

Lesser Known Features of the Ethiopian Codex

18th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies

Dire Dawa, 30 October – 2 November 2012

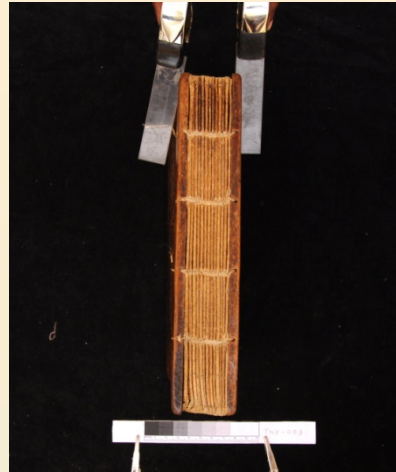
Session 7.02. „Restoration“

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Ethiopian bindings: two wooden boards, two pairs of sewing stations



TNY-003, 30 x 26.5 x 7



TNY-037, 15 x 9.7 x 4

Ethiopian sewing and board attachment

a-b) Disposition of the holes in the boards, anchoring of the thread

c) Ethiopian link-stitch sewing: one thread, two needles

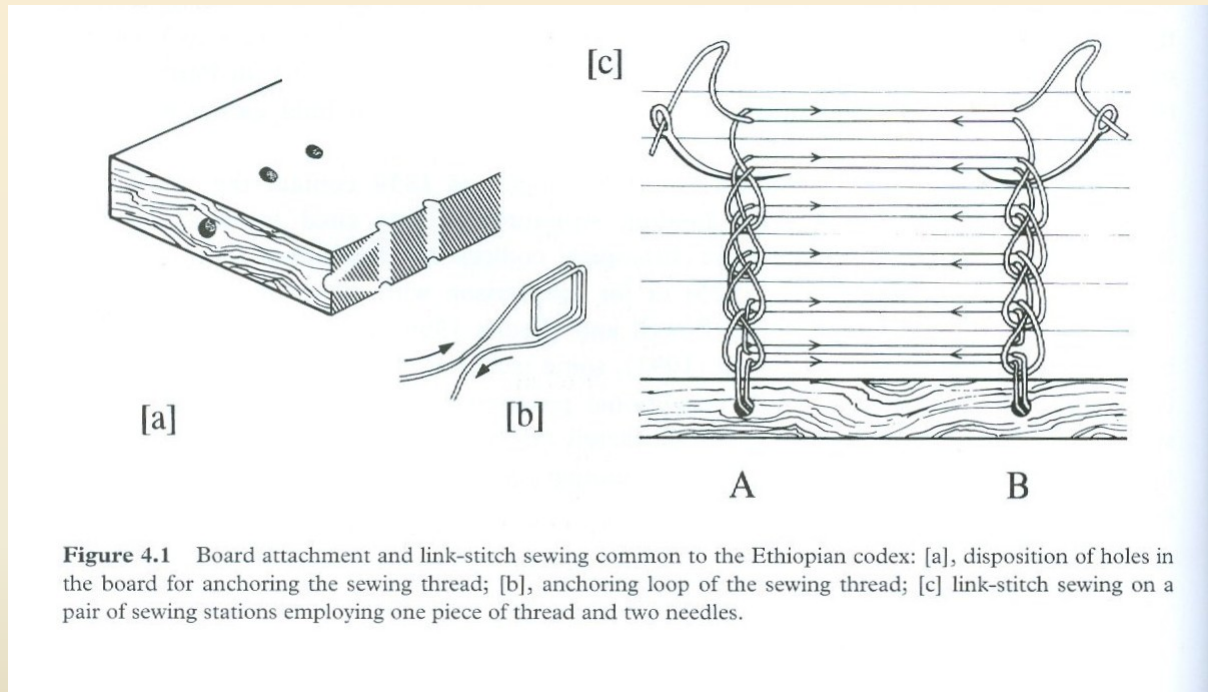


Figure 4.1 Board attachment and link-stitch sewing common to the Ethiopian codex: [a], disposition of holes in the board for anchoring the sewing thread; [b], anchoring loop of the sewing thread; [c] link-stitch sewing on a pair of sewing stations employing one piece of thread and two needles.

After: J.A. Szirmai, *The Archaeology of Medieval Bookbinding*, Farham: Ashgate 1999, 46, fig. 4.1

Ethiopian sewing and board attachment

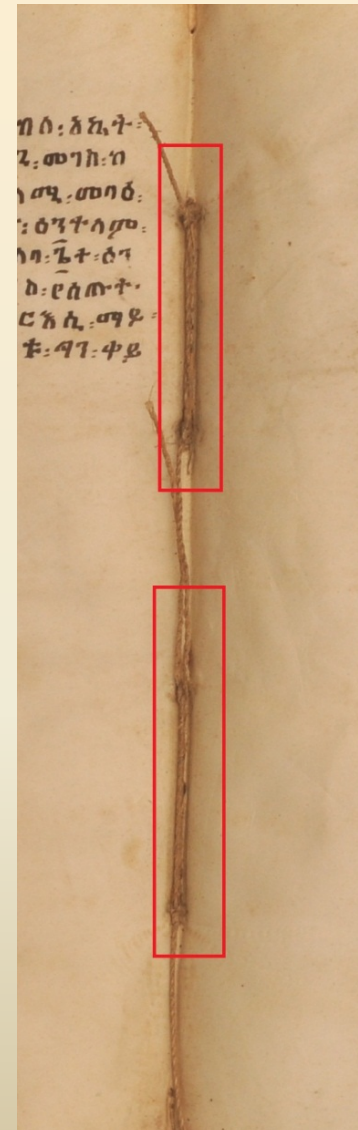


a) Ethiopian sewing:
chain of linked stitches

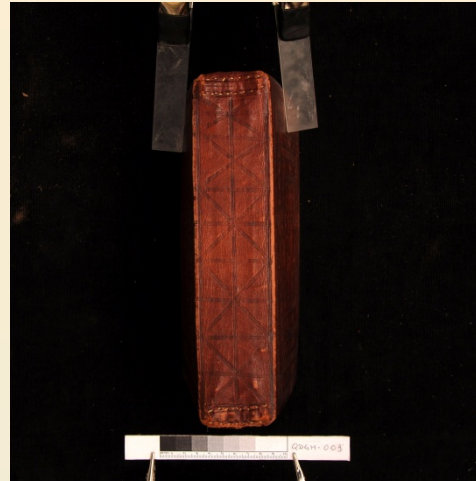


b) Board attachment:
threads led through the
sets of holes

b) Sewing threads
knotted in the middle of
the endleaf quire

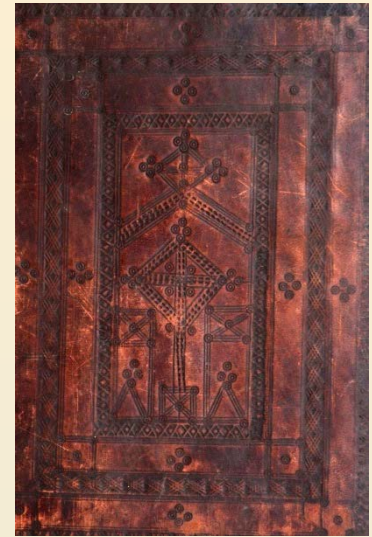


Ethiopian bindings: two wooden boards covered by blind-tooled leather



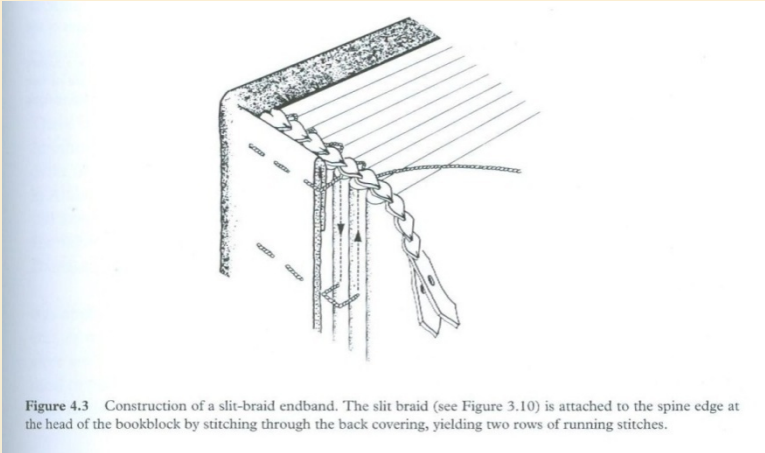
**QDGM-009: Commentaries of
John Chrysostom on Pauline
Epistles,**
27.5 x 23 x 7.5, 144 fols.,
19th cent.

Ethiopian bindings: blind-tooled ornament on leather cover



**18th - 19th-cent. books from the
monastery Qäqäma Maryam
(Dägʿa Tämben, Central Təgray)**

Structure of the Ethiopian endband



a) After: J.A. Szirmai, *The Archaeology of Medieval Bookbinding*, Farham: Ashgate 1999, 49.

b) Endband sewing almost intact

c) Two colour slit-braid endband



Big textblocks

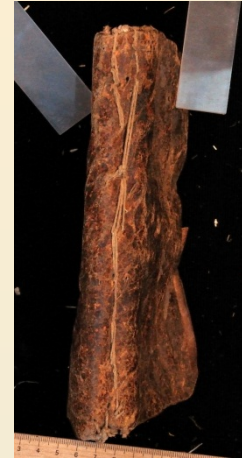


a) UM-027: Four Gospels,
29 x 20 x 13, 263 fols., 35 quires,
late 14th/early 15th cent.

b) QSM-017: Miracles of Mary,
21 x 20 x 10, 265 fols., 33 quires,
1721-35



Leather boards



MY-021: Missal,
22.5 x 14 x 3, 35 fols.,
18th/19th cent. (?)

Leather boards

MHG-009: Hymnary, 19 x 17 x 4, 128 fols., 18th cent.



MAKM-011: Collection of Prayers, 19 x 17 x 7, 190 fols., 18th cent.



Leather boards: concavity of the spine



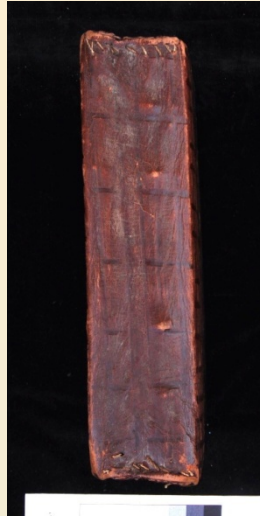
MAKM-011

Overback



THMR-001, Acts of Täklä Haymanot,
20.2 x 19.2 x 7, 172 fols., 1682 A.D.
Overback and its turn-ins
on the inner face of
the upper board.

Overback



HMM-001, Four Gospels,
32.7 x 29.5 x 7.5, 154 fols.,
1721-30 A.D.

Boards covered by reddish-brown tooled leather, and tooled overback.

Leaves of protective quires as pastedowns (fly-leaves)



MY-004: Four Gospels,
30 x 20.5 x 6, 144 fols.,
early 14th cent.

UM-027: Four Gospels,
29 x 20 x 13, 263 fols.,
late 14th/early 15th cent.



Leaves of protective quires as pastedowns (fly-leaves)



AMQ-004: Book of the Rite of the Passion Week, 44 x 32 x 11, 158 fols., 16th cent.

Protective quire (binion) before the upper board; traces of adhesive on the verso-side (a), remains of turn-ins on the recto-side (b)

Leaves of protective quires as pastedowns (end-leaves)



a)



b)

AMQ-004: Book of the Rite of the Passion Week,

44 x 32 x 11, 158 fols., 16th cent.

Protective quire (remains of a binion?)

before the lower board;

a) remains of turn-ins on the recto-side;

b) remains of adhesive on the verso side.

Parchment guards



a)



b)



c)



d)

Parchment guards in ʾĒnda ʾAbba Gärīma Gospel book



After: *Ethiopian Church: Treasures and Faith*, coordinated by J. Mercier - Daniel Seyfemikael, Apt: L'Archange Minotaure 2009, 110.

Codex reinforced by parchment guards



EMQ-004: The Book of Ḥawi,
33 x 25.8 x 20.5, 438 fols.,
Late 16th cent. (?)

