Modeling Ambiguity – Lessons Learned
Julia Miller

Selected bibliography on early codex bindings


Boudalis, Georgios. The Codex and Crafts in Late Antiquity. New York: Bard Graduate Center, 2018. Extensive overview of the influence of craft on the early codex; catalog of 2018 exhibit.


Di Bella, Marco. “An attempt at a reconstruction of early Islamic bookbinding: The box binding.” Care and conservation of manuscripts 12. Proceedings of the twelfth international


Doressse, Jean and Togo Mina. “Nouveaux Texts Gnostiques Coptes Decouverts en Haute Egypte: La Biblioteque de Chenoboskion.” Vigiliae Christianae 3 (1949): 129–141. This and following first-hand account and earliest images and drawings of the NHC.

Doressse, Jean. “Les reliures des manuscrits gnostiques coptes découvertes à Khénoboskion.” Revue d’Egyptologie, 13 (1961): 27-49. Very important to note that Doresse numbered the codices; some of the numbers were switched by the time the Facsimile Edition was published in the 1970s.


Lamacraft, Charles. “Early Bookbindings from a Coptic Monastery.” Library 4 (1939–1940): 215–217. An important initial study on CBL MSS 813-815 and UoF MSS 166-167. CBL conservator Kristine Rose Beers is writing an article on CBL 813-815 for Suave Mechanicals Vol. 7; she has noted how important Lamacraft’s essay was and that it continues to be relevant


Petersen, Theodore C. *Coptic Bookbindings in the Pierpont Morgan Library.* Unpublished
manuscript in the Pierpont Morgan Library, 1948. Invaluable to the early history of the codex; soon to be published by The Legacy Press for The Morgan Library and Museum, edited by Frank Trujillo.


[Regemorter, Berthe van.] *Binding Structures in the Middle Ages. A Selection of Studies by Berthe van Regemorter*. Trans. by Jane Greenfield. Brussels: Bibliotheca Wittockiana, 1981, see following essays:

“The Bound Codex from its Origin to the Early Middle Ages.” 1955, 107-131. An important aspect of Regemorter’s writing: she traveled to see the bindings she describes – Roger Powell noted how important this is.


Robinson, James M. “The Discovering and Marketing of Coptic Manuscripts: The Nag


A note on the dating of early manuscripts in sources cited in this selected bibliography: determining the date of early manuscripts remains a difficult exercise for everyone involved. Initial dating by earlier scholars, usually based on paleographic assessment, is often revised by later scholars interpreting the paleographic evidence differently.¹ The presence of bindings or binding evidence with a manuscript can help with dating – this fact makes locating and describing that evidence even more important.

¹ A case in point is the dating of Schøyen MS 193, dated over the years by succeeding scholars, as follows: 2nd c. (Willis); 2nd/3rd c. (Roberts); 3rd/4th c. (Turner); 4th c. (Orsini); 5th c. (Kasser), 5th/6th c. (Orlandi). List taken from: Nongbri, Brent. God's Library – The Archaeology of the Earliest Christian Manuscripts. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2018, Table 5.1. Nongbri notes that AMS radiocarbon analysis of the manuscript is forthcoming.