Only the exterior leather covering of the upper and lower covers and the envelope flap survives, the pasteboards and doublures having been removed.

Upper and Lower Covers: These covers are similarly decorated and have a running border, defined by tripartite fillets, of impressions of a finely-engraved, rectangular format single-axis stamp depicting continuous heart-shaped looping scrolls with single-bladed leaves which pass through ties, with an opposite tier of symmetrically opposed leaf tendrils.

The rectangular inner field has at its centre a roundel, circumscribed by a broad tripartite fillet, which is filled with a knotwork mesh formed by hatched bars, arcs and small centred dots. On the vertical axis above and below the roundel are knotwork lozenges with flecks projecting from their points.

An unusual feature is found opposite the roundel on each side. Against the fillet defining the perimeter of the inner panel on the horizontal axis, large split three-sepalled calices are outlined by a sinuous fillet and filled with knotwork. The triangular corners are demarcated by two rows of tripartite fillets and are filled with knotwork. The perimeter of the inner panel is delineated by a single fillet leaving a broad band of untooled leather with flecks based on clusters of three gold dots pointing inwards from the angles.

Envelope Flap: The borders at head, tail and fore-edge of the envelope flap are similar to those of the upper and lower covers, as are the corners and bands demarcating the panels. Along the horizontal axis from the point of the flap is a broad strip of regular knotwork mesh, defined by two rows of tripartite fillets. The adjacent flanking panels are each centred by a circular cluster of seven large centred annular dots with associated small dots.

M. Weissauer (1962); Abb. 35, Handschriften 211, Kerman 1390 A.D., Klappentyp 39 (envelope flap only).

The upper cover of a bookbinding: exterior covering brown leather (goat) over paper pasteboards: blind and gold tooling; doublure block-pressed leather (sheep).

237 mm × 170 mm (approximate width as cover is cut down at spine) Oriental Institute 212150
D.J. Mordz
South Arabia, 14th-15th century A.D.

Upper Cover: A broad burnished band edges a rich frame of a running pattern of impressions of a rectangular format single-axis tool depicting four-petalled flowers between symmetrically opposed cordiform vine scrolls ending in bifurcated leaves. The inner edge of the frame is defined by a double row of tripartite fillets.

A small roundel at the centre of the inner panel, whose circle is drawn with a tripartite fillet tool, is furnished by three-sepalled calices with cleft base and a small receptacle. Tiny centred dots are placed between each calyx. From the upper sepalas flecks radiate. The roundel is filled with a diaper pattern formed by adjacent impressions of a two-axis stamp, commonly found as a border stamp, depicting a small centre ring with a square area and hatched half-hexagons on each side. At the centre of the roundel is placed a single centred annular gold dot. The perimeter of the inner panel is delineated by a band of untooled leather defined by a double fillet. In the corners of this band a single centred annular gold dot is placed. Projecting into the inner panel at each corner is a single impression of the calyx stamp used to furnish the central roundel.

Doublure: The doublure is of block-pressed leather with a bisymmetrical pattern whose module is based on a central cross with arrow-shaped calyx arms arising from a central dot. The arrow-shaped points develop into larger three-sepalled calices whose outer arms curve downwards. These serve as the core from which leaves develop into expanding vine scroll forms with varied leaves and calices. Bifurcated leaves frequently emphasize the tying elements. This doublure is related to those of 5 and 11.

The upper and lower covers and spine of a bookbinding: exterior covering brown leather (gai) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doublures light brown leather (gai) over which hand-made laid paper has been applied; spine lining/hinges linen tabby over paper liner.

270mm × 175mm
Oriental Institute A12714
Dr. B. Moritz
Egypt/Syria, 13th-early 16th century A.D.

The tooling of the borders, defining lines and corners of the inner panels of the upper and lower covers is similar but the geometry of their central medallions differs.

Upper Cover The tooling of the upper cover differs from that of the lower only in the details of the inner part of the central roundel. This also contains a hexagram but encloses a six-pointed star flower outlined with an additional tripartite fillet. Its rays or petals are formed by flecks radiating from a centred gold dot. Single gold dots are placed in the points of the star. Otherwise the roundel is tooled as in the lower cover.

Lower Cover A broad fillet edges a border composed of a running pattern of impressions of a rectangular format single-axis stamp in which four petalled florets alternate with cordiform scrolls issuing from, and enfolding, small three-sepalled calices placed point to point. The outlines of these opposed heart shapes create lozenge-shaped compartments around the florets. This border is defined on its inner edge by three rows of tripartite fillets which also serve to define the inner panel. At the centre of the inner panel is a large roundel drawn with two closely placed tripartite fillets and garnished with impressions of a three-sepalled calyx with receptacle. Single gold dots are placed between the bases of the calyx stamps and flecks radiate from their central sepals. The inner part of the roundel is occupied by a hexagram formed with tripartite fillets. These overlapping lines form a zone of six star points around the central hexagonal compartments. These are tooled with a cluster of three gold dots, while the centre and arms of the hexagram are filled with impressions of an eight-lobed rosette and centred by a single centred gold dot. The zone between the perimetric of the hexagram and the roundel outline is filled with gold dots.

Above and below the central roundel on the vertical axis are tooled groups of four rosette stamps in a lozenge configuration with flanking gold dots and flecks projecting on the horizontal, vertical and diagonal axes.

The corners are quarter circles demarcated by tripartite fillets and contain single fillets which radiate from a central gold dot. The ends of the fillets are marked by gold dots. The perimeter of the inner panel is delineated by a single fillet with single centred gold dots at its angles.

Spine The spine is tooled.

G. Buch, (1952), pp. 122, 125, 132, 135; Pl. XXI.

A SET OF TWO ROUND MANUSCRIPTS: Arab.-Turk. al-Din ahi al-Hassan 'Ali ibn 'Ali al-Kaff al-Sukki, Al-Fatans, Vol. 1 dated 798 H./April 17, 1475 A.D.; Vol. 2 dated 2 Rajab 880 H./Nov. 1, 1475 A.D.; sixblock and endleaves paper burnished Oriental hand-made; Vol. 1 link stitch sewn at two sewing stations with yellow/green silk thread, Vol. 2 link stitch sewn at two sewing stations with red silk thread; Vol. 1 Islamic endbands (yellow/green silk anchorage threads over leather thong core; green and pink silk decorative sewing threads); Vol. 2 Islamic endbands (red silk anchorage threads over leather core and yellow/pink silk decorative sewing threads); Vol. 2 reinforcements earlier to head and tail of endbanding holes, spine folds and endbanding holes indicate that this manuscript has at least been seven and enbandled twice.

The title is hand-written in ink on the tail edge of each vol. round. spine lining/hinges Vol. 1 & 2 linen tabby; exterior covering brown leather (gai) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doublures Vol. 1 & 2 block pressed with leather (sheep) hinge extension onto upper and lower endleaves trimmed into a stylized curvilinear outline.

270mm × 175mm
Oriental Institute A12056 & A12057
Dr. B. Moritz
Egypt/Syria, early 16th century A.D.
COLOUR PLATE 1

VOLUME I

Upper and Lower Covers Both upper and lower covers are similarly decorated. The frame, defined by multiple fillets (the inner group of which also serves to define the inner panel), has a running pattern of single-axis stamps forming hatched braiding.

At the centre of the inner panel is a circular medallion outlined with scallops produced by impressions of a crescent-shaped tool. These are centred by gold dots and flecks project from their spandrels. The roundel is encircled by a ring defined by a single fillet on the outside and by a narrow tripartite fillet on the inside. It is occupied by a hexagram interface formed of the narrow tripartite fillet. At its centre is a six-pointed star additionally outlined by tripartite fillets and divided into petal-like segments by fillets. The compartments of the hexagon are filled with impressions of a small eight-petalled rosette stamp and are centred by a gold dot. The compartments between the perimeter of the hexagram and the roundel are filled with gold dots.

The small triangular corners of the inner panel are demarcated by multiple fillets and each contains three impressions of the crescent stamp and associated gold dots. The perimeter of the panel is delineated by a single fillet with flecks pointing inwards from its angles.

Spine The spine is tooled.

Fore-edge Flap The fore-edge flap is edged by multiple fillets. At head and tail similar rows of parallel fillets define two rows of stamps. Closest to the head is a sequence of the same stamps as used for the frames of the upper and lower covers. The other row is of X-shaped stamps with interstitial gold dots.
At the middle of the flap are two similar groups of stamps, with an extra two bands of multiple fillets. Between these rows of stamps are two rectangular panels with single perimeter fillets. At the centres of these panels are lozenge configurations of X-shaped and crescent stamps with interstitial gold dots and flecks radiating on the horizontal, vertical and diagonal axes. At the corners of each panel are three impressions of the crescent stamp centred by gold dots.

Envelope Flap The frames, at head, tail and fore-edge corners and perimeter tooling of the inner panel of the envelope flap are similarly tooled to the corresponding areas of the upper and lower covers. On the horizontal axis of the point of the flap is a diamond configuration with a diagonal grid of X-shaped stamps bordered by crescents and marked by interstitial gold dots. On the horizontal, vertical and diagonal axes flecks radiate.

VOLUME 2

Upper and Lower Covers Upper and lower covers are similarly tooled. The general decorative scheme is similar to that of Volume 1 but the stamp used for the frame is different as is the internal geometry of the central medallion. The frame has a running pattern of impressions of a rectangular format single-axis stamp in which small hearts issuing from and enfolding small three-sepaled calices are placed point to point creating intermediate diamond shapes occupied by eight-petal rosettes.

The medallions of the inner panels are similar in outline to the corresponding ones of Volume 1 but have a more complex interface interior. At the centre a small hexagon enclosing a six-pointed star extends to form a six-pointed star whose points touch the inner circumference of the roundel. This interface system overlaps a large hexagon. The central star is divided into petal-like segments by fillets radiating from a central gold dot. These segments are alternately left untooled and marked by four small dots. The compartments of the hexagram are filled with impressions of a tiny eight-petal rosette stamp and are centred by a gold dot. The compartments of the zones formed by the intersection of the overlapping hexagon and hexagram star are alternately filled with small dots and larger gold dots. The compartments between the perimeter of the interface and the roodnel are filled with gold dots.

Spine The spine is untooled.

Fore-edge Flap The fore-edge flap is edged with multiple fillets. At head and tail similar fillets define two parallel rows of stamps. Closest to the head is a row of the same stamps as used for the frames of the upper and lower covers. The other row is of X-shaped stamps with interstitial gold dots. Two similar groupings of stamps and fillets divide the fore-edge flap into three orthogonal panels of which the middle one is largest. These have single perimeter fillets and contain central diamond-shaped configurations of stamps and corner stamps related to those used for the fore-edge panels of Volume 1.

Envelope Flap The frames at head, tail and fore-edge corners and perimeter tooling of the inner panel of the envelope flap are similarly tooled to the corresponding areas of the upper and lower covers. The point of the flap is marked by a diamond grouping of stamps similar to that of the envelope flap of Volume 1. The layout of this flap is like that of Volume 1.

The affinity of decorative schemes and the use of the same crescent, dot and X-shaped tools and doublures indicate that these bindings are the products of the same workshop.

Doublures (Volumes 1 & 2) Both volumes have similar doublures with a block-pressed pattern of regularly placed interlinked double medallions formed by continuous triple lines. The inner medallions knot into heart shapes at four evenly-spaced points on the outer medallions which connect with a loop to the next repeat above and below. The inner medallion contains a finely-knotted filling. The compartments of the bands between the inner and outer medallions are filled with floral and foliate forms. A cross-shaped configuration of various leaf and calyx forms fills the spaces between the medallions.


40. Volume 1 lower cover

41. The lower cover of a bookbinding: extensive covering brown leather (gilt) over paper pastesheets; blind ruling and gold paint; doublure block-pressed leather (sheep).

267mm x 184mm
Oriental Institute A2132
Dr. B. Moritz
South Arabia, 15th century A.D.

Lower Cover Chester Beatty Library
Moritz Collection 4 appears to be the other cover of this bookbinding. The cover is edged by a burnished band defined by fillets. Within is a running border of impressions of a rectangular format stamp depicting alternately inverted cordiform scrolls issuing from the bases of small triquetra which twist enfold. The inner edge of this border is defined by a broad tripartite fillet.

The centre roundel, tooled with fillets over a radiance pattern, is garnished with three-sepaled calices with cleft base and receptacle. From the upper sepal radiate flecks. The diagonal knotwork field within the circle is composed of hatched bars, arcs and centred dots and has a central square with a large centred annular gold dot.

The corners are simple triangles defined by the broad tripartite fillet used for the inner edge of the border. They each contain three impressions of circular epigraphical stamps ringed by radiating hatchings and associated with small centred dots. The wording on these stamps is:
This stamp is similar to one on 36 and is related to the small epigraphical stamp on 35. Single blind impressions of the calyx stamp which garland the inner roundel are placed at the corners of the band pointing inward with a fleck issuing from the upper sepal.

The outer confines of the central panel are marked by a band of untooled leather defined by double fillets with smaller circular epigraphical stamps (with associated centred dots) in the corners of the band. These read

\textit{amal Amin}

\textit{عمل أمين}

the work of Amin

\textit{Doublure} The module of the pattern of the block-pressed doublure moves as an ascending sequence of calices and associated leafy scrolls on a single axis. The base calyx, of flower-de-lis form, is three-sepalled with the lower sepals curving down and then curling upward at their tips. On either side appear two other three-sepalled calices with notched bases. From the central sepal crossed vines extend to form another three-sepalled calyx with a hollow base. The elaborate crisscrossing of the vine scrolls has a disjointed stencil-like appearance.

The leaves are basically two-lobed with one lobe extending to a curling tendril-like tip and the shorter lobe split into a small spiral. The pattern is related to those of 35 and 36.


42 The upper and lower covers, spine and fore-edge flap of a bookcover; exterior covering light brown leather (goat) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doublure block-pressed leather (sheep).

254mm x 188mm
Oriental Institute A12120
Dr. B. Moritz
South Arabian/Egypt/Syria, 15th century A.D.

Upper and Lower Cover Only the upper and lower covers of the original binding survive now attached with a crude later rebacking of leather and with part of a similar fore-edge flap. Upper and lower covers are similarly decorated. A burnished band, defined on the outside by tripartite fillets, edges

a running border of impressions of a finely-engraved square format two-axis tool depicting overlapping bowing strapwork which forms small compartments with alternating concave or convex curvilinear frames. The two-axis repeat of this stamp is intended to produce compartments with eight-petalled rosettes alternating with compartments with three-sepalled calices. In this case the stamp is used to form a frieze in one axis so that only the rosette appears complete. The inner edge of the border is defined by a tripartite fillet as is the inner panel.

At the centre of the inner panel is a medallion. This consists of a rounded outline by two rows of tripartite fillets, staggered tangentially to produce a "radiance" formation, garnished by impressions of a stamp depicting a three-sepalled calyx with receptacle. Between these receptacles are placed small centred dots. From the central sepal flows radiate. The inner field of the roundel is occupied by a twelve-pointed star interface enclosing a small central hexagon with six star point extensions. The interface is formed by tripartite fillets.

The hexagon core is tooled with six centred dots grouped around a central one. The small compartments of the star points in the next zone are left untooled. The interface then extends to form a hexagram whose compartments are filled with impressions of a six-petalled rosette stamp (with a dot at the centre of each petal) centered by a single gold dot. The compartments of the zone enclosing this are tooled with gold dots. The outer points of the major star are alternately left untooled and stamped in a group of four gold dots. The compartments beyond the periphery of the star are filled with impressions of the rosette stamp and centered by a gold dot.

Above and below the central medallion on the vertical axis is tooled a lozenge-shaped configuration of four round epigraphical stamps with small flanking centred dots from which radiate flecks on the vertical and diagonal axes. The epigraphical stamps read:

\textit{Allah hashi}

\textit{الله حسبي}

God is sufficient for me

41. detail
tifs. These bulbous lobes or petals are formed by opposing bifurcated leaves. Those in the vertical axis of these covers terminate in three-sepaled calices with plant infill. At the centre of these large flower motifs are interfaces of similar but smaller forms (also with three-sepaled calices at their points) flanked by small five-petalled florets and acanthus leaf forms. Where the large petals in the horizontal axis of the covers overlap there is a lozenge-shaped knot. The spaces between the dominant motifs are filled with a dense growth of calyx, floral and foliate forms.

This cover is from the same workshop as Oriental Institute AI2141, the upper cover of which has a similar dothure.

P. Adams, (March 1903); p. 168.
Vl. XXXIV & LIII.
D. Minor, 1977; p. 32.

The triangular corners of the inner panel are demarcated by two rows of tripartite fillets and each contains a single impression of the circular epigraphical stamp with flanking small centred dots.

The perimeter of the inner field is delineated by a single fillet. Where this borders the corners, there are projecting loops centred by centred dots. From these and from the angles of the perimeter fillet project flecks, the latter based on centred dots. This cover seems to derive from the same workshop as 43 which is very similar.

Doublores (Upper & Lower Covers) The upper and lower covers have doublures of the same block-pressed leather with a dense pattern with prominent large quadrilobe or four-petalled mo
of a square format two-axis stamp depicting dish-shaped diamonds, centred by a point, whose juxtaposition creates ovals. A thin inner frame, also defined by tripartite fillets, has diagonal hatchings produced by double impressions of a short bar tool with a dot before and after each impression.

At head and tail within this inner frame, and enclosed by another row of the same tooling, are large panels defined by tripartite fillets and filled with a prominent knotwork formed by hatched bars, arcs, dots and short thin fillets.

At the centre of the rectangular inner panel is a scalloped roundel whose outline is imparted by very individual vibrancy by repeated small scallops with even smaller scallops and intervening dots and outer loops from which radiate short flecks. Within this multi-scalloped edge is a finely pecked band and then concentric rings of double fillets enclosing hatching like that of the inner frame. The central circle is occupied by a ten-pointed interface of two five-pointed stars tied by a circular band. This interface is formed of triple fillets. At its centre is a small pentagon with a five-armed, swastika-like core.

The compartments of the zone outside this are tooled with a single dot while the star points of the next zone are left untouched. The zone beyond, immediately within the perimeter of the tying "circle" has compartments stamped with single impressions of a five-petalled flower which has tiny dots between its leaves. The outer points of the star are left untouched and the spaces between them and the circumvex fillet are filled with a scale-like pattern of small arcs and dots.

The corners are quadrants of circular medallions and contain at their centre seven petals of a twenty-eight-petalled flower. This is contained by a hatched band like the inner frame and is edged by multiple layers of scalloping like the circumference of the inner roundel. A concave scallop connects the outer edges of the corners to a fillet which continues around the perimeter of the inner panel. Against this fillet on the vertical axis at head and tail are placed short flecks based in clusters of three centred dots.
A book cover: brown leather (goat) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doubled edge light brown leather (sheep).

265mm × 172mm
Oriental Institute A1211
Dr. B. Moritz
Egypt/Syria, 15th–early 16th century A.D.

Only the upper and lower covers and envelope flap of the original binding survive, the spine and fore-edge having been replaced by later crude repairs which obscure the outer parts of the decoration. Substantial areas of the edges of the covers are also missing.

Upper and Lower Covers The upper and lower covers are similarly tooled. The outer edge of the border is now missing or obscured but the inner edge is defined by a tripartite fillet. The border has a running pattern of impressions of a square format two-axis tool. This tool has a square centre compartment, containing a small diamond intersected by diagonals, from which radiate four swastika-like arms with a hatched infill. The rectangular inner panel is defined by tripartite fillets and centred by a medallion. This is outlined by scallops formed by hatched arc tools alternating with radiating flecks. The roundel is defined by a tripartite fillet and is occupied by a six-pointed star formed of intersecting double rows of tripartite fillets forming compartments which are left untooled except for a central dot. The compartments at the centre of the star and flanking it are filled with six-petaled rosette stamps. The inner compartment has a large central annular gold dot at its centre surrounded by a lozenge formation of smaller gold dots. The outer compartments are centred by single centered annular gold dots.

The simple triangular corners are unemphasized in scale and are demarcated by two rows of tripartite fillets. They contain a single impression of the six-petaled rosette stamp. The perimeter of the inner panel is delineated by a single fillet with flecks based on centre annular gold dots pointing inwards from its angles.

Envelope Flap A large part is missing at the tail of the envelope flap, and its border and part of the inner area along the fore-edge are obscured by the later leather repair. Only the border at the head of the flap is visible. It is tooled similarly to that of the corresponding flanking panels. The corners of the latter are marked by a annular centred gold dot. They are filled with rows of the border stamp exploiting its two-axis repeat quality.

The lower cover of a bookbinding: exterior covering brown leather (goat) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold toothing; double edge block-pressed leather (sheep).

186mm × 130mm
Oriental Institute A12149
Dr. B. Moritz
Egypt/Syria, 15th–16th century A.D.

Lower Cover Multiple fillets define a running frame of impressions of a rectangular format stamp depicting interlinking knots.

The inner panel has a central roundel defined by a tripartite fillet and garnished by scallops formed by hatched arcs centred with a gold dot. These have intervening radiating flecks. The field of the roundel is occupied by a six-pointed star whose defining fillets extend to the periphery. The compartmental arms of the star are tooled except for single central gold dots. The other larger compartments are filled with eight lobed rosettes and groups of three gold dots.

On the spine fore-edge area are lozenges formed by five hatched X-shaped stamps with interstitial gold dots and radiating flecks.

The simple triangular corners are demarcated by tripartite fillets and each contains a single, tooled eight-lobed rosette flanked by three gold dots.

The outer confines of the inner panel are marked by a band of untooled leather defined by a fillet. Clusters of four gold dots are placed at each single.

Doubliure This doubliure is from a rather coarse-cut block. Along the cover’s horizontal axis are addressed three-sepulved calices with plant filling within a foliaged tulip shape formed by heavy vines and thick lobed leaves. The stem of each passes through straight bars and splits to form a slender centred lozenge.

Each split stem then passes on into the upper sepal tips of addressed large, bulbous three-sepulved calices on the vertical axis. These bulbous calices are grouped in a cross disposition along two axes—one parallel to the vertical axis of the cover and the other parallel to the...