

June, 2019

Review (Abridged) of Bogle, Sophia S.W. Book
Restoration Unveiled: An Essential Guide for
Bibliophiles. [n.p.]: First Editions Press, 2019.

Peter D Verheyen



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Book Restoration Unveiled - An Essential Guide for Bibliophiles

Sophia S. W. Bogle

(Ashland, OR: First Editions Press, 2019)

In *Book Restoration Unveiled*, Sophia S.W. Bogle sets out “to provide the tools to spot restorations so that everyone can make more informed decisions when buying or selling books.” The second reason was her realization that “instead of a simple list of clear terminology, [there] was a distressing lack of agreement and even confusion about the most basic of book repair terms.” She writes, “this book [is] a bridge between the world of collecting, buying, and selling books, and that of book repair, restoration, and conservation.” In the case of the latter, she describes some of the minutiae of the book such as structure, and treatments, good as well as bad. But, “this is not a 'how-to' manual.” Rather, it is a “guide to help you understand the world of restoration, to recognize restorations, and to choose the right professional to do those restorations.”

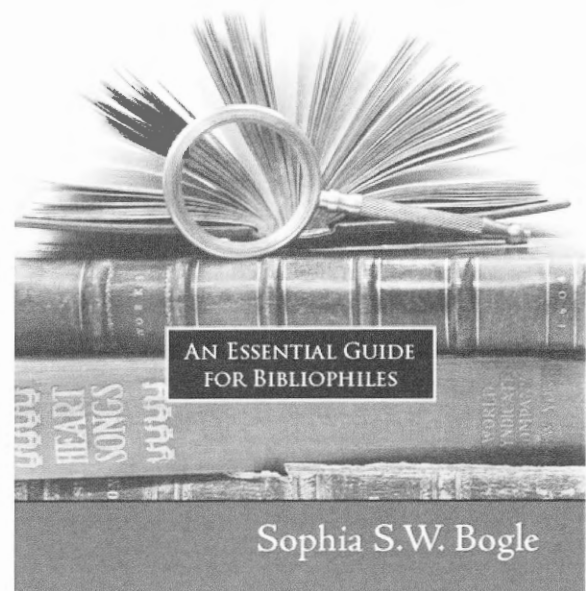
The eight chapters of the book work a reader, bibliophile, antiquarian, restorer, etc., through a logical progression. Readers are provided with a history of the book, collecting, and repair, and conversations between the involved parties as to whether a book is worth treating, or not. It is these conversations that are one of the book's strong points as they make clear that the decisions about whether to treat a book can be very complex and that context is very important.

As the book moves from collecting and selling related considerations, Bogle describes the structure of the book, the materials and techniques used, how problems (and previous treatments) can be identified, and how they might be treated, or perhaps left as is with the book simply rehoused. These sections are very well illustrated, including numerous case studies for a particular book, with options tailored to a particular context. There are also tips to help you avoid inadvertently buying books that have been “touched by the dark side,” for example, those employing deceptive practices to increase perceived value.

Appendices provide links to many of the resources mentioned in the book: bookselling portals, educational opportunities, individual book sellers, book restorers, commercial binders, conservation labs that accept work from the public, professional associations, and vendors for tools and archival supplies. Also included, a well-done glossary of terms and bibliography, and color plates that could not be included in-line due to book production processes.

Book Restoration Unveiled fills a niche in the

Book Restoration Unveiled



literature that “lifts the veil” on books, the repair trades including restoration and conservation, and bookselling in a way that is very clear and understandable. It pragmatically explains the nuances, provides many examples of why something might be treated, or not, and provides much needed context. Fears of effusive “every book is sacred” were quickly put to rest as the author systematically worked her way through the process, greatly enhancing it with interviews and case studies that are not often found in books of this nature. Some of these topics could quickly become contentious in discussions between the practitioners, but the author handles this deftly by providing context, caveats, and options, making this a book that collectors, practitioners, and sellers should have in their reference collections.

Peter D. Verheyen is a bookbinder, conservator, and librarian based in Syracuse, New York. He has exhibited widely, and translated Ernst Collin's Pressbengel as The Bone Folder in various editions. He maintains the Book Arts Web and Book_Arts-L listserv, blogs on his Pressbengel Project, and published The Bonefolder e-journal.

Editor's note: Sophia S. W. Bogle is a long-time GBW member!

www.bonefolderextras.blogspot.com/2019/04/book-restoration-unveiled-by-sophia-sw.html
a more extensive review can be found at

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