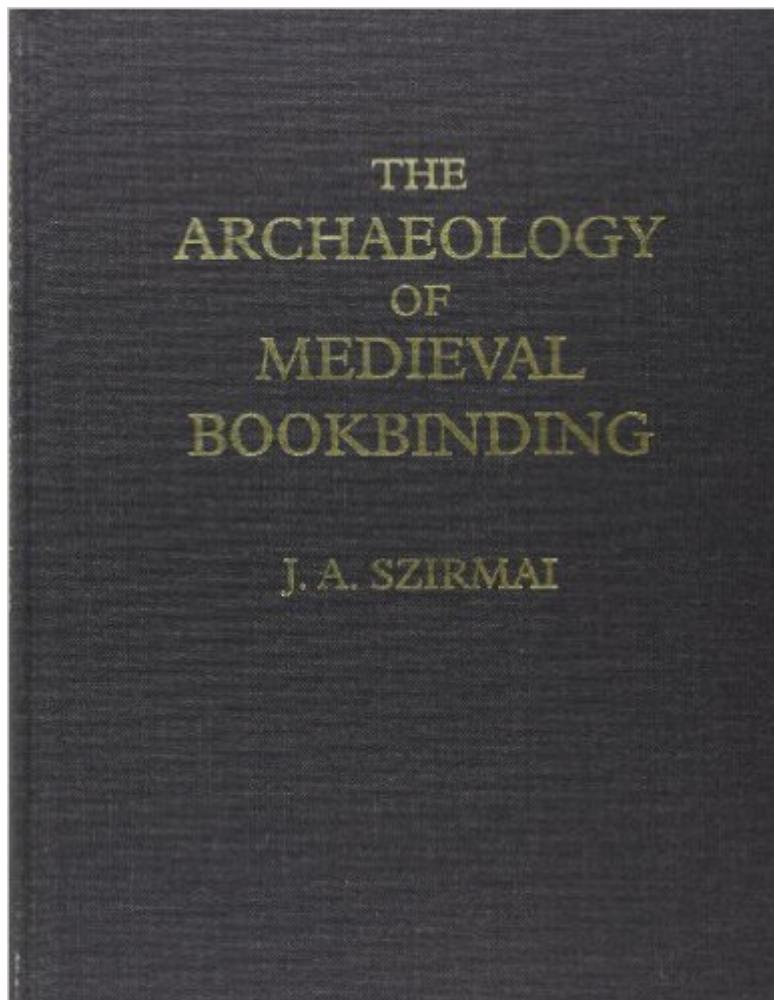


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The Archaeology Of Medieval Bookbinding



Synopsis

In the past, studies of the history of bookbinding were mainly concerned with the exterior decoration. This book focuses attention primarily on the physical aspects of the binding and its construction principles. It is an expanded version of a series of lectures delivered by the author while Visiting Professor at the University of Amsterdam in 1987, supplemented with the results of ten years of intensive research in major libraries on the Continent, the United Kingdom and the USA. It surveys the evolution of binding structures from the introduction of the codex two thousand years ago to the close of the Middle Ages. Part I reviews the scanty physical evidence from the Mediterranean heritage, the early Coptic, Islamic and Ethiopian binding structures and their interrelation with those of the Byzantine realm. Part II is devoted to a detailed analysis of Western binding techniques, distinguishing the carolingian, romanesque and gothic wooden-board bindings as the main typological entities; their structure and function is compared with those of contemporary limp bindings. The book is illustrated with over 200 drawings and photographs and contains a comprehensive bibliography.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A scholarly study of medieval bookbindings filled with new information as well as references to previous studies on the subject both successful and unsuccessful in the light of modern research. The truly magnificent aspect of the book, however, is its illustrations. Close up photos and detailed drawings of bindings, sewings, endbands, etc make this book a must-have for binders interested in

recreating historically accurate books of this time period as well as for those fascinated by the subject in and of itself.

Charts, drawings and photographs complement the scholarly yet readable text so perfectly that I was able to recreate a 10th century binding correct in every detail after reading this book. Highly recommended for students of historical bookbinding particularly and binders and medievalists generally.

Histories of bookbinding almost all concentrate on the outward appearance and decoration, and ignore the construction of the book. This is a great exception. It is a very well written history of the early book from the very earliest codex forms, extremely well illustrated through photographs and beautifully readable structural diagrams. Not a detailed manual for the beginner, but full of concepts and challenges for those with intermediate skills in book construction, and extended time to read it in digestible chunks.

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