

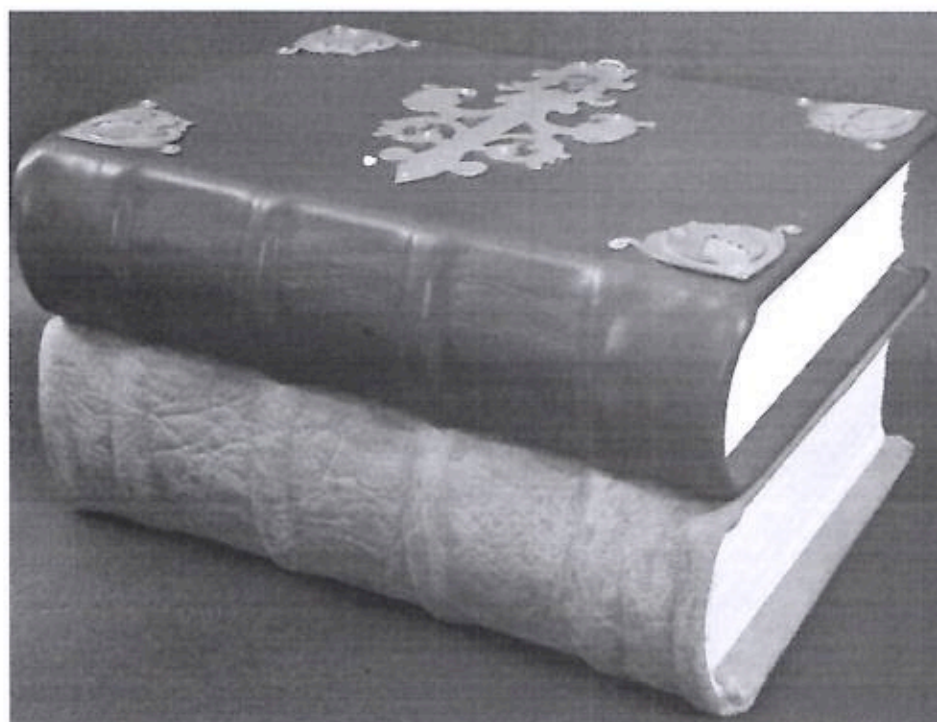
THE YESHUA AND MIRI NOVEL SERIES

JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

Writers Block

Keeping the Art of Medieval Bookbinding Alive - An Interview with Artisan David Sousa

December 11, 2016 | JB Richards



In Slovenia's picturesque capital city of Ljubljana, there lives an artisan by the name of David Sousa who is keeping a rare tradition alive.



Featured Posts



The "Magdala" Stone: A Representation of the Jewish Temple!

October 27, 2016

Recent Posts



Book Review: "Remember" by Joan Carney - A Heartwarming Holiday Story!

January 30, 2017



Book Review: "Sweet Vengeance" by Aliya DalRae - A Fast-Paced, Stomach-Churning, Down-Right Dangerous Thriller!

January 22, 2017



Book Review: "Shiva XIV" (Book I) by Lyra Shanti

January 17, 2017



Mystery Thriller Week Book Review: "Control" by R.M. Gauthier - A Fast-Paced Sexy Thriller That Will Leave You Out of Control!

January 11, 2017



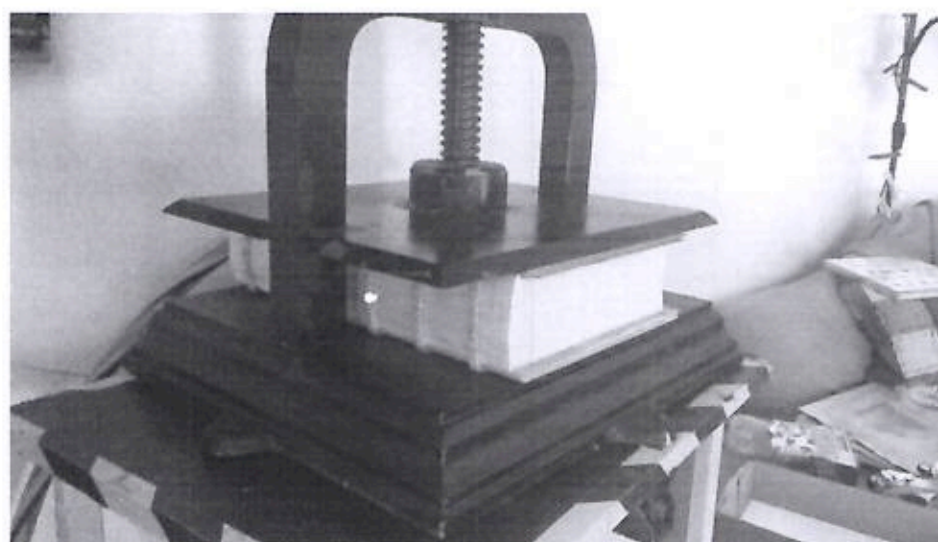
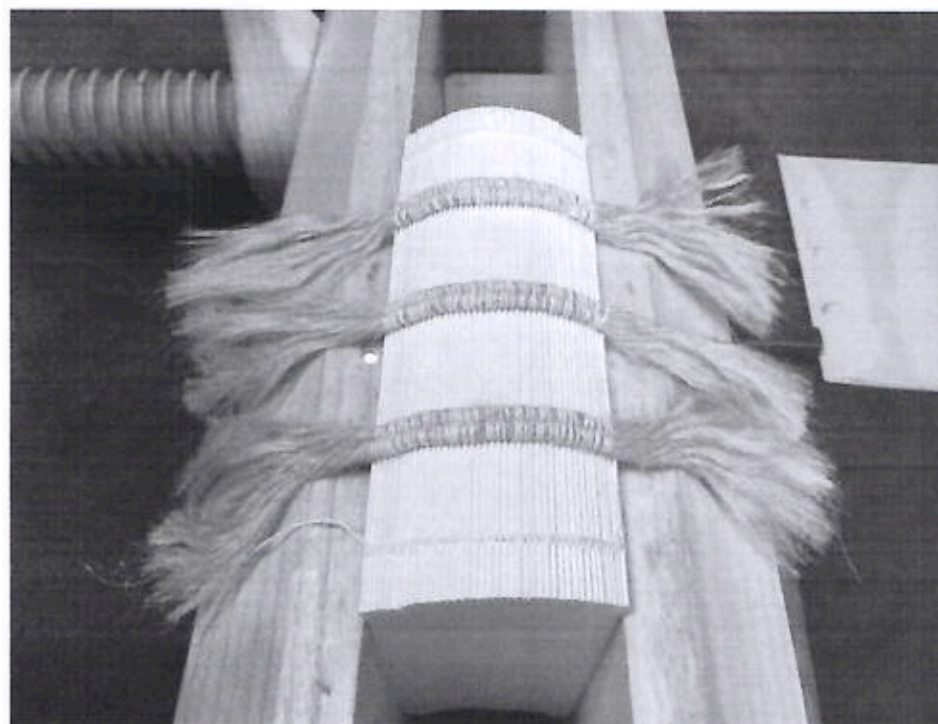
Mystery Thriller Week Book Review: "Down and Out in Kathmandu" by Jennifer S. Alderson

January 11, 2017



Announcing "Yeshua the Christ: The Silk"

For the past 6 months, Sousa has been patiently studying and practicing the art of medieval bookbinding.



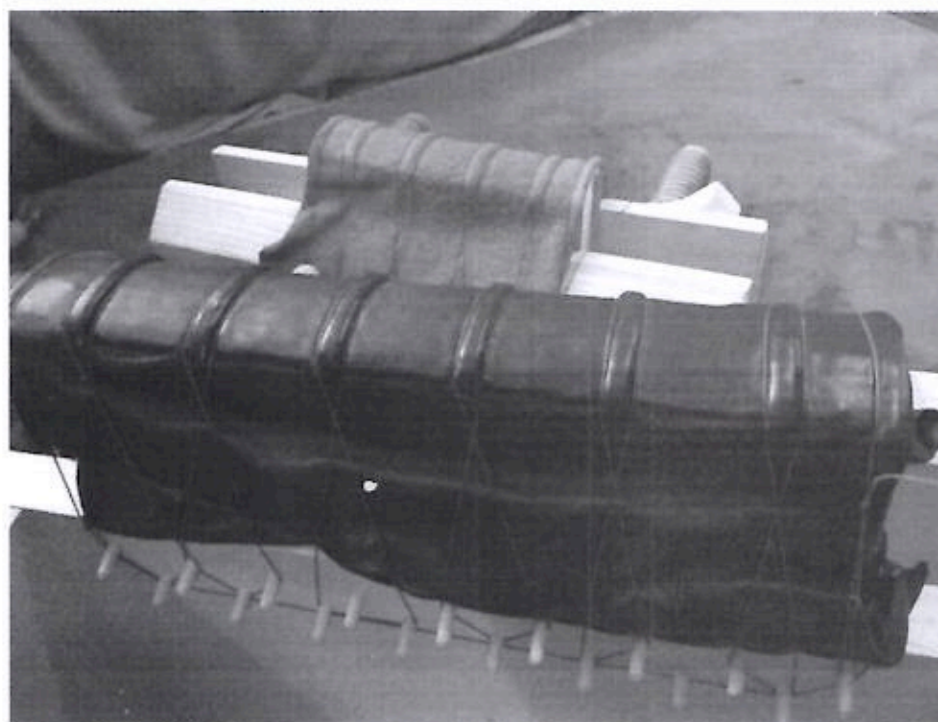
Road* - Here's an Exclusive Excerpt!
December 23, 2016

Archive

January 2017 (5)
December 2016 (4)
November 2016 (1)
October 2016 (1)
September 2016 (2)
August 2016 (1)
July 2016 (3)
June 2016 (1)
May 2016 (4)
April 2016 (1)
March 2016 (2)
February 2016 (1)
August 2014 (1)
April 2014 (1)

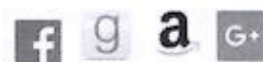
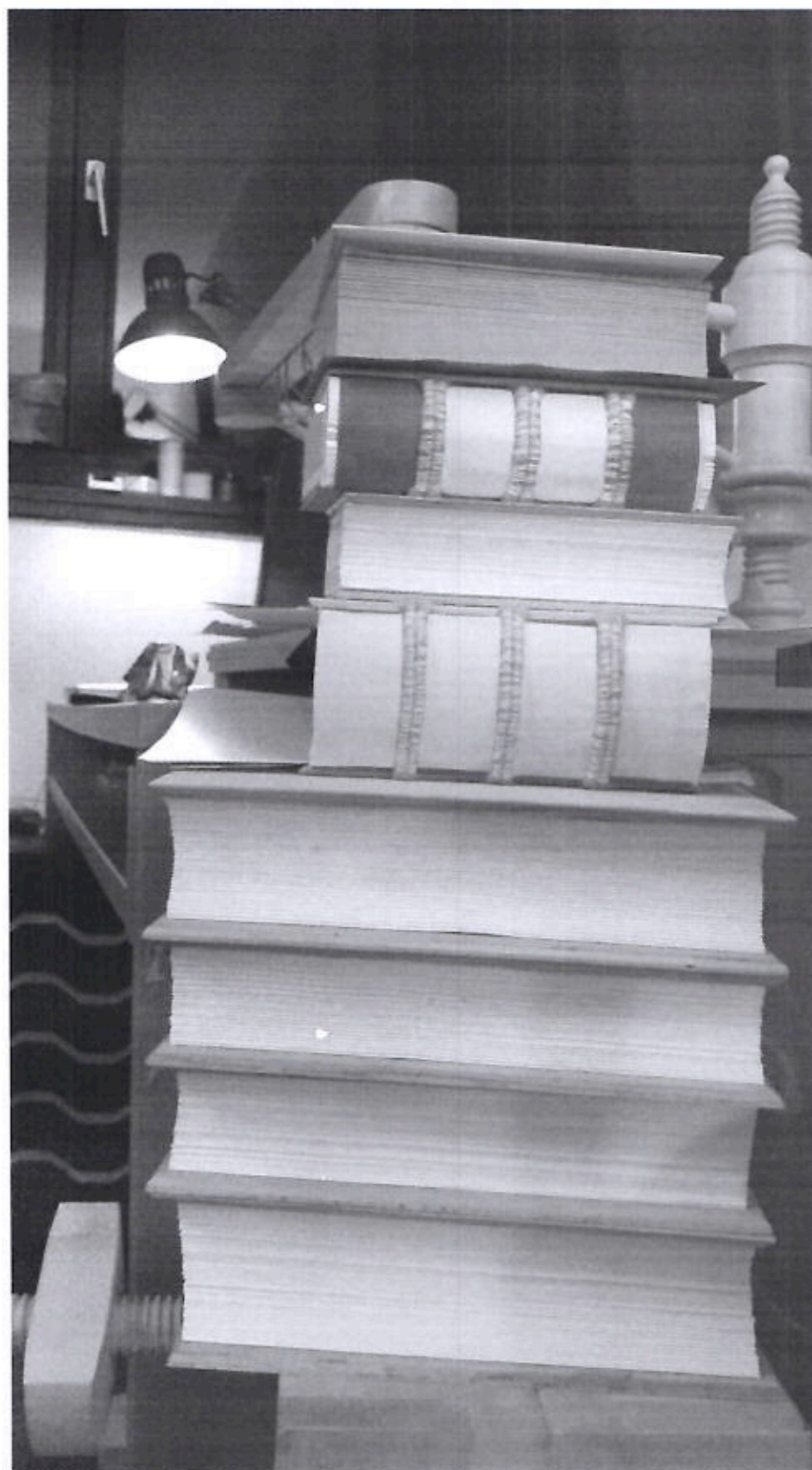
Search By Tags

Amazon, Ancient Crafts,
Ancient Galilee, Ancient India,
Ancient Jewish Culture,
Aquarian Couple,
Arthur Alva Dalkae,
Author, JB Richards,
Author, Joan Carey, Authors,
Best Historical Fiction,
Best Indie Books, Best New Adult,
Blogs, Book Awards, Book Makers,
Book Making, Book Press,
Book Review, Book Reviews,
BookArtistsHandmadeBooks,
Bookbinding, Bookbinder, Books,
Brahman, Buddhism, Christ,
Christian Fiction, Christian Fiction,
Codeless, Control, Diaspora, Dune,
Early Christianity, Ebooks, Ebooks,
Far East,
Feast Day of Mary Magdalene,
Frank Hersert, Galilee,
George Lucas, Gnostic Fiction,
Gnostic Gospels, Gnosticism,
Gedipelli, Goodreads,
GoodreadsListFever, Great Reads



[Handmade Journals](#) [Hinduism](#)
[Historical Fiction](#) [Holiday Reads](#)
[Indie](#) [Indie Author](#)
[Indie Author News](#) [Indie Authors](#)
[Indie Fab Five](#) [Jerusalem](#) [Jesus](#)
[Jesus Christ Superstar](#) [Judaism](#)
[Judas](#) [Kindle](#) [Kindle Unlimited](#)
[King of Kings](#) [Lama](#)
[Leanne](#) [Bound Journals](#) [Listopia](#)
[Lit Chat](#) [Lyra Shynli](#) [Magdala](#)
[Magdala Stone](#) [Magi](#)
[Mary Magdalene](#) [Medieval Arts](#)
[Medieval Bookbinding](#)
[Medieval Crafts](#)
[Metamorph Publishing](#) [Miriamne](#)
[Miriamne the Magdala](#)
[Missing Years](#) [Must Reads](#)
[Mystery](#) [Mystery Thriller Week](#)
[New Adult](#) [New Testament](#)
[Novel Series](#) [Novel series](#) [Novels](#)
[Paranormal](#) [Readers](#)
[Readers Favorite](#)
[Readers Favorite 5 Star Seal](#)
[Reflection on Gospel](#) [Religion](#)
[Religious Fiction](#) [Remember](#)
[Roman Catholic Church](#)
[Roman Empire](#) [Romance](#)
[Romance Reads](#) [SIBA](#)
[SIBA Top 10 Best Historical Fiction](#)
[SIBA Top 20 Best New Adult](#)
[SIBA Top 50 Best Young Adult](#)
[Sacred Feminine](#) [Sci-Fi](#)
[Second Temple](#) [Self-Help Books](#)
[Silva Xiv](#) [Silk Road](#) [Sorcerers](#)
[Spiritual Books](#) [Spirituality](#)
[Star Wars](#) [Sweet Romance](#)
[Sweet Vengeance](#) [Tartanese](#)
[The Rainbow Serpent](#)
[The Yeshua and Miri Novel Series](#)
[Thriller](#) [Top 20](#)
[Top 50 Best young Adult](#) [Top10](#)
[Underground Jerusalem](#) [Virtual](#)
[Tour of Jerusalem](#)
[Vampires](#) [Werewolves](#)
[Writing Writers](#) [Write Chat](#)
[Writer Wednesday](#)
[Writers Prompts](#) [Writers](#)
[Writers Life](#) [Yeshua](#)
[Yeshua The Christ The Silk Road](#)
[Yeshua the Christ](#) [Young Adult](#)

Follow Us



Recently, Sousa agreed to share his love of the craft with me and give me a glimpse into his life



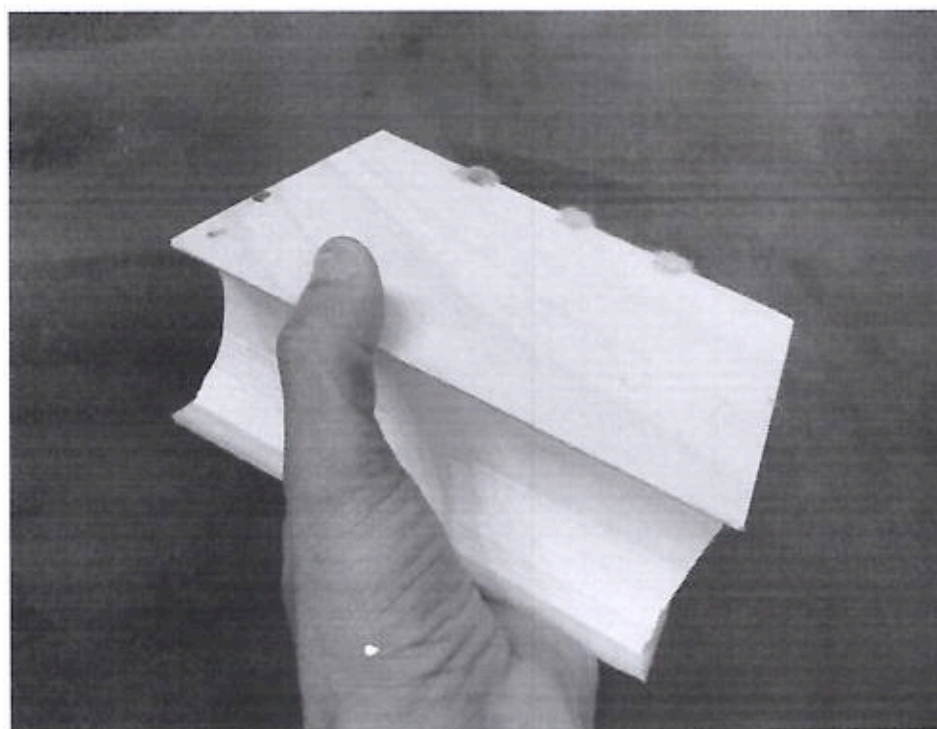
David, what inspired you to take up this craft and when did you start practicing?

I have a friend in Brazil who crafted a handmade diary for my eldest daughter and we loved it! When my daughter, Lua, was born, I became interested in this art form and started researching it so that I would be able to make a similar diary for her. I began researching different types of book bindings on the internet, and that led me to Medieval bookbinding techniques, paper crafts, etc. I then decided to try my luck at making one. That was about 6 months ago, and now I'm totally in love with making antique diaries. I have started and finished quite a few books, as funny as that may seem, but I still haven't started the one I call "The Special One." None of the books I have made so far is my special book for my very special Lua. Bookbinding is what truly makes me happy, and I get up every day thinking of the beautiful books I will create!



What sort of formal training have you had and how long did it take you to feel comfortable with your craft?

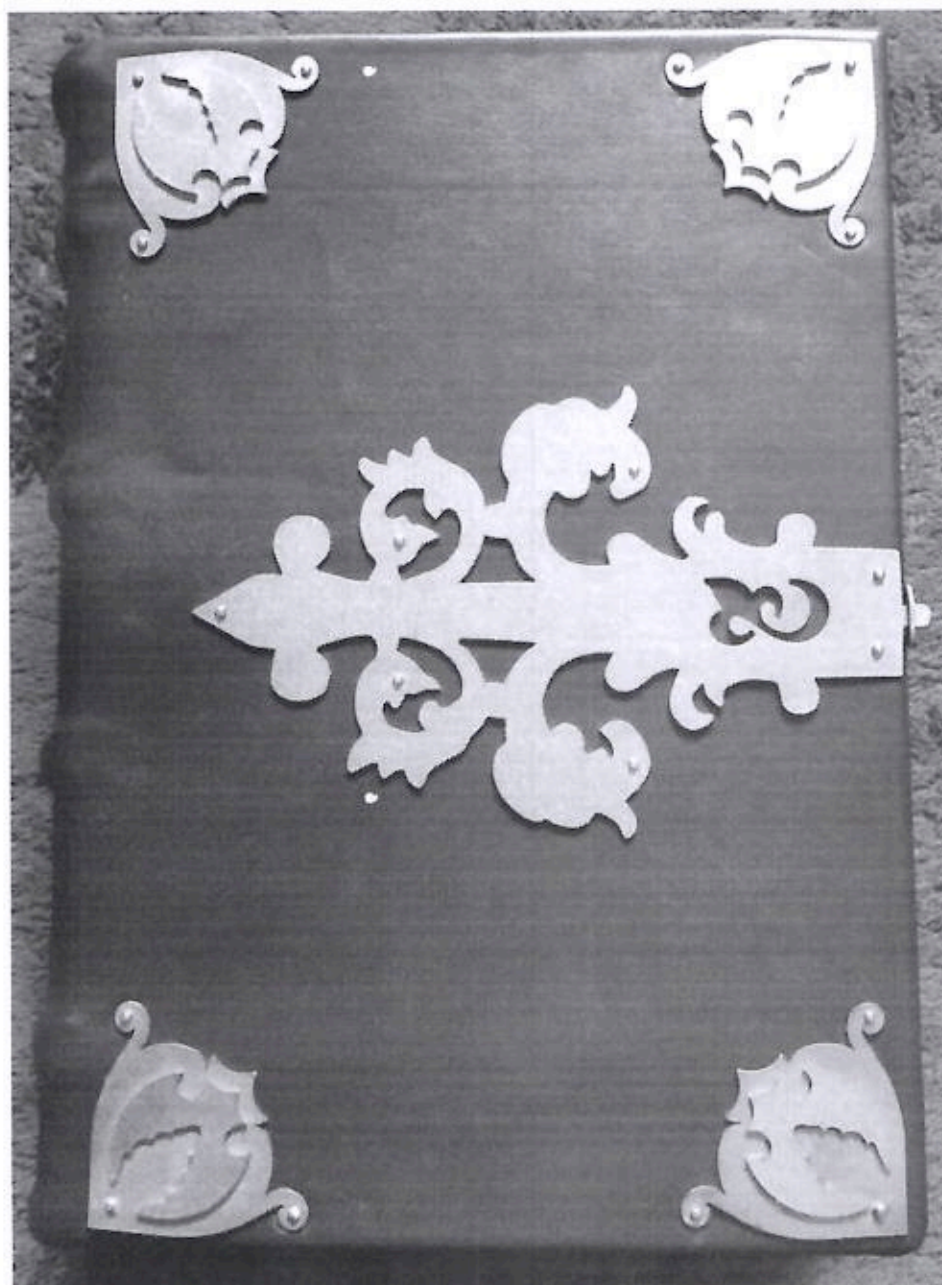
To be honest I don't have any formal training in bookbinding, but my love for art and crafts has been with me since I can remember, and I have worked with leather jewelry and other materials in the past. When I decided to make my first book, I made some contact with Gustavo, a local Razman from Bled, who patiently showed me the techniques of stitching and binding. Through the process of book making, Julio Urretapour, a friend from Brazil, made a great first book with me, and he gave me many useful insights. There is so much to learn in this craft, and I am always exchanging the knowledge we pick up.

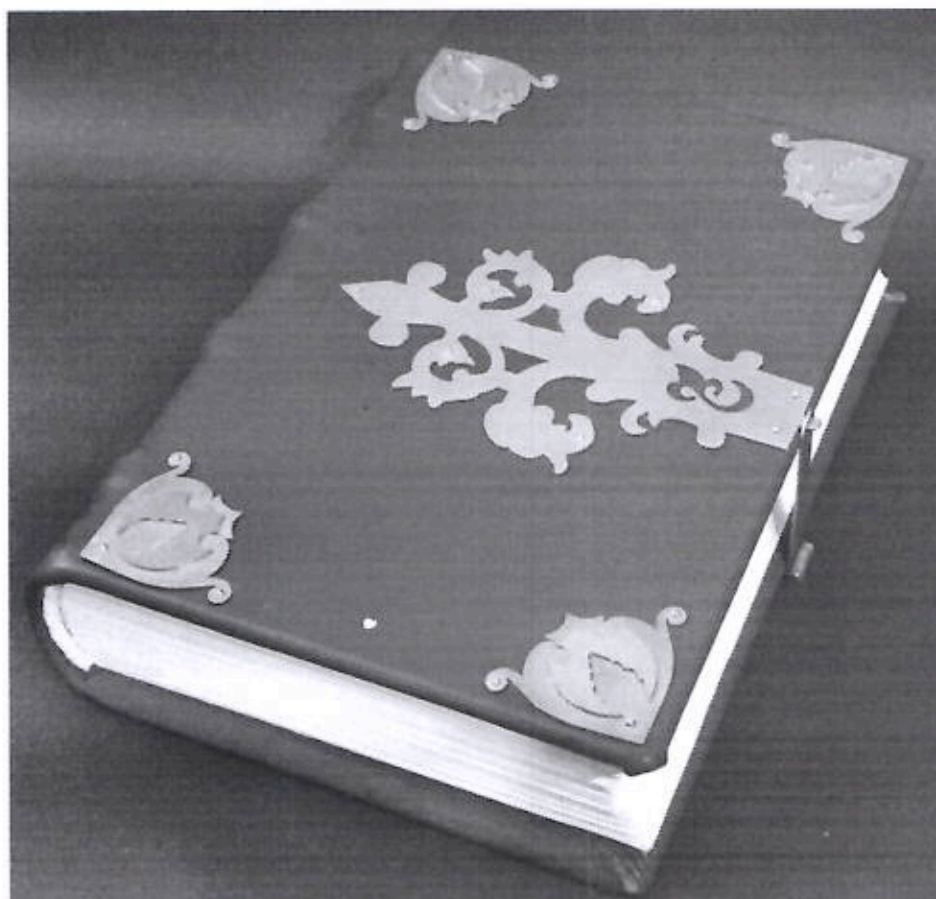


Even after 6 months, I still don't feel totally comfortable with the process of bookbinding. I don't think I ever will. When I stop and look at the masterpieces that were produced centuries ago, without the benefit of a computer, I feel very small. When I see and touch those old books, it makes me realize that there are still so many things that I have yet to learn.

What is your favorite part of performing this type of work?

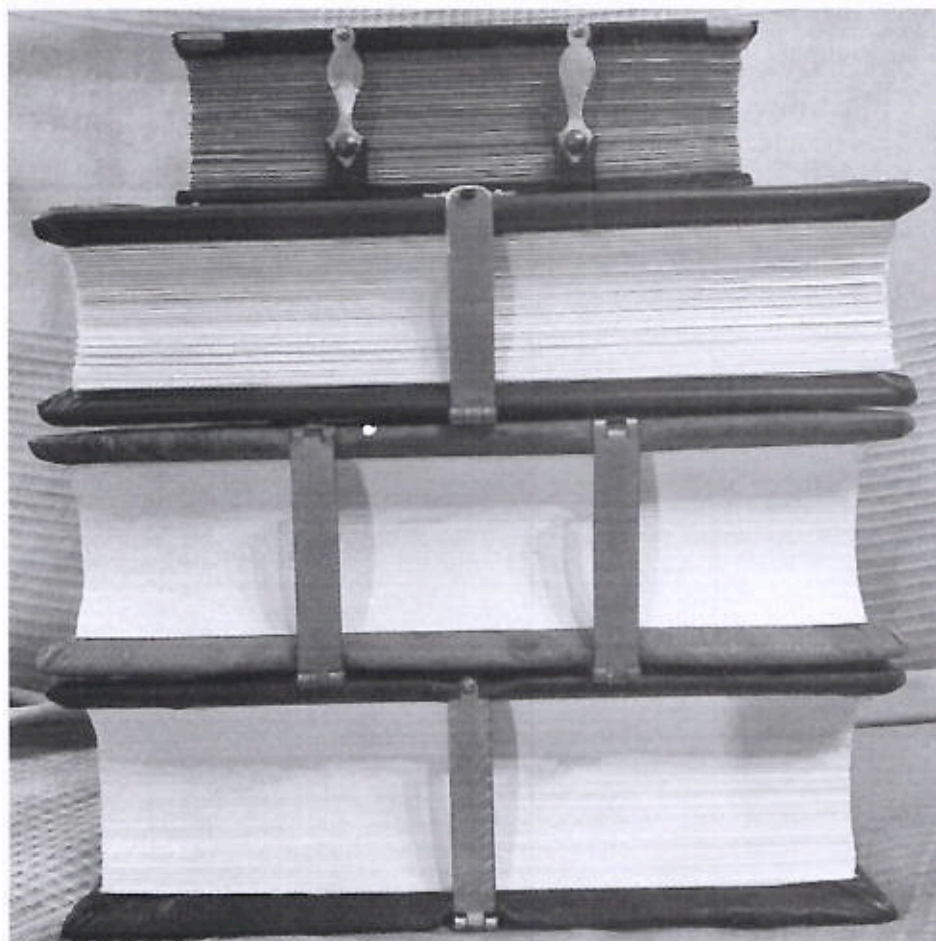
I enjoy every step in the creation of making a handmade book. During the process of creating a piece, there are so many details that you have to work out and put together just to achieve one unique product. It is so simple, yet you need to be very precise in each step. If your measurements are off by even a millimeter, the entire book will look out of sync.





What is the most difficult obstacle you've encountered in your work?

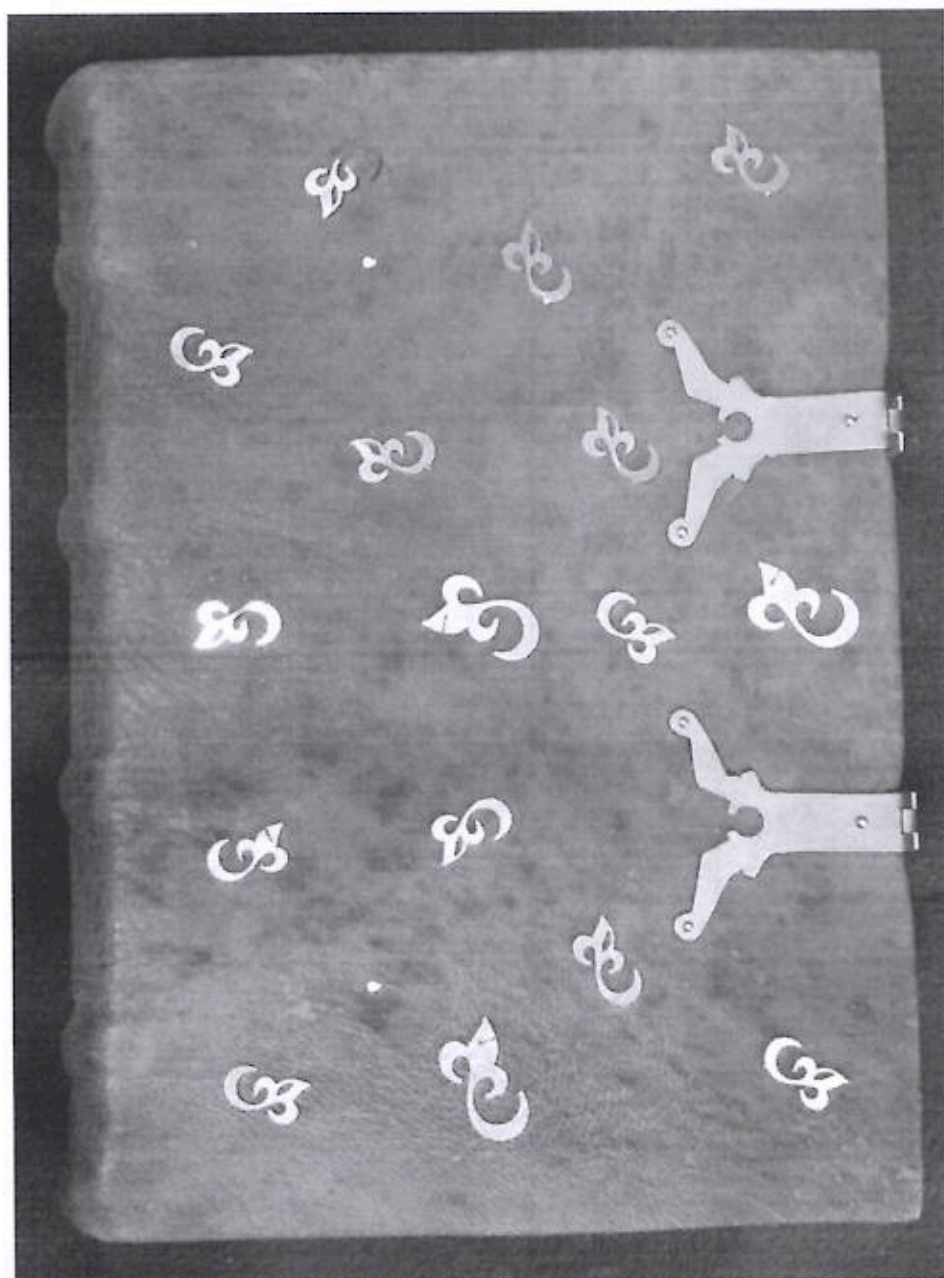
The most difficult part was, and still is, to find the right materials to make a book. Buying materials in small quantities is very difficult, and most of the time, when I finally find the right material, it is only sold in large quantities. I am really trying to make the books as original as possible, using natural materials, the best quality thread and papers, and original naturally-tanned leather. So far, the most difficult step, at least for me, is creating the book clasp.



What has been your proudest moment doing this work?

I think this will sound very silly, but here it goes: when I finish a book and it starts to me it conveys a personal message. I feel that it has life and speaks to me. When I open the front cover and let it close on its own, it makes a noise and goes *BUM!* That's when I know it is finished and I can move on to another one.







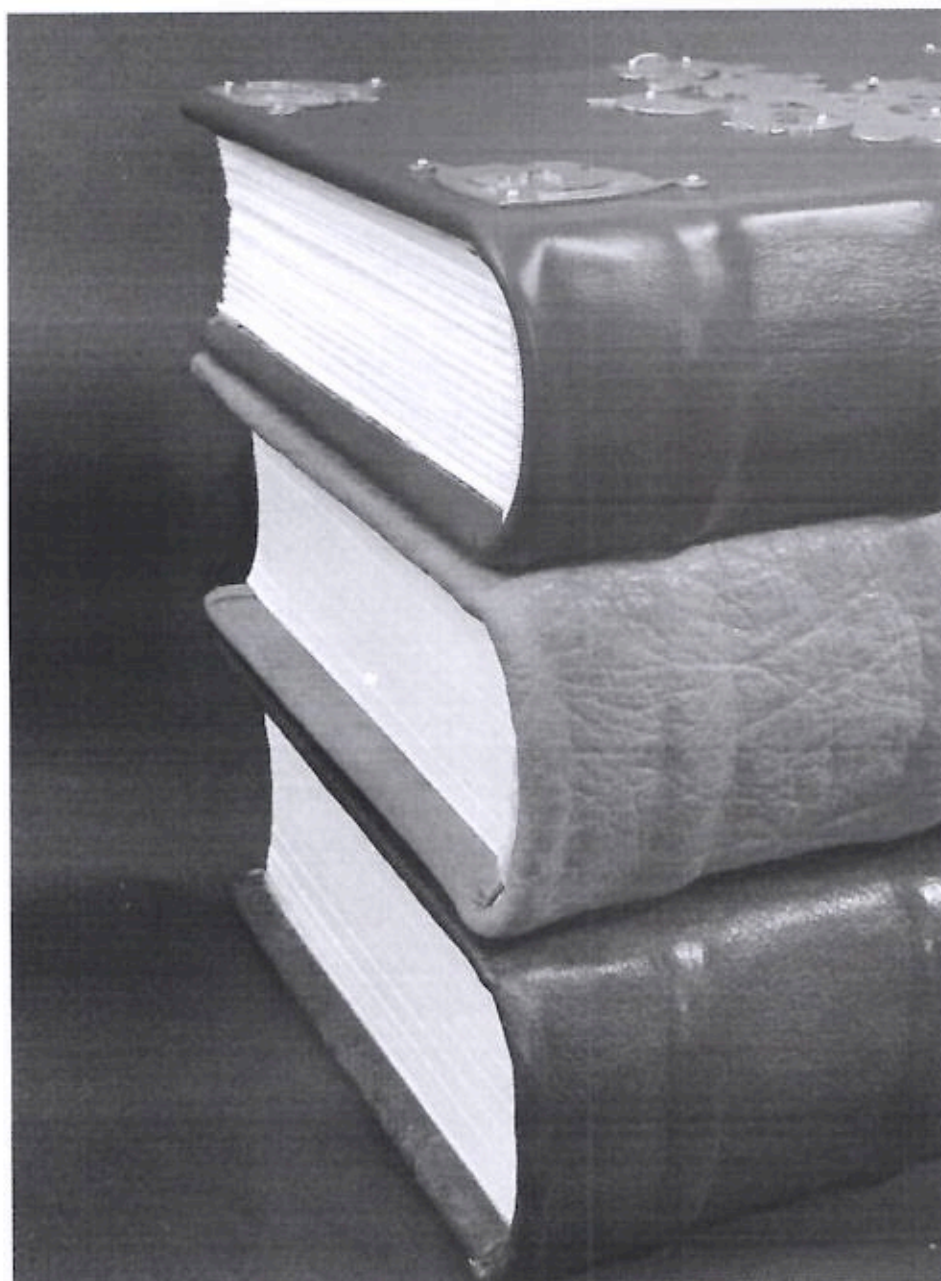
What are your plans for the future?

It all started as a hobby, but I became so passionate about Bookbinding that I now know of making this a full-time occupation. Bookbinding is what truly makes me happy, and I get up every day thinking of the beautiful books I will create.



Is there anything else you would like to mention regarding your work?

My work is focused on the creation of high quality books that will last for many generations. The style that I employ requires much more work and patience than books that are manufactured en masse nowadays. I decided to do this work because I don't agree with today's general idea that things do not have to last... that things are temporary and must come to an end. I have peace in my soul when I know that these books will last for hundreds of years.



If you are interested in ordering a David Sousa handmade medieval leather journal, please feel free to contact him via his Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/fornewDavidS>

With the exception of the photograph of Ljubljana, Slovenia, all of the photographs were provided by David Sousa and are presented here in this article with his permission.

I want to thank David Sousa for agreeing to this interview. It is so rare today to find an individual who is as dedicated and passionate as he is about his craft. I'm certain most would agree that an artisan as gifted as he is must be brought to the attention of those who assume responsibility for the protection and preservation of the Arts. As an historian and independent author, I am appreciative of the fact that Sousa is self-taught and continues to ply his trade, as he shows toward the perfection of such an unusual craft. Without Sousa and others like him, the employment of this medieval craft would quite unfortunately quickly fade away into the annals of history. Indeed, his love and dedication for restoring and preserving a unique art form makes this qualify him as a world treasure and an essential element in the history of bookbinding.

About the Author

JB Richards is an historian and international award-winning Amazon Goodreads and Xibris

author. In November of 2016, Richards was a nominee for Author of the Year, Indie Author Books 2016 Readers' Choice Awards. Her debut novel, "Miriamne the Magdala" (the first chapter in the Yeshua and Miri Novel Series) was voted a Top 10 Best Historical Fiction novel, Top 23 Best New Adult Novel, and Top 50 Best Young Adult Novel, and was a nominee for Best Romance Novel in the 2016 Summer Indie Book Awards (SIBA). "Miriamne the Magdala" has been awarded a Readers' Favorite 5-Star Seal and has continued to be nominated in multiple book award venues. In December, 2016, "Miriamne the Magdala" ranked in the TOP 3 on Goodreads (Lithia's Bookish Books 2016-2017 and TOP 10 on Goodreads/Listopia's Self-Pub & Indie Book Worth Reading list. Her upcoming second chapter in The Yeshua and Miri Novel Series, "Yeshua the Christ, The Silk Road", is due for publication in 2017.

#MedievalBookbinding #BookArtisans #HandmadeBooks #BookMakers #HandmadeJournals
#Bookbinding #AncientCrafts #MedievalArts #MedievalCrafts #BookPress #Bookmaking
#LeatherBoundJournals #Codexes

Tags: Medieval Bookbinding, Book Artisans, Handmade Books, Book Makers, Handmade Journals, Bookbinding, Ancient Crafts, Medieval Arts, Medieval Crafts, Book Press, Book Making, Leather Bound Journals, Codexes

Copyright © 2016 by JB Richards

Tags: Medieval Bookbinding, Book Artisans, Handmade Books, Book Makers, Handmade Journals, Bookbinding, Ancient Crafts, Medieval Arts, Medieval Crafts, Book Press, Book Making, Leather Bound Journals, Codexes

1 Comment

Sort by Oldest



Add a comment...



Julio Urratouros

Trabalhos incríveis!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · Dec 15, 2016 11:54am

Facebook Comments Plugin

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT THE AUTHOR](#) | [THE SERIES](#) | [MIRIAMNE THE MAGDALA](#) | [AUTHOR'S GALLERY](#) | [CHECK THE BOOK](#) | [THE WRITERS BLOCK](#) | [CONTACT](#)

COPYRIGHT © 2016 JB Richards. All rights reserved.

Join the conversation on Facebook

