

be difficult to convince others that such a bookbinder would or could make a career of the activity?

TECHNIQUES - KNOT-TACK SEWING IN THE 15th CENTURY.

This should be a completely new subject to just about all of you and hopefully many will find it interesting.

There is a pretty long history to the "research" that has so far gone into our knowledge of knot-tack sewing. I first saw the article (in German) when Betty Lou Chaika had a copy. I told her that my wife is German and that we could make at least a crude translation of it if she could get me a copy. Many of you will remember that Betty Lou is interested in book structure, especially in modern use where the structure is visible.

Our initial efforts were hampered by the fact that the book from which the article was copied was not flat on the copier and a lot of the text was missing at the gutters. Hoping that someone would recognize the sewing method at the Guild of Book Workers' Seminar on Excellence last October, I took the article with me. Obviously it was right down Pam Spitzmueller's alley and she was asked if she had ever seen anything like it. Unfortunately the answer was "no" but Jenny Hille, who was standing within earshot, said that she thought they had the journal, from which the article was taken, at the Yale University Library (with which she is associated) and that maybe she could get a better copy. (Pam said that she was sure it was not in the Library of Congress.) Jenny in fact did very shortly forward a copy with all text readable.



What follows is Didi's translation of the article (with some slight modification as will be explained later). Figure 1 of the article is omitted because it is a poor reproduction and does not show the sewing in which we are interested. Figure 2 is, however, included because it is the only picture of the structure that we have and because of the idiosyncrasies of xerography machines it has several rows of stitches, each at a different contrast. Hopefully when I make copies at least one row of stitches will be fairly clear. Here

is the article:

"Knot-Tack Sewing in the 15th Century

by Eleonore Klee

During a restoration in December 1944 I saw, in the monastery of St. Florian's, Codex XI 124, the first knot-tack arrangement. Shortly afterwards, it was seen again, this time in the monastery of Kremsmünster on Codices CC 349 and 350. While working for 32 years, I found 52 books, all-in-all, which were sewn in this way.

Certainly this technique is a cousin of the usual sewing methods, and only marginally different, but it is still worth discussing because it gives us information, like a book's cover, about the first owner. So, it could be concluded that the first owner of Codex CSF 124 was Kremsmünster. Also, probably CSF XI