

## **Contemporary Bookplate Design and Concept**

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**Abstract**

*Printmaking involves one very important part of creating prints in a small format called bookplate. A bookplate is a small printed label which is adhered to a book, most often inside the front cover of the book. Bookplate typically bears a name, motto, device ( coat of arms ), crest, badge, or another motif that relates to the owner of the book, or is requested by the owner from an artist or designer. The technique adopted for Bookplates is the same Printmaking techniques used by Printmakers from time to time by Inventions. Now More than 50 “international” societies of bookplates (ex-libris ) collectors exist, grouped into an International Federation of Ex-libris Societies (FISAE) which organizes worldwide congresses every two years. These create an important factor among the Artist and between the buyers. Due to modern printing techniques and concepts presenting bookplates on the published book has been changed, people forget the real mean of the bookplate , somewhere the purpose of creating bookplate suffer by this tendency. Today Bookplate Design Art became much more popular as an independent art form*

**Keywords:** *Bookplate, Sumerians, Albert Durrer, FISAE, concept, techniques, Association, Art Institutes, Designer.*

## Introduction

Printmaking involved producing more than one copy of an image using an intermediately form in printmaking, ‘a metal plate, stone wooden block or fabric screen is used. The print is unique among artistic media and printing involves two surfaces one bearing image and the other upon which the image is impressed. Printmaking is the process of making artworks by printing. At the beginning before the printing press, printmaking was not considered an art form, rather a medium of communication it was not till the 18<sup>th</sup> century that art prints began to be considered originals and not till the 19<sup>th</sup> century that artists began to produce limited editions and to sign their prints along with technical information necessary to authenticate the work. Engraving goes back to cave art, executed on stones, bones, and cave walls. The duplication of engraved images goes back some 3,000 years of the *Sumerians* who engraved design on stone cylinder seals. Academic think that the Chinese produced a primitive form of print, the rubbing as the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The Japanese made the first authentically prints, wood-block that is developed Ukiyo-e method.

A bookplate is a small printed label which is adhered to a book, most often inside the front cover of the book. They are also sometimes known as “ex libris”, meaning “from the library of”.) However, some bookplates are signed by authors; they are then affixed to the book rather than signing the book itself. To standard size for bookplate is 3 inches wide by 4 to 5 inches high. Which will fit in the both paperback and hardcover editions of the book? Rectangular is the standard format, but artists could experiment with custom die-cut stickers in the shape of hearts, stars, apples, or many other exciting objects.

A bookplate ( or bookplate, as it was commonly styled until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), also known as ex-libris ( Latin for “ from the books ( or library ) of”) is usually a small printed or decorative label pasted into a book, often on the front endpaper, to indicate the ownership of the book.

Bookplate typically bears a name, motto, device ( coat of arms ), crest, badge, or another motif that relates to the owner of the book, or is requested by the owner from an artist or designer. The name of the owner usually inscription such as “ from the books of ...” or “from the library of .....” or in Latin, “ex libris”. Bookplate is important evidence for the Provenance of books.

The earliest known examples of printed bookplates are German, and date from the 15th century. One of the best known is a small hand-colored woodcut representing a shield of arms supported by an angel, which was pasted into books presented to the Carthusian monastery of Buxheim by Brother Hildebrand Brandenburg of Biberach, about the year 1480—the date being fixed by that of the recorded gift.

A sketch of the history of the bookplate, as a symbolical and decorative print used to mark ownership of books, begins in Germany. The earliest examples known are German, but also they are found in great numbers long before the fashion spread to other countries, and are often of the highest artistic interest. Albrecht Dürer is known to have engraved at least six plates (some quite large) between 1503 and 1516, and to have supplied designs for several others.

The technique adopted for Bookplates is the same Printmaking techniques used by Printmakers from time to time by Inventions. So here it is important to describe about the techniques and their purposes of use. The first woodcuts printed on paper were playing cards produced in Germany at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Printing from a metal engraving was introduced a few decades after the woodcut, and greatly refined the results. More than 50 “international” societies of bookplates (ex-libris ) collectors exist, grouped into an International Federation of Ex-libris Societies (FISAE) which organizes worldwide congresses every two years.

Bookplates are the process of making artworks by printing, normally on paper. Printing normally covers only the process of creating prints that have an element of originality, rather than just being a photographic reproduction of a painting.

Due to modern printing techniques and concepts presenting bookplates on the published book has been changed, people forget the real mean of the bookplate , somewhere the purpose of creating bookplate suffer by this tendency. Today Bookplate Design Art became much more popular as an independent art form, and for this several books, plate Association has been created in all European countries and now spreading all over the world. Decade back many Chinese collectors adopted this form and regularly collecting beautiful Bookplate designs from all over the world, due to this the artist became more busy creating newly ordered bookplates. This concept is increasing day by day and new talented skillful printmakers getting new possibilities of doing prints. The competition of creating a unique and different design by subject and by technique as well has been increased. Many designers adopted computers as tools for creating computer-generated art. Doing manipulation and adding technical skills in work the bookplates became a more vibrant and perfect presentation of any subject.

The increasing demand of Bookplate and artist effect educational institutes, the main reason for this expansion is the internet, and social sites due to which art student came to know about much Exlibris design competition around the world going on, and they try to participate with there skills. By these students became aware of this old tradition of bookplate design and its meaning. Many collectors are involved in this profession who are doing these all to find new young talents, and for this, they are organizing competitions of Students and artists.

In India, the concept of the bookplate is not much popular now but by globalization, this art form can never be hidden from the younger generation and I am sure this tradition will become popular here also if it is introduced in Academic Courses in different Printmaking Institutes.

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