

# *International Bookbinding Competition 2024*



@SoBcompetition



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the Society  
of Bookbinders



## How to Enter

Please register your interest in entering the International Bookbinding Competition 2024 by subscribing to the mailing list. This is the main way we will update you with the latest Competition news and information. You can subscribe to the mailing list, and find more information, at <https://www.societyofbookbinders.com/international-binding-competition/>

All subscribers to the mailing list will be sent an **entry form on 22nd April 2024**, and the form will also be available to complete on the Society's website.

**Deadline for entries is Friday 24th May.** Please make sure your book(s) arrive with us between **Monday 20th – Friday 24th May 2024**. Details of where to send books will be sent out with entry forms, please do not send books without completing the form.

For any enquiries please contact the competition organising team: [competition@societyofbookbinders.com](mailto:competition@societyofbookbinders.com)

## Awards

### Estimated Prize Fund of over £7000

#### Fine Binding

First Prize – Shepherds Bookbinders Ltd  
(The John Coleman Trophy)  
value: £900  
Second Prize value: £450  
Third Prize value: £350

#### Book Arts

First Prize – John Purcell Paper  
(The Portnall Award)  
value: £900  
Second Prize value: £450  
Third Prize value: £350

#### Case Binding

Total Prize value: £500

#### Restoration

First Prize – George Bayntun  
Total prize value: £600

#### Historic Binding

First Prize – The ABA Educational Trust  
Total prize value: £600

The Green's Books Award for Best Young Newcomer  
Total prize value: £560

Incline Press Dave Godin Memorial Award  
for Animal-Free Binding  
Total prize value: £250

Harmatan Leather Award for Forwarding  
Total prize value: £175

J Hewit & Sons Award for Excellence In Design  
Total prize value: £175

J Hewit & Sons Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship  
Total prize value: £175

The Sophie Schneideman Judges Award for an Entry  
Which the Judges Feel Deserves Recognition  
Total prize value: £175

Fine Cut International Award for Finishing  
Total prize value: £150

The Ratchford Award for Cloth Case Binding  
*entries in this category must be of a traditional case-bound structure where at least 75% of the cases, including the spine, must be covered in traditional book cloth.*  
Total prize value: £150 Voucher

People's Choice Award  
Prize value: in excess of £175

Neale Albert Award for Best Miniature  
Books to be no bigger than 3"/ 75mm  
in any dimension  
Total Prize value: £500

# Competition Categories

## A. Fine Binding



Entries in this category should be a binding of a contemporary nature in a codex form displaying an excellent standard of craftsmanship, along with an outstanding overall concept and design. Entries will be judged on the quality of the concept and design, the forwarding, finishing, craft skills, and use of materials.

## B. Book Arts



Both the content and the binding should be designed and executed by the entrant. Entries need not be in codex format and will be judged on the quality of the concept and design, the content of the book, the binding, craft skills, and use of materials.

## C. Case Binding



Entries in this category must be of a case-bound structure, i.e. the cover made separately from the text block and joined by attaching the endpapers to the cover boards. Entries will be judged on the quality of the concept and design, the forwarding, finishing, craft skills, and use of materials.

## D. Restoration



Any binding repaired in a way that returns the book to a former or original condition. Entries will be judged on the suitability of the repairs, the aesthetic of the restored book, craft skills, documentation, and materials used. Entries must be submitted with photographic documentation prior to restoration, along with a full written record of all work undertaken

## E. Historic Binding



Binding Entries should be a high quality binding of a traditional nature. Bindings can display an element of creativity but must show excellent re-creation of a period of binding or historical structure, as well as a high standard of craftsmanship. Entries will be judged on the faithfulness of reproduction, the forwarding, finishing, craft skills, and suitability of materials.

## About

The International Bookbinding Competition was started in 1999 and has developed into one of the most successful exhibitions of the art and craft of bookbinding. The Competition runs in conjunction with the Society's biennial Conference and attracts entries from countries all around the world. Its success has been in the variety of work presented, with fine binding displayed alongside restoration and book arts. This year there are eighteen prizes to be awarded over five categories including prizes for forwarding, finishing and design. We are grateful to have a substantial prize fund made up from many long standing generous sponsors and delighted to have gained support from some new sponsors.

Every entrant will receive a copy of the exhibition catalogue containing colour photographs of each book submitted to the Competition. The catalogue and high-quality images will showcase the wide-ranging breadth and creativity in contemporary bookbinding. Additional copies will be available to purchase at all Competition exhibitions as well as online from J Hewit and Sons Ltd.

Winners will be announced in August 2024, winning entrants will be notified prior to the event. The intention is that all books entered into the Competition will be exhibited at the Conference. Non-winning bindings may either be collected from the exhibition or posted back to the entrants. Prize-winning bindings will travel to a number of venues across the UK on a touring exhibition. Further information and dates will be published on the website, via the mailing list, and on the Competition's social media accounts.

Entrants submitting work to the Competition do so in the knowledge that if their work is selected for an award it will be retained by the Society for the touring exhibition and will only be returned following the final venue. Photographs of winning books and all entries will be taken for use on Competition promotional material and social media. Full entry details and instructions for delivering your books will be released nearer the time. Please subscribe to the Competition mailing list or check the Society's website and social media for the latest news and updates.

## Sponsorship gratefully received to date

The Society of Bookbinders is very grateful to the following companies, organisations, and individuals for their sponsorship and without whom this competition would not have been possible.

ABA Educational Trust	J Hewit & Sons Ltd	Payhembury Marbled Papers
Bernard Quaritch Ltd	Incline Press	Peter Harrington Rare Books
Boekenmarkt-Boektotaal	Jemma Lewis Marbling	F.J. Ratchford Ltd
Bookbinding Supplies	The Portnall Family	Russells Fine Leathers
Cambridge Imprint	in memory of Aidan Portnall	Shepherds Bookbinders Ltd
Dominic Winter Auctioneers	John Purcell Paper	Sophie Schneideman
Fine Cut Group Ltd	Graham Lampard	Rare Books
The Folio Society	The Leather	The Stationers' Foundation
George Bayntun Booksellers	Conservation Centre	William Cowley Parchment
G F Smith Ltd	London Centre for Book Arts	and Vellum
Green's Books	Louise Brockman Marbled Paper	Winter & Co UK Ltd
Flora Ginn	Neenah Red Bridge	
Harmatan & Oakridge	Maureen Nye, in memory	And other anonymous sponsors,
Leathers 2008 Ltd	of David Nye	including individual members
Royston Haward	The Old School Press	of the Society of Bookbinders.

## Competition Rules

- The Competition is open to anyone except the judges and organisers.
- The winning books will be decided at the discretion of the three judges only.
- Entries must not have been submitted in, or have any known association with, any other bookbinding competition.
- The final day for submission of entries will be Friday 24th May 2024.
- More than one entry is permissible. Fees for entry are £65 for the first book and £30 for subsequent entries. The entry fee includes one catalogue per person.
- All work submitted must have been completed within the two years prior to submission.
- Work done by other hands is acceptable but must be declared.
- A completed entry form must accompany each entry.
- Your name must not appear on any part of your work.
- A newcomer is defined as a person who has, within the last three years, started learning bookbinding/restoration/book-arts from scratch, and has not yet entered another competition.
- All costs for delivery and return of entries must be borne by the entrant.
- Work must be submitted in a protective box or case, which will be used for its return.
- Prizes take the form of cash, goods and vouchers; and are subject to variation at the discretion of the organisers.
- The Society will take care to keep entries safe; however, all work is submitted at the entrant's own risk. Entrants are advised to insure their bindings as the Society does not accept responsibility for loss or damage incurred during the competition or subsequent exhibitions.