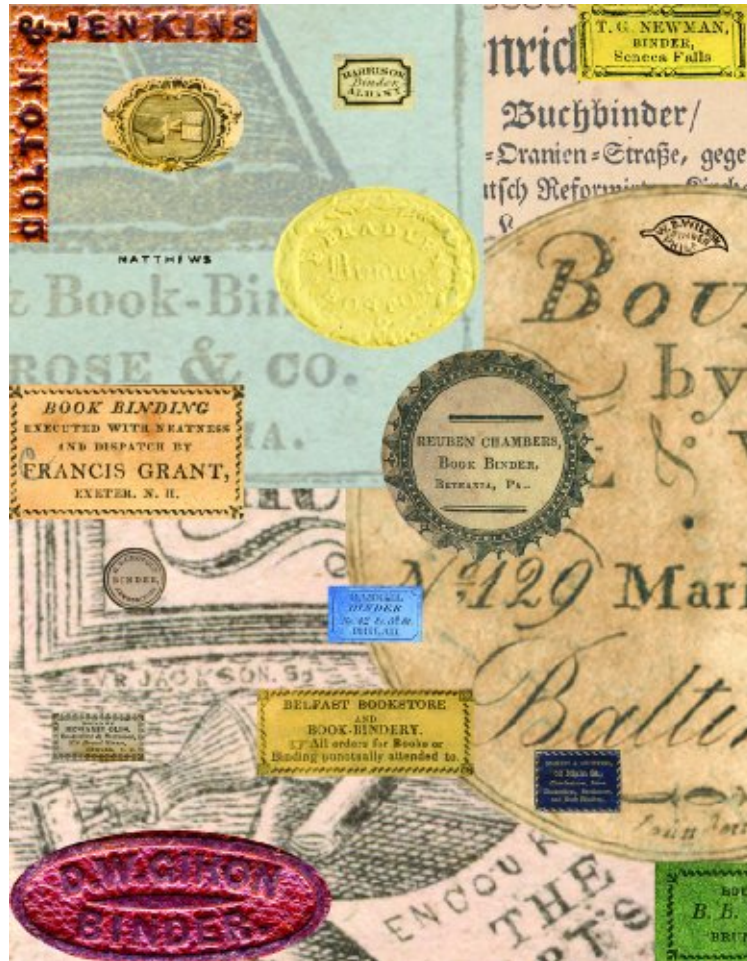


American Signed Bindings Through 1876

Willman Spawn, Thomas E. Kinsella

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Willman Spawn, Thomas E. Kinsella : American Signed Bindings Through 1876 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Signed Bindings Through 1876:

First edition. In this the first major study of American signed bookbindings, Willman Spawn and Thomas E. Kinsella describe and illustrate 315 bookbinder's tickets, stamps, and engraved designations dating from the 1750s through 1876. The details of the study reveal a vibrant segment of the book trade, deeply enmeshed with the related trades of booksellers, stationers and publishers. Two hundred and thirty-three binders are represented, many with multiple designations. Locations of binders cluster up and down the east coast from Maine to Virginia, with tickets as far south as New Orleans and as far west as Little Rock. The study identifies binders from 19 states and 84 cities and towns. Brief descriptions of bindings are provided, along with explanatory notes for many binders, especially in the binding

centers of Boston, New York and Philadelphia. The strength of the study is in its attention to nineteenth-century trade binders such as Benjamin Bradley and Peter Low of Boston, George W. Alexander and Colton Jenkins of New York, and Benjamin Gaskill and Joseph T. Altemus of Philadelphia. The volume has two introductory essays and is well-indexed. Co-published with Bryn Mawr College Library.

About the AuthorSpawn, a retired conservator at the American Philosophical Society, has written numerous articles on early American bookbinding. Since 1985 he has served as honorary Curator of Bookbindings at Bryn Mawr College where he has helped to build the splendid collection of signed bindings described here. Kinsella is the Associate Professor of British Literature at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. He has written on Samuel Johnson and James Boswell, among other subjects, and, for the past 20 years, has collaborated with Spawn researching the history of bookbinding.