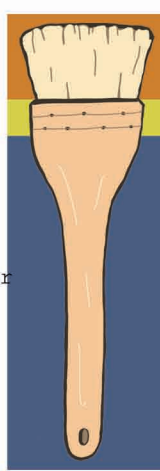


REVERSIBLES



Issue 08: The Best of 'B'

Brushes



The oldest brushes ever recorded were made 2.5 million years ago in the Palaeolithic era and haven't changed much in all that time:

Bristles

Made of a variety of materials, either natural or synthetic. The bristles transfer the paint or medium to the substrate surface.

Ferrule or mount

The part that holds the bristles and attaches them to the handle

Handle

Often wooden



ROUND



FLAT



BRIGHT



FILBERT



FAN



ANGLE



MOP



RIGGER

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paintbrush>

Main considerations when choosing a brush:

- what are the bristles made of
- what is the shape of the brush tip

Synthetic bristles

Made from: nylon or polyester.

Advantages: Can withstand repeated use, solvents and are easy to clean.

Considered more sustainable than natural brushes.

Application: Used in microexcavations to prevent contaminating the soil.

Natural bristles

Made from: Badger, squirrel, goat, hog, sable (weasel)

Advantages: ideal for aqueous treatments due to their ability to absorb and hold water.

Application: Badger hair blenders pick up excess varnish and matte down newly varnished surfaces.

Bondina

What is it?

It is a 100% non-woven polyester, available in a variety of weights, commonly 30gsm and 100gsm. It is smoother than Reemay and somewhere between Reemay and Hollytex.

Uses?

Supporting works on paper during aqueous treatments

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As a 'release' layer when pressing tear repairs on paper

<https://thebookandpapergathering.org/2016/01/14/adhesives-for-parchment-treatment/>

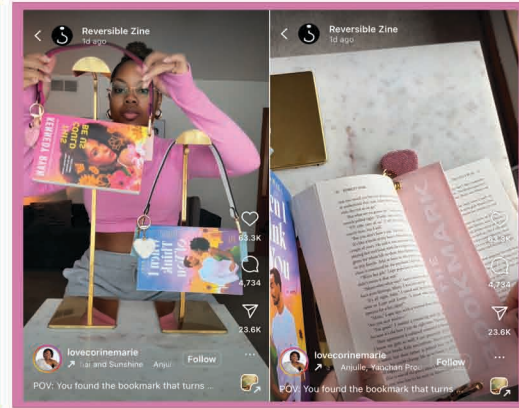
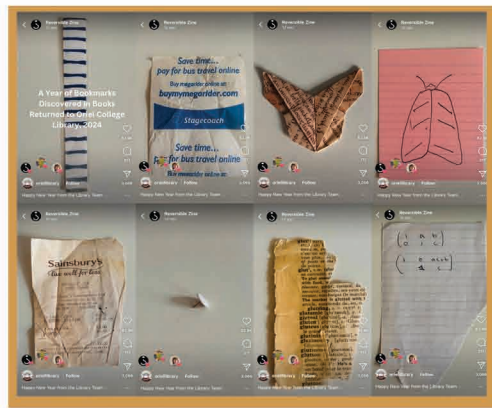
The thicker Bondina can be heat welded to form pockets

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Sample provided - 30gsm from Preservation Equipment Ltd



Bookmarks



The humble bookmark - because surely we're not folding corners right?! (don't make book and paper conservators turn in their graves). They can be big, bold, fancy, tasselled, inspirational or just an old ticket stub. But did you know the earliest known bookmark dates to the 6th century AD! It's an ornamented leather bookmark lined with vellum on the back and was attached to the cover of a Coptic codex found in Egypt in 1924-25. But there is something about the ephemeral, random everyday items used as bookmarks that is just so pleasing.

We love **Oriel College Library** and Archives who showcased a years worth of bookmarks discovered in returned books.

Phoenix Public Library has a **'Museum of abandoned bookmarks'** on display at the Ironwood Library. All of these bookmarks have been found by library staff inside books that have been returned.

And for those of you that can't go anywhere without a book to read, check out these fab **'bookmarks'** that mean you can carry your book with you over at <https://corinemarie.com/shop>

Backstories

We asked for your backstories and boy did you deliver. So what really got you into conservation...



@tails_from_a_dandelion
Toma Eliana

I have always been passionate about art history and researching historical monuments. But I live in a country where they said that restoring historical monuments is a male domain and restoring objects in the lab is for women. So I was a little disappointed to think my dream might not come true. I was on a trip to Sucevita Monastery (Suceava, Romania) and I saw restorers on the restoration site - and there were women, doctors of monuments and it gave me confidence that I could do it too. So that's what I did, I worked and studied and thank God my dream came true and I became a mural restorer and more than that, I ended up working on that restoration site of the Sucevita Monastery! (The place where I fell in love with restoration. Its an incredible feeling to wake up every morning happy that you are going to fulfil your dream - saving cultural heritage

@The art conservator

I really wanted to be like my grandfather, respecting a craft and learning to repair things

@CrannConservation

Saw an Archive Conservation Traineeship advert at the Job Centre and thought my boyfriend at the time might be interested in it, while he was going through the application and talking about it, I became more and more interested, so I put in an application too, we both got an interview but I got the job...and no we didn't last...

@Phedrakom

Seeing too many artefacts break or fall apart on excavation sites

@Simohneons

It's embarrassing but the 'Repair Shop' during Covid, never thought about it before

@Hannahjoyceknits

I was textiles first, conservation later. I had a degree in costume for film and TV and whilst researching extant garments I realised there were people who worked with (and could handle) these pieces every day!

@Morganthan

I wanted to leave teaching and stumbled on an article about colour matching babyseal fur... and here is the article! <https://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/conservation/the-use-of-japanese-tissue-paper-in-the-conservation-of-natural-history-specimens-the-in-filling-and-re-furring-of-a-taxidermy-atlantic-grey-seal-pup/>



Burn-out

In a profession where pay can be small and responsibility high, where the job is often a passion, burn out is highly likely. That's why Reversible should always be enjoyed over a tea break but why not try this breathing exercise to promote calmness.

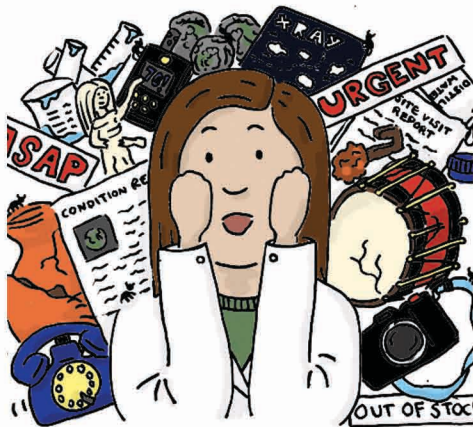


Image Copyright Cynical Conservator

7-11 Breathing Technique

- Find a comfortable spot to sit or stand
- Breathe in through nose for 7 seconds
- Breathe out through your mouth for 11
- Repeat for 3-5 minutes

Practice the technique whenever you can and use it when you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed.

The Science Bit

The extended exhale in this technique stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system, which is responsible for the body's rest-and-digest functions. This activation helps counteract the fight-or-flight response triggered by stress, leading to a state of calm and relaxation.

While "brushes" as we know them today weren't common, Stone Age people utilized animal parts like hair, bone, and even chewed twigs to create tools for tasks like painting, cleaning hides, and dental hygiene.



Sinead Worth