the horizontal. They grow from the points of a four-petalled flower. These points form the stems of the monobased bulbous calices. The petals of the central flower contain an arrow-shaped motif while the large calices have internal vines which pass through a bar. It would appear that this system of central four-petalled flowers, with large calices on its axes, forms the centre of the decorative module, though the original woodblock was larger than the illustration of this cover so that its impression cannot be seen in its entirety.

G. Bosch, (1952), pp. 135, 144-145, 159, 163, 165, Pl. LIV.

46. The lower cover of a bookbinding; exterior covering brown leather (goat) over paper pastebords; doublure block-pressed leather (sheep); blind and gold toothing.

242mm x 182mm
Oriental Institute A12136
Dr. B. Moritz
Egypt/Syria/South Arabia, 15th century A.D.

Lower Cover A very broad triplicate fillet edges a border with a running pattern of impressions of a square format, two-axis stamp. This tool has a central square compartment, with hatched half hexagons on each side, enclosing a small central circle.

At the centre of the inner panel is a roundel of irregular outline (i.e., not drawn with a compass). It is enclosed by an outer band, defined on the inside by a double fillet and on the outside by a single fillet with projecting loops on the horizontal and vertical axes. Each loop is centred by a dot and flanked by three others from which flecks project. The inner roundel is filled with a knotwork mesh with a prominent knotwork grid. Square configurations of gold dots are tooled in the centre, placed as though at the corners of an imaginary square. The knotwork is constructed of hatched bars, arcs and dots.

The triangular corners of the inner panel are demarcated by multiple fillets and contain single impressions of a round epigraphical stamp flanked by three dots. This bears the legend

Allah hashi

God is sufficient for me

The perimeter of the inner field is delineated by a single fillet. At the middle of its corner sections are tooled projecting loops centred by dots and flanked by three dots from which issue flecks. At the adjacent angles of this boundary fillet are also tooled small dots with inward-pointing fillets.

The tooling of this cover is very similar to that of Oriental Institute A12136 and seems to derive from the same workshop, although the latter’s central roundel is smaller with a more simply tooled inner field. Their doublures are similar.

Doublure The block-pressed doublure has a floral pattern whose module is dominated by a large eight-lobed form whose outline is produced by the meeting of pointed trichotomous leaves or three-sepaled split calices. This quadrilobe is approximately square in proportions. At its centre is an eight-petalled star of cross shape with each arm of the cross having two points. It contains a chrysanthemum-like sixteen-petalled flower with alternating slender and short petals. The points of the central cross/star extend to produce four large leaves filling the lobes in the vertical and horizontal axes. The corner, less prominent, lobes are occupied by poesy-like flowers. The corners of the large octolobe motifs join intervening eight-petalled forms produced by the interlacing of two cross-shaped four-lobed forms.
containing a central chrysanthemum-like flower. From the petals of the quadrilobe in the horizontal and vertical axes develop leafy plant sprays which fill the remaining spaces between the dominant octolobe motifs of the module.

G. Bosh, (1952); pp. 132, 135, 162; PI. LI.

47 A cover of a bookbinding; exterior covering brown leather (alpaca); blind tooling, gold tooling.
235mm x 174mm
Chester Beatty Library, Morris Collection 6
Dr. R. Morris
South Arabia, 15th century A.D.

Only the exterior leather of this cover survives, the pasteboard and doublure having been removed. It has a running border, defined by tripartite fillets, of blind impressions of a rectangular format single-axis stamp depicting a four-petalled flower with a quadrilobe scroll whose symmetrically opposed extensions in one axis terminate in bifurcated leaflets. These extensions produce opposing cordiform compartments, with the bifurcated leaves uniting to form a small triploed calyx when the stamps are juxtaposed in a row.

At the centre of the inner panel is a motif, delineated by two interlacing three-lobed strapwork forms, which appears to rotate. The broad straps are defined by single fillets. The field within the strapwork form is filled with hatched X-shapes and intersticial centred dots. The inner points of the strapwork are marked with single gold dots with a single larger centred annular dot placed at the centre. Blind flecks based on gold dots radiate from the quadrilobes of the outer panel of the central motif.

Above and below the central motif, on the vertical axis, are placed small lozenges formed of hatched X-shaped stamps with intersticial and flanking dots. Flecks radiate on the horizontal, vertical and diagonal axes.

The triangular corners are demarcated by two rows of tripartite fillets and contain three impressions of a circular epigraphic stamp with associated centred gold dots. The stamps are illegible.

The perimeter of the inner field is delineated by a double fillet defining a band of uncoiled strapwork. In its angles are placed single impressions of a large central annular dot from which point inwards impressions of a small three-sepaled calyx with receptacle. From the central sepals of these stamps project flecks.

48 The lower cover of a bookbinding; exterior covering brown leather over paper pasteboard; blind tooling, gold tooling; doublure block-pressed leather.

Islamic Museum East Berlin 1.947
Dr. R. Morris
South Arabia, 15th century A.D.

Lower Cover A broad burnished band edges a frame, defined by fillets, of impressions of a square format two-axis stamp with 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 field is defined by tripartite fillets and centred by a medallion of scalloped outline produced by three interlacing stem-like strapwork loops. At the core is a six-petalled flower, the surface of its petals being left uncoiled. Centred annular dots appear at its centre and in the middle of the outer edges of its petals. The compartments in the outer zone are filled with hatched X-shaped tools and blind dots. Those with star-like points adjacent to the central flower have a centred annular gold dot at their centre.

The triangular corners are demarcated by two rows of tripartite fillets and contain three impressions of a ringed six-lobed rosette with flanking small centred dots.

The perimeter of the inner panel is delineated by a double fillet leaving an uncoiled band. At the angles are placed single impressions of the larger central annular dot from which point inwards impressions of a small three-sepaled calyx with receptacle. From the central sepals of these stamps project flecks.

Doublure In this block-pressed leather doublure large nature-inspired floral forms are set amongst leaves and vines. Lotus leaves and other flowers in both axes of the cover are connected by curling leafy vines.

Related patterns of lotuses and associated smaller flowers in a leafy bed are found in the doublures of IL cover A and 70.
49. The upper cover of a bookbinding; exterior covering brown leather over paper pasteboards; blind tooling; doublures block-pressed leather.

Islamic Museum East Berlin 1, 860
Dr. B. Mowit, Magrib, 15th century A.D.

Upper Cover It is edged by an untooled band. A frame, defined by triple fillets, is filled with elegant calligraphy-like knotwork of grooved bars, arcs and centred dots. The rectangular inner panel is dominated by a large medallion of overlapping arcs giving a deeply scalloped outline. These are constructed using a triquetrous centre fillet edged by parallel single fillets. The compartments are filled with knotwork, that of the central roundel weaving round four small squares with dots at their centres. The inner panel surrounding the central medallion is divided in two on the vertical axis by fillets attaching it to the frame. The central fillets of this linkage are joined by two diagonals producing a thin meander pattern. Fillets continue around the perimeter of the two halves of the inner panel. The corners are demarcated by two segments of a circle and contain knotwork centred round a small square with a centred annular dot.

Doublures This doublure is of block-pressed leather with a finely cut pattern of paired leafy spiral scrolls interweaving with central mandorla-shaped vine interfaces. At the centre of the mandorla is a three-sepulchre calyx. The vine leaves have elaborately curling tips or spirals at the base of their lobes. Tendril-like leaf tips and tying elements are prominent.

G. Boasch, (1932): pp. 111, 133, 144-145, Pl. XX.

50. The upper and lower covers of a bookbinding; exterior covering brown leather (goat) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doublures block-pressed leather (sheep).

272mm x 184mm
Oriental Institute AI 2118 & AI 2139
Dr. B. Mowit, South Arabia, 15th century A.D.

Upper and Lower Covers Both covers are similarly tooled. Multiple fillets edge a frame of impressions of an X-shaped stamp with interstitial gold dots. Three lines of thick single fillets define its inner edge. These fillets also bound the inner panel. At the centre of the inner panel is a large motif with substantial tapered extensions in the vertical axis. It is based on an interface of two skin-like forms in the diagonal axis with related form shaped like a peanut with pointed ends in the vertical axis. The outer curves of this interface are tooled with successive tangential strokes creating the illusion of shimmering radiance. A strip of untooled leather, defined on the outside with shimmering tooling in the sections adjacent to the interface curves, outlines the central form.

The central compartment is outlined with an untooled band and has the shape of a hexagon with disposed sides. It is filled with impressions of a six-petalled rosette with a central group of six gold dots around a middle one. The compartments of the six-lobed star enclosing the hexagon are tooled with gold dots. The outer compartments of the central motif are tooled as for the inner compartment but with clusters of three and four gold dots.

To the points in the vertical axis are appended lozenge-shaped configurations of X-shaped stamps with interstitial and flanking gold dots with flecks radiating in the horizontal, vertical and diagonal axes.

The triangular corners are demarcated by two of the thick single fillets and each contains a cluster of three gold dots. The perimeter of the field of the inner panel is delineated by a single thick fillet with flecks based in gold dots pointing inwards from its angles.

Doublures The doublures of both covers are of the same block-pressed pattern of large diamonds formed by the intersection of diagonal bands containing undulating vines with three-lobed leaves. Circles enclosing eight-petalled double rosettes mark the intersections. The diamond-shaped panels alternately are occupied by a simple corniform motif enclosing a three-sepulchre calyx against a leafy bed, or by a motif of similar outline against a similar background but filled with seeds or segments suggesting a pineapple, a pine cone, or possibly a pomegranate. The doublures are similar to those of 9, 29 and 51.

G. Boasch, (1932): pp. 132-133, 140, Pls. XVI, XVIII

51. A bookcover; exterior covering light brown leather (goat) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doublures block-pressed leather (sheep).

260mm x 174mm
Oriental Institute AI 2172
Dr. B. Mowit, Egypt/Syria, 15th century A.D.
The outer leather covering of this case retains all its component parts but is badly damaged, principally by insect attack. The pasteboards and lining materials are missing. The spine and fore-edge flaps are untouched.

**Upper and Lower Covers** The upper and lower covers are similarly tooled. An outer frame is defined by two rows of triplicate fillets which intersect at the corners. It is composed of impressions of a square format single-axis stamp. This tool is quite crudely engraved. It should create a running pattern of alternately inverted three-septated calices. However, the realization of this running pattern depends on placing the stamps immediately next to one another in this case they are slightly separated to its detriment.

The inner frame, defined on its inner edge by two rows of triplicate fillets, has a pattern of somewhat erratically placed X-shaped stamps with gold interstitial dots.

The inner panel is dominated by a large central mandorla-like motif with substantial tapered extensions in the vertical axis. The principal curvilinear elements of this design are formed of bands of untooled leather outlined by successive tangential strokes creating an illusion of shimmering radiance. At points on the outline are radiating flecks based in gold dots. The middle part of the motif is a roundel surrounded by shallow scallops. The points extending from this form in the vertical axis terminate in pendant oxe-engines of X-shaped stamps with interstitial gold dots. Each point contains a small triangle of untooled leather. The flanking compartments and those of the scallops are filled with gold dots. The inner roundel is outlined with a broad band, as described above, and contains a pentagram formed by triple fillets. The centre compartment of the pentagram is outlined by an additional row of triple fillets. The compartments forming the arms of the pentagram are tooled with loosely placed groups of four or five gold dots and the surrounding compartments are filled with such dots. The simple triangular corners are de-
marked by two rows of multiple fillets and contain gold dots. The outer perimeter of the inner panel is delineated by a double fillet with flecks based on gold dots pointing inwards from its angles.

Spine The spine is untouched.

Envelope Flap The frames of the envelope flap at head, tail and fore-edge and the corners and defining lines of the inner panel are tooled similarly to the corresponding areas of the upper and lower covers. At the point of the flap is tooled a rounded outlined with tangential fillets in the manner of the central motifs of the upper and lower covers. The roundel contains a six-pointed star formed by double fillets with an inner hexagon at its centre outlined in the same way. At its core is a circular group of five gold dots around a centre one. The compartments of the points of the star and those outside it are tooled with clusters of three gold dots. The adjacent panels flanking the roundel are defined by double fillets with gold dots placed at the angles towards the head and tail of the flap.

Doublure (Envelope Flap) Only the block-pressed doublure of the envelope flap survives. These have a bold pattern of large diamonds formed by the intersection of diagonal bands containing undulating vines with three-lobed leaves. Circles enclosing eight-petalled double rosettes mark the intersections. The diamond-shaped panels alternately are occupied by a simple cordiform motif enclosing a three-sepal calyx against a leafy bed, and by a motif of similar outline and background but filled with seeds or segments suggesting a pine-apple, a pine cone, or possibly a pomegranate. Only a small part of the design can be seen in this example. It is closely related to those of 9, 29, and 50.

G. Bosch, (1952); pp. 132-133, 134, 136, 144, 160, 161; Pls. XLVII & XLI.
M. Waerzbelin, (1952); Abb. 23, Handschrift 37, 378 A.D., Deckentyp 88, Blauentyp 16.
A cover of a book binding: exterior covering brown leather (goat).

Chester Beatty Library Manuscript Collection 20
Egypt/Syria, 14th century A.D.

Only the exterior leather of this cover survives, the pasteboards and doublure having been removed. The cover is edged by two rows of tripartite fillets. A thin outer border of interlocking hatched reverse S-shaped stamps is defined by single fillets. At each corner of its inner defining fillet is placed a centred annular gold dot.

The rectangular inner panel is defined by a double fillet. At the centre of the panel is a medallion with a looped scallop outline. The loops are centred by dots. From the outer edges of the loops and the spandrels of the scallops radiate flocks with cross crescents. The scallops are filled with knots of hatched bars, arcs and small dots around a centred annular gold dot. The roundel has an outer ring, defined by fillets, filled with a guilloche pattern similar to that of the border but here it has interstitial gold dots. The circular central field is occupied by a pentagram with a centre pentagon around which are five pentagonal compartments. The inner pentagon is filled with a whirling five-lobed star of hatched arcs and small gold dots around a centred annular gold dot. The outer pentagonal compartments are filled with five-armed swastika-like forms. The perimeter compartments are filled with gold dots.

The corners of the inner panel are delineated by two intersecting semi-circular double fillets, creating a corner void left untooled except for a single median fillet. The two flanking compartments are filled with knotwork with interstitial gold dots.

The perimeter of the inner panel is delineated by a single fillet leaving an untooled band. At its angles are placed single centred annular gold dots from which cross-crescented flocks point inwards.

Although the doublure of this cover has been removed, that of a closely related binding Chester Beatty Library 1465 has survived. This is of particular interest in that included in the black-pressed pattern is the name Majmud.

K. B. Gardner (1963): p. 137, Fig. 4.
M. Weisweiler (1962): Abb. 44, Handschrift 9, Cairo 1964 A.D., Deckeltyp 64; Abb. 40, Handschrift 254, Tubris 1341, Deckeltyp 54; Abb. 41, Handschrift 284, Aleppo 1401, Deckeltyp 56.

52. detail of doublure of Chester Beatty Library MS 1465
The envelope flap of a bookbinding, exterior covering brown leather (goat) over paper pastboards; blind and gold tooling; doublets block-pressed leather (sheep).

Height 383mm
Osiris Institute A1235
Dr. B. Moret
Egypt/Syria, 14th-15th century A.D.

Colour Plate 3

Envelope Flap The inner and outer frames are defined by multiple fillets. The outer frame has a running pattern of impressions of a square format single-axis stamp forming alternately inverted cordiform scrolls issuing from, and enfolding, small three-sepalled calices. The continuous pattern intended with this stamp design is not realised as the individual impressions are not perfectly contiguous.

The inner frame is composed of a running pattern of impressions of an X-shaped stamp with gold dots placed between them.

The point of the flap is occupied by a large rounded defined by a double fillet. Its inner field has a splendid six-pointed star which is a section of a pattern of infinite extension based on hexagons and overlapping equilateral triangles. These elements are outlined by double fillets. The central hexagon and the sections of hexagons are filled with impressions of a six-petalled rosette stamp. The inner hexagon is centred by a cluster of six small gold dots around a central one and the part hexagon compartments are centred by clusters of three gold dots. The small rhombus formed by the overlapping of the triangular elements of the pattern are untooled except for a central gold dot. The remaining areas of the triangles are filled with a mass of gold dots.

The corners of the panels flanking the rounded are demarcated by double fillets of sickle shape forming three compartments. The corner compartment has an additional outlining double fillet and is filled with gold dots. Those on either side are untooled but for a central lozenge-shaped cluster of four gold dots. The perimeter of these panels is delineated by a single fillet which leaves a continuous band of untooled leather enclosing both the rounded and its adjacent panels.

Doublet The doublet has a block-pressed pattern of an overall geometric interlace, of rather imprecise construction, of extended hexagons and pentagons. The compartments formed by the overlapping of these basic forms are centred by a dot.

G. Bosch, (1532); pp. 130, 132, 134, 136, 147; Pls. XXXII & XXVI, J. Micheltet, (1922); pp. 14, 15.
D. Minor, (1937); p. 30, No. 65.

This case is a later assemblage of three cover fragments from different books.

Linen Cover This cover seems to be from the same workshop as that of the upper cover of Islamic Museum East Berlin 1,855 which has similar tooling (this is also part of a later Islamic bookcover made from parts of dismembered covers).

The original frame is obscured by the