

B o u n d b y T r a d i t i o n

*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

66 detached bindings
no link to the original MSS



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

Bindings

“Traditional”

“Fashionable”

Simplified “traditional”



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

MS. Rome, BANLC,
Or. 78a, 1850 C.E.



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



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



MS. Rome, BANLC,
Or. 371, 1825 C.E.

Şana'ā', DaM,
b.51, unknown

MS. Rome, BANLC,
Or. 330, 1867 C.E.

MS. Rome, BANLC,
Or. 351, undated

Şana'ā', DaM,
b.34, unknown

Şana'ā', DaM,
b.51, unknown

MS. Rome, BANLC,
Or. 350, 1869 C.E.



“Traditional”



Bindings

“Fashionable”



Simplified “traditional”

Cheaper and modern materials

Faster techniques

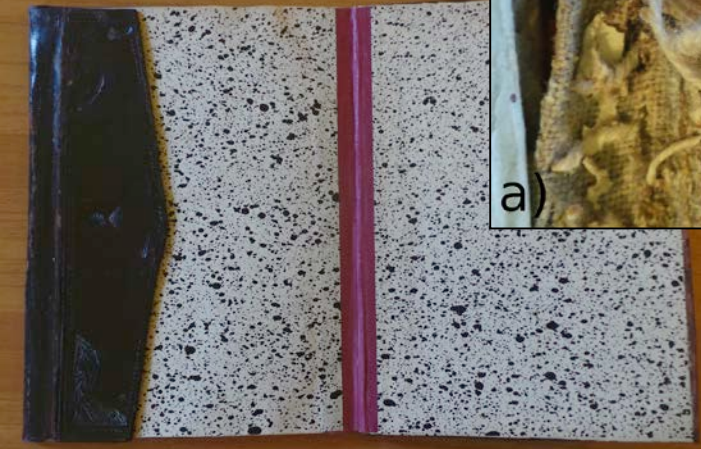
MS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 357, 1929-32 C.E.

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



a)

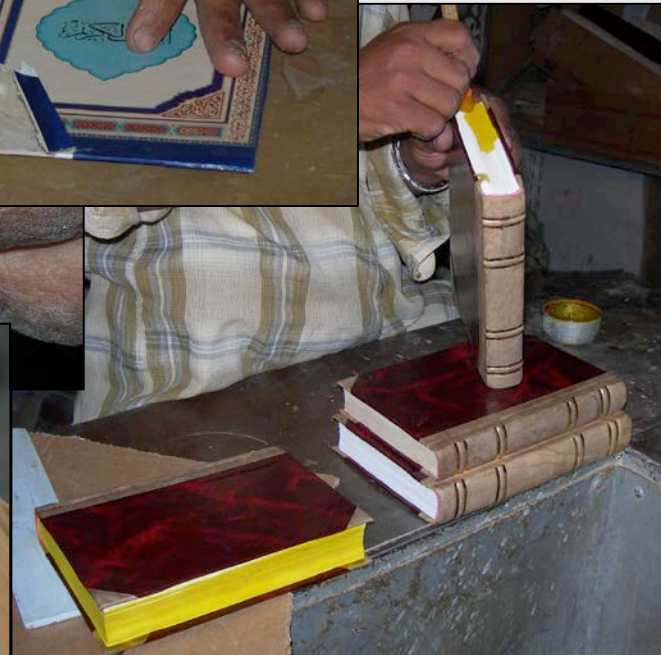
MSS. Rome, BANLC, Or. 360 and 356, 1929-32 C.E.



“Traditional”

Contemporary bindings

“Fashionable”





Aknowledgment

- Biblioteca dell'Accademia dei Lincei e Corsiniana
- Dār al-Maḥṭūṭāt
- as-Siraḡī brothers
- Mahfudh brothers

C. Colini, M. Di Bella, M. Rubino, “Bound by tradition. New ways and old path in Yemeni bookbinding workshops between 19th and 20th centuries” in *Chroniques du manuscrit au Yémen*, n. 20, Juliet 2014, 38-63

claudia.colini@studium-uni.hamburg.de