

San Francisco, CA

The Rebacking of Leather-bound Books. Demonstrations. Oct. 23-4, 1992

It is not a practical proposition to list the great number of points I try to make during the course of the demonstration, so it has been suggested that on the hand-out I should at each stage refer the participant to the relevant pages in my The Restoration of Leather Bindings (American Library Association, Revised Ed. 1984).

Nobody will believe me, but this is not a devious plan to boost my royalty receipts!

Cleaning the Bindings

75 Pros and cons of washing, and reasons for doing it at this stage.

76 Technique and soaps. *Udper*

Removing the Original Spine

78 Problems involved in lifting. *pliantex → consolidates leather for lifting*

79 Desirable characteristics of lifting-knife.

80 Technique of lifting.

82-3 Good and bad consolidants for powdery and brittle leathers.

84-5 Pros and cons of back-cleaning after the leather has been lifted, especially when it has been difficult and uneven.

85 Lifting off separate panels, and what to do when they are fragmented.

86 Testing of possibly weak board attachment.

Alternatives to Resewing

87 Importance of avoidance of resewing.

88 Reinforcement of loose sewing with shallow saw-cuts.

90-3 Various methods of reinforcing the attachment of the boards.

94-5 Reinforcement with overcast cloth joints.

94 Reattachment of loose headbands.

96 Improvement of inadequate shoulders.

Headbanding

118-23 Making new headbands

123-4 Aging new headbands.

Rebacking 2

Back Lining

124-6 Pros and cons of lining.

Preparation of Boards for Rebacking

128 The lifting of pastedowns, turn-ins and sides, and the best sequence.

129-32 The technique of lifting.

133 The benefit of leaving a strip along the joint.

Rebacking

135 & 137 Paring, staining and use or otherwise of potassium lactate.

137 Pasting the leather and stretching down the middle (if necess.)

138 Drawing the leather on.

138-9 Tying up

142 Pitting the wet leather and setting appropriate caps.

143 Precautions against discoloration of old leather on sides.

144-5 Sticking down the sides. Wedge-shaped books.

146 Sticking down jaconet joints. Crushing one board at a time.

149-50 Repairing inner joints,

Replacing the Original Spine

150-1 Preparing the spine for replacement.

151 & 154 Pasting on and binding with tape.

154 Replacing individual panels.

Staining, Aging, Tooling and Furbishing

188 Merits of doing some staining before covering.

189-92 Types of stains.

192-3 Texturing exposed new leather with scrapings.

194 Use of straight-grain pallet.

195 Sprinkling.

195-8 Blind and gold tooling. Aging new gold.

200 Labelling and lettering.

201-2 Leather dressings.