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...
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
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...
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
Opus Salvelinus, Ladislav Hanka, bound 1993
26 Words, an alphabet book with Thorsten Dennerline, 1998
Saturday Night, 1953 / The Elements, bound 2003

Peter D. Verheyen | A Bookbinder's Journey | July 30, 2018
Noirs, Bleus, Sables, Livre de poète de Nane Couzier, bound 2005
The Book of Origins – Le Livre des Origines, bound 2005
Ultimo, John Vassos, bound 1995 - 2009
Designing the Mentoring Stamp, bound 2009

Peter D. Verheyen | A Bookbinder's Journey | July 30, 2018
The Crucible, bound 2011
Dos-a-dos limp vellum tacketed binding model, bound 2011
Mayflies of the Driftless Region, bound 2013
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...
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.
Collin, Ernst. „Bucheinbände aus Fischhaut.“ Allgemeiner Anzeiger für Buchbindereien, 1934.
The salmon above, the next skins below
The Bone Folder, bound 2018

Peter D. Verheyen | A Bookbinder's Journey | July 30, 2018
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