



# Libraries through the lens

## Bateau Livre

**I HOPE *Information Professional* readers will allow me to stretch the definition of my column a little for this month's photo, but I couldn't resist sharing the story of this amazing creation here, and maybe ask for some help in return.**

This is "Le Bateau Livre", a book art installation by Swiss artist Jan Reymond. Jan is a childhood friend of mine and a man of many talents, and for the past decade he has been creating yearly book art sculptures of increasing size and ambition, using books left over from the local book fair or donated by libraries after weeding operations.

The inspiration for this year's creation came when rummaging through his recently departed father's possessions, where he happened upon a heavy cast-iron piece marked "Anglo-Swiss Motor



Co. Ltd, London and Romainmôtier". He enlisted my help to find out what this was about, but so far our efforts to find out the provenance and meaning of this baffling object have been fruitless. While there were car importers on either side of the Channel with that name, the

connexion to the small Swiss town of Romainmôtier has remained elusive.

But for the artist, this discovery meant only one thing, that he should use his art to connect his hometown with the British capital. And so he built a vessel out of books and discarded objects in which he hopes to one day make his way to London! The whimsical and awe-inspiring "Bateau Livre" was unveiled this fall for the yearly book fair and at the occasion of an international exhibition dedicated to book artists. It was still under construction when I got a chance to see and photograph it, but if Jan has it his way, it will soon set sail towards England! I invite any readers who may have clues as to the elusive "Anglo-Swiss Motor Co. Ltd." to get in touch with me at [contact@thomasguignard.photo](mailto:contact@thomasguignard.photo) and help us solve this mystery!

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