

SOBIC Archive

2003 Competition Winners

The entrants in the Complete Book category showed great skills beyond just binding. There were fine examples of wood engraving, dyeing, marble paper making, typesetting, printing, hand made paper making, writing, illustrating, and poetry to name but a few. The wide range of skills displayed were impressive, to say the least.

The judges felt that the entries generally showed an excellent holistic approach. The winning bindings were a careful blend of the book content, the binding and box as a whole concept.

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COMPETITION REPORT - by Stuart Brockman, Competition Organizer

This year's competition saw 72 books being entered by 55 entrants, with a very even split between Professional and Non-Professional Binders. The entrants came from all over the world, including the UK, USA, Canada, Argentina, Australia, Estonia, The Netherlands, Germany and Belgium.

The entries were not evenly distributed across the categories, 30 books being entered in the Fine Binding category, 20 in the Cased binding, 15 in The Complete Book and 7 in the Restored/conserved.

All the bindings were exhibited at the SoB Biennial Education & Training Conference at Reading University 17-20th July, 2003. The bindings made an impressive and colourful display with many different ideas, concepts and skills being shown.

I am grateful to all the entrants who put in so much effort to complete their bindings and went to great expense to deliver their books to my home address.

We were very fortunate with sponsorship, and gave away prizes to the value of 5850. I must thank the sponsors who have so generously supported us with prizes of cash and goods. These were:

Conservation By Design Ltd.

J. Hewit & Sons Ltd.

FiberMark Red Bridge International Ltd.

Russells Ltd

P&S Engravings

Ratchfords Ltd

Fine Cut International Ltd.

Harmatan Ltd.

Preservation Equipment Ltd

Specialist Craft Ltd

William Cowley

Frances Wakeman Books and the Plough Press

The competition judges took a great deal of care and time examining the books. The judging was carried out by Glenn Bartley – one of the Conference speakers and a Fellow of Designer Bookbinders, Lester Capon, President of Designer Bookbinders and Brian Edwards, who you may be aware, ably ran the Competition for many years prior to my taking it over.

One of the things remarked upon by the judges was that the difference in standard between the Professional binders' work and that of the amateurs was not always clear.



Fine Binding
Joint 1st PRIZE (The John
Coleman Trophy)
and Winner of the FINE CUT
INTERNATIONAL AWARD for
GOLD FINISHING

HET NEDERLANDES
BANKBILJET 1814-2002 (The
Dutch Banknotes 1814-2002)
Bound by Geert Van Daal
Author: Jaap Bolten

Book covered in full dark maroon leather, silk endleaves with a second endpaper made using fragments of original banknotes. Onlays cut from original banknotes, gold tooled lines and black goatskin onlays.

This was found to be a very well conceived binding whose concept works well and fits the contents perfectly. The work was obviously painstakingly carried out very neatly producing a fantastic result.

An outstanding binding, which displays very highly skilled gold tooling.

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Fine Binding

Joint 1st PRIZE (The John
Coleman Trophy)

SVIT HVEZDY UMRELE (Shine of
the Dead Star)
Bound by Eri Funazaki
Author: Frantisek Hrubin

Covered in full beige goatskin, multi-sectional, flat back with flush cut binding with fore-edge flap. Hand printed endpapers, edge decoration with direct mono prints and gold leaf.

The unusual use of gold tooling combined with sculptured boards, muted leather and fore-edge flap is a delight.



Fine Binding

SECOND PRIZE

DAPHNIS AND CHLOE
Bound by Paul C. Delrue
Author: Longus

Sewn on 7 tapes, edges coloured with acrylic, double endbands covered in lacunose style goatskin, yellow goatskin doublures with blue and red onlays, blind tooling.

This binding, whose concept depicts the contents of the book beautifully, with its colourful figurative design using this binder's trade mark technique, is a true delight.

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Fine Binding

HIGHLY COMMENDED

INTIMATE LEAVES FROM A
DESIGNER'S NOTEBOOK
Bound by Ann Tout
Author: John Ryder

Book covered in full vellum, moulded over engraved boards, red goatskin onlay on spine, lettered in gold, double silk endbands, gilt edges.

The judges described this binding as "slick" and a very good effort working with a difficult material; vellum.

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Fine Binding

HIGHLY COMMENDED

DAYS OF GRACE

Bound by Tiina Pissang

Author: Doris Kareva

Sewn on textile tapes laced into boards. Boards ground in the shape of waves, double headbands, doublures of hand coloured thin pigskin with appliqué and embroidery with silk and metal thread, lettering printed by plate.

Tiina's binding was difficult in concept and the judges were particularly taken with the use of colourful endpapers against the dark black goatskin leather boards.



Complete Book

Joint FIRST PRIZE (The Portnall
Award)
and BEST OVERALL BOOK
Submitted by a Professional Binder

FIM
Bound by Ingela Dierick
Author: Ingela Dierick

Bradel Binding with polycarbonate boards and goatskin on the spine. Boards coloured with an airbrush.

Contents: Printed story about a flying fish, illustrated with watercolour. Written and typeset by the binder.

This is a small binding which was simple and well executed. The judges loved the feel of the book and found the whole package to be superbly crafted. The design is striking and the contents original.



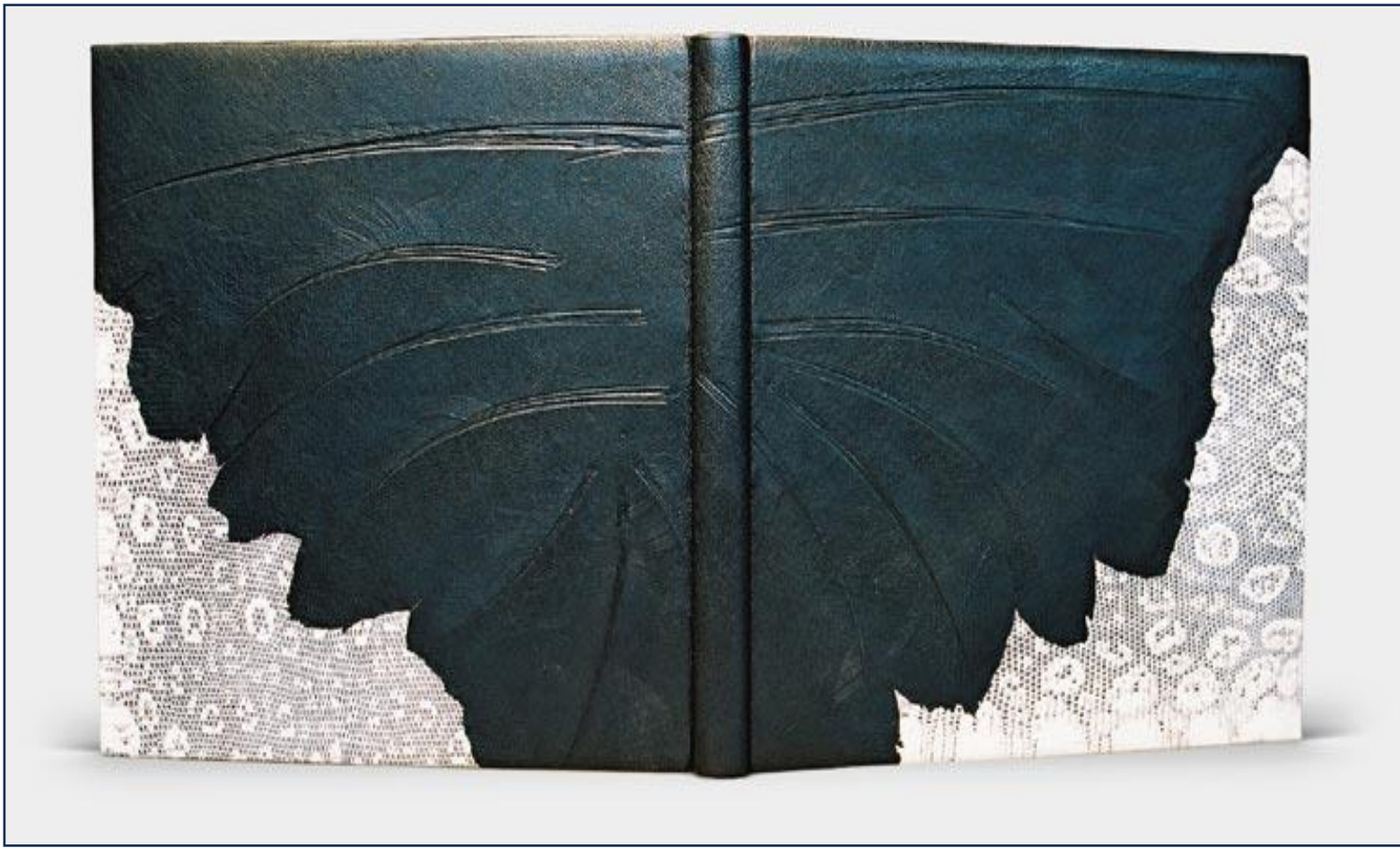
Complete Book
Joint FIRST PRIZE (The Portnall
Award)
and BEST OVERALL BOOK
Submitted by a Non-Professional
Binder

FROM THE COUNTRY OF THE
MINOTAUR
Bound by Mel Jefferson
Author: Gerald Nason

A crossed-structure binding in laminated floriated goatskin and reversed suede. Feathered onlays and leather buttons. Sewn on a wraparound concertina endpaper. Leather cameos inkjet printed on alum-tawed goatskin.

Contents - A selection of rhyming Haiku about the plight of the Minotaur, written and illustrated by Gerald Nason. Pen and ink on handmade paper.

Mel impressed the judges with his beautifully made and conceived binding, which was found to be appropriate to the text. The binding was well planned and brilliantly executed.



Complete Book

HIGHLY COMMENDED

AVOCET TO ZANDER

Bound by Rachel Ward-Sale

Author: Anne Cathcart

Book covered in lizard skin and goatskin with feather shape impressed into it. Flyleaves and doublures printed with feathers.

Content: Wood engravings by Anne Cathcart.

This binding showed an excellent holistic approach. The judges found it to be in harmony with the text and loved the simple but effective nature, which complimented the beautiful wood engravings found inside.



Cased Binding

FIRST PRIZE (The F.J. Ratchford Trophy)

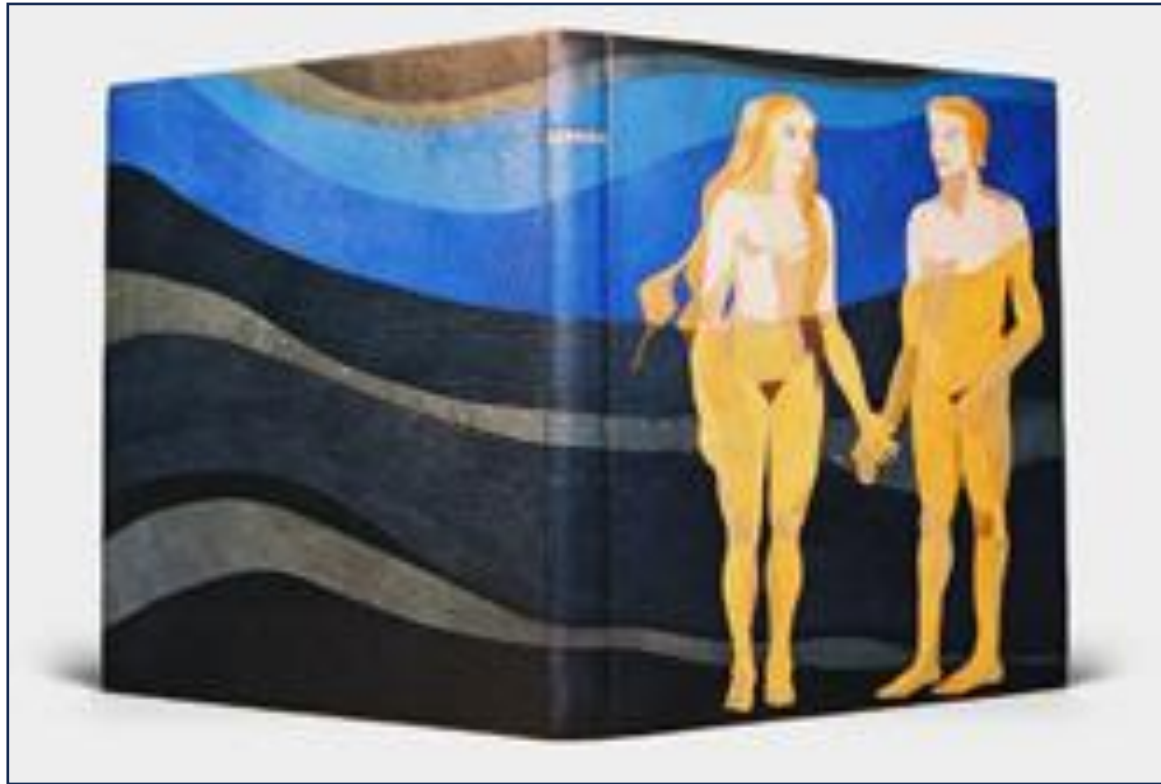
INDIGO

Bound by Elizabeth M Bailey

Author: Jenny Balfour-Paul

Hand stitched using canvas base, textiles and cotton skeins to make up pictures. Headbands, embroidered padded box.

This binding showed an incredible piece of craftsmanship – described by one of the judges as a labour of love!



Complete Book

SECOND PRIZE

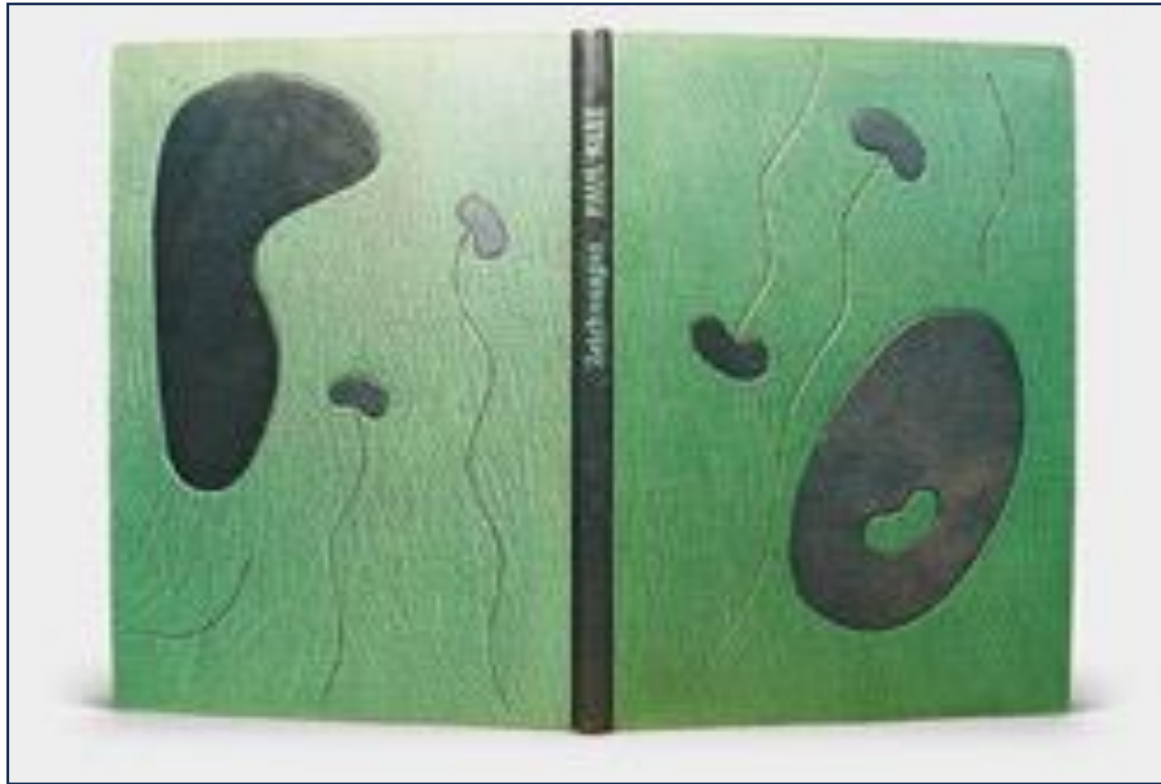
GENESIS

Bound by Maria Sol Rebora

Author: n/a

Leather covered case, doublures and flyleaves. Inner Perspex boards with leather onlays. Edge gilt and painted, embroidered endbands, gold and blind tooling.

A superb binding of Genesis showing innovative ideas with different materials.



Complete Book

Joint Winner of the HARMATAN
LEATHER Award for Forwarding

ZEICHNUNGEN
Bound by Cathy Adelman
Author: Paul Klee

Full leather case binding in three separate parts. Edges sprinkled. Coloured leather onlays with acrylic paint applied with a pen.

This is a very slick little book with a simple yet incredibly well executed use of materials.



Complete Book

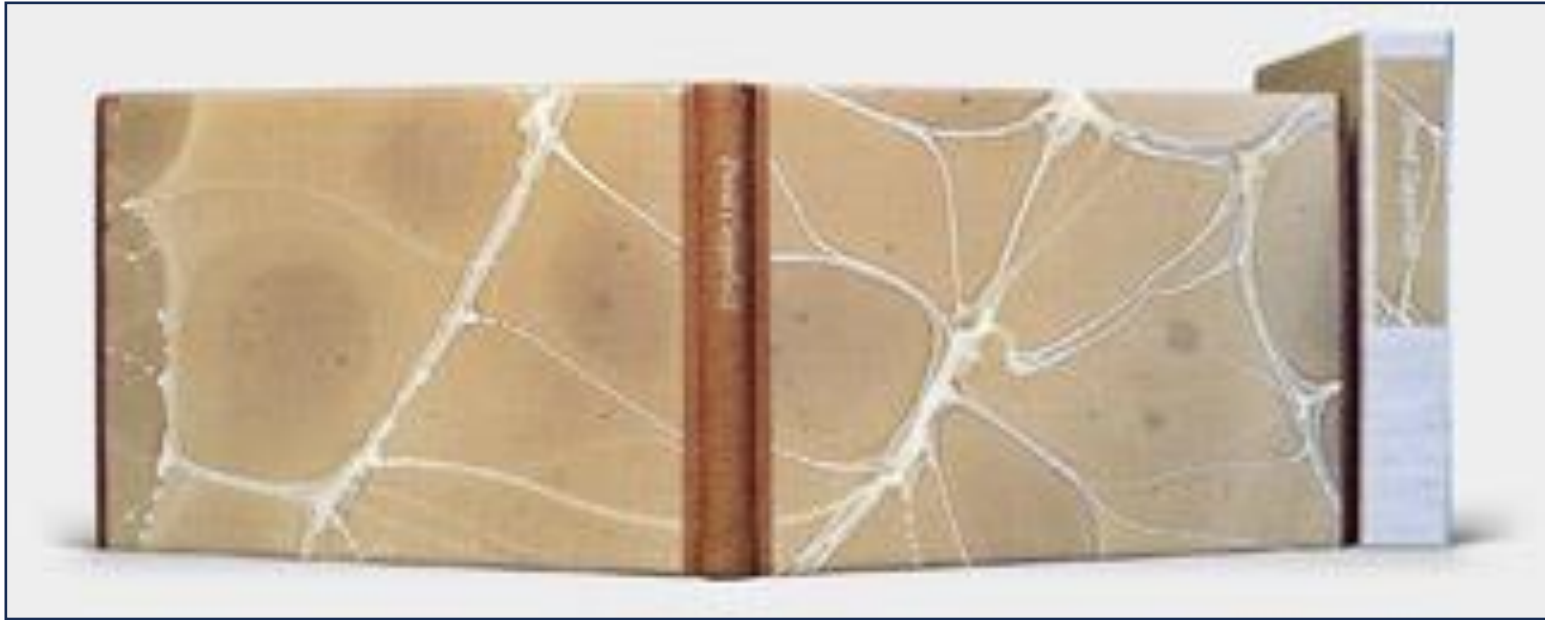
Joint Winner of the HARMATAN
LEATHER Award for Forwarding

SATURDAY NIGHT 1953/THE
ELEMENTS

Bound by Peter D. Verheyen
Author: Samuel Milton Tickle Jr

Millimeter binding, text sewn link stitch, three graphite edges, red eel skin endbands, case covered in full paste paper, blue eel skin head, tail and fore-edge trim.

This was found to be an equally precise binding with excellent use of contrasting colours.



Complete Book

HIGHLY COMMENDED

DAVID COPPERFIELD
Bound by Brenda Parsons
Author: Charles Dickens

Goatskin spine and fore-edge, marbled paper sides, edges sprinkled, lettered in gold on spine.

The judges found this to be an incredibly neatly executed binding.



Restored/ Conserved Binding

FIRST PRIZE (The Bernard
Middleton Trophy)

WAYSIDE FLOWERS

Restored/Conserved by Chris
Damp

Author: Thomas Miller

Treatment: Spine leather removed, boards re-attached with cotton, new endbands sewn on, spine re-lined, book re-backed with green calf, original spine replaced, corners consolidated and repaired, inner joints repaired, gold and leather re-touched.

This work was a very neat re-back which showed considerable skill and attention to detail.

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Restored/ Conserved Binding

SECOND PRIZE

THE WORKS OF JOSEPHUS
Restored/conserved by Dominic
Riley
Author: n/a

Treatment: Book re-backed with Goatskin preserving original spine. Corners consolidated and repaired. Leather and gold cleaned and retouched.

This restoration piece was found to be very sympathetic and housed in a very well made and appropriate protective box.