

# The Henry Davis Gift: A Collection of Bookbindings

*Mirjam M. Foot*

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**Mirjam M. Foot : The Henry Davis Gift: A Collection of Bookbindings** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Henry Davis Gift: A Collection of Bookbindings:

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nearly 160 Italian bindings Bindings are usually attributed to binders or binders workshops on the basis of decorative tools or groups of decorative tools. Archival research has added new insight both into attribution of bindings but also into how Bookbinding workshops functioned Mirjam Foot has made significant contributions in this area The format tends to be one half page binding illustration with a high quality BW photo. The entry is 1--2 pages The binding is described then the Provenance is given followed by the literature There is a section called compare that notes similar bindings on other collections or offered at auction -- Sotheby's , Christies etc This is followed by a section called notes where the author adds interesting information don't fit into the other sections There are a variety of books on bookbinding Some are essential and worth picking up while you can afford them. Once copies become rare their prices get high and in some cases very high. This catalogue and the others in the set are very well worth getting while the prices are low Books that contain over 200 French Bindings and nearly 200 Italian bindings of high quality in one volume are rare Twelve Centuries of Bookbindings, 400-1600 (A Pierpont Morgan Library Book) The hardback version of this excellent catalogue is \$250 Sixteenth-century gold-tooled bookbindings in the Pierpont Morgan Library. The hardback version on are around \$300 Another great Pierpont Morgan Bookbinding exhibition The author was Marijam Foot's mentor and she succeeded him at the British Library Yes you cannot tell if the book is going to remain cheap or continue to rise in price but on the whole important bookbinding books will rise progressively in price once copies become rare

This much anticipated third and final volume of "Henry Davis Gift" focuses on south and east European fine bindings, with additional sections on Oriental and American bindings. It includes many new identifications, and owners and binders are discussed comprehensively. Not only have the decorative features of every binding been described and illustrated, details of structure have also been described and consequently, it is now possible to compare and contrast bookbinders' practices in the various countries, as evident from this splendid collection of fine bindings.