Bound by Tradition

New ways and old paths in Yemeni bookbinding workshops between 19th and 20th centuries

Claudia Colini, Marco Di Bella, Marcella Rubino
Experiences and objects

Claudia Colini: Survey of Islamic Manuscripts in the Oriental Section of the Library of Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei e Corsiniana (BANLC), Rome, Italy

30 Yemeni MSS with a 19th-20th c. binding

Marcella Rubino: PhD thesis on the craft of bookbinding in Yemen at the beginning of the 21st century

Bookbinders’ interviews and videos, original works

Marco Di Bella: Fieldwork at the Dār al-Maḥṭūṭāt (DaM), Ṣana‘ā’, Yemen

66 detached bindings no link to the original MSS
“Traditional”

Simplified “traditional”

“Fashionable”

MS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 301, 1909 C.E.

MS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 305, 1788-95 C.E. (?)

MS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 357, 1929-32 C.E.

MS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 78a, 1850 C.E.
“Traditional” Bindings “Fashionable”

Simplified “traditional”

Cheaper and modern materials

Faster techniques

MS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 357, 1929-32 C.E.

MS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 301, 1909 C.E.

MSS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 360 and 356, 1929-32 C.E.

Claudia Colini – COMSt – Looking back, looking ahead – Hamburg 26.09.16
Contemporary bindings

Simplified “traditional”
Aknowledgment

- Biblioteca dell’Accademia dei Lincei e Corsiniana
- Dār al-Maḥṭūṭāт
- as-Sirağī brothers
- Mahfudh brothers


claudia.colini@studium-uni.hamburg.de