The envelope flap of a bookbinding: exterior covering brown leather (quilt) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doublures block-pressed leather (sheep).

Height 355mm
Oriental Institute A21354
Dr. B. Mortiz
Egypt/Syria, 16th-17th century A.D.

Colour Plate I

Envelope Flap. The inner and outer frames are defined by multiple fillits. 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-repelled 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 fillit. 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 fillits. 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 rhombs 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 fillits of sickle shape forming three compartments. The corner compartment has an additional outlining double fillit and is filled with gold dots. Those on either side are untooled but for a central lezzena-shaped cluster of four gold dots. The perimeter of these panels is delineated by a single fillit which leaves a continuous band of untooled leather enclosing both the rounded and its adjacent panels.

Doublure. The doublure 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. Borch. (1952), pp. 130, 132, 134, 136, 147; Pls. XXIII & XXVI.

A bookcover: exterior covering brown leather over paper pasteboards; upper cover blind tooling, gold tooling, gold paint; lower cover blind tooling, gold tooling; envelope flap blind tooling, gold paint.

Islamic Museum East Berlin 1.853
Dr. B. Mortiz

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

Lower 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 disembodied covers).

The original frame is obscured by the
leather of the latter casing which has a simple border tooling of fillets. The inner panel is centred by a scalloped medallion with a double outline of which the outer scalloped curves are shallower. From their spandrels radiate flecks based in gold dots. The scalloped compartments are filled with arcs and dots. The central roundel is ringed by a band defined by fillets and its inner field occupied by a hexagram based on a central six-pointed star. This star and the compartments on the periphery of the hexagram are filled with gold dots. The star has an additional emphasizing fillet outline. The arms of the hexagram are filled with arcs and centred by clusters of four gold dots.

On the vertical axis above and below the central medallion are lozenges formed by hatched X-shaped stamps with interstitial gold dots and radiating flecks. The simple triangular corners are demarcated by two rows of multiple fillets and each contain a cluster of three gold dots. A single blind fillet with flecks based on gold dots at its angles marks the perimeter of the inner panel, leaving an untooled band.

Upper Cover and Envelope Flap: The upper cover and envelope flap are described as Catalogue No. 69.

55 A bookcover: exterior covering brown leather (goat) over paper pastesboards; blind and gold tooling; double edges green block-pressed leather (sheep).

238 × 177mm
Oriental Institute A1210B
Dr. B. Mortiz
Egypt/Syria, 3rd century A.D.
marcating the corners continues around the outer confines of the inner panel forming an uncutted band. At its corners, clusters of four gold dots with a radiating fleck are placed, alternating with a six-lobe rosette from which radiates a fleck based in a gold dot.

Envelope flap The envelope flap has inner and outer frames at head, tail, and spine tooted in the same way as the corresponding areas of the upper and lower covers. The focal point of the envelope flap is a roundel, of smaller radius than those in the centre of the upper and lower covers, enclosing a hexagram interface of similar construction. Its centre six-pointed star and flanking compartments are filled with gold dots, and the hexagram compartments with six-lobe rosettes with central clusters of four gold dots. The fields adjacent to the roundel are outlined as for the inner main panel of the upper and lower covers, with the fillets tooled in such a way as to emphasize the layout of the flap by leaving a band of untooled leather which continues to include the periphery of the roundel. These fields are filled with the same bradwork stamp and interstitial gold dots as the outer frames of the upper and lower covers.

Doublure The doublures are of block-pressed leather with a dense bisymmetrical arabesque pattern. Its module is based on an eight-pointed star around which an eight-pointed star interface develops into a larger eight-petalled flower with alternating extensions of unfolding inner petals. This lies against a bed of leafy twisted vine scrolls. The plant forms alternating with the points of the main flower are based on calices formed by two addorsed split calices with indentations along their outer edges. These contain vine and leaf plant fillings that continue to terminate in interlocking leaves.

G. Borch, (1932); pp. 132, 133, 144, 167, 217, 218
M. Weissweiler, (1962); Abb. 41, Handschrift 264, Aleppo, 1403 A.D., Decelles 56.

66, detail

56. doublet

The lower cover, fore-edge flap and envelope flap of a bookbinding; exterior covering light brown leather (goat) over paper pastedboards; blind toothing and gold inlays; doublure light brown leather (goat); blind toothing.

248mm x 158mm
Ornamental Institute A1212
Dr. B. Moritz: Egypto-Syria, late 14th-15th century A.D.

This binding fragment has coarse leather patch repairs at head and tail of the fore-edge flap area and at the tail of the lower cover.

Lower cover The lower cover is edged by multiple fillets bordering a frame of a guilloche pattern formed by interlocking reverse S-shaped stamps. The inner edge of this frame is defined by multiple fillets which also outline the inner panel.

At the centre of the inner panel is a large medallion. It has a looped scalloped double outline with flecks radiating from the loops and spandrels of the scallops. On the vertical axis the outline forms ovial points which develop into two-tiered three-segmented calices. The callopc compartments are filled with hatched arcs and dots. The centre roundel is filled by a thin band within which is a tripartite fillet in a radiance formation. The inner field of the roundel is occupied by a six-pointed star overlapping a hexagram. The points of the latter touch the inner circumference of the roundel. These forms are defined by tripartite fillets. The centre compartment and the outer compartments of the hexagram are tooled with quadruple ovoids formed of hatched arcs with interstitial and flanking dots. The points of the small inner star formed towards the centre of the hexagram and those of the larger star are left untooled.

Fore-edge flap Large areas of the fore-edge flap at head and tail are obscured by leather repairs. It appears that the flap is divided into four rectangular panels defined by multiple fillets with a horizontal row of guilloche tooled using interlocking reverse S-shaped stamps. At the centre of each panel is a lozenge-shaped knot of hatched bars, arcs and dots with flecks projecting along the horizontal and vertical axes. The corners are tooled with a triangular disposition of three hatched bars with interstitial dots.

Envelope flap The borders of the envelope flap at head, tail, and fore-edge, and the corners and defining lines of its inner panel, are tooled similarly to the corresponding areas of the lower cover. At the point of the flap is a small looped scalloped medallion, similar in its components to that of the lower cover, but with a simpler inner field. This is tooled with a small hexagon, formed by tripartite fillets, whose centre compartment has a single dot and its outer ones groups of five dots.

The outline of the medallion has a truncated single-calyx version of the finish of the lower cover medallion. This is situated on the horizontal axis pointing towards the fore-edge.

Doublure (Lower Cover) The doublures lining the inner parts of this casing are of the same leather and have the same decorative status as the outer covers (cf. 27). That of the lower cover has a frame, defined by multiple fillets, with a running pattern of a square format single-axis tooled forming linked knots of hatched braids.

The inner panel has a central medallion of finely-scalloped outline. These scallops are hatched arc stamps centred by dots. From between them flecks project. The inner roundel is defined by a tripartite fillet in a radiance formation. It is occupied by a hexagram, based on a small six-pointed star, which extends into a larger six-pointed star whose points are truncated by the outlining ring of the roundel. These are drawn with tripartite fillets. The central star has an additional tripartite outlining fil-
let. It is tooled with a mass of gold dots. The compartments of the hexagram and its star extension are tooled with quadruple ovoids formed of hatched arcs with interstitial and flanking dots. The small compartments between the outer star and the roundel outline are tooled with gold dots.

Above and below the medallion on the vertical axis are placed small lozenges of quadruple ovoids. They are formed of hatched arcs whose centres are gold dotted. Flecks project on their horizontal and vertical axes.

The triangular corners are demarcated by two rows of tripartite fillets and contain three impressions of the hatched arc tool.

The perimeter of the inner field is delineated by a single fillet with flecks based on gold dots pointing towards its angles.

Doubliure (Fore-edge Flap) The head and tail of the fore-edge flap doubliure are obscured by leather repairs. There may be under this layer framing bands similar to the frames of the corresponding areas of the lower cover and fore-edge flap. There is sufficient space. The rest of this doubliure is divided into four panels defined by tripartite fillets. The inner compartment within each panel is additionally outlined by a single fillet. At the centre is a small lozenge of quadruple ovoids formed of hatched arcs with gold dots at their centres. The corners are marked by a single hatched arc tool with a single gold dot.

Doubliure (Envelope Flap) The borders of the envelope flap doubliure 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 lower cover. At the point of the flap is a medallion which is a simplified version of those on the exterior of the lower cover and envelope flap. At the centre of the roundel is a...
six-pointed star whose inner compartment is tooled with gold dots and whose points have single gold dots. The small compartments along the perimeter of the star have single impressions of the hatched arc stamp. The loops of the scallops outlining the medallion are punctuated by single gold dots. A group of three gold dots fills the stem of the final. This is a single-sepaled calyx, based on a bar-shaped vestigial ring, and pointing towards the fore-edge on the horizontal axis.

G. Bosc, (1952); pp. 116, 122, 127, 129-130, 144. Pl. XXI & XXII.

57 The upper cover of a bookbinding. Exterior covering brown leather (gasti) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooled; double salmon-pink silk tabby.

560mm x 390mm
Oriental Institute AI2171
Dr. B. Moritz
Magdeburg, 15th century A.D.

Upper Cover A broad burnished band edges the frame whose field merges with that of the corners of the inner panel. The frame and corners are filled with a rich, dense, and carefully tooled knotwork with a pronounced diagonal grid constructed with hatched bars, arcs and dots. The inner edge of the frame/corners is defined by a trapezoidal fillet.

At the centre of the inner panel is a motif, outlined by trapezoidal fillets, based on the geometry of a Solomon’s seal (of two overlapping squares) with circles at its angles. The points are marked by clusters of three large gold centred annular dots with single radiating flecks. The inner field is a continuation of the knotwork field of the frame and corners and is centred by a large gold centred annular dot.

The corners can be conceived as square forms (the guiding scribed outlines can be seen) impinged on by semi-circular extensions of the granular field of the inner panel so as to form inward-pointing arrow-like forms. These points are stressed by clusters of three large gold centred annular dots. The centres of the semi-circular intrusions are marked by similar dots.

G. Bosc, (1952); pp. 114, 116, 117, 118, 124, 126, 133, 146, 149; PI. XXXVIII.
R. Eit inghausen, (1959); p. 123; PI. 5.
D. Minar, (1957); p. 26. PI. XVI, No. 54.

57. detail
58 A book cover: exterior covering brown leather (goat) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooled; doublets block-pressed leather (sheep).  
267mm x 186mm  
Oriental Institute A13118  
Dr. B. Mortiz  
Magdeburg, 15th century A.D.  
Colour plates G. H.  
Upper and Lower Covers and Envelope Flap  The lower and upper covers and envelope flap have the same decorative schemes. In the envelope flap, the pointed shape of the envelope flap cuts into the full design. The spine and fore-edge flap are untooled.

59 A cover of a bookbinding: exterior covering brown leather (goat); blind tooled, gold tooled.  
250mm x 160mm (original dimensions c. 255mm x 170mm)  
Chester Beatty Library Mortiz Collection 17  
Dr. B. Mortiz  
Magdeburg, 16th century A.D.  
Islamic Museum East Berlin I.854 may be the other cover of this bookbinding. Only the exterior leather of this cover survives, the pasteboards and doublets having been removed. It has a running border, defined by tripartite fillets, of impressions of a rectangular format single-axis stamp depicting two opposed three-segmented circles sharing a central sepulchre. The outer separations of each calyx are of different shape, a spiraled volute in one case and a flattened one in the other.

A further broad tripartite fillet defines the inner panel which has at its centre a strapwork octogram formed by tripartite fillets and enclosing an eight-pointed star at its centre. Its compartments are filled with impressions of a square format two-axis stamp depicting a small trefid issuing from, and coiled in, a heart-shaped scroll with pairs of leaves projecting from its upper part.

The corner outlines are marked by tripartite fillets and are filled with impressions of the same stamps as fill the centre octogram. They can be conceived as square panels whose field is impinged on by semi-circular extensions of the untooled inner panel so as to create an arrow-shaped form. A single gold dot is placed at the centre of these semi-circular intrusions.
The upper cover of a bookbinding; exterior covering brown leather (gilt) over paper pasteboards; blind and gold tooling; doublures block-pressed leather (sheep).

236mm x 172mm
Oriental Institute A12143
Dr. B. Moritz
Maghrib, 15th century A.D.

Upper Cover A broad burnished band edges a running frame of blind impressions of a rectangular format single-axis tool depicting alternately inverted cor- dieform scrolls issuing from the bases of small trilobed calices which they en- fold. The inner edge of the frame is de- fined by multiple fillets.

At the centre of the inner panel is a large roundel whose encircling band, defined by tripartite fillets, becomes within an interface based on a Solo- mon's seal, the sides of whose squares are the extensions of an octagon defining an eight-pointed star at its centre. Its compartments are filled with knots of hatched bars, arcs and central dots. The latter fill those areas of the compartments not filled with the knotwork. A single large gold tooled annular dot is placed at the centre of the roundel.

The corners are demarcated by tri- partite fillets and are filled with knotwork. They can be conceived as square panels whose field is impinged on by semi-circular extensions of the un- tooled inner panel so as to create an arrow-shaped form. The corners are marked by a large gold annular dot. A single such dot is placed at the centre of the semi-circular intrusions into the corner panels and clusters of three dots at the points of the arrows so formed.

Doublures This and 74 are the only dou- blures in the collection assembled by Moritz with the block-pressed design cut in the block not in intaglio. Though the design is symmetrical in two axes, one is dominant. The stems of double- based three-sepalied split calices cross as lozenges at the centre of the design. Their tips become spirals. Small three- sepaled split calices or three-lobed leaves overlap into the spirals. The loz-