

Oct. 13, 1966

Day with the Cockerell at "Riverdale"
Grantchester, Cambridge, England

10.35 Train from Liverpool station. Mr. Cockerell's secretary met me at Cambridge & drove me to Riverdale about 3 miles in the country. Nice big 1900 house with about 2 acre of garden & orchard about. Ground floor is for bookbinding & making of Cockerell papers. Living quarters on first floor and third second floor rented out. Not possible for me to work there. Has three men in bookbinding & two in making marbled papers. I watched the man who has been with Mr. Cockerell for 35 years & making paper all these years. The ink is in little troughs on a board just the size of the sheet. Then a frame with bars about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " inch apart. In this bar are nails about 1" apart. These points are lowered into the water color inks, then the whole frame is lifted & poised over the bed of liquid gelatin (?) & lowered so that just the points of the nails touch the liquid & deposit a drop of color. This spreads a little but remains stationary. The frame is lifted and another single comb width of pan is lowered & moved from one side of pan to the other with teeth of comb trailing the colors & makes it look like feathers. This arm-comb can be moved to form different patterns. When desired pattern is achieved an alum treated sheet of paper is lowered and laid gently on the inks. This picks up the inks. Paper is lifted to a slapping board where it is hosed off with clear water then laid on a string to dry.

Addresses for ~~cords~~ & thread. no cord.
Barbour Thread Ltd. letter to K.R.D.
95 Bathwell St. 10-26-66
Glasgow

S.C. thinks that if you do not charge enough people think your work is not worth it & therefore if you charge more are impressed!

An Am. University wrote to
Corkhill asking if he could
recommend a book for
willing to come to Am. 450000

when they are guarded.

6) getting nations to be seen

3) saying whole book

4) what is wrong at Bismarck's

using reason to reinforce paper?

3) what about affecting or

not to read it?

material over edge of paper

3) should edge of photo

show rubber or gummed tape

across

Mr. Cokerell most unassuming & willing to give information.

I showed him small book I had brought from H.C. Medical Center. Told him what I had in mind to do & he agreed that my approach had been correct. Thought paper needed to be deacidified. He has a machine to test acidity. ^{P.H.} (7) ~~(J.C.R.)~~ (Borrows has one) P.H. to test acidity 7 is neutral or no acid. Anything beyond 5.5 needs to be treated. Book registered 4 - very acid. I don't remember how book is deacidified. Paper that is brittle has acid.

Could acidity test be given with "Litmus paper"?

Paper that is very fragile can be made firm by either a ~~batch~~ ^{batch} of nylon solution of 6% or the nylon can be brushed on with $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ solution.

Nylon comes in powder & is dissolved in ethyl alcohol, methyl alcohol or industrial methylated spirits. Obtain nylon powder from

Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. 1966 addn.
Dyestuff Division
P.O. Box 14, Northwich, Cheshire

1 tin Calaton C B 06445/017

10 lb. 19/6 per lb.

Perfectly correct to silk or sandwich between tissue only the pages needing it.

When a book has been printed on damp paper the outside edge sometimes is not stretched as much as printed area. To remedy this the edge is hammered and this will stretch the paper to equal the center where type has stretched the paper.

Questions see Tribollet

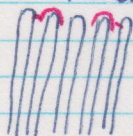
Should edge of plastic material extend over edge of page so as to seal the edge. No. He would not like that extra edge protruding beyond the page.

Does not like silking. prefers sandwiching between sheets of thin Japanese paper.

Does not try to dye leather to match old binding. Near but not to make a thing of it.

S.C. Does size whole book at a time. Book is taken down then interleaved with news print. Dipped top or bottom edge in very thin ^{animal} glue and then squeezed in press. Leaves are then pulled apart & hung up to dry.

Instead of a zig-zag end paper prefers this method an extra ~~fold~~ ^{free} guard is folded around 1st & last section & sewn in with the section not pasted. After sewing is finished ~~fold~~ guard next to fly section is tipped on. This protects the pull of the first sections.



This method is also used, "free" guard, on each section of vellum books. So that

no glue touches vellum therefore books open more freely.

The problem of guarding outside leaves of a section so that they are the same size & ~~are~~ not narrower or wider than section:

Lay guard on piece of newsprint then pick up section, knock it up even with fore edge & ends then lay section to center of guard. fold over newsprint with other side of guard on to section & rub well.

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Visit to British Museum Bindery Oct 20, 1966 2:15 PM

Mr. Howard M. Nixon, Keeper of printed books.

Mr. ^{administrative} Painter - head of Bindery, Mr. Tushingham operating the Barrows laminating machine. Mr. Turner head of actual bindery.

Mr Nixon most gracious took us to his office. Gave me a copy of the Roger Powell - Peter Waters book which is not for sale. Very fine.

about 30 women

Then to Bindery which does all the B.M. work but is the Government bindery. Mr. Painter then took us through the room where women do the "taking down" refairing of some of the work & the sewing. There is a small machine with a mechanical roller thru which a continuous roll of plastic with adhesive is applied. This is for very inferior paper but important to keep as record. No heat just pressures. There were also machine to sew books. Women lining pages with ~~tissue~~ tissue & paste, using a wide wall-paper hanger brush. Women sewing wide guards on sections to be used as throw-outs. See sample. Sizing of pages is done with gelatine, or thin glue.

edges always extend beyond paper so as to seal

Also for acid condition. Sprinkle dry magnesium ^{between} the leaves & roll up & leave for a couple of weeks. Barrows laminating process - three men. Mr Tushingham also paper is deacidified by giving a bath of Calcium Hydroxide & then one of Calcium Bicarbonate. What the formula is - I don't know. There were two large bottles with rubber tubes running from liquid in bottle to bath sink. Sheet is lowered on to piece of wire mesh so that if it is delicate it won't tear. After this process it is dry - mended. Then three laminators plastic material - tissue - page - tissue - plastic material between two pieces of holland cloth. And there it is, if part of the page are missing it is replaced by plain paper as per example.

Tea with Mr. Painter at Enrico's across the street

Mr. Turner then took us to the room where the actual covering is done, titles, repairing of vellum. Many men working there and a lot of them were young. So the craft will not die for a while.

One man was working on a very valuable ^{Vellum} ~~Vellum~~ manuscript about 11th cent. so valuable that every night it is put into the safe while the work goes on. He was mending a tiny tear near the inside edge, had cut a thin piece of vellum & was paring the edge thin all the while holding it down on the stone with an other knife dull, I suppose. This was applied with a ~~brush~~ ^{adhesive} made of vellum shavings. His paring stone was about 8" sq. very small. After sizing the papers are laid on racks which are hung along one long side, so that the racks ^{can be} ~~are~~ lifted up & paper between wire mesh is laid on the racks, much easier than putting on strings to dry. Altho there were cords all over with page hanging from fold.

About 2000 books are repaired a month

Leather is not expected to last more than 10 years at best. Its life expectancy is to be 15 yrs.

They now use Vellum to make half bindings with cloth. These will last much longer.

Collections for the Queen or other important people have the same type of title piece & spine decoration so that they can be spotted at a glance. Glair is put on the whole vellum spine as the tools can only be applied once not like leather where it is tooled blind first.

In removing ~~of~~ leather from spines when a new back is needed the first thing is to make a rubbing of the spine. Then it is put between pressing tins in a press & screwed up very tight so that the back is thrown up & no moisture will seep thru the boards. Then damp blotter or cloth is laid along the spine & then slowly worked off. takes great patience & time.

British Museum

Everything book or magazine or pamphlet that is rebound is taken down entirely. No cords are made. Where the books should open out to make reading of notes on inside margin the sections are sewn on throw out guards. See examples. One if back fold is very narrow. Books are all hollow backs, with false cords.

The Bindery does not only for the British Museum but for any British Government Library.

A cardboard or heavy paper had ^{lines} drawn about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch apart at both ends. This is used in guarding or mending folds so that the inner folded leaves will not protrude from the out-side ones.

Bands turned to leather tanning when the USA started using plastic for drum heads instead of parchment.

British Museum Bindery use a lot of ^{Levant} from France. Very expensive.

Shirton a linen is used to back maps. It is stretched on a long table & many maps & throw outs are pasted on at one time.

Shirton is obtained from

R.S. Brown & Sons Ltd.
Richmond House
Richmond Grove
Manchester 13

Helitine

W.H. Palmer
44 Gorman Rd.
Tottenham
London N17

1966

Information needed

From Cockerell

When the sections are split at fold - how to guard so that they will be even with other sections.

How is a whole book sized at once - not page by page

B.M. Acetate is used to dissolve the plastic sandwich but this weakens the paper.

B.B.M.
Borrow
Machine They were laminating a shell when the center was all charred & blocks & partly missing, the missing part was replaced by plain paper (see sample) but charred part retained & left there

British Museum

How are leather puppets from Indonesia treated? without injuring the paint.

Most puppets are made of parchment & do not need to be treated.

Mr. Painter: For suspension of insect best thing is D.D.T.

Of course cleanliness is the best guarantee against insects. Correct temperature is important.

They are still not ^{using} doing any nylon. Much research goes into it & The B.M. must be very sure before it uses anything.
All adhesives must be soluble in water.

"Roger Powell + Peter Waters - Nixon

"Insect Pests" - R.A. Baynes - Cope
(write to Keeper of Laboratory Research)

Soluble Nylon - How was it discovered that nylon strengthened paper?

Are all books that have to be repaired treated to nylon or only the ones that are fragile or books that have to be de-acidified.

What is the difference between DV 45 + DV 55

Cocherell says use a 6% solution for a dip and a 2½% when brushed on.

Can a book or leaves of a book that is ^{or are} acid be de-acidified without elaborate equipment. Is there any publication on this acid question. What can be done in washing leaves to remove acid if it is there.

Removing varnish from binding. spirit of

Scale of charges - does it depend on time spent plus material used.

Wage scale.

X Cloth hinge is sewn in B.M. bindings

Mr Bantz Mr Turner

Tuslingham - (in Firenze)

Formula #40 for insects

(Is this a thymol salts dissolved in alcohol)

Calcium Hydroxide

Calcium ~~by~~ Carbonate

~~acetate~~

} Bath

Holland Cloth

Shirton - linen

magnesium dry for acid

"Shirton"

R S Brown & Sons Ltd.

used to back maps

Richmond House

Richmond Grove

Manchester 13

Lancs.

DTD for use

W.H. Palmer

gelatine size

44 Garman Rd

Tottenham London N 17