

Late Gothic Netherlandish Bound Book

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Summary

This is a blank book bound in the late gothic style typical of the Netherlands, circa late 1500s. Period materials and techniques were used whenever possible and practical.

Pages: Pages are commercially available parchment paper handsewn with linen thread onto double cords (hemp). There are 208 leaves, consisting of thirteen quires (groups) of sixteen pages each. The first and last pages were glued down as part of the endpapering process. The spine was rounded (made convex) and backed (a hammering process to curl the quires over one another). Note that paper is correct for this time period.

Gilding: Page edges were sanded and gilded. Two edges were gilded with handmade glaire using period recipes and Armenian bole (red clay pigment); the third edge was gilded using a modern adhesive. All three edges used genuine 22K gold leaf.

Endbands: Endbands were sewn as a secondary sewing process, after edge gilding, using hemp cord. The hemp cord was covered with linen thread, followed by embroidery floss.

Boards: Quarter-inch-thick oak was used for the boards. Channels were hand chiseled into the boards to accommodate the cords, which were secured with wooden pegs. Edges facing the spine were beveled.

Covering: Pigskin leather was used as covering material. No edge paring was done; paring is a modern convention. Blind tooling was done using a wood-burning tool.

Fittings: The brass clasp and bosses (corner guards) were handmade from brass sheets.

Adhesives: Wheat paste, a period adhesive, was used for pasting the leather to the book. Modern adhesives were used in the spine backing process and to repair one oak board that was damaged while the pegs were hammered.