





In 2018 we will commemorate the more than quarter-century of this newsletter by bringing back articles and authors of the past. What state-of-the-art best practices reflected in their original articles has changed? What has stayed the same?

# Pamphlet Bindings Revisited

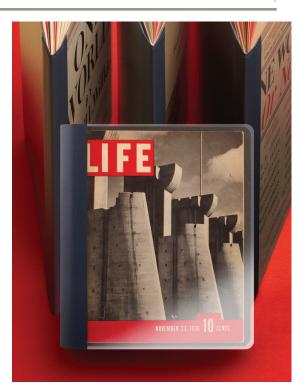
Randy Silverman, Head of Preservation and Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs University of Utah Marriott Library

IN 1992, I WAS INVITED TO WRITE AN article for the first issue of Archival Products News to synopsize the conclusions reached five years earlier for an article I wrote investigating the pamphlet binding as a historic book structure.<sup>1</sup> That topic proved to be fascinating. As it turns out, the origins of the pamphlet binding can be traced to twelve of the thirteen surviving Nag Hammadi Codices which are bound, single-quire books dated by John Barns to the last half of the fourth century.<sup>2</sup> The sewing structure used for these simple leather bindings forms an historical link between the scroll and the multi-quire codex. (Illustration 1)

The purpose of that original 1987 article was to define a durable, non-damaging conservation binding structure for single-, double-, and triple-section pamphlets based on historically successful examples. (*Illustration 2*) The two-year research project included reviewing every bookbinding manual I could access through interlibrary loan and led to

examining brilliant work by Douglas Cockerell, Bernard Middleton and Thomas Harrison, among others.<sup>3</sup> Building on that collective insight I developed what I believed was a unique, uncomplicated, and robust pamphlet binding that employed a free-guard in the center of the section and a reversed cloth hinge outside it (modifying the Nag Hammadi Codices's use of leather). In the final days of that research project I then discovered that another person-Pauline Johnson (1905-), a professor of art at the University of Washingtonhad previously documented that same structure, and the design was published in a 1963 manual of craft bookbinding projects for children!<sup>4</sup> Although humbling for me, I was delighted to include her work in my paper. (Illustrations 3 and 4)

Still, the best was yet to come. In November 2017, Bill Paxson, Division Manager of Archival Products, invited me to revisit that first *Archival Products News* article for a new series



The origins of the pamphlet binding can be traced to... the last half of the fourth century.

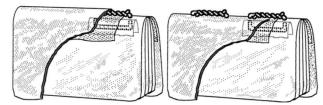
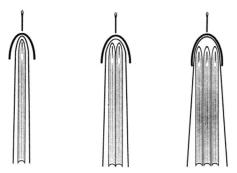


Illustration 1 Nag Hammadi Codices: 4th Century. Drawing by Shawn and Christopher Becker.



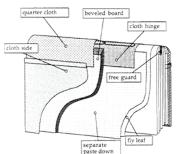
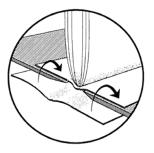


Illustration 3 Johnson and Silverman non-damaging pamphlet binding structure. Drawing by Shawn and Christopher Becker

**Illustration 4** Johnson and Silverman turn-in covering edge of reversed cloth hinge. Drawing by Shawn and Christopher Becker.



**Illustration 2** Cross section of one, two, and three section pamphlets sewn with wrapping fly leaf and reversed cloth hinge. Drawing by Shawn and Christopher Becker.

they were contemplating called, "Archival Archives." Bill thought it would be illuminating to ask past authors if they still stood by their original ideas or, as their expertise had evolved, if their perspective on that published work had changed. This seemed like an intriguing idea, so I ventured to re-read the article and, while I found my use of language a little naïve, the design for a nondamaging pamphlet binding structure still seemed relevant.

However, I was reminded that when I first talked with Janice Comer, former Division Manager and original editor of Archival Products News, about writing the 1992 piece I worried that including the Archival Products' Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Pamphlet Binder in the discussion might appear to be a conflict of interest since it is manufactured by the company publishing the newsletter. So, despite being a fan of the Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Pamphlet Binder as an invention, and using it exclusively in my professional practice today, I restricted my focus to ideals realized from the analysis of historical binding methods.

Bill's recent query freed me to reconsider why Archival Products' Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Pamphlet Binder meets my own criteria for best practices. The product had resulted from a public/ private partnership between Barclay Ogden (Director for Library Preservation at the University of California, Berkeley) and Fritz James (former CEO of Library Binding Service and its Archival Products Division). Knowing them both to be extremely kind and thoughtful individuals, I called and asked them to describe the origin of their development.

By way of introduction, Barclay Ogden began his career at the Newberry Library where he worked as a conservator under Paul Banks from 1973 to 1980. He then moved to UC Berkeley to form and foster its preservation program (July 1980-present). Early on, Ogden observed pamphlets were not easily handled within the University of California's repair program. While two-hour bindings were justified for rare material, making general collection pamphlets shelfready required the use of pamphlet binders provided by conventional The recent query freed me to reconsider why Archival Products' Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Pamphlet Binder **meets my own criteria for best practices**.





### **Pamphlet Binders and** their use in research libraries — by Randy Silverman

y definition, research libraries have a commitment to preserving pamphlets as the all print and non-print media they collect. A discussion of the preservation their survival, and pamphlet is useful for their survival, and pamphlet binders are an impor-tant tool in preparing these often ephemeral "thin books" for storage and circulation. Specifications concerning the permanence resultiments of a concerning the permanence requirements of a library's pamphlet binders can eliminate harmful shelf preparation and save costs in replacing binders that eventually damage the pamphlet. In an earlier study (Silverman 1988) specifications

for a binding structure appropriate for conserving pamphlets were defined. Two elements of these specifications are applicable to commercially produced pamphlet binders as well. They are: 1) The physical

attachment between the pamphlet and the binder should

not damage the pamphlet over

time, and 2) the durability and

chemical stability of the materials

Pamphlet binders are an important tool paring for orage and circulation

used in the binder's manufacture should promote the long-term storage requirements of the library

should promote the long-term storage requirements of the library. Many types of commercially produced pamphiet binders do not address these points. The most blatant offenders cause damage to the pamphiets they house due to the adhesive attachment between the pamphiet and the binder. This type of binder uses a pre-gummed doth flange. The adhesive, in coming in contact with the pamphiet, tends to stiffen and eventually break the first and last leaves of the pamphiet at the hard edge created by the flange. Even if the paper as the adhesive can 'skin' these pagers if delamination occurs, or discord the paper as the adhesive cross-links to it — either of which may cause the loss of significant information from what is quite often the pamphiet's tille page. Additionally, adhesive attachments that affect the spine of the pamphilet restrict its openability. Another common form of physical damage is caused by stapling the pamphilet to the binder through the pamphilet's side. This is unnecessary

for material that was previously sewn or stapled through the fold, as it restricts the pamphlet's openability and forces the paper to crease and become weakened at the edge created by the staple. If the pamphlet was originally sewn or stapled through the side, repeating the process by stapling it to a pamphlet binder can be argued to be no more damaging than was the original method of manufacture. However, a pamphlet anticipated to receive heavy use, an older pamphlet site interpated to ded expense of sewing through the fold to be admagning than was the original method of side-site/thing may require the added expense of sewing through the fold to attachment. In the case of pamphlet start are busing by preventing house agains, again, so long as the allows: again, so long as the inceld agradical domagne. Chincial degradation of the mamphet's paper can be caused by using the pamphet in a

binder pamphlet's paper can be caused by housing the pamphlet in a binder manufactured from acidic materials. Problems associated with the migration of acids from the binder to the pamphlet are multiplied by the binder's greater mass than that of the pamphlet. This condition is augmented by the enturies of storage a pamphlet may undergo. further accelerating its chemical deterioration All of these forms of damage are unacceptab

within the context of permanent retention, as they result in ongoing repair costs or irreversible damage to the collection. This loss can be easily prevented by using a non

Continu



We are interested in your conservation and preservation projects. Archival Products encourage readers to share their thoughts and ideas on any schiideas on any subject affecting the Library Community. Address articles to LBS/Archival

Products Attn: Kerrie Elliott P.O. Box 1413 Des Moines, IA 50305

Pamphlet Binders continued from page 2 to the binder (whenever the original sewing o stapling allows) by sewing or stapling through the fold. In the case of paper that is weakened, sewing may prove less stressful over time than stapling. The ss of this attachment can be minimized by using a "free guard," that is, a fold of Japanese paper placed (without adhesive) in the center of the section before

(without adhesive) in the center of the section bedo sewing. This acts as a reinforcement between the thread and paper. If a pamphlet was stitched through the side (by thread or staple) it can be attached to the binder by side stitching again if the paper can withstand the process. While this provides a practical solution to this problem, it should be done with discretion as stabbing can result in damage sprace to the pamphlet. Sid stitching is an imperfect time saving technique for pamphlets with diamaged spine folds, which are better mended before being sewn through the fold.

#### New Products planned for 1992

n October of 1991 Archival Products introduced the Acid Free File Folder, and two more new products will be available in 1992. Recommended by the School of Art Institute of Chicago, the file folders were developed to protect important collection pieces and provide easier access to materials that are used frequently. The institute's collection of rare "artist's books" will be housed in the new folders, where the books" will be protected from further deterioration and damage by making the books easier to retrieve. The hanging folders are mache from .010 Dark Tan Archival Board with clear I/S cut plastic tabs. Regul folders are also available, with a choice of legal or letter paper sizes.

The 1992 Archival Products catalog will be coming your w in April. It will include the latest

products and

updated prices

L Academy Folders L Archival Folders B Archival Folders Compact Disk Holder Custom Four Flag Enclosures Dark Tan Archival Board Davey Acid-Free Binders Board Acid-Free File Folders

I Four Flap Enclosures I Grey/White Archival Board High Density Acrylic Coated Pamphlet Board Hinged Board Covers Manuscript Folders Music Binders Pamphlet Binders

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library vendors. Widely used and appearing to provide an inexpensive solution, these shoddy abominations were neither durable nor permanent.

At the time, prefabricated pamphlet binders came with an adhesive-coated cambric strip that needed to be moistened to attach the pamphlet to the boards. Assuredly designed with the best of intentions for short-term library wear, in research libraries the cambric strip was so wide it often obscured the pamphlet's front cover text, the adhesive became inflexible, and over time the hardened cloth edge fractured and then sheared off the first and last leaves. Further, having extremely acidic paperboard covers, the binder frequently turned those same outer leaves dark brown. The damage was cumulative and ruinous for research library collections committed to retaining their pamphlets in perpetuity.

Ogden sought to completely rethink the option and, meeting with Fritz James in the Bay Area during the late 1980s, was ready to discuss a more efficient and economical approach. Ogden suggested the pamphlet binder be "redesigned from the inside out" to create a low-cost alternative that was functional, stable, and non-damaging. Were a positive solution for the pamphlet problem identified, Ogden could implement it immediately in the southern and northern regional binderies that handled all commercial binding for the nine University of California campuses.

Fritz James saw Ogden's challenge as sufficiently lucrative to justify the requisite research and development. Jointly, the two isolated the prerequisites of an acceptable resolution. The ensuing innovation needed to: 1) provide a non-damaging and easily reversible attachment between the pamphlet and its cover; 2) be made from alkaline, buffered paperboard, and/or chemically inert plastics and adhesives that remain chemically stable and physically durable over time; and 3) cost about \$3.00 apiece



Barclay Ogden

Ogden suggested the pamphlet binder be redesigned from the inside out to create a low-cost alternative that was functional, stable, and non-damaging.

Pamphlets that are adhesive bound (as is the case with many journals today) can be successfully sew through what would have been the fold, or stapled ssfully sewn through the side. No adhesive attachment between the pamphlet and binder should be necessary

There are many pamphlet binders commercially available. In choosing a binder, the research library is advised to weigh the long-term effects the structure and materials will have on thousands of structure and materials will have on thousands of pamphiets slated for permanent retention. The cost of upkeep and repair should be factored into the original price, as short-term savings may result in significantly higher operating costs in the long run. Siloerman R. "Small, Not Insignificant: An Examination of Pamphiet Binding Structures." American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Aristic Works (1989):111-139. Mr. Siloerman is Presenvation Librarian at Brigham Young University.

Young University.

New for 1992, the Manuscript Folder was created in response to the demand for a safe and effective way to house manuscript collections. Thanks to creative diesa from the New York Academy of Medicine and the Columbia Teacher's College, the manuscript folders will be offered in various sizes and styles. These folders are made with acid/ree envelopes and 0.60 Dark Tan Archival Board. One style will offer a hinede construction, with the envelopes the distorted by the envelopes the envelope attached by

a hinged construction, with the envelope attached by flexible C-grade cloth. A second style will be available with the envelope secured on the back cover. The envelopes can be ordered with or without a top flap, with or without an inside sleeve, cut diagonally or horizontally across the top, or cut vertically along the side. All materials used are archivally sound.

Also new for '92, the Four Flap Enclosure will be available with depth and custom scoring on the available with depth and custom scoring on the inside flaps. Building on the success of the enclosures for pamphlets and other thin materials, Archival Products has developed a sturdier version for thicker materials. An enclosure that safely houses audio compact d will also be available. compact disks

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and be straightforward enough for a student worker to apply in about 3-4 minutes.

A little bit now about Fritz James. The great-great grandson of Ernst Hertzberg who founded the Ernst Hertzberg & Sons Monastery Hill Bindery in Chicago in 1868, James had worked as the bindery manager of Hertzberg-New Method Bindery in South Jacksonville, Illinois for 15 years before returning to his boyhood town of Des Moines, Iowa in 1980 to buy Library Binding Service. Recognized today as a major wholesale distributor of raw materials for the binding trade, Library Binding Service (LBS) has thrived under James' management in a market once dominated by Gane Brothers & Lane in Chicago and Ernest Schaefer in New Jersey. Asked by a banker during a loan interview to describe his approach to management, James reflected that it was "aesthetic." A lifelong student, James once enrolled in a typography course offered by Massimo Vignelli, a New York designer who espoused the principle that "the discipline of design is one-if you can design one thing you can design everything . . . The methodology is the same no matter what the subject."5

This conviction resonated with James, who began by redesigning LBS's corporate identity and fostering positive relationships with his employees. He expanded the plant, remodeled its interior with tile and Knoll furniture, and landscaped the grounds with trees that have grown to be majestic. In time, he created the Archival Products Division and expanded his customer base to include the library conservation community. In an arrangement unprecedented in the history of the U.S. binding industry, James established an Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP) for LBS's workforce which became the firm's

owner/operators upon his retirement in November 2016.

James spent nearly four months reimagining the traditional pamphlet binder, beginning with its materials. At considerable expense, the LBS commissioned Holliston Mills to create a new line of polycotton-blended C-1 grade book cloth. Straight from the loom, the new undyed, unbleached poly-cotton greige goods were 10-times stronger yet far more flexible than traditional pyroxylincoated buckram. Once dyed, the cloth was finished with a water resistant acrylic coating that retained the natural look of fabric. To accommodate mass production, rolls of the new C-1 book cloth were slit to a standardized width that worked for both the outer and inner hinges of the new pamphlet binder. Customers could have the binder in any color desired, so long as it was navy blue - which harmonized with the color of the new board. The pressure-sensitive acrylic adhesive used to attach the outer hinge was free from the problem of "cold flow" at ambient temperatures, and could be easily applied by releasing a crackand-peel paper backing.

The dark gray boards used in the first-generation Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Pamphlet Binders were made from a patented, unprecedentedly rigid paperboard. It was colorfast, had a pH of 8.5, contained a 3% calcium carbonate reserve and was free of detectable lignin or groundwood. For the first time, a dense, 92% alpha cellulose binder's board passed the Photographic Activity Test (PAT).6 Coated with a moisture-resistant acrylic finish, the board was rock hard. And even this evolved. Over time, the Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Pamphlet Binder could be ordered with a clear, inflexible 20-point sheet of PETG (polyethylene terephthalate, an inert thermoplastic polymer resin in the polyester family) for the front

After sewing the pamphlet into the binder, one simply removes the liner from the Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> and hides the stitching on the spine.



The problem of research libraries adding acidic, self-destructive pamphlet binders to their own collections disappeared. board allowing the pamphlet's title page or front cover to be read with the covers closed.

Structurally, James determined the optimal method for attaching the pamphlet to its binder was to sew or saddle-stitch (staple) the pamphlet through the center of the spine fold. This sewing (or saddle-stitching) passed through a reversed cloth hinge folded around the pamphlet's spine and was already attached to each board. This formed a non-damaging attachment between the pamphlet and the binder as no adhesive came into contact with the pamphlet proper. Being cloth, this internal hinge delivered optimal stretch when the covers were opened and closed and it matched the outer cloth strip, which was also already attached to one board. The outer hinge could be attached to the other board to sandwich the sewing between the two layers of cloth by simply releasing the

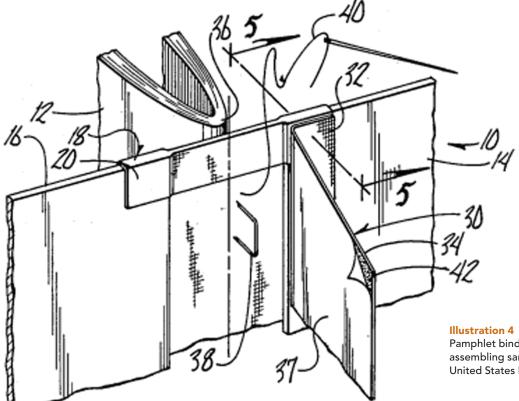
paper crack-and-peel backing from its pressure-sensitive acrylic adhesive.

James had ticked all of Ogden's boxes. The prefabricated Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Pamphlet Binder incorporated only chemically stable, physically durable materials; was made in single units in graduated sizes that fit almost any pamphlet; permitted both saddle-stitching and side-stitching, eliminating the need to stock binders in two models in every size; and the non-damaging attachment between the pamphlet and the binder made it easily reversible. The result was unique in the 1,600-year history of pamphlet bindings - so James patented it in 1988.7 (Illustration 5) The prefabricated blue binders immediately went into production and were pigeon holed by size in ascending order in both University of California binderies; U.C. Berkeley alone was soon processing 20,000 pamphlets per year. Before long, they also began to appear in



Fritz James

I learned that while working independently in the late 1980s to address a common problem relating to pamphlet preservation, **Ogden, James and I arrived concurrently at very similar solutions**.



**Illustration 4** Fritz C. James, Pamphlet binder and method of assembling same, May 3, 1988, United States Patent 4,741,655. university preservation departments across the country—including mine and the problem of research libraries adding acidic, self-destructive pamphlet binders to their collections disappeared. Today, the far greater risk to research libraries is that these durable, well-designed pamphlet binders may be purged in the trendy, overly zealous space grab camouflaged as weeding.<sup>8</sup>

Paxson was right; revisiting my 1992 article proved to be an enlightening experience. I learned that while working independently in the late 1980s to address a common problem relating to pamphlet preservation, Ogden, James and I arrived concurrently at very similar solutions. And hats off to Pauline Johnson who came to the same conclusion 25 years earlier to answer a slightly different question — this same pamphlet binding design is simple enough to teach to children without sacrificing functionality.

Numerous other children's craft books had overlooked this approach, as had the most distinguished binders of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the closest historical precedent appeared to be some of the earliest surviving codices. Unfortunately, Berthe van

Regemorter, the only person to document the bindings before the Nag Hammadi Codices were disassembled (!) to 'improve access for scholarship,' failed to describe precisely the way they're sewn reverse hinges attached to the covers of those twelve, fourth-century single-quire bindings.9 The wonderful multi-volume Facsimile Edition of the Nag Hammadi Codices edited by James M. Robinson (1972 to 1984) does provide some excellent pictures of the these exemplary bindings; but again, after the papyrus texts were removed, it is unclear (in photographs, at least) how the structures were originally created.<sup>10</sup> Regardless, the bindings of the ancient Nag Hammadi library remain elemental. Sight unseen, their deceptively simple "fitness for purpose"<sup>11</sup> provided an archetypal beacon. It appears we stumbled onto a fourth-century insight originally developed by leather workers from the Thebaid region of the Roman province of Egypt. I suspect our shared, collective unconscious reasoning might have bemused Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung who, for a time, owned the only multi-quire codex of the Nag Hammadi library.12



Randy Silverman has worked in the conservation field since 1983 and served as Preservation Librarian at the University of Utah's Marriott Library since 1993. He has helped over 200 institutions develop disaster plans as a founding member of Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS), and is recognized for his national disaster recovery efforts as a member of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) National Heritage Responders. He has published 80 professional publications and presented lectures or workshops in 30 states and 13 foreign countries. He was awarded the American Library Association's Banks-Harris Preservation Award in 2013, received a Fulbright Specialists award in 2014, and was presented with the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters Gardner Prize in 2016 for "outstanding academic contributions." <sup>1</sup>Silverman, R., "Small, Not Insignificant: An Examination of Pamphlet Binding Structures," in American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Book and Paper Group Annual 6 (1987): 111-139, available at: http://www.cool.conservation-us.org/coolaic/sg/bpg/annual/v06/ bp06-13.html (accessed 28 December 2016); Silverman, R., "Pamphlet Binders and Their Use in Research Libraries," Archival Products News 1/1 (1992): 2, 3; See also: Silverman, R., "Simple, Not Insignificant: Specifications for a Pamphlet Binding for Book Conservation," in, John L. Sharpe, (ed.), Bibliographia 14, Elementa ad Librorum Studia Pertinentia, Roger Powell, The Complete Binder (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 1996): 299-314.

<sup>2</sup>Barns, John W. B. "Greek and Coptic Papyri from the Covers of the Nag Hammadi Codices: A Preliminary Report," In Essays on the Nag Hammadi Texts: in Honor of Pahor Labib, Nag Hammadi Studies 6 (Leiden, Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 1975), 9-17.

<sup>3</sup>Cockerell, Douglas. Binding Books of One Section. Bookbinding as a School Subject Series, no. 1 (Hitchin, Herfordshire, England: G. W. Russell, [1930]; Cockerell, Douglas. Bookbinding, and the Care of Books: A Handbook for Amateurs, Bookbinders, and Librarians (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1901); Middleton, Bernard C. A history of English craft bookbinding technique, 4th rev. ed., (London: Holland Press, 1996); Harrison, Thomas. "A Method of Binding a Book in One Section," Paper & Print, (Summer 1947) p. 122, 124, 126; reprinted in Fragments of Bookbinding Technique (London: London School of Printing, 1950).

<sup>4</sup>Johnson, Pauline. *Creative Bookbinding* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1963), 122-23.

<sup>5</sup>"Lella & Massimo Vignelli," Heller Online Inc., available at: https://www.webcitation. org/query?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww. helleronline.com%2Fdesigners%2Flellamassimo-vignelli&date=2012-02-25 (accessed 28 December 2016); Vignelli Associates, available at: http://vignelli.com/ home.html (accessed 28 December 2016).

<sup>e</sup>The Photographic Activity Test (PAT) is defined in ISO 14523:1999 (formerly ANSI T9.16-1993).

COMPOSITIONS FOR

1988, United States Patent 4,741,655, available at: http://patft.uspto.gov/ netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&-Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fnetahtml%2FPTO%2Fsrchnum. htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s1=4741655. PN.&OS=PN/4741655&RS=PN/4741655 (accessed 28 December 2016).

<sup>8</sup>Silverman, R., "Surely, We'll Need Backups," Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture 43(3) 2016: 102-121.

<sup>9</sup>Regemorter, Berthe van. "La Reliure des Manuscrits Gnostiques Découvertes à Nag Hammadi," Scriptorium 14 / 2 (1960): 225-234. Regemorter is not clear whether the limp leather cover was first turned-in and then the reverse leather hinge attached (as in Oqden and James's design); or if the exposed ends of the reverse leather hinge were covered by the binding's turn-ins (as with Johnson and my structure). Perhaps, both approaches were used. Certainly, in some cases the tacketing pierces the inner reverse hinge as well as the limp leather cover so it is visible on the spine of the binding, while in others it pierces only the inner reverse hinge and is sandwiched

between the hinge and the cover, hidden from view.

<sup>10</sup>Robinson, James M., ed., The Facsimile Edition of the Nag Hammadi Codices (Leiden, Netherlands: E. J. Brill, 1972-1984, 15 volumes). Published under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

"At the age of 24, English architect Augustus Welby Pugin coined the phrase, "fitness for purpose" in his published treatise on Gothic Revival architecture when he observed: "the great test of Architectural beauty is the fitness of the design for the purpose for which it was intended." Pugin, Augustus Welby Northmore. Contrasts: or, A Parallel Between the Noble Edifices of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries and Similar Buildings of the Present Day; Shewing the Present Decay of Taste: Accompanied by Appropriate Text (London: Printed for the Author, 1836): 1.

<sup>12</sup>For further reading on the Jung Codex, see: http://www.tertullian.org/rpearse/ manuscripts/jung\_codex.htm (accessed 28 December 2016).

-PIANO SOLO-Arranged by ROGER WILLIAMS

AUTUMN LEAVES

34 HIT PARADE EXTRAS

EDWIN H. MORA

The Spine Wrap<sup>™</sup> Music Binder uses the same patented design, with sizes useful to music libraries.

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## Extreme Makeover: Museum Edition



Recently, a customer sent us before and after photos showing their beautifully renovated collection, utilizing our Archival Binder Album and Archival Slipcase. Betty L. Uyeda, Collections Manager writes:

The Seaver Center for Western History Research maintains two-dimensional historical items from the collections of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, including photographs, letters, ephemera, posters, maps, and government documents. Although the History collections have been a part of the Museum since it opened in 1913, the Seaver Center Reading Room opened on April 29, 1986, the same day as the monumental library fire several miles north at the downtown Los Angeles Central Library.

We used to make copy prints of photographs from collections in order to supply to authors and book publishers, and eventually someone had the bright idea to organize the prints into binders so researchers could access them directly. The "binder project" began sometime around 1987 to 1989, and had two parts known as: • General Photo File, encompassing Los Angeles and southern California, people, cityscapes, landscapes, and structures, dating about 1860-1980, and

• The Greene Collection of photos from a Los Angeles photographer that were arranged geographically.

The ensuing years had not been kind to the bleary vinyl, three-ring binders. Several years ago there was clear packing tape leftover from another project, and this writer haphazardly applied the tape to torn seams.

This summer, funding was secured to update the reading room. This writer strongly advocated that slipcased binders should be integral to the new look of the Center. It was touch and go for a while, but we had enough to pay for them, as well as the requisite new reading tables, chairs, book shelves, new paint, carpeting, ceiling and lighting. Archival Products graciously sent a sample slipcase and binder, and everyone liked the color combination.

From now on, the General Photo File, pictured in the royal blue Archival Binder Albums, will be well-protected from dust. Ironically, this collection of images has been digitized, and researchers can access the images at https://collections.nhm. org/seaver-center/ rather than visiting in person.

The second group of photographs, many of which are originals rather than copy prints, are now stored in the new navy blue Archival Binder Albums pictured. This comprises the Al Greene Collection, 1869-ca. 1950. Unlike the General Photo File, the Greene collection has not been digitized, therefore we expect more use out of the new binders but that they will hold up well to any wear and tear.

Many thanks to entire Archival Products team for the great service. We finished our renovation with a couple of days to spare. The timely receipt of the slipcases and binders really helped us to finish the time-consuming transfer of the contents from binder to binder. The 300 sets were packed safely and economically to minimize transport costs. Thank you!

The hinges of our Archival Binder Albums can withstand more than **250,000** opens and closes.

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### ARCHIVAL PRODUCTS

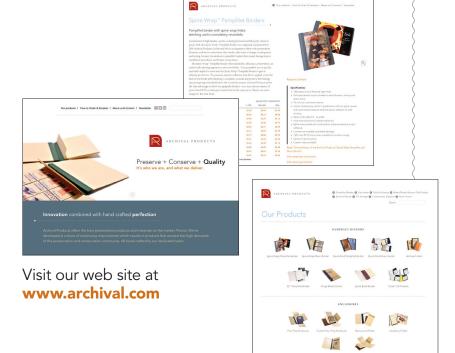
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