

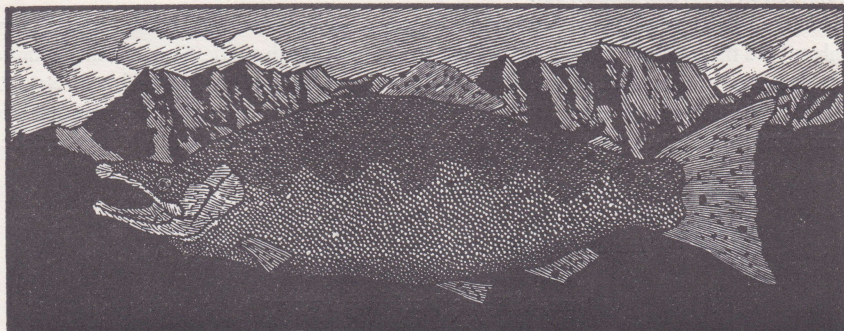
Reference to Stella p. 113(?) 114 & 115

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Mountain Trout

Richard Wagener

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RICHARD F. OLSON

A Sketch of John DePol

DONALD R. FLEMING

Review

DR. ADELA S. ROATCAP

In Memoriam

Serendipity

Gifts & Acquisitions

Elected to Membership

Petite but strong, full of the capacity for enjoyment, Stella was open and vivacious. Fierce in her zeal against the enemies of quality, in books as well as in life, she was equally outspoken when these enemies (carelessness, insensitivity, etc.) were remotely suggested.

In Stella's second-floor bindery, complete with her bindery cats, she welcomed colleagues, clients, and other student bookbinders with a warm smile and obvious interest.

Born in Canada, Stella came to San Francisco in time for the 1906 earthquake and fire. Here she met and married Italian-born artist Giacomo Patri. The idea of Stella's binding of Giacomo's 1938 book, *White Collar*, introduced her to the charms of bookbinding. She was able to study for a while with Octavia Holden until it became obvious that *White Collar*, printed at home in individual sheets, could not be bound in a traditional fashion. Now she had found her vocation, but her lessons had to be terminated. She returned to her job of raising three boys, Piero, Ramo, and Tito, and taking good care of the family during the Depression. During World War II, Stella, a pacifist, worked first as a welder on Liberty ships, then for the American Red Cross.

In 1952, she, Giacomo, Piero, and Tito went to Milan, where Piero was studying architecture. Yes, there was a bookbinding course, but she wasn't allowed into the college, and private lessons would have meant family disruption. Again, the dream was postponed.

After twenty-five years, Stella and Giacomo divorced, and Stella began work in San Rafael at the Cottage Book Shop. At last she was finally able to pursue her study of bookbinding, and for the next few years, on her day off, she studied with Peter Fahey. Stella later worked for booksellers Newbegin and Paul Elder, but found that the demands of her job did not leave enough time or energy for bookbinding in the evenings. By that time she had decided to concentrate on book restoration, and she knew she needed further study. When she "retired," she felt that she could use her ninety dollars a month from Social Security for living expenses while studying in Europe. In 1962 she left San Francisco for Rome and the study of document restoration at the Istituto di Patologia del Libro. Stella remained there for four months until she could no longer stand

Rome's summer heat. She left for Paris and study in leather and gold with Jules Fache. Then she went to England to work another four months with a retired bookbinder.

Stella returned to San Francisco. Peter Fahey, in Europe at the time, let Stella use her bindery and had left a few commissions for her to complete, but her first professional test came from Mrs. Tommasini at the U.C. Medical Library. Stella was given nineteen books to restore, which she completed to everyone's (her own included) satisfaction.

In the fall of 1966 Stella decided to take a combined vacation, leather-purchasing trip, and visit with her youngest son, Tito, then in London. On 4 November she read of the flood in Florence. She knew she could be of help, but, at seventy, not by carrying the books out of the mud. Her offer of help was accepted, and in late December she joined the team led by Roger Powell. After a month she felt that she had to return to her work in San Francisco. Soon afterward she received a telephone call requesting her services again in Florence, this time as a paid professional. She returned for two months on her second session and later in the year spent another month in Florence, this time with Anthony Cains's team.

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