewing workshop given at the Book and Paper Intensive in Seattle in 1991.

The work was the result of a project begun in the early '90s to try to assemble a compendium of sewing techniques from the different bookbinding traditions. The variety that emerged was amazing: some common, some rare, some historic, some new. It provided a smorgasbord of techniques from which a binder could choose. The particular strengths and weaknesses of the techniques made them suitable for different situations, whether in fine binding, conservation, or artists’ books. Workshops based on these sewing variations have sparked a widespread interest in using alternative structures. Occasionally interesting variations have continued to appear.

Many people have contributed to this project. A huge debt is owed to the illustrations in the classic German textbooks written by Fritz Wiese, "Der Bucheinband", and "Der Bucheinband: Historische und Neuartige Einbande." Special mention also must be made of the continuing interest and contributions of Hedi Kyle and Pamela Spitzmueller, whose work on sewing terminology has been invaluable. The search for other sewing techniques, new or old, remains a work in progress and an ongoing challenge.

Betsy Palmer Eldridge was introduced to the book arts by Hannah French at Wellesley College in 1957. Subsequently she trained in bookbinding in Germany at the Metz Bindery in Hamburg and in France at the Ecole Estienne and with Jules Fache in Paris. Later she worked in book and paper conservation with Carolyn Horton & Associates in New York. Since moving to Toronto in 1973 she has maintained a private conservation workshop there, and since the founding of CBBAG in 1983 has designed and taught their training courses and workshops. She joined GBW in 1960 and served as president 2000-2006, receiving the Laura Young Award in 2007.

NOTES
SEWING DEFINITIONS

METHODS BY WHICH GROUPS OF SINGLE LEAVES OR FOLDS, GATHERED INTO SECTIONS, OR SIGNATURES, JOIN TOGETHER TO FORM A BOOK-BLOCK
BY ATTACHING EITHER TO EACH OTHER OR TO A COMMON SUPPORT OR TO BOTH

LAP STITCH - A RUNNING SLIP STITCH
PASSES OVER A SUPPORT OR UNDER THE PREVIOUS SEWING
EXITS - NEAR SIDE (BACKWARD)
ENTERS - FAR SIDE (FORWARD)
THREADS DO NOT CROSS - LIE SIDE BY SIDE
QUICK BUT NOT SECURE

LOOP STITCH - A LOCKING STITCH
PASSES AROUND A SUPPORT OR THE PREVIOUS SEWING
EXITS - FAR SIDE (FORWARD)
ENTERS - NEAR SIDE (BACKWARD)
THREADS CROSS
SECURE BUT SLOW

JOINING STITCHES

LINK STITCH - DROPS DOWN TO ATTACH TO THE PREVIOUS SECTIONS

SPAN STITCH - CLIMBS UP TO ATTACH TO THE NEXT SECTION

KETTLE STITCH - LINKS DOWN & SPANS UP
TRUE KETTLE - 3 ELEMENTS
LINKS DOWN
SLIPS UNDER
SPANS UP

FALSE KETTLE - 2 ELEMENTS
LINKS DOWN
SPANS UP

STRAIGHT STITCH - ATTACHES ONLY TO THE COMMON SUPPORT
(DOES NOT DROP, SLIP, OR CLIMB)

SEWING STATIONS

PLACES WHERE A SEWING STOPS TO MAKE A CONNECTION, ATTACHING EITHER TO ANOTHER SECTION, A COMMON SUPPORT, OR BOTH
A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDREDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
STABBED THROUGH THE SIDE
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
WHIP/OVERCAST STITCH, BLANKET STITCH, AND JAPANESE STITCH

GBW/CBBAG STANDARDS SEMINAR, TORONTO 2008

ALONG THE SPINE: DOUBLE RAISED SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LAP, PACKED, PEARL, AND KNOT STITCHES
A SEWING PRESENTATION BY BETSY PALMER ELDRIIDGE

ALONG THE SPINE: DOUBLE RAISED SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LOOP, PACKED, LINK AND LINK PACKED STITCHES

GBW/CBBAG STANDARDS SEMINAR, TORONTO 2008

ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD OR THE SIDE: SINGLE SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
TACKET, SLIP STITCH, STEP STITCH AND PAMPHLET STITCH
ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT) SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: ONE, TWO, OR THREE SECTIONS MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES DECORATIVE SPINE STITCHES

ALONG THE SPINE: RECESSED SUPPORTS SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS MULTI-STATIONS: RECESSED GROOVES LAP, LAP-LOOP AND LOOP STITCHES
ALONG THE SPINE: SINGLE RAISED SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LOOP, PACKED, LINK AND LINK-PACKED STITCHES

ALONG THE SPINE: NO SUPPORTS (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LAP AND LOOP STITCHES; LINK AND SPAN STITCHES
ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LINK, SPAN, AND KETTLE STITCHES

ALONG THE SPINE: FLAT SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: DOUBLE AND TRIPLE HOLES
LAP AND LOOP STITCHES
ALONG THE SPINE: FLAT SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: DOUBLE HOLES
LAP AND LAP-LINK STITCHES

ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE AND DOUBLE HOLES
LINK AND ANGLED SPAN STITCHES
ACROSS THE SPINE: NO SUPPORT (OR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT)
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
PAIRED STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
STEP DOWN STITCHES

SINGLE STATIONS, DOUBLE HOLES
ANGLED SPAN, LAP, LOOP, AND STEP DOWN STITCHES

ALONG THE SPINE: CONTINUOUS SUPPORTS
SEWN THROUGH THE FOLD: MULTI-SECTIONS
MULTI-STATIONS: SINGLE HOLES
LONG, LINK, AND ANGLED SPAN STITCHES