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**FRIDAY NIGHT FORUM**  
**PROVIDENCE '04**

Binding Folio Images: Maps and Art Work

**Question:**

How to successfully bind large folio images, such as maps, art work, or similar items, where the image extends continuously across the interior faces of both leaves of the folio and therefore should not be interrupted by a sewing thread or a gutter margin.

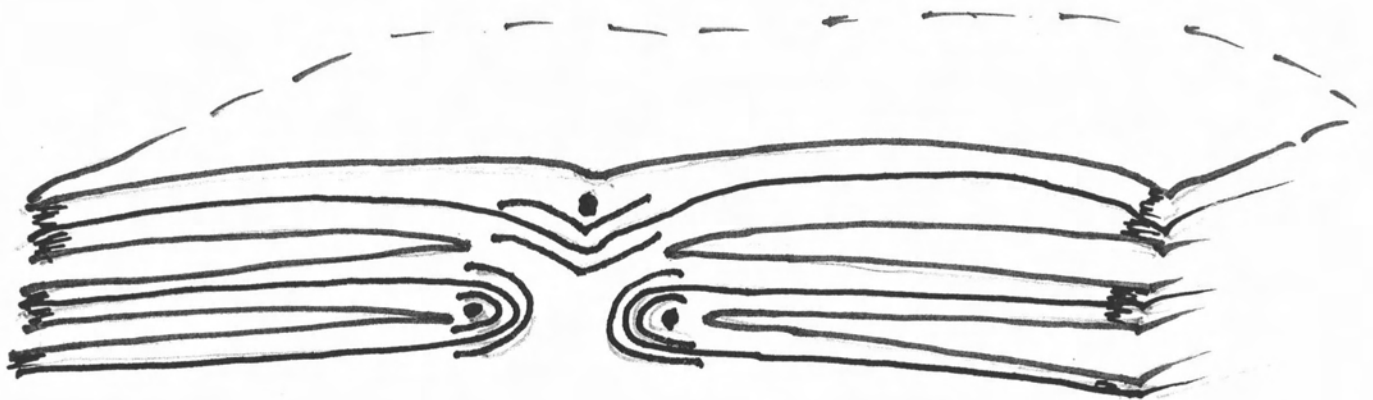
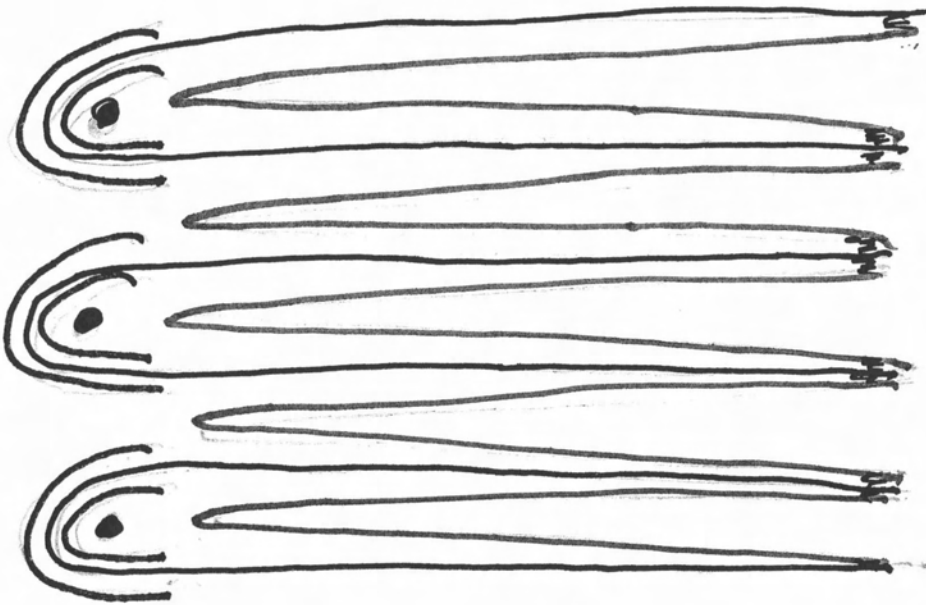
**Solution:**

Traditionally these large folios, maps and such items, were either thrown out on “meeting guards” or extended guards, or had their folds tipped onto a hinge or a stub in order to keep their folds out of the gutter. Then when the folio was opened the continuous, uninterrupted image could be seen across the fold. Note: the hinges or stubs were invariably short grained which stiffened them and helped prevent them from collapsing and bunching up in the gutter. While that was a satisfactory solution for many types of material, it was not particularly useful for large art work where the verso was unattractive and should not be seen.

**An alternative solution:**

The French in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century appear to have used an alternative solution. The folio was hung between previously bound leaves by tipping the fore-edge of the folio to the fore-edge of the bound leaves. The dimension of the bound leaves was slightly larger than the dimension of the folio, which kept the fold of the folio out of the gutter. The sewing thread of the bound leaves, perhaps with additional guards, acted as spacers in the gutter to compensate for the additional thickness of the added folio. When a leaf was turned, the tipped on folio opened and the fold with a slight pop-up action lay flat across the gutter, leaving a continuous, uninterrupted image.

While this solution could be used to include single folio items within a more traditional binding structure, it could also be used as an album structure to house and display a large collection of art work or maps. It might also be used as a book or album structure to house material presented in a concertina format, where serial images need to be presented without the interruption of sewing thread or a gutter margin. Both the star and the carousel constructions use a similar fore-edge connection.



BINDING FOLIO IMAGES

