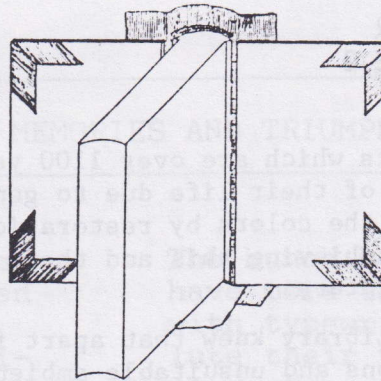




HARCOURT BINDERY. Recently we've been reviewing old *GUILD OF BOOK WORKERS JOURNALS* and came on Volume XIV, Number 2, Winter 1975-6. This fascinating edition includes an article by Helena Wright: "*The Harcourt Bindery of Boston; Historical Notes.*" Excellent! a really good yarn.

Following the above is "*Brass Plate Dies of the Harcourt Bindery*" (great history here, too) by Sam Ellenport; and then "*A Contemporary Approach to the Craft of Hand Bookbinding*" by Gary Frost.

As far as we know, all issues of the *JOURNAL* are still available at \$5.00 plus S & H. This one is likely to give you much of interest for your money. (Guild of Book Workers, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City, NY 10175.)

TRANSPORT OF RARE BOOKS. In 1992 the Hottinger Baldwin Messtechnik GMBH company (a competitor of ours) published an article "*Displacement Measurements on a Middle Age Manuscript and Their Correlation with Resulting Surface Damage*" by Heinz Joas in their Journal *REPORTS IN APPLIED MEASUREMENTS*. This fascinating article may give you some sober thoughts on any transportation of very old books. Because of its importance, we will abstract portions of the material, but not much on the measurements themselves as they are well beyond our scope.

"In the summer of 1989 the Diocesan Museum in Regensburg organized a large exhibition with the title 'Ratisbona sacra', the theme of which was dedicated to the 1250th anniversary of the return of the canonical establishment by Saint Boniface. The museum requested the loan of a large number of manuscripts for this exhibition from the Bavarian State Library, including one known as the Codex aureus. This is an embellished manuscript which was produced in 870 A.D. in France for Charles the Bald and then presented by Emperor Arnulf to the monastery of St. Emmeram in Regensburg in the 9th century. Here it remained until it was transferred to Munich during the secularization process in 1812. The Codex aureus is a really first class manuscript of Western medieval origin which is regarded as being of irreplaceable value both from an historical as well as an artistic viewpoint. The manuscript is lavishly decorated. Each page includes not only gilded lettering, but also a decorated frame, painted in pigments and there are a large number of whole-page miniatures. Together, the material and inherent values placed on the book give an insured figure of DM 100 million (US\$ 65 million).

In stark contrast to the outstanding significance of the manuscript as an inherited cultural object is the book's physical condition. It must be regarded as a cultural work of art which has a high risk of being degraded.