

The number of these students increased in 1983 when Mills added a Graduate Program in Book Arts to its offerings. When the program ended in 1989, Mills students had individually and collectively become an increasingly influential and innovative voice in the national arena of book arts in both printing and binding.

The death of the graduate program did not diminish the undergraduate program in book arts at Mills, which since 1989 has actually increased in size and scope. Now housed in the Division of Letters, with faculty appointments in the Department of English, book arts have become a vital part of the liberal arts curriculum, one which President Jan McKay has referred to as "central to the mission of Mills." Even the Walter Bindery has moved to a more central location on campus, close to the Eucalyptus Press. In 1989 a Macintosh computer, LaserWriter and scanner were added to the equipment available to book arts students, and many binding students generate content for their mostly one-of-a-kind projects on this equipment.

Since Ms Chaika's departure in 1987, Mills binding instructors have included Janice Mae Schopfer, print conservator with the Achenbach Collection at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, and Keith Vinson, noted calligrapher, landscape designer and alumnus of the Mills College Graduate Program in Book Arts. In September of 1993, Gillian Boal joined the faculty as Lecturer in Bookbinding. She is book conservator at the library of the University of California, Berkeley; she brings her conservation expertise to Mills along with her training in traditional English hand bookbinding. She continues the Mills approach of fostering innovative, student-directed work that combines an emphasis on traditional technique with contemporary exploration of form.

The contributions of Mills alumnae in bookbinding to the professional community of bookmaking and



HENRY MILLER: INTO THE NIGHT LIFE (binding by Florence Walter)

book arts continue to be impressive. Since May 1993, three of these alumnae have held jobs in the field: as a binder at Arion Press in San Francisco; as a binder with Molly West of San Francisco; and as an intern at the Library of Congress. The legacy of Florence Walter has ably supported these and many other Mills students in the twenty years since the inception of this important studio at Mills College.

~Renée Jadushlever & Kathy Walkup



HAND • BOOKBINDING • IN • CALIFORNIA

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