



TACKETING. In BGN XIX-7-19 we asked about an article "*Joint Tacketing: A Method of Board Attachment*" by Robert Espinosa (Conservation Department Chair, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602) and Pamela Barrios (Assistant Conservator - same library). Most of you will recall that we have had a number of articles on reattaching boards (by different methods, of course) and they were summarized on XIX-1-9 (bottom) through the middle of page 11. The technique taught by the above paper is quite different. It is relatively fast and inexpensive, not unsightly, and is strong. So, as an addition to our board reattaching arsenal, we will describe this "new" method.

Tom Conroy kindly sent a copy of this article and it describes a technique apparently developed originally by Anthony Cains. Our thanks to Tom.

Here is a short section of the introduction:

"This is a report on a joint repair technique which is efficient to execute but produces a very strong re-attachment of the covers. It is applicable to both hollow-back and tight-back structures, but is not intended for case-bound books. This technique restores full movement to the joint without sacrificing the strength or aesthetics of the original binding. It is based on a method described and illustrated by Tony Cains in the publication on the Long Room Project at Trinity College, Dublin, and has been mentioned at several conferences by Mr. Cains, although it does not seem to be widely known or used. Having now employed it with some modifications for hundreds of books with broken joints, both in rare and circulating collections, we believe it is important to publicize this technique and illustrate the procedure.

The method has been dubbed 'board reattachment with joint tackets' because the covers are tacketed directly onto the book at the joints. In effect the original binding method is reproduced by simulating new slips. These slips are tacketed to the shoulder of the textblock and laced through the boards. They are tied-off on the inner board in a simple square knot. This restores the original movement of the boards because the anchoring points are at the apex of the shoulder. The beauty of this repair lies in the strength of the board attachment compared to the modest investment of time and materials, and the ability to reinstate function with a minimum disruption to the original materials."

These are the basic steps of the tacketing procedure:

- 1) Drill a series of holes from the base of shoulder exiting on spine (Figure 1).
- 2) Pull a loop of thread through each hole, thread ends through loops and