



*BOOKS*

*ARTS*

*TERMINOLOGY*



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THE HANDMADE BOOK CLUB



**Book Block** - see Text Block

**Codex**—A book composed of gathered and sewn sheets. Derived from the Latin caudex (lit. "trunk of a tree") referring to a book of laws composed of wooden wax covered tablets .

**Colophon**—Section of a book containing information about the printing process and material elements of the book (such as the typeface, paper or press name). Can be at the front or back of book.

**Deckle**—The soft feathery edge of a sheet of paper.

**Edition**—A collection of copies of a book printed from the same press run, plates or set type.

**End Sheet**—The folios at the front and back of a book. Are sometimes decorative.

**Folio**—A sheet of paper folded in half.

**Fly Leaf**—The page on the endsheet folio that is not adhered to the book's cover.

**Fore Edge**—The front edge of the book where it opens (opposite the spine).

**Grain**—The orientation of the fibers of paper, cloth, or board.

**Grain Long**—When the grain runs parallel to the longest dimension of a piece of paper, cloth or board.

**Grain Short**—When the grain runs parallel to the shortest dimension of a piece of paper, cloth or board.

**Gutter**—The inner margin of the leaves in an open book.

**Head**—The top edge of a book, including the cover and text block.

**Headband**—A fabric band, often decoratively colored, that is attached to the head and foot of the spine. Adds strength and conceals any glue and thread that may be visible.

**Joint**—The hinge where the book cover meets the spine.

**Methyl Cellulose**—A synthetic adhesive additive used to slow the drying time of PVA. Has weak adhesive properties, is reversible.

**Page**—Half of a leaf.

**Paste**—Adhesive made from cooking starches in water. Has slow drying time, not as strong as PVA, is reversible (appropriate for conservation applications), can mold, is attractive to pests.

**Paste-down**—The page of an endsheet folio that is adhered to a book's case.

**Plough** - Traditional bookbinding tool that has a sharp blade that shaves off the edge of books.

**PVA**(polyvinyl acetate)—A synthetic adhesive composed of polymer particles. Is quick drying, strong, flexible when dry, not reversible, not appropriate for conservation work.

**Recto**—In an open book, the recto is on the right hand side.

**Section**—A group of folios that may or may not contain printing (also called a gathering).

**Signature**—A group of folios (section) that has been printed.

**Spine**—The back edge of a book, the part that is visible when the book is shelved.

**Square**—The distance between the edge of the text block and the cover.

**Swell**—Bulk added to the spine side of the text block caused by sewing/thread.

**Tail**—The bottom edge of a book, including the cover and text block.

**Text Block**—The “body” of the book composed of signatures or sections, can be printed or blank.

**Turn-in**—Where a covering (cloth, leather or paper) is folded around the edge of the cover boards to the inside of the book.

**Verso**—In an open book, the verso is on the left hand side.

