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History of English Craft Bookbinding Technique

Bernard C. Middleton

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Bernard C. Middleton : History of English Craft Bookbinding Technique before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of English Craft Bookbinding Technique:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant book By A. H. Firman As a professional bookbinder, I found this book absolutely fascinating. It describes in detail just how our modern craft and the tools we use evolved over many centuries. It gave me a great sense of "belonging to history". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is Certainly A History of English Craft Bookbinding. By Zenticant Pangolin First off, my copy and this review is of the 1978 Hardcover Second Supplemented Edition also by The Holland Press, England. It occurs in approximately 333 pps. with dimensions of roughly 6.5 x 9.375 inches. It contains a small number of line drawings, bw illustrations and one page of color illustrations. While this is eminently readable by the lay person, the proper audience for this book already is familiar with a bit more than the basics of the bookbinding art. It's funny, I fancy myself a bit of a book collector, with a good eye for a quality-bound book, have even worked as a clerk in one of the world's preeminent rare book libraries and yet found myself grasping at straws a mere 20 pages into reading this book. It made me realize that I know nothing about bookbinding, apart from perfect bound and saddle stitching, I guess. While it is well written and is a history of the bookbinding craft in England and, believe it or not, NOT written for a technical crowd it does require some grounding in the subject in order to fully appreciate the thing. Yep, that's correct, it is evidently dumbed down for the likes of me but I still couldn't quite comprehend the book in its finer details. Even consulting the 8th edition of 'ABC For Book Collectors' by Carter and Barker left me scratching my head in puzzlement. (I was a bit shocked to find that papyrus is NOT addressed in this latter book). The present book needs to be far more

diagrammatic and can use heaps more illustrations with which to make its many fine points. Lacking these, or more elementary explanations of the commonly used terms of art the book is not going to be a whole lot of use as a stand alone reference to the casual reader. It IS a history, however, and one is guaranteed to come away from reading it with a fair inkling of the actual history of English Craft Bookbinding, he just won't have much more than that without more. This is, as I said, quite easily read. One will undoubtedly find himself skipping over large swathes of content but the important, basic stuff will get through. If you have a grounding or an interest in bookbinding and don't have this book, I think you should own it. Otherwise, well, h'mmmm.

Fourth edition. This is a classic reference work about decorative and commercial English bookbinding techniques written by one of the foremost experts on bookbinding. Each chapter covers various aspects of bookbinding techniques as well as historical information. Each of the chapters describes the material of leaves and folding, beating and pressing, sewing endpapers, gluing the spine, rounding and backing, boards and their attachment, edge-trimming and decoration, headbands, back linings, covering, finishing siding and pasting down, equipment, book repairs and restoration. The book also includes appendices covering a variety of topics. Several sections describe the background and history of the London bookbinding trade around the beginning of the 19th century, its working conditions, and the growth of its binderies. Other sections discuss the specialization in book-edge gilding, the Arts Crafts movement's influence on bookbinding styles, and the causes and prevention of leather decay. This book is an excellent background for those interested in the English technique. Illustrated with plates.