

SOBIC Archive

2013 Competition Winners

The Society of Bookbinders International Competition runs every two years in conjunction with the Society's biennial conference. The strength of the competition over the years has been in its diversity. Books are entered in five categories: Fine Binding, The Complete Book, Case Binding, Restoration, and Historic Binding. The range of books submitted provides an excellent snapshot of current work and always produces a fascinating exhibition.

As in previous years, the 2013 Competition attracted interest from around the world, truly deserving its 'International' title. There were ninety-two entries by sixty-six binders from the following sixteen countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the USA. It was pleasing to see that eight of the entrants were newcomers to bookbinding, one of whom was awarded the prize for the Best Book Submitted by a Newcomer. This is very encouraging and hopefully the numbers of newcomers will increase with each competition.

All text and images are taken from the original Society archive. Some of the archived photographs are low resolution or missing, if you can help please contact Hana Grace on sob.internationalcomp@gmail.com

The 2013 judges were: David Pearson (Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries, City of London Corporation, and bookbinding historian), Tracey Rowledge (bookbinder, teacher and founder member of Tomorrow's Past and 60|40) and Julian Thomas (Fellow and former President of Designer Bookbinders). The books were anonymously judged and sixteen prizes were awarded across the five categories. The organisers would like to thank the judges for all the time, care, and attention they took over the judging process.

The entries were exhibited for the duration of the Society of Bookbinders Conference in Leeds, the winners being announced at the Conference dinner. All the prize-winning bindings subsequently formed a travelling exhibition.

The organisers would like to thank all those who submitted work, everyone who has helped with the Competition, and this year's generous sponsors.

Travelling Exhibition Venues

The Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery
University of Leeds
7th September to 12th October 2013

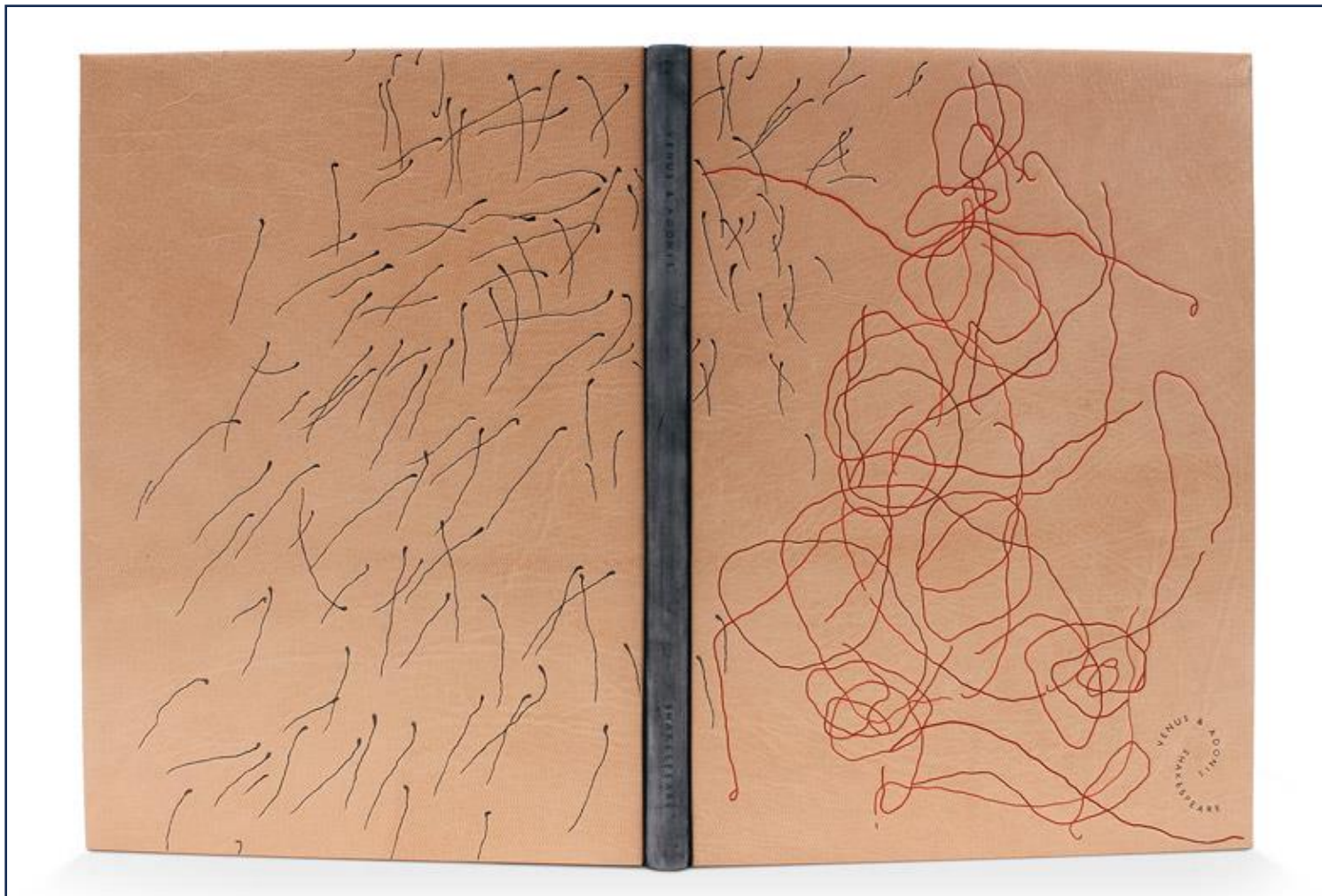
George Bayntun, Bath
16th October to 16th November 2013

Shepherds Bookbinders
London
19th November 2013 to 4th January 2014

COMPETITION SPONSORS

ABA Educational Trust
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Fine Cut Graphic Imaging Ltd
George Bayntun Booksellers
Griffen Mill
Gwasg Gregynog Press
Habberley Meadows
Harmatan & Oakridge Leather 2008 Ltd
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Inky Parrot Press
Jemma Lewis Marbling and Design
John Purcell Papers

JvO Papers
Leather Conservation Centre
Louise Brockman Marble Paper
Nye, David & Maureen
Old School Press
Old Stile Press
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Payhembury Marbled Papers
Pergamena
Presteigne Bindery/Christopher Rowlatt
Ratchford, F J, Ltd
Russells Fine Leather
Shepherds Bookbinders Ltd
Southall, Mr Stuart
Talas
William Cowley Parchment & Vellum
Winter & Company
Wrights of Lymm Ltd
Zachs, William



FINE BINDING

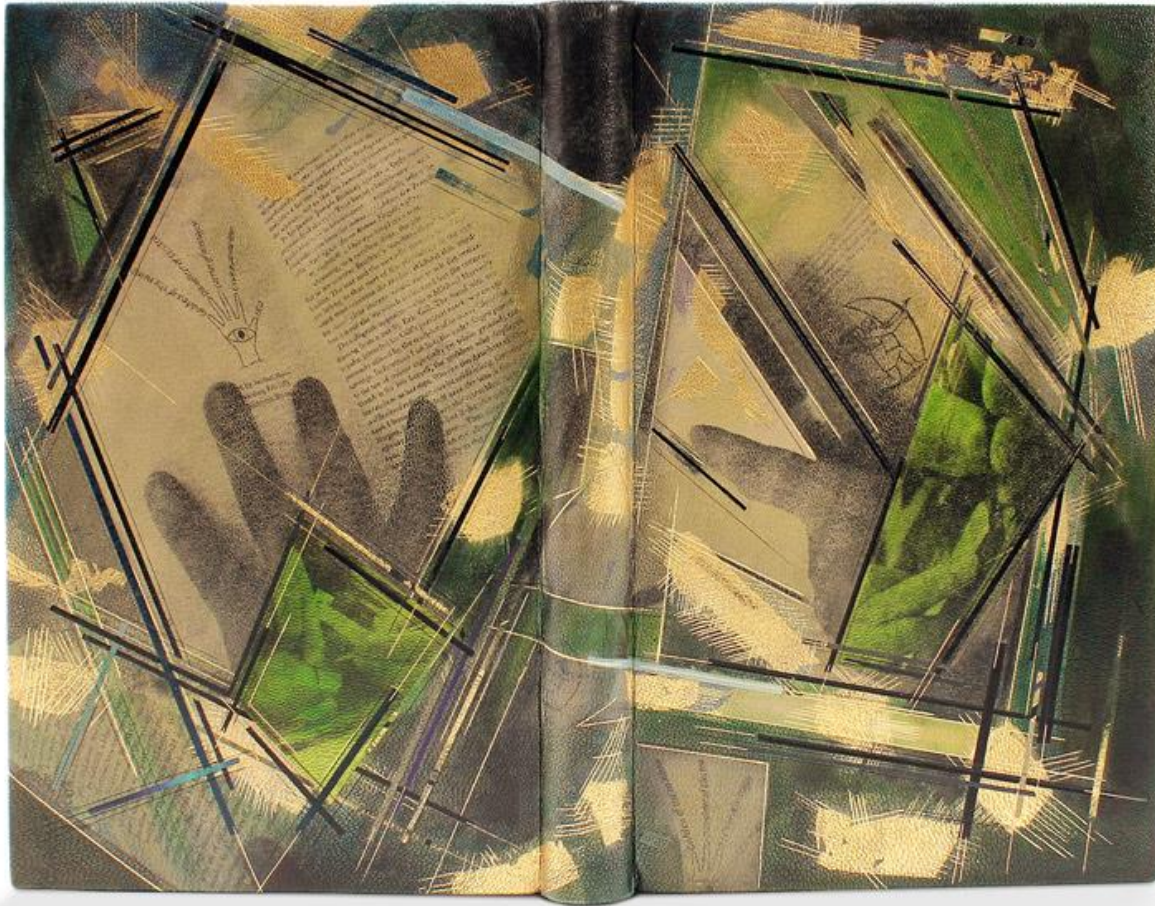
First Prize & Best Overall Book
Bound by a Professional binder

Jo Bird
Pinner, London, UK,
Professional

Venus and Adonis
by William Shakespeare

Bound in pale biscuit goatskin with a dark grey goatskin spine. Split board construction. Recessed onlays of finely pared calfskin hand dyed in various shades of red. Carbon tooling on both boards and on the spine.

The abstract design is based on my drawings, which I am interested in translating onto leather with onlays and tooling. Here I'm aiming to represent Venus and Adonis in opposite visual forms, with reference to Adonis's rejection of Venus.



FINE BINDING

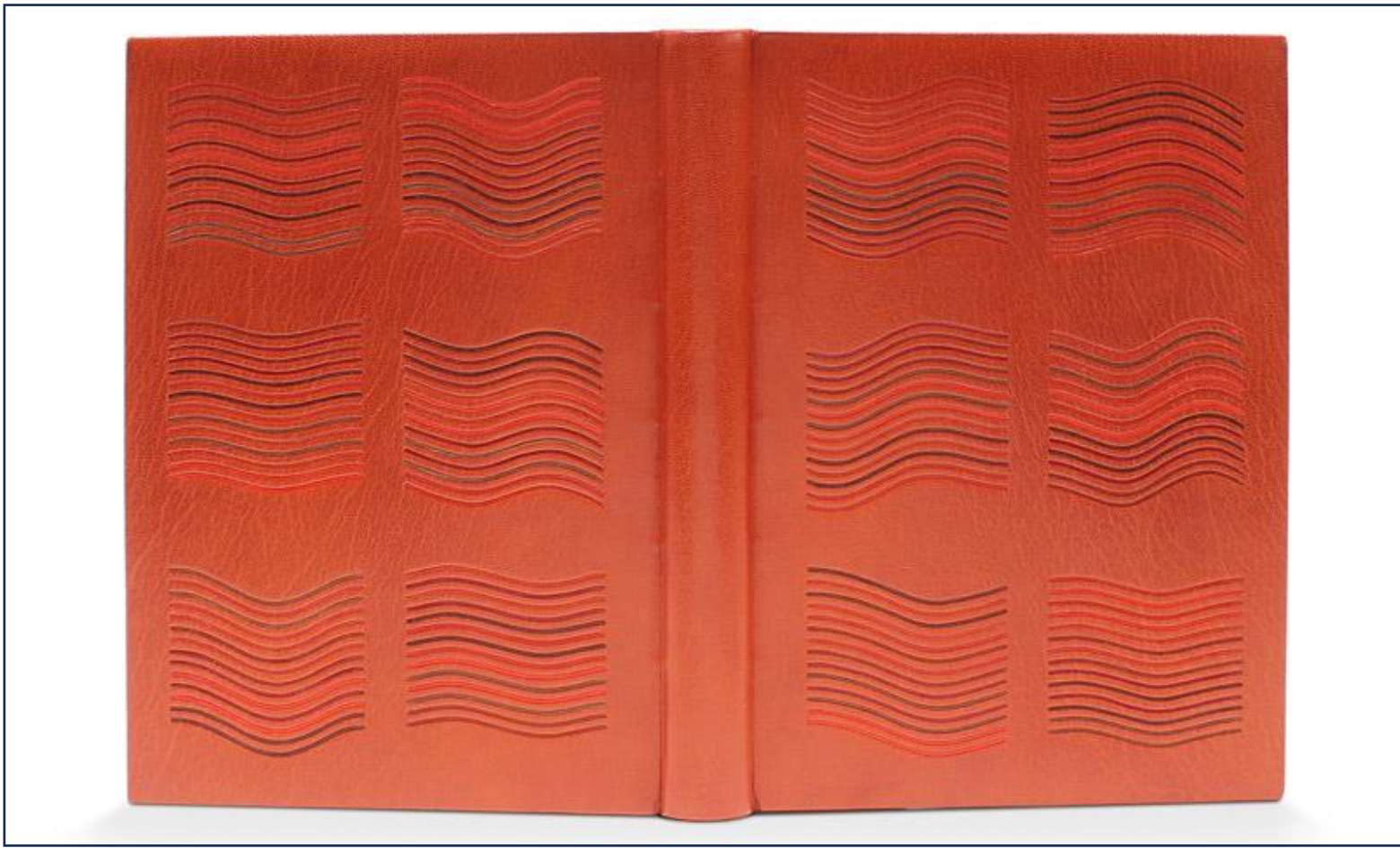
Second Prize & Best Overall
Book Bound by a
Non-professional binder

Tom McEwan
Glengarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland,
Non-Professional

Intimate Leaves from a
Designer's Notebook
by John Ryder

The covering leather and doublures are of hand-dyed fair goat decorated with print and flaked gold techniques with addition of blind and gold-tooled lines and textures. Main design elements are constructed from scarf joints, inlays and onlays, again of hand-dyed/decorated goatskin. All edges and endpapers are decorated with ink, laser print, flake and tooled gold, acrylic ink and watercolour.

The text of the book is an examination and comment on design practice and aesthetics; the design of the binding adopts and complements some of these principles and, in effect, becomes 'Leaves from a bookbinder's notebook'.



FINE BINDING

Third Prize
Richard Beadsmoore
London, UK,
Non-professional

Shakespeare's Sonnets
by William Shakespeare,
wood-engravings
by Helmut Weissenborn

The book is sewn on five Pleister tapes laced into the boards. The top-edge is airbrushed; there are hand-sewn silk endbands, leather joints and leather doublures. The book is covered with Harmatan terracotta leather. There are six groups of recessed onlays on the front board and a further six on the backboard.

Each group consists of fourteen lines in seven different coloured leathers arranged in the Shakespearian sonnet form of AB, AB, CD, CD, EF, EF, GG. My aim in this design was to convey the idea that great variety can be achieved whilst following a formal structure. Although only using the same seven colours each panel is different.



THE COMPLETE BOOK

Joint First Prize

Paul Johnson
Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, UK,
Professional

The Shoe House
by Paul Johnson

Unique carousel pop-up book. Text, illustrations, paper engineering, binding and sculptural spine by the book artist. The story of the Emperor and the Nightingale is restructured with 'There was an old Lady who lived in a shoe.....'.
Materials: Saunders Waterford watercolour paper, industrial textile dyes; applied pen work and gold inlays. Dovetail and interlocking hinges join the pop-up sections. As there are no folds the pages can be dismantled.

Opening instructions: Remove pin from clasp. Open book to 360 degrees and replace pin in clasp-thus the book can be locked in both the closed and open positions.



THE COMPLETE BOOK

Joint First Prize

Paul Johnson
Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, UK,
Professional

Jasmine
by Paul Johnson

Unique carousel pop-up book. Haiku text, illustrations, paper engineering, binding and sculptural spine by the book artist. The story of a poor girl who finds happiness amongst birds.

Materials: Saunders Waterford watercolour paper, industrial textile dyes; applied pen work and gold inlays. Dovetail and interlocking hinges join the pop-up sections. As there are no folds the pages can be dismantled.

Opening instructions: Remove pin from clasp. Open book to 360 degrees and replace pin in clasp – thus the book can be locked in both the closed and open positions.



THE COMPLETE BOOK

Second Prize

Ann Tout

Fareham, Hampshire, UK

Non-professional

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

An illustrated work on the play

Concertina binding of handmade paper in boards covered in grey goatskin with onlays and gold work. The slipcase is translucent vellum.

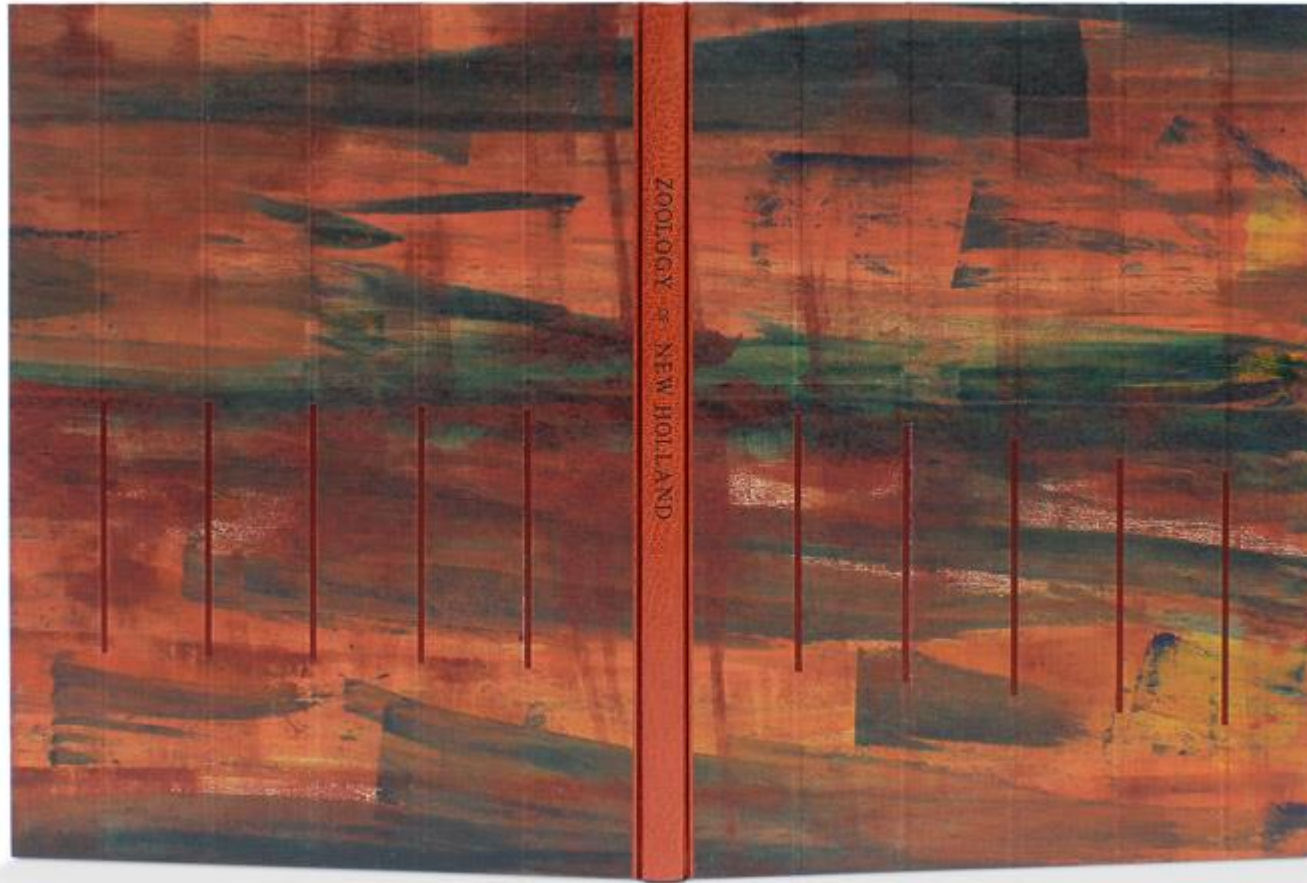
The concept and design come from the Greek red-figure vases. The silhouette on the boards has been created using two different shades of gold as a textured background, the neck of which has a band of theatrical masks. The concertina pen drawn pages and the slipcase of an Athenian palace are in colours and images inspired by these vases. Through the column's apertures a glimpse of gold can be seen giving the illusion of the moon.

CASE BINDING

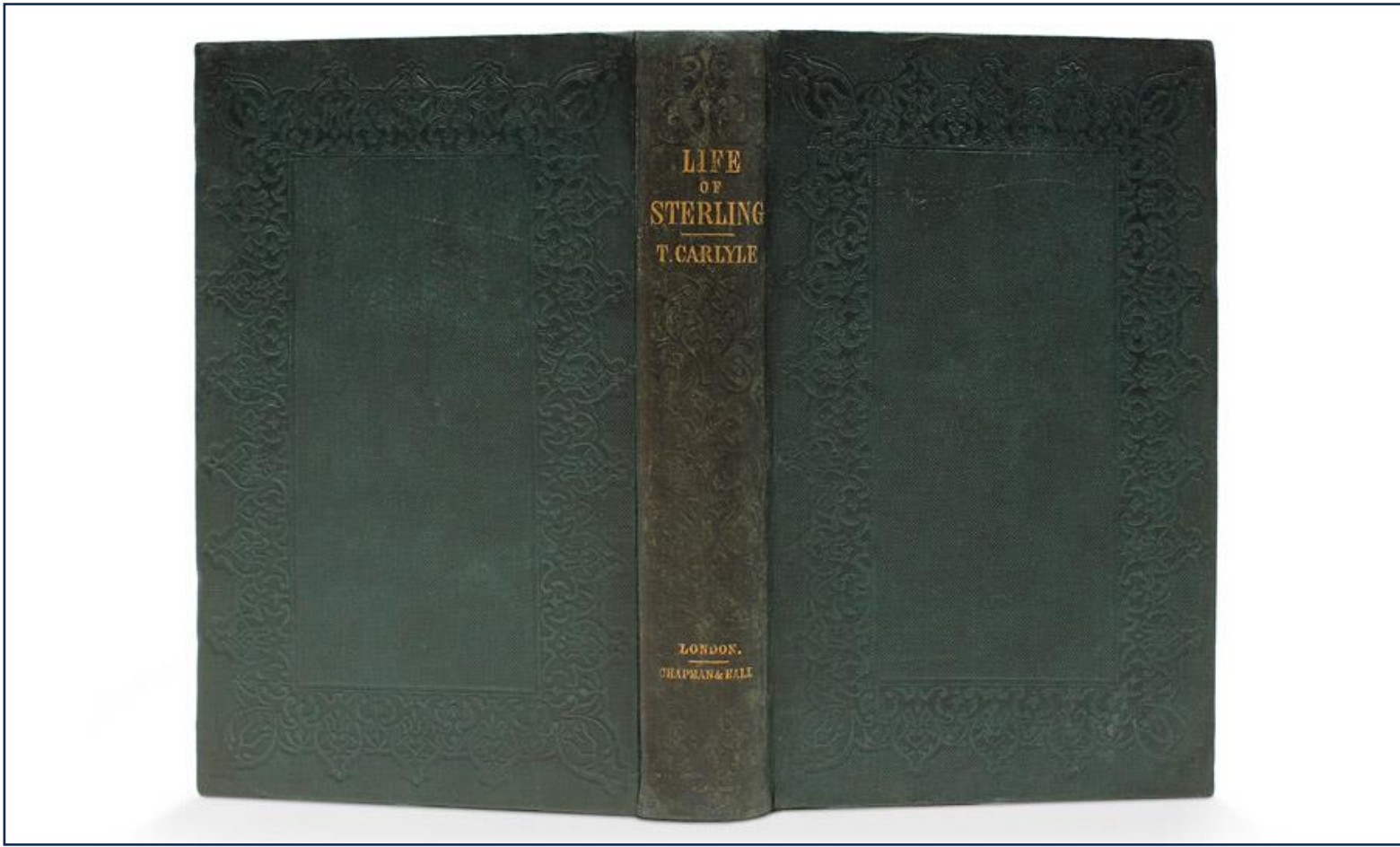
First Prize

Barbara Schmelzer
Brookvale, NSW, Australia,
Professional

Zoology of New Holland
by George Shaw



A Danish millimetre binding. The spine is of brown goat leather with black hot-foiled title. The boards are covered in decorated paper made by the binder and have red hot-foiled decoration on the boards, reference the Australian landscape. Hand-sewn silk endbands.



RESTORATION

First Prize

Dominic Riley
Ulverston, Cumbria, UK,
Professional

The Life of Sterling
by Thomas Carlyle, 1851

The binding had broken at the joint, with the endpaper, mull spine liner, and cloth cover completely split, and the corners damaged. The cover cloth was scuffed generally, with much loss of colour.

The book was disbound, and the top edge of the book was cleaned to remove dirt. Japanese paper was used to repair the endpapers. The spine was relined with mull and the original paper liner. The boards were paste-washed to remove dirt and staining. The corners and board edges were repaired with dyed Japanese paper. The covers were re-coloured with acrylic. The book was rebacked with dyed cotton. The endpaper joints were further repaired using a thin Japanese paper laid over the first repair. The spine cloth was trimmed and reattached. The binding was waxed and polished.



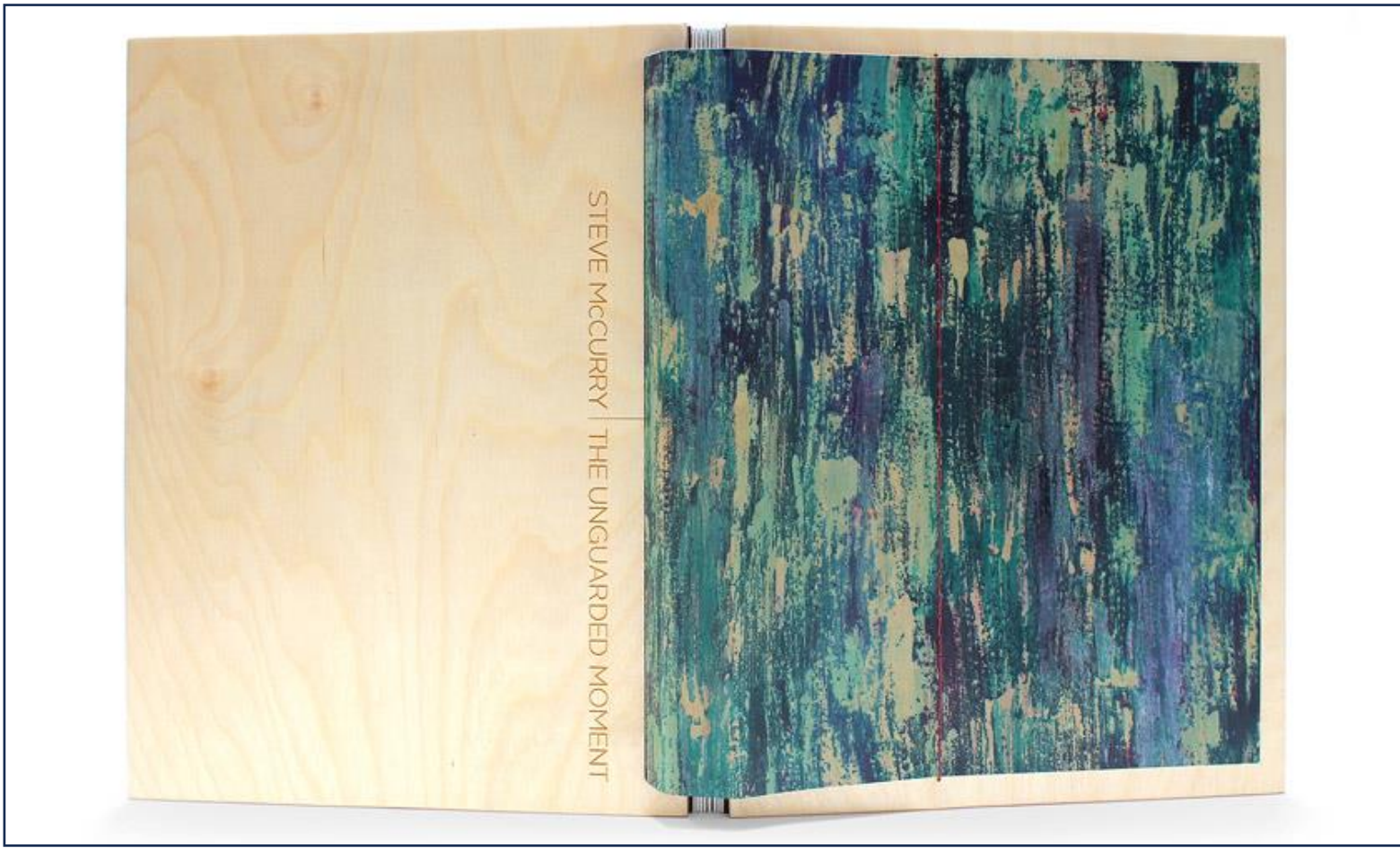
HISTORIC BINDING

First Prize

Jan Camps
Diest, Belgium,
Professional

Schat der Gesontheyt
by John Van Beverwyck, 1643

Bound on three double, raised cords. Raised chain stitches. Embroidered headbands in two coloured silks. Boards covered with natural cow-leather, dyed with Cuircolor and Tandy leather dye. On both boards a decoration in 'cut leatherwork'. Clasps, corner pieces and shoes in brushed iron. Blind tooling on the back. Raised cords and chain stitches, on the thickness and the insides of the boards. Kept in a clamshell box with a blind-tooled goatskin back and finished with hand-marbled papers.



Best Binding Submitted
by a Newcomer

Maarja Roolaht
Tallinn, Estonia,
Non-professional

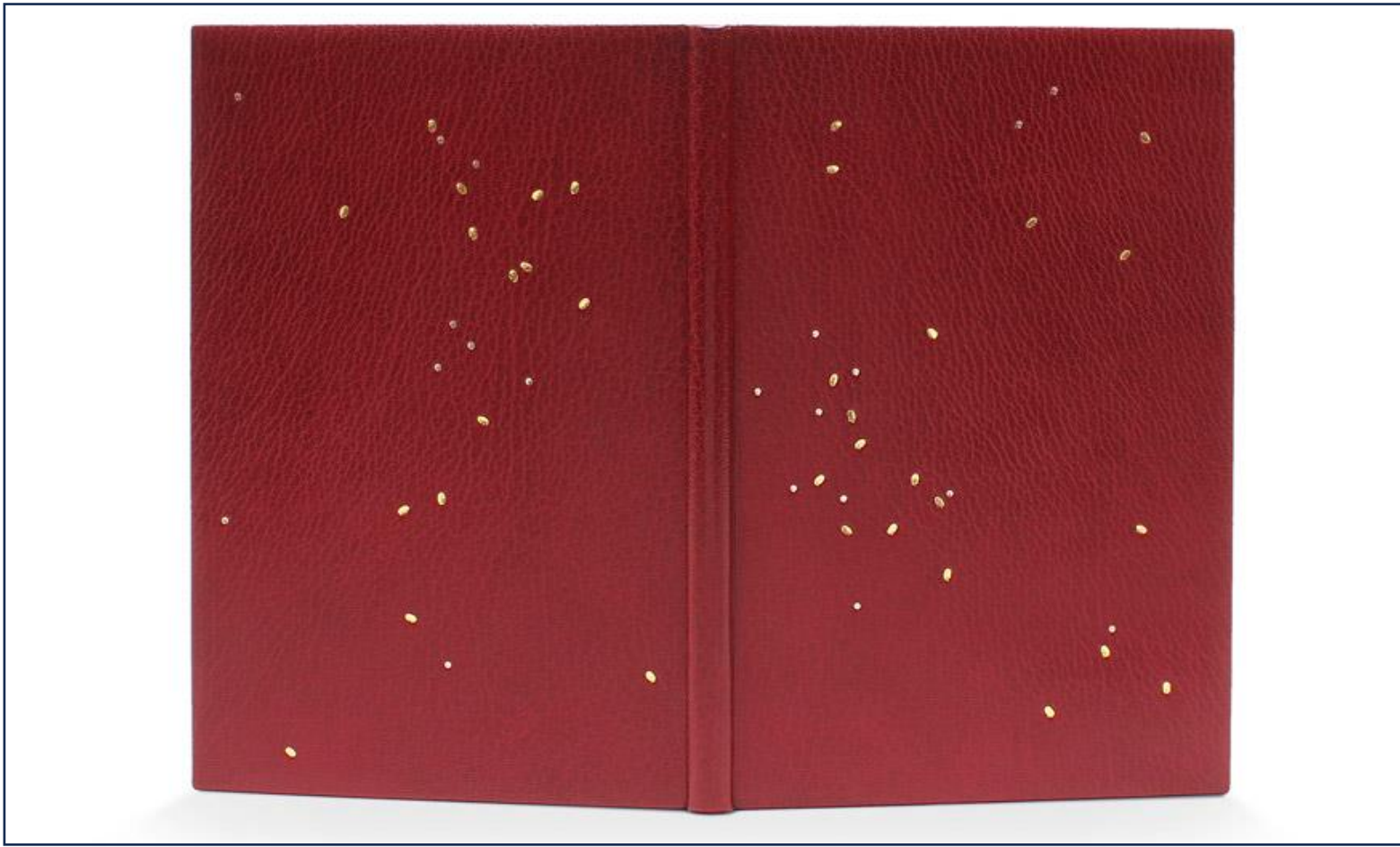
The Unguarded Moment
by Steve McCurry

Binding: combined Coptic and Byzantine sewing style. Techniques: candle wax batik, plywood machined milling, engraving and laser cutting, hand-stitch.

Materials: plywood, vegetable-tanned leather, waxed cord, waxed cotton thread, pastel and drawing paper.

The cover design is created related to the existing layout and the idea of the book. That kind of back structure is suitable for a book with photos because it allows them to be looked at comfortably on a table.

Other hands: Plywood machined milling, engraving and laser cutting.



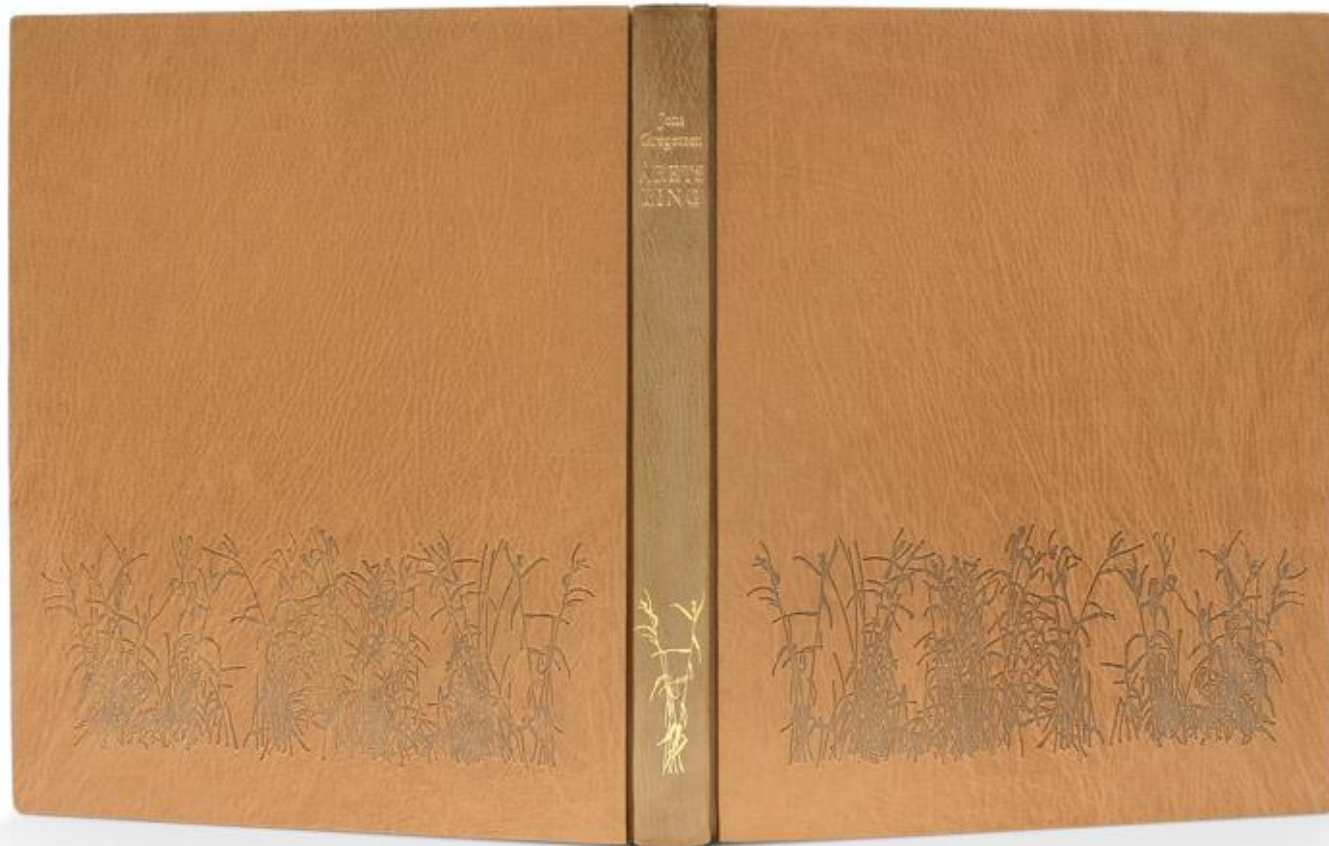
FINE CUT AWARD FOR FINISHING

Tatjana Gretschnann
London, UK,
Non-professional

The Song of Songs which is
Solomon's
(Kranich Verlag, 2003; special
print for 'bel libro 2003'; limited
edition of 1000)

Full leather binding covered in crimson goatskin. The book has been sewn in unsupported link stitch and secondary sewing with full linen board lamination attachment. There are leather jointed endpapers and double-core hand-sewn silk endbands. The binding is tooled in gold and moon-gold leaf.

The design echoes the relationship and the eternal dance of two entities around each other, with the round and oval shapes mirroring the circles in the design of the text block.



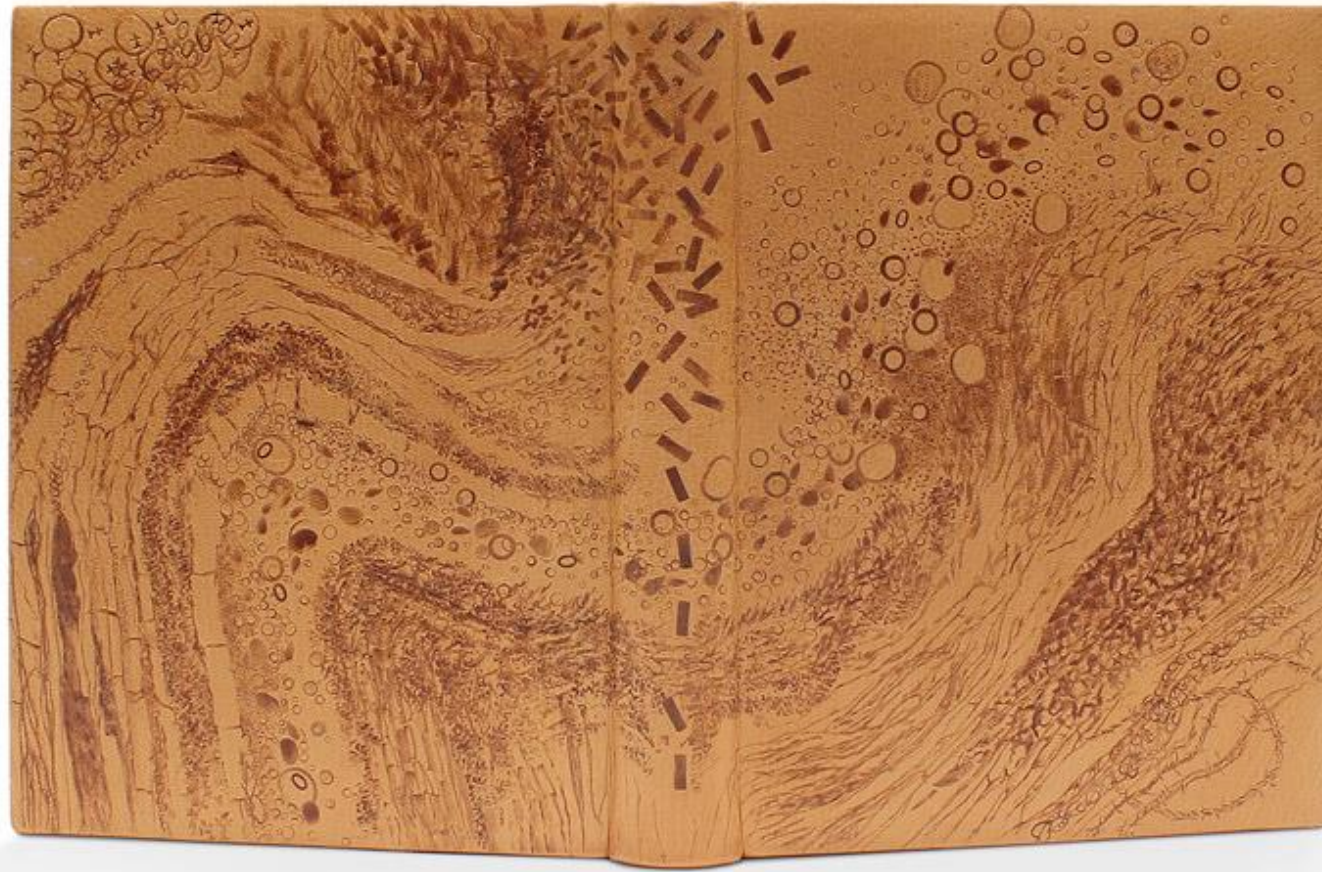
HARMATAN AWARD FOR FORWARDING

Lars Hedegaard
Aarhus, Denmark,
Professional

Arets Ring
Jens Gregersen
(Johannes Larsen Museet, 2008)

Spine and sides in oasis. Headbands red oasis and silk. Top edge coloured decorated and gold tooled.

Other hands: Decoration on the spine, top edge and end papers made from the original drawing by the author.



HEWITS AWARD FOR CRAFTSMANSHIP

Ann Tout
Fareham, Hampshire, UK.
Non-professional

The Periodic Table
by Primo Levi

Full leather binding in yellow goatskin with blind tooling. Louise Brockman endpapers, sewn headbands, rough edge gilt.

The concept and design are from the structure of the earth and through these twisting shapes formed from self-designed finishing tools come the layers in which various chapters in Levi's life may be seen. The spine with its tumbling bricks represents the stairwell down which he met his death.



HEWITS AWARD FOR MERIT

Tiina Piisang
Tallinn, Estonia,
Professional

Luuletused (Poetry)
by Aleksander Puškin

Limp binding with the constructions visible, boards are not fixed, white lambskin, dark brown gilded lambskin, metallic thread, Nepal paper, Fabriano coloured papers, leather appliqué with embroidery, goffered edges, laser engraving on spine.

The design of the binding uses the elements of Russian traditional handmade laces.



HEWITS HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARD

Paul C Delrue
Ruthin, Denbighshire, Wales,
Professional

Remembering Jan Bohuslav
Sobota
by Ladislav R. Hanka

Jan Sobota was a friend of mine, I had known him for many years when he first visited me, along with his wife, in my Chester Bindery. I felt honoured when I was asked by the author to bind this book in memory of a remarkable person. My book is covered in brown goatskin with an onlay on the front cover of salmon skin, for Jan was a great fisherman, and he had a fine sense of humour. I added blind tooling which was a kind of reaching out to all those friends over the years. And, last but not least, his road to freedom and his resting home. If I had my way I would call the book 'Jan Sobota's road to freedom'.