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Decorative Papers

- ◆ Most were created for use as embellishment for books, boxes and other objects and were to be pasted together for larger sheets or cut into smaller pieces.
- ◆ Decorative papers often resembled more expensive materials.
- ◆ They were used by professional craftsmen such as bookbinders, cabinetmakers and wall paper makers as well as the amateurs. They could be used by everyone and were available for purchase in the local stationers or marketplace.
- ◆ Makers of such papers were recognized and treated as respected artisans.
- ◆ History of decorated paper can be divided into two phases:
 - Coloring and decorating of paper solely by hand methods from beginning of 1600's to early decades of 1800's.
 - By 19th century, decorative papers began to be turned out by the roll in a factory setting using machines with obvious deterioration in their quality and beauty.
- ◆ Provided economical solution to one of the biggest problems facing a growing publishing industry – with the enormous quantities of books and pamphlets being produced, binderies were unable to keep up with the demand using traditional materials – colorful and relatively inexpensive decorative papers could be used to cover books attractively and market them successfully.

Valerian and Laura Lada-Mocarski Decorated Paper Collection

- ◆ 1945, Valerian and Laura (Polly) Lada-Mocarski bought the core of the present collection from a 3rd generation Italian bookbinder whose family had saved decorative papers from books they had restored -- many had been restored, joined together and painted in to mask the seams.
- ◆ Although Polly used some of the papers to restore her husband's collection of books, the paper collection grew as they added rare full sheets of brocade papers, Varese woodblock papers and various other decorative papers. Today the collection of approximately 650 sheets – a historical documentation of the great variety of decorated papers used in books over several centuries including some unique pieces -- includes a majority of marbled papers but also paste papers, early 19th century solid colored papers, 19th century French moire papers, machine marbled papers; embossed and block printed papers.

Time Line

- The Chinese (Tsai-Lun) invent paper – circa 105.
- Suminagashi* first made in Japan – 794-1184.
- The Chinese have practiced a form of marbling since the 10th century – perhaps an outgrowth of dyeing paper for insecticidal purposes.
- By the 13th century marbling similar to today was being practiced in Turkey and by early 14th century in Persia. During the 15th century there were several proficient marblers in Persia
- Date of oldest known colored paper (Ravensburg, Germany) on playing cards – 1430.
- Oldest dated marbled papers in Turkey – circa 1447.
- Circa 1448 – Gutenberg invented the moveable type.
- First decorative-woodcut papers made in Germany – 1575.
- 1580 – First paste papers and sprinkled or *kiebitzpapiere* made in Germany.
- Circa 1590 – Marbled papers were first imported to Europe from the Near East.
- 1616 Early Dutch manual with instructions for marbling, *Verlichtery Kunst-Boek*, by Gerard ter Brugghen
- 1642 – early account of French marbling contained within book of secrets
- Giannantonio Remondini of Padua set up a printing press in Bassano, Italy, to produce decorative papers – 1649. Company closed doors in 1861. Many original blocks were salvaged and 1890-1939, the Cartiera Molina Company in Varese used them to make new prints.
- 1646—Athanasius Kircher, a Jesuit mathematician and scientist, wrote description of marbling published in Rome.
- Circa 1685-1692 – First bronze varnished papers produced by Jacob Enderlin and Jeremias Neuhofer of Augsburg. Almost all of this type of paper, the forerunner to embossed or brocade papers, came from Augsburg, Germany.
- 1690 -- First brocade/embossed paper made in Augsburg (continued to be manufactured until about 1850).
- 1735—First block-printed papers made.
- Diderot *Encyclopedie* published – 1765.
- First machine-made paper created by Nicolas-Louis Robert of France in 1798.
- 1815 – first marbling manual in English, *The Whole Process of Marbling*, written by Hugh Sinclair, marbled papermaker, published.

- 1843 – Paper on a roll was first introduced into the production of decorative papers.
- 1850 – Development of more and more sophisticated machinery to use in the creation of decorative papers.
- C.W. Woolnough published his classic account of marbling in 1853.
- 1885 – Josef Halfer, bookbinder, revitalized marbling with his research into marbling materials and publication of his *Die Fortschritte der Marmorier Kunst*.

Marbled Papers

♦ Although marbling played a role in the everyday life of both the East and West for hundreds of years, historians are still piecing together the history. Within a quarter of a century after the 1st European encounter with ebru of Turkey and Persia marbled papers were being produced in Europe. By 1630 French binders were adding marbled endpapers to their finest bindings. The French also began about this time to marble the edges of text blocks. Earliest known example of marbled paper used in binding in England dates from 1655. Germany was by this time using marbled papers as limp wrappers on pamphlets and legal documents. By 1670's or 80's, marbling was closely associated with bookbinding.

♦ You can go to Peter Verheyen's Book_Arts-L for links to sites about marbling and marbled papers in the Paper Arts/Decorated Paper section. <http://www.dreamscape.com/pdverhey>

♦ Some instructional books – there are many:

Maurer, Diane. *Marbling: A Complete Guide to Creating Beautiful Patterned Papers and Fabrics*. New York: Crescent Books, 1991.

Schleicher, Patty and Mimi. *Marbled Designs: A Complete Guide to Fifty-Five Elegant Patterns*. Lark Books, 1993.

Medeiros, Wendy Addison. *Marbling Techniques*. New York: Watson-Guption Publications, 1994.

Paste Papers

♦ Making paste paper is a simple process. Colored paste applied to the paper surface and while still wet designs were created in a variety of ways.

♦ For most part German, but French and Italians also manufactured them in the late 18th century. Frequently made by binders who could not obtain or afford other kinds of decorative papers. German binders often learned how to make them during their apprenticeships.

♦ Herrnhutters (Herrnhut, Germany) made paste papers of high quality commercially for about fifty years from 1765.

•The Book_Arts-L also has a link for paste paper recipes.

Block Printed Papers and Stencils

- ◆ Flourished during the 18th century. Found on bindings dating from the 16th century. Earliest block printed papers were produced with small repeated patterns in one color about 1550. Multi-colored printing didn't occur until the 18th century.
- ◆ Carved woodblocks and woodblocks with metal designs mounted on the printing surface were used.
- ◆ Produced in a wide range of colors and patterns.
- ◆ Stencils were used in Europe in the manufacture of decorative papers dating from the 15th century. While they were used alone to create some decorative papers they also were used to embellish some of the block-printed papers.

Embossed or Brocade and Dutch Gilt Papers

- ◆ First appeared around the year 1700 in Augsburg, Germany and produced in Nuremberg, Frankfurt, Leipzig and Fürth as well. Also manufactured in Bassano and Rome, Italy.
- ◆ Ideal for book covers because they were soft, pliable and inexpensive but highly decorative.
- ◆ Massive plates used to print brocade paper were thick – similar to the plates used to panel stamp leather bindings. Designs were created by etching or engraving copper or brass plates and using an engraver's press to emboss the design with metal leaf – an alloy of gold with tin and copper or gold with brass and sometimes pure gold or silver. The paper was often coated with a colored paste before printing.
- ◆ Dutch gilt papers were stenciled with four or five colors before being embossed.

Other Decorative Papers

Copies of the Folger's Papers and Porcelains Exhibition catalog can be purchased by contacting the Folger Museum Shop, 201 East Capitol Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003:

Catalog \$16.95 plus shipping and handling of \$6.95

e-mail: sales@folger.edu

phone: 202-675-0364 or 202-675-0308

shop hours: 10AM-4PM, Monday - Saturday