

A Bookbinder's* Journey



Peter D. Verheyen | Syracuse University Libraries Assembly | July 30, 2018

*and a conservator's, and a librarian's, and a...

In the beginning...



Paper Chase to
chasing paper,
and a start in
working in
basements...



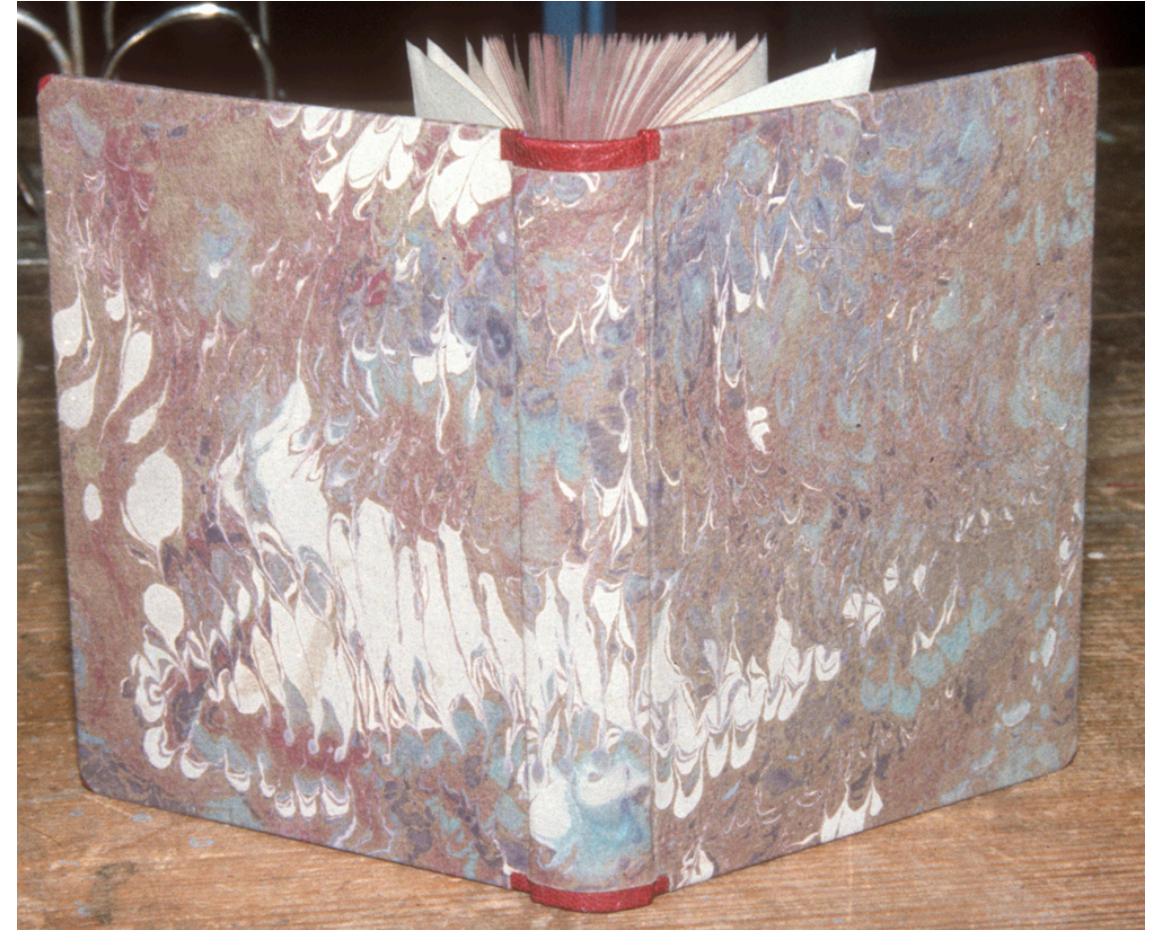
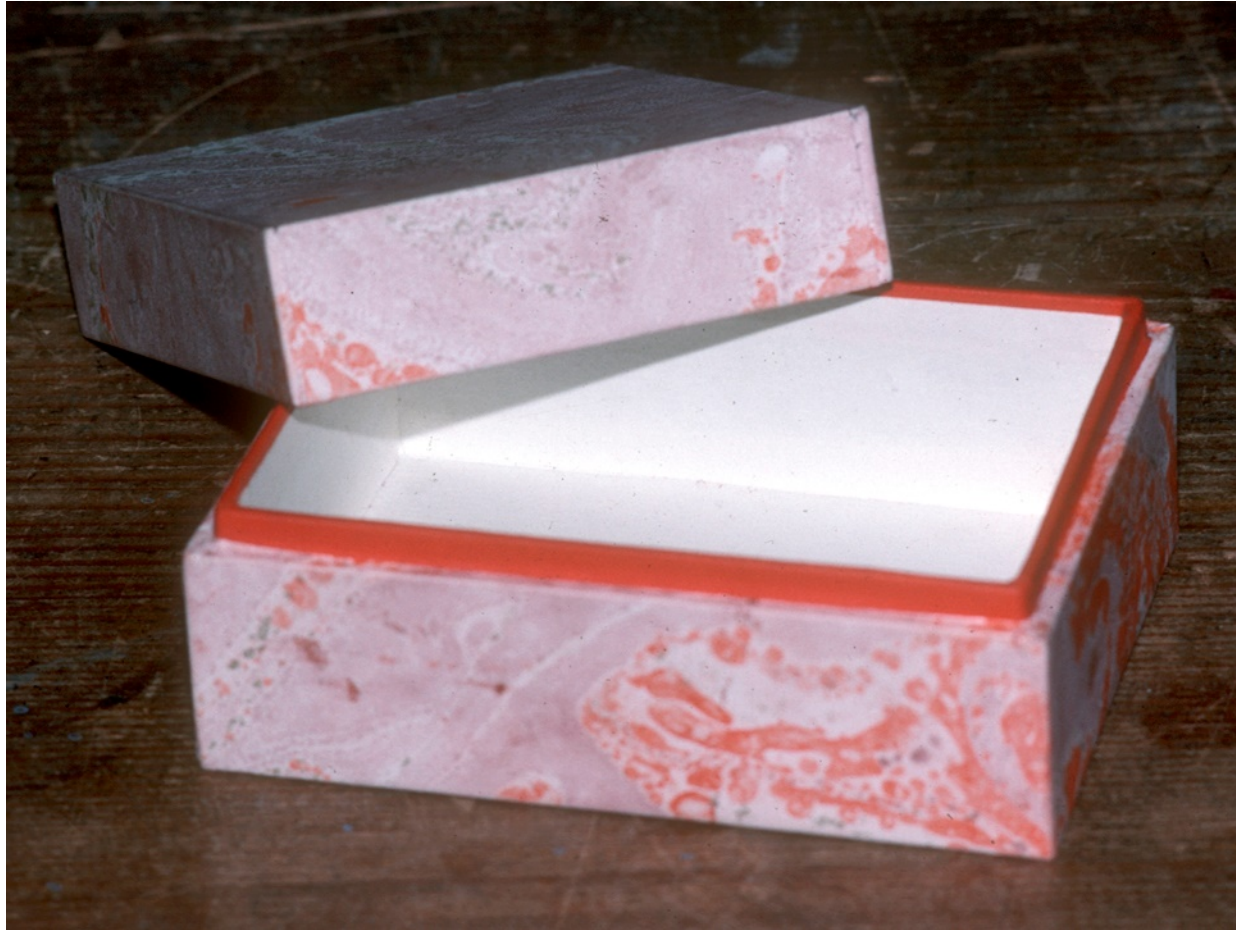
John F. Dean (2nd from right), brought to JHU by David Stam
Johns Hopkins University graphic and pictorial collection



Codex Aureus of Echternach, ca. 1040



A semester abroad, and a lab with
a view.



Books, boxes, decorated papers, and traditions



Returned to be under the stairs like Harry Potter



Sewing the book



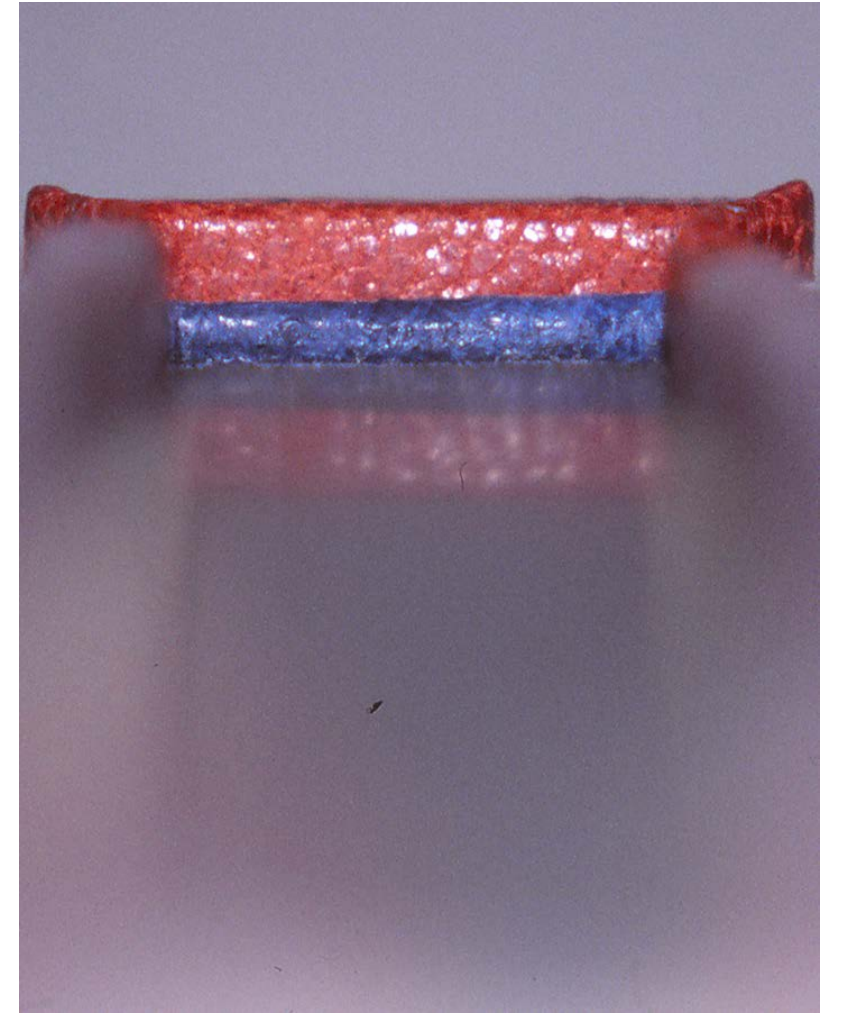
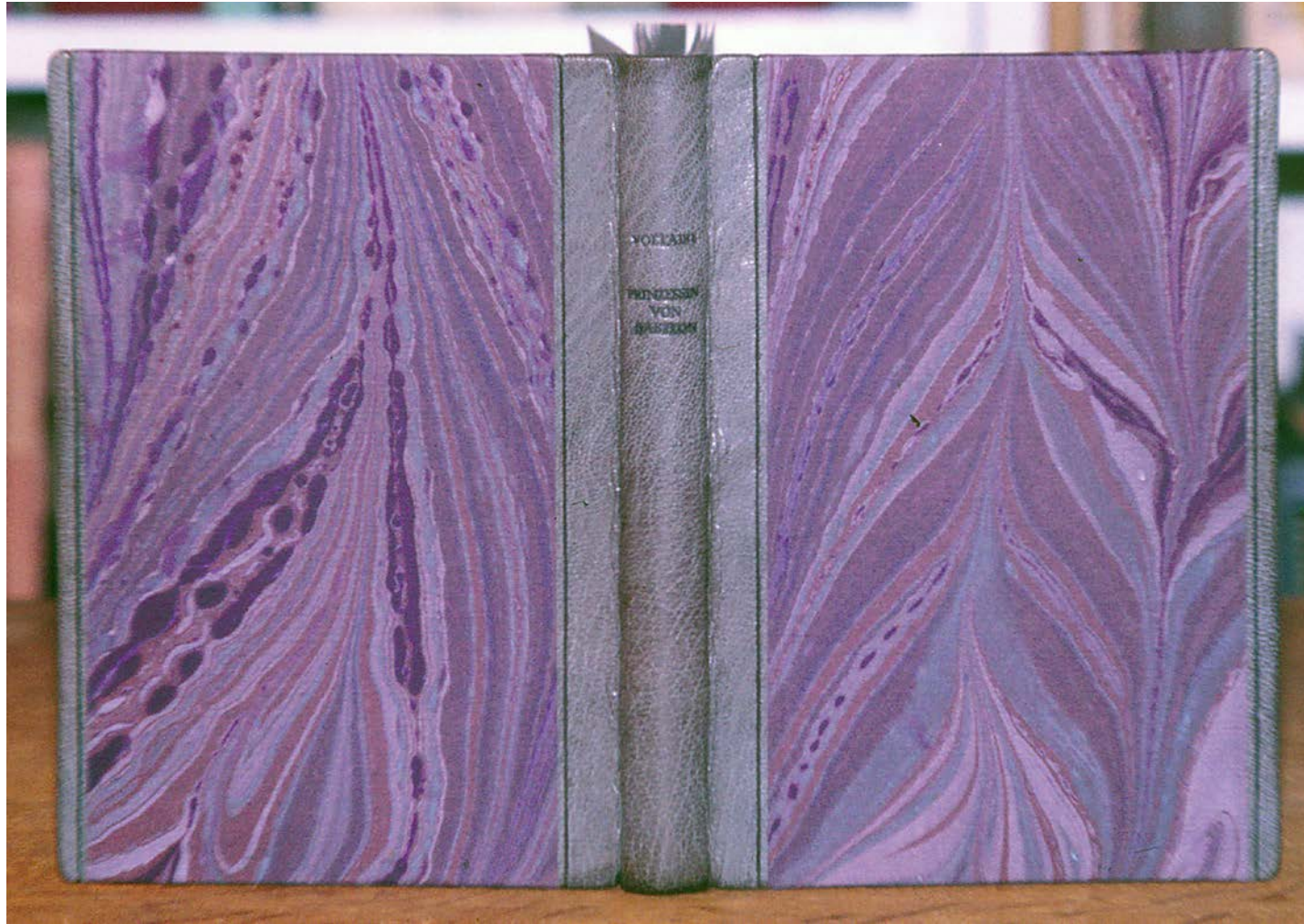
Apprenticeship: Lehrjahre sind keine Herrenjahre



From *Buchbinderlehrling zum Buchbindemeister*, 1941



Earning my chops, building skills, learning to work



First exhibit binding and a graphite edge



First parchment bindings, my favorite material

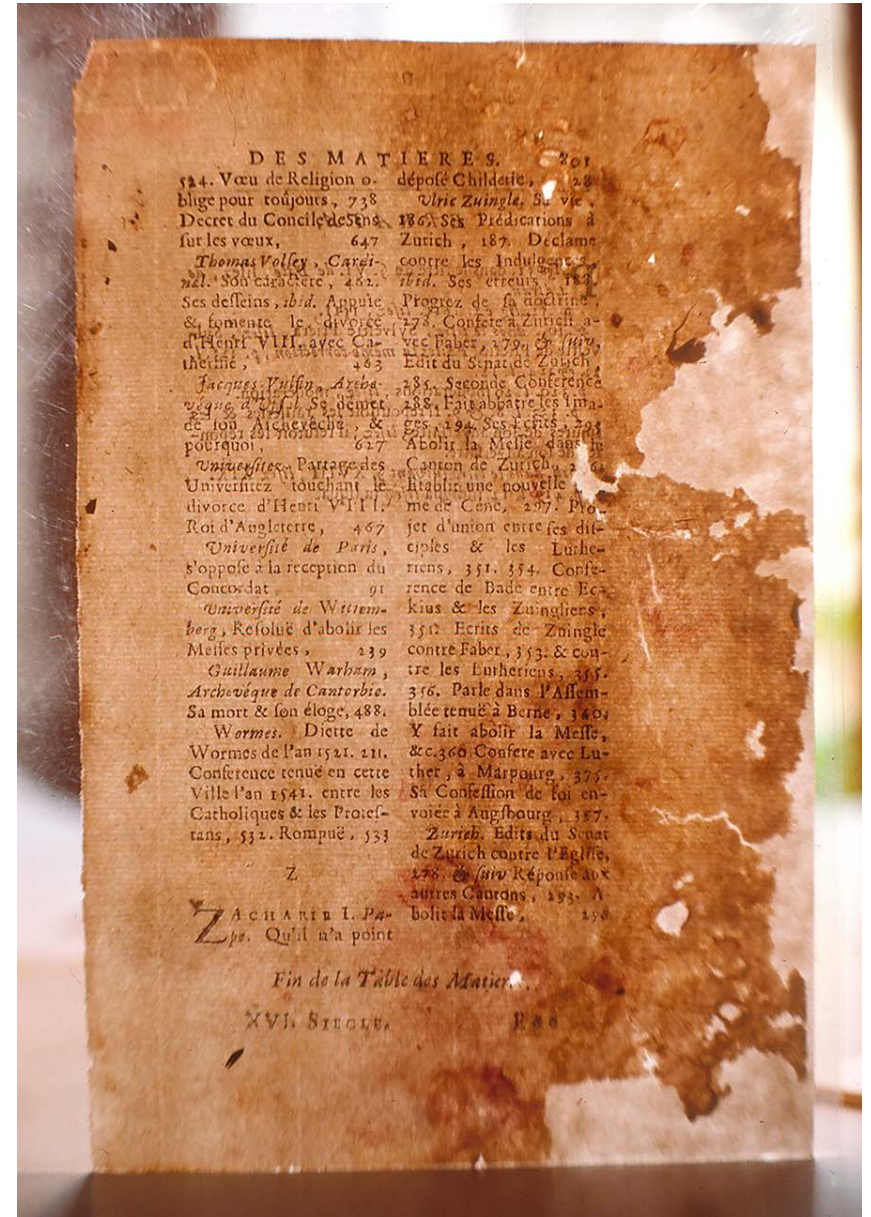


From here to there...

Industrial Germany to Ascona, Switzerland

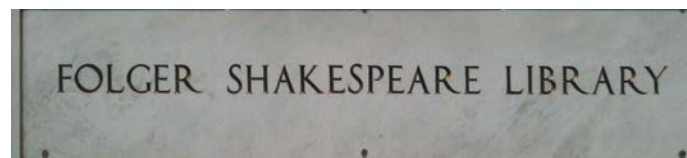


Developing and refining skills for the conservation and restoration of rare books and materials



Giving the book
its shape...

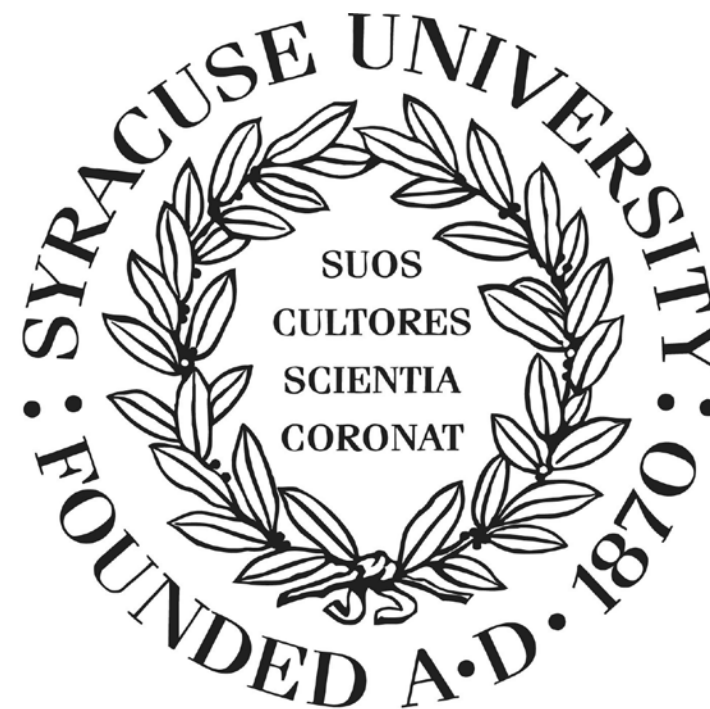
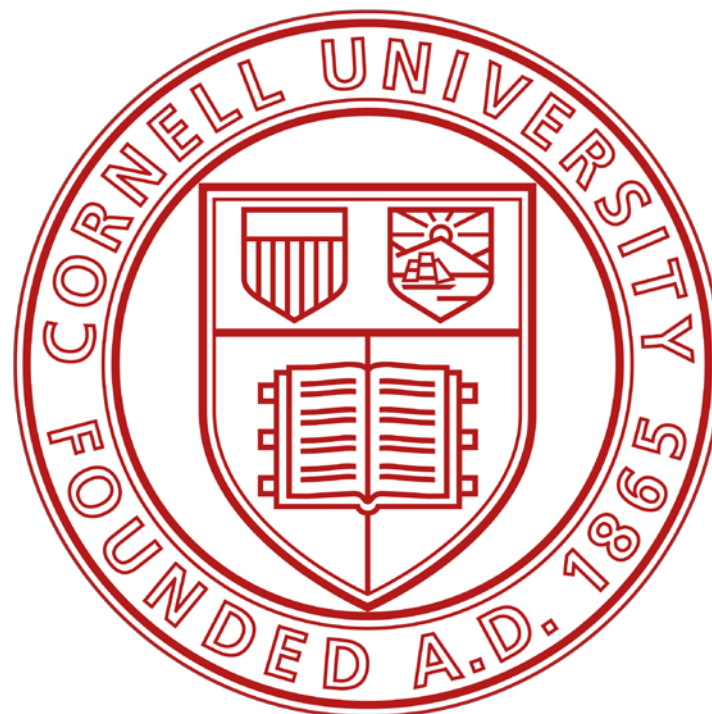




Mellon Internship

WILLIAM MINTER
Bookbinding & Conservation, Inc.

Journeyman Years





Established the conservation lab at SUL, but also pulled further into the world of special collections, digitization, and more



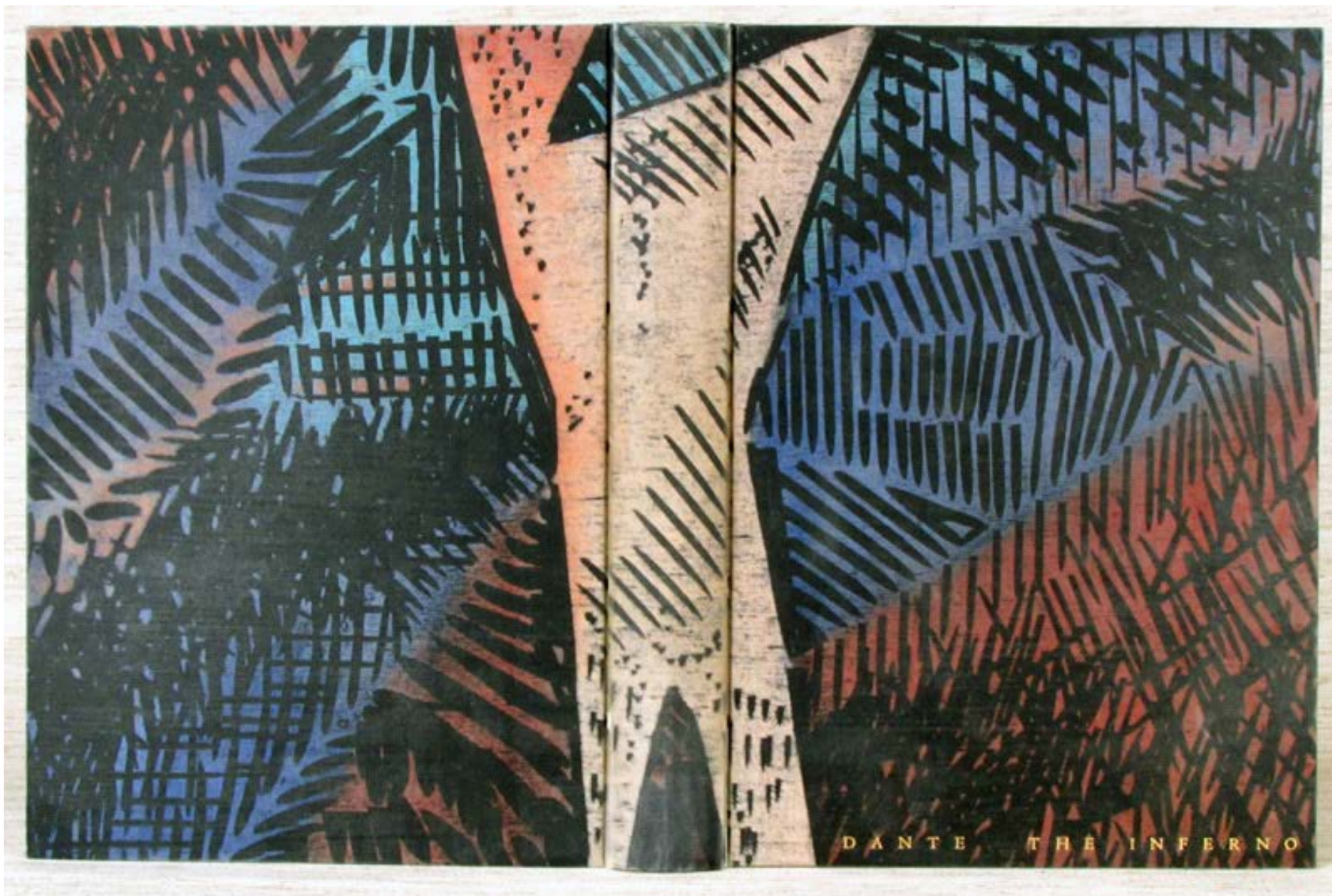


My world of bookbinding for exhibits and pleasure



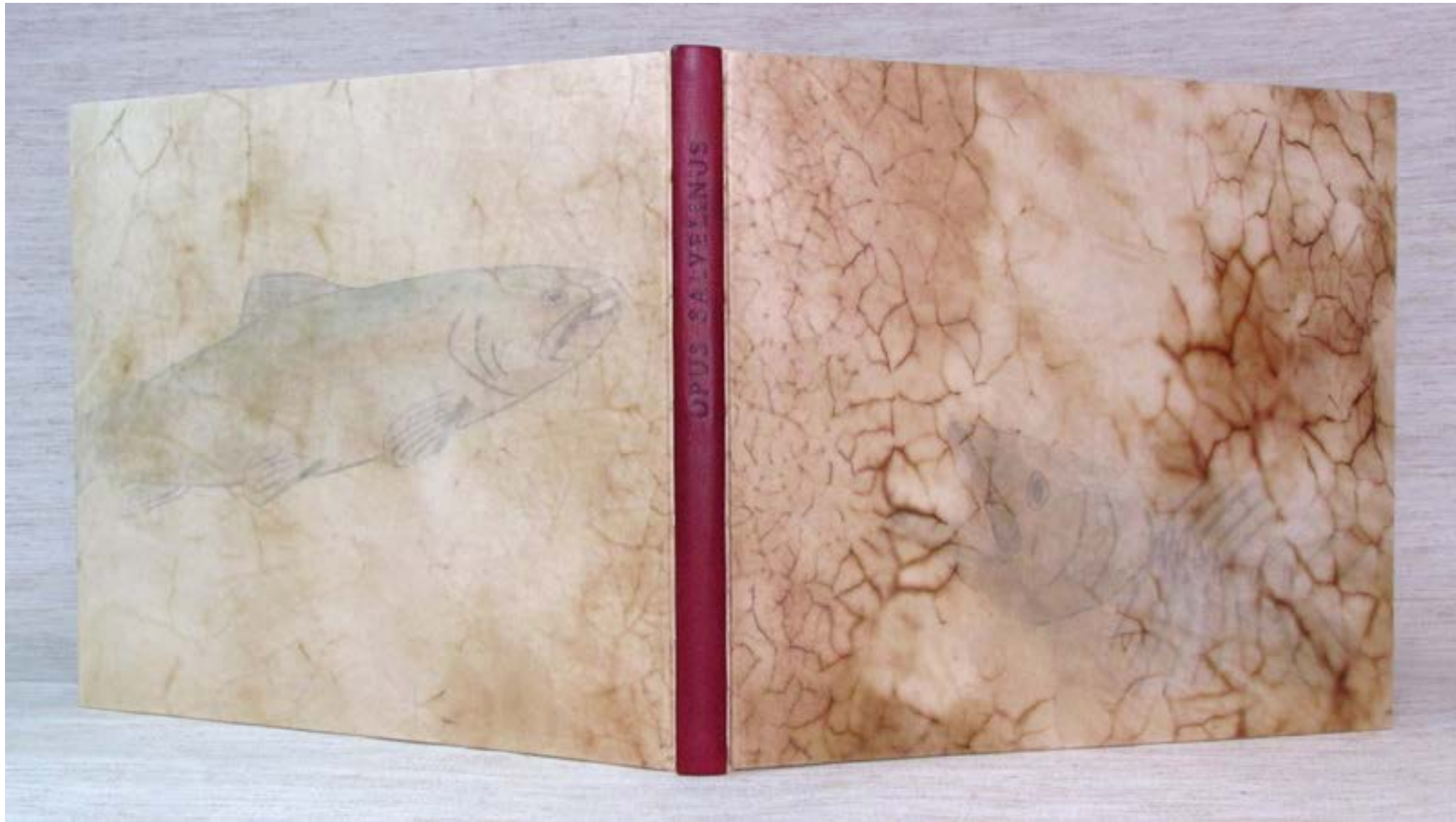


My studios in Chicago and now



Dante's Inferno, Tom Philips, bound 1990

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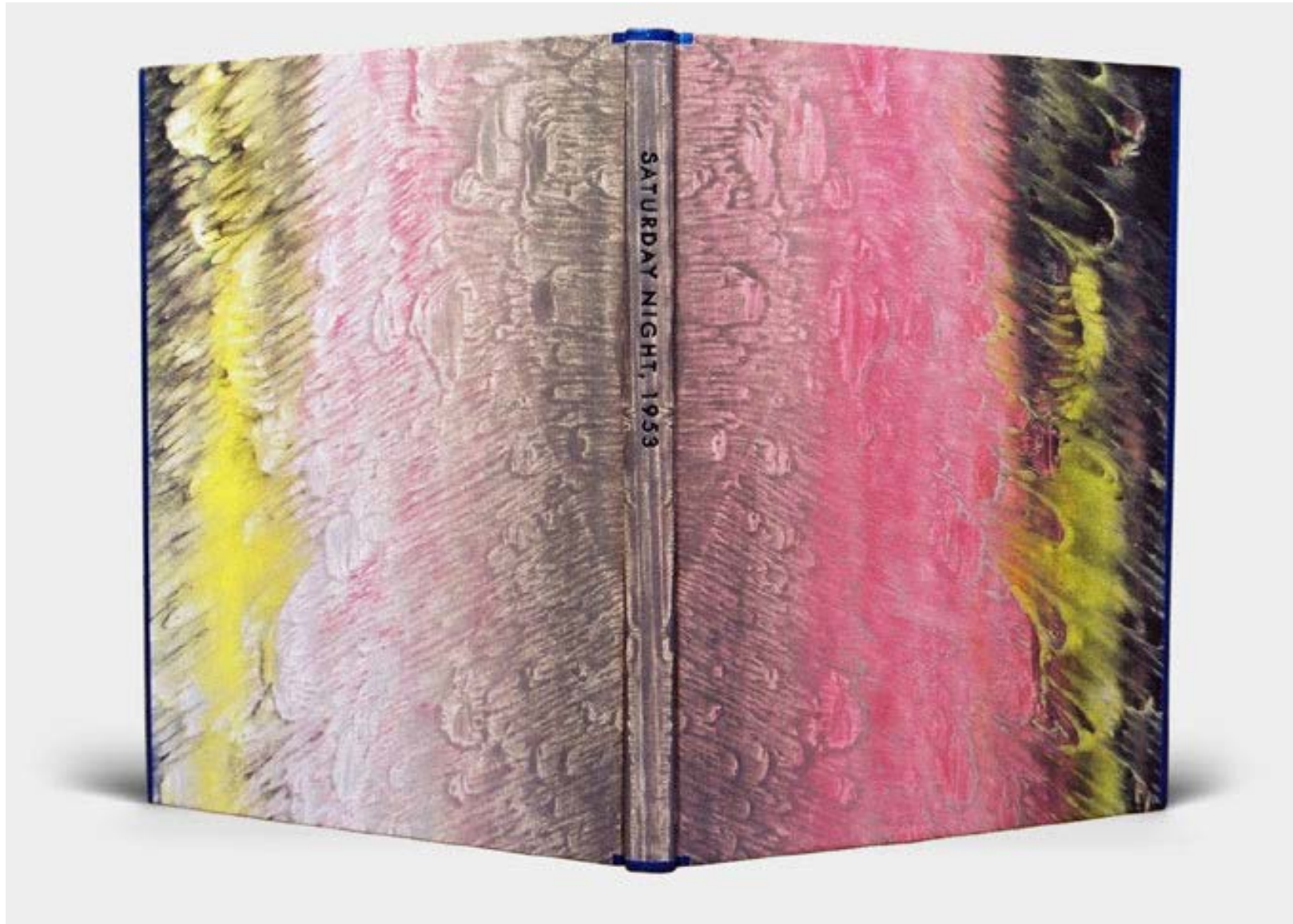


Opus Salvelinus, Ladislav Hanka, bound 1993

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26 Words, an alphabet book with Thorsten Dennerline, 1998

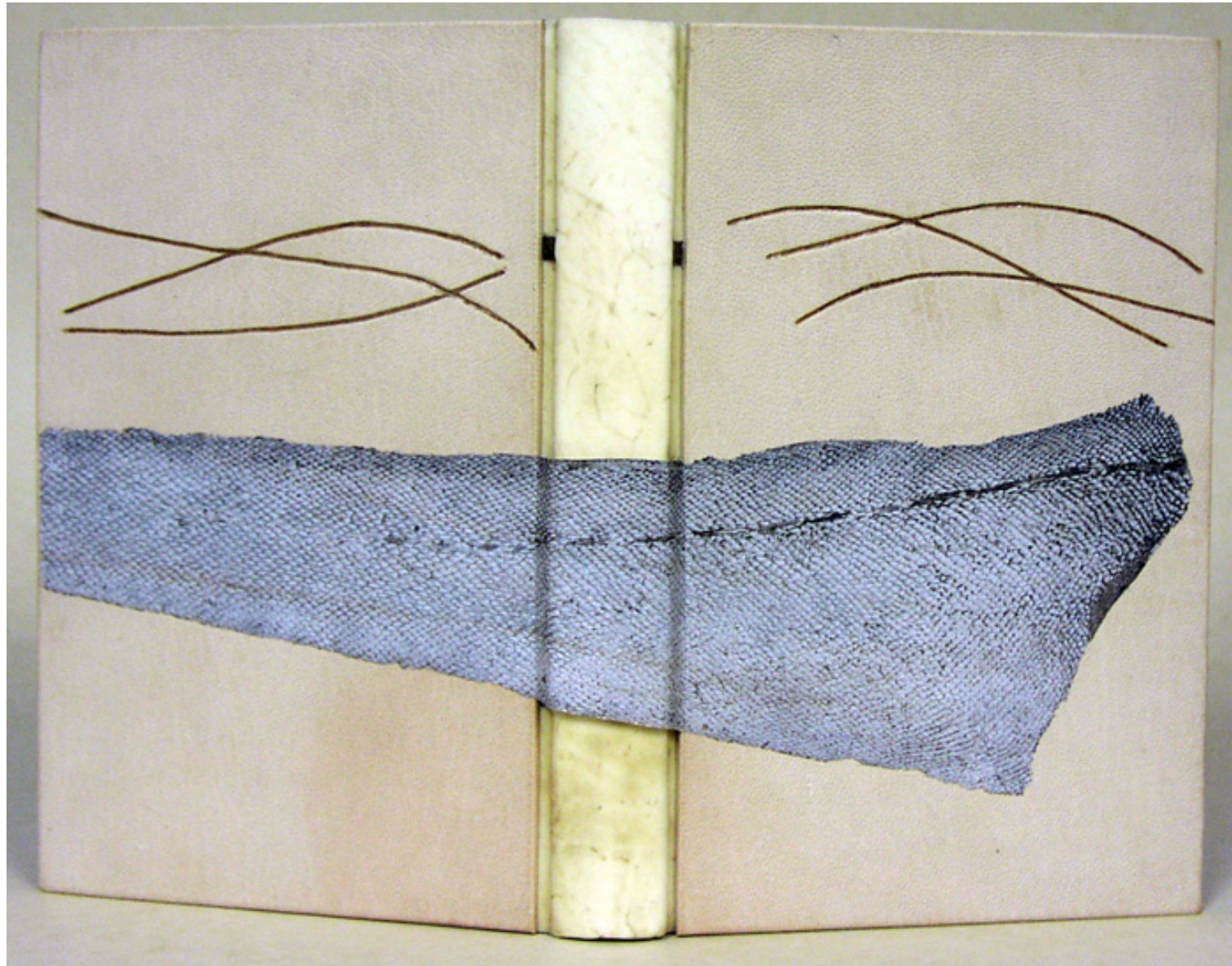


Saturday Night, 1953 / The Elements, bound 2003

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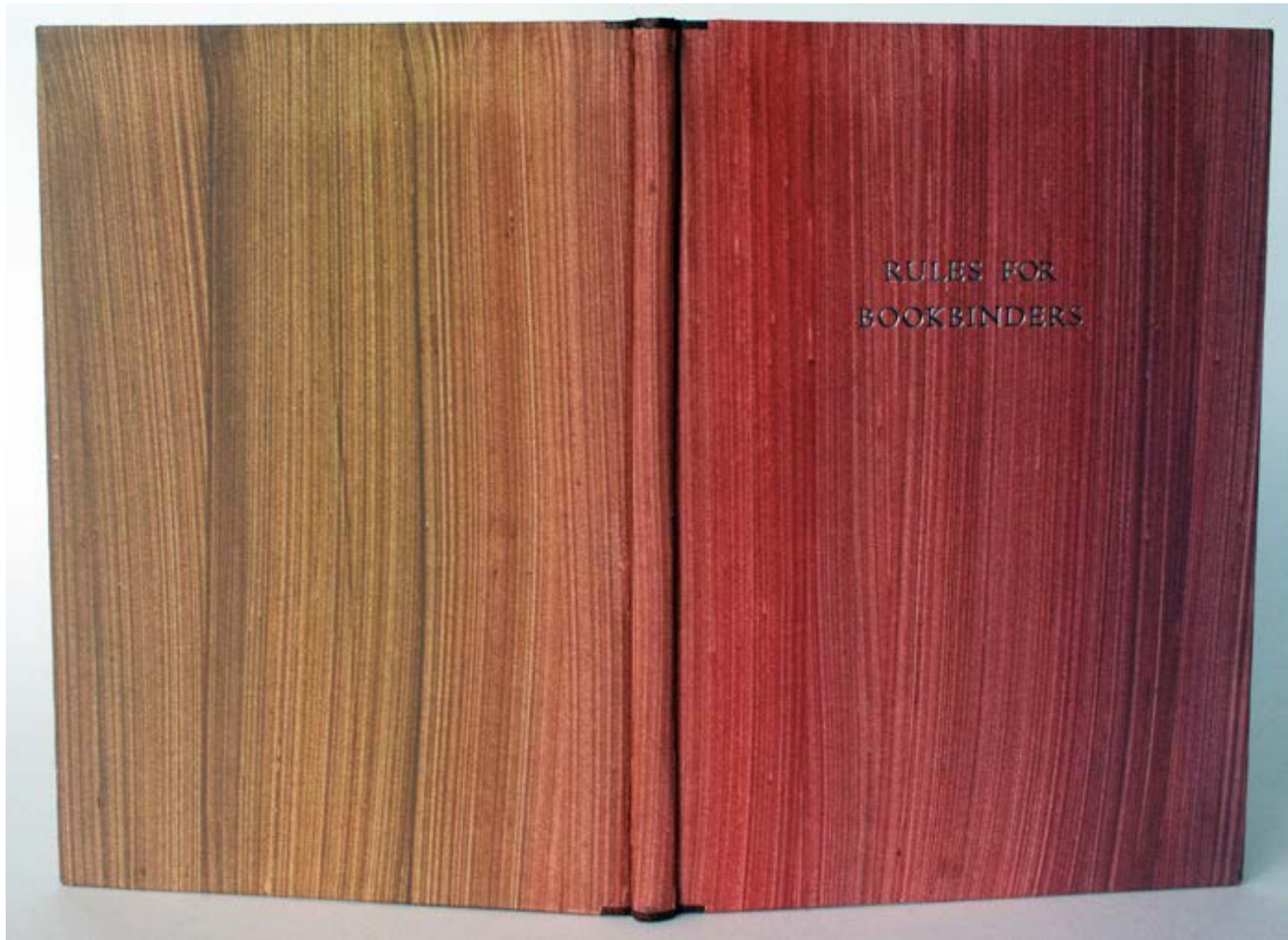


Noirs, Bleus, Sables, Livre de poète de Nane Couzier, bound 2005



The Book of Origins - Le Livre des Origines, bound 2005

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Rules for Bookbinders, bound 2005

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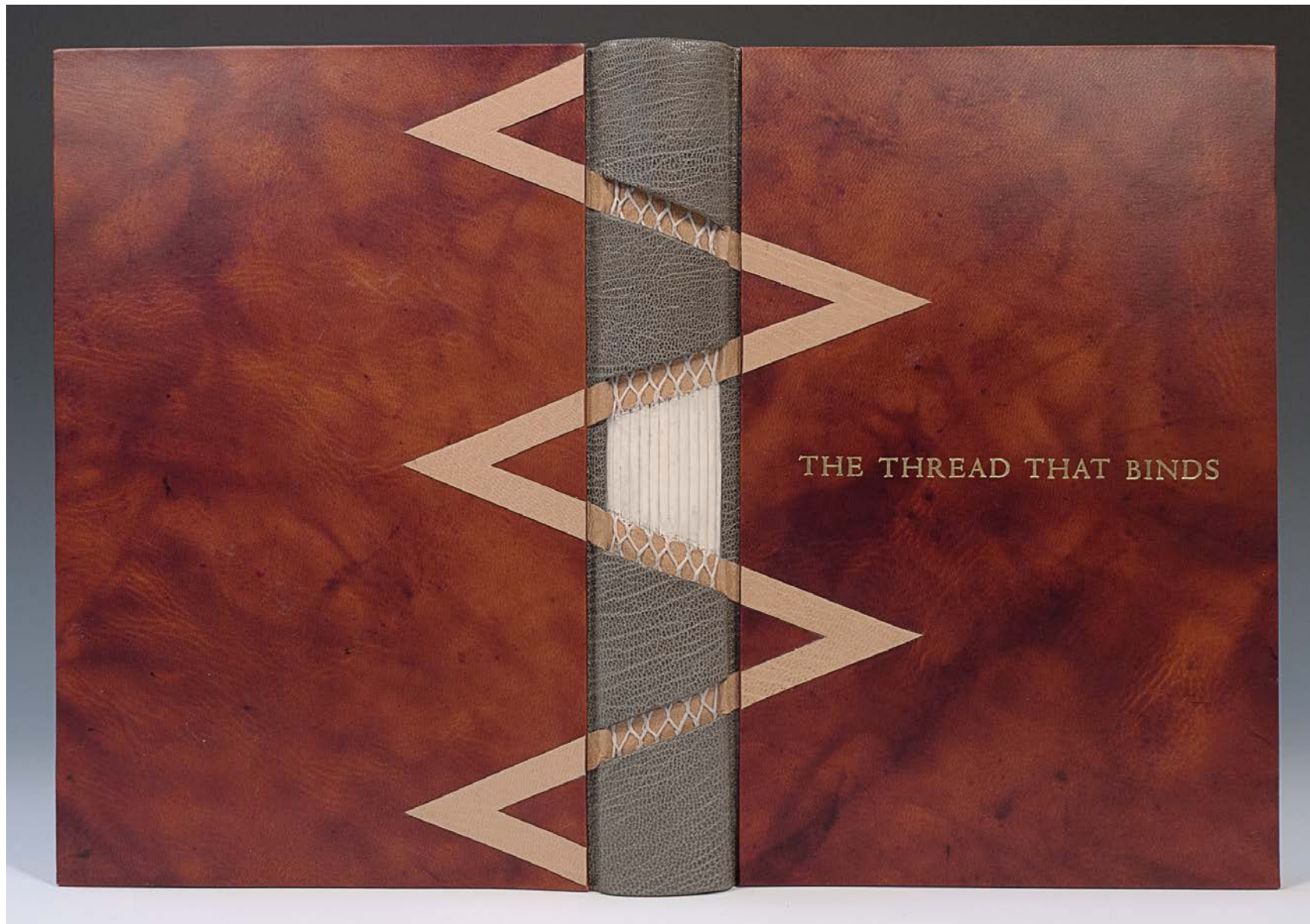
Ultimo, John Vassos, bound 1995 – 2009

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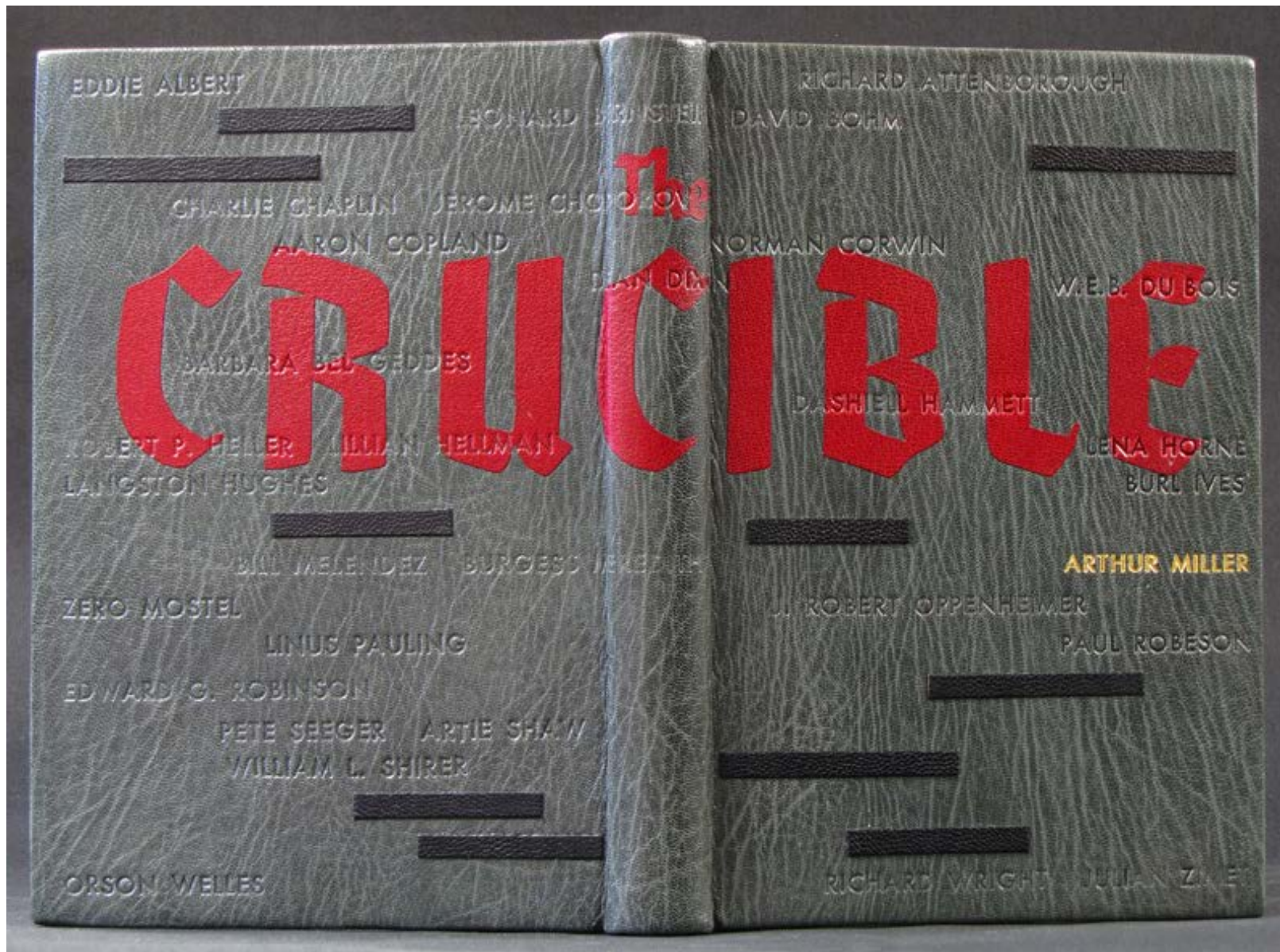
Designing the Mentoring Stamp, bound 2009

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The Thread That Binds, bound 2010

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The Crucible, bound 2011

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Dos-a-dos limp vellum tacketed binding model, bound 2011

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Mayflies of the Driftless Region, bound 2013

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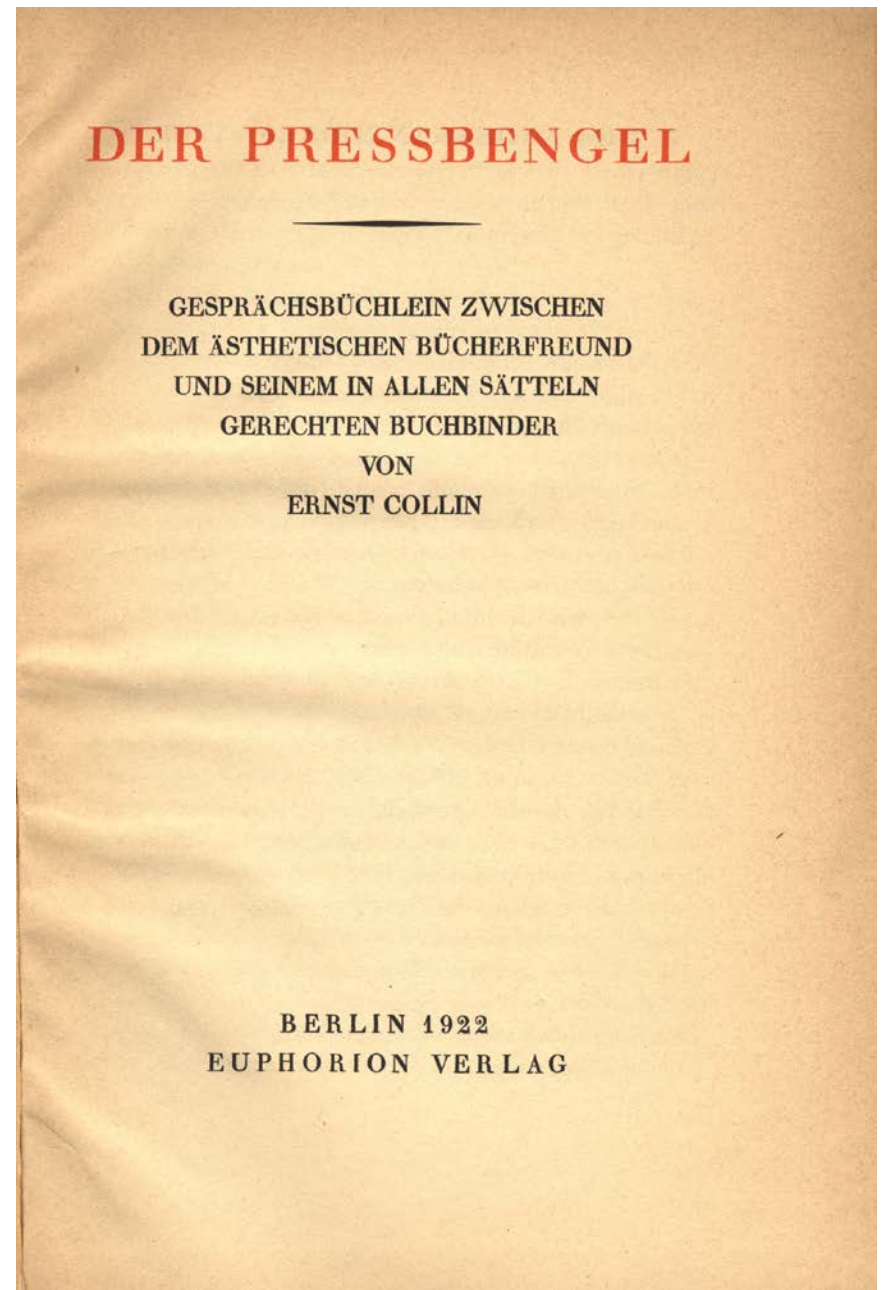


A headcap for
my binding
efforts





Translated the *Pressbengel*, a charmingly pedantic dialog between a bibliophile and bookbinder, into English in 2008-9



But, it became “complicated
as there were two Ernsts in
Berlin at that time...



Stolpersteine (Stumbling Stones) for Ernst and his wife laid in 2014



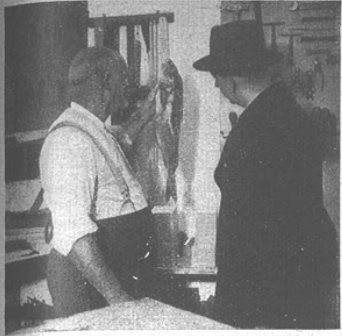
Ernst wrote about much more than just bookbinding, but in several articles he wrote about fish skin for bookbinding

Could I do that?

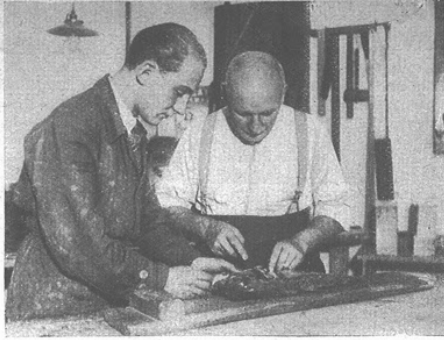
“Fips” and his eels were an inspiration.



"Fips" und die Aalhaut," Der Buchbinderlehrling, 1937



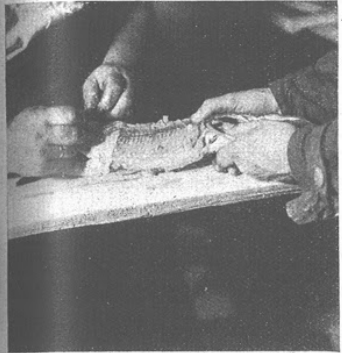
1. Der Kunde bringt den Fisch zum Buchbinder.



2. Durch einen Einschnitt am Kopf wird die Haut abgetrennt.



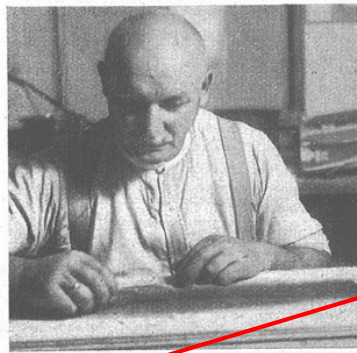
3. Sorgfältiges Abtrennen der Haut vom Kopf.



4. Gemeinsame Arbeit des Abziehens der Fischhaut.



5. Die abgezogene Haut eines Hechtes.



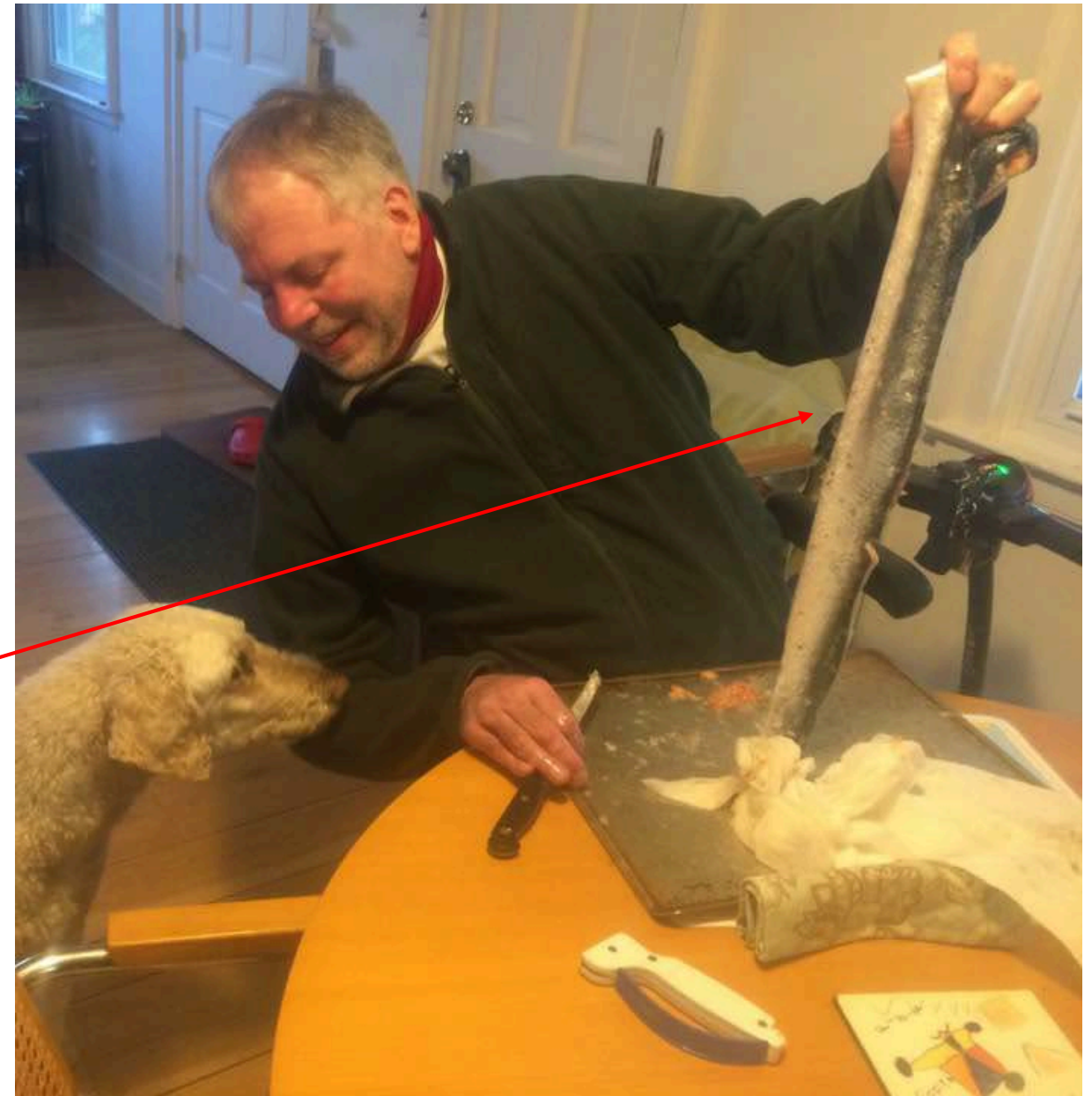
6. Mit der Häufertlinge werden die Schuppen abgeholt.



7. (links) Die aufgestreute Nat-haut eignet sich ganz besonders für Einbände großen Formates.

8. (rechts) Fischhäute und Buch-einbände in Fischhaut.

(Photos: Ernst Collin)



Collin, Ernst. „Bucheinbände aus Fischhaut.“ *Allgemeiner Anzeiger für Buchbindereien*, 1934



The salmon above, the next skins below

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The Bone Folder, bound 2018

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So..., let's look at some actual bindings, tools, and materials

Interview with Sarah Kim about my career path starting at
<http://pressbengel.blogspot.com/2017/04/the-ponderings-of-bookbinding-student.html>

For more bindings
<http://www.philobiblon.com/pdvgal/pdvgal.htm>

More about making parchment from fish
<http://pressbengel.blogspot.com/search/label/fish%20leather>

More about Ernst Collin, his family of Court bookbinders, and the German binding tradition
<http://pressbengel.blogspot.com>