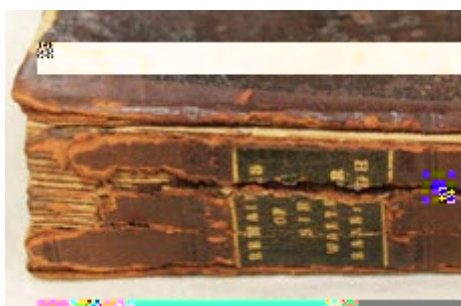


Cover to Cover: Exposing the Bookbinder's Ancient Cra



Surprisingly little has been documented about the purpose or indeed the need to line the back of the book before it was covered. It was not a practice adopted in the early days of the English codex; in fact, no attempt was ever made to line the back of the sections together at all in very early bindings, let alone to a cover. Occasionally it was only the headbands that were lined, not the whole length of the back. What most binders did agree on, though, was that if the book was to be lined entirely it needed to be between the cords only, not over them. So, they took two small pieces of paper and cut them to the width of the spine and just long enough to cap the headbands. These were dampened, and for the glue as to its purpose. Lining not only held the sections together firmly and provided an anchor for the glued covering material, it ensured a very smooth back which made setting and tooling the spine easier, improving the appearance of both. Since the 1800s, developments in binding styles have changed the way most books have been lined. Described below are a couple of the most common methods for lining.

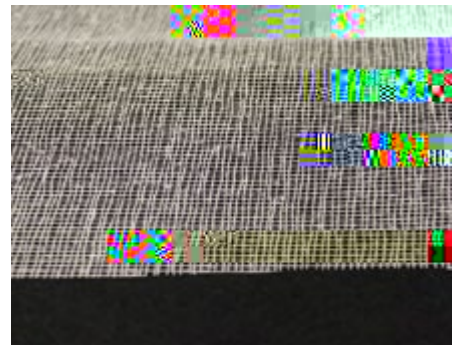
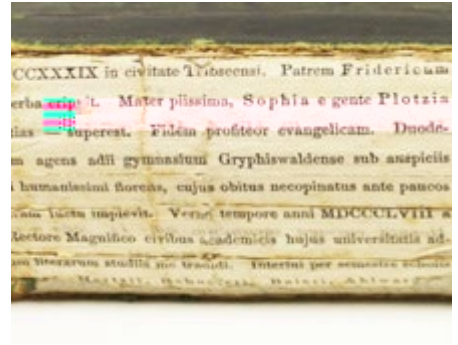
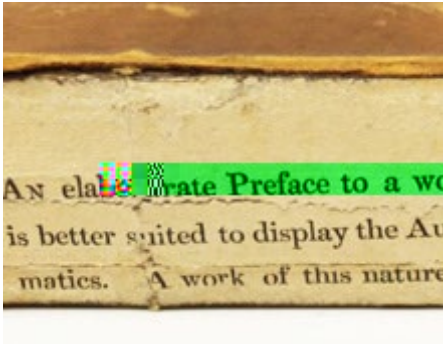


*Remains: of Sir Walter Raleigh: viz. Maxims of state... Sir Walter Raleigh. 1681.
Leather is glued directly to the sections backs of the tight back binding.*

The term 'tight back' described a book in which the covering material had been glued to the back of its sections, either directly or to a layer of paper placed between the back and the cover. Until the end

underneath one of the free folds, which was then glued on its top. The waste paper was removed and the third fold was placed on the glued surface and rubbed down. One-fold had been glued to the back of the book and two would be glued to its covering material. Hence the saying: "one on, two o ". Finally, the excess lining at the headbands was cut o .

On display in this cabinet were the following examples of spine linings



Lee Hayes
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