

Full Immersive Course on 16th Century Archival/Stationery Bindings

Tutor: Giovanni Pagani

Course fee: € 800 (8 full days lessons, 2 archives / museums visits, materials and workshop tools and equipment)

Basic accommodation from 1st to 15th September: € 300

Language of instruction: English

2nd – 13th September 2019

Archival bindings, within the wide world of historical book structures, are very unique, and must be carefully analysed to be fully understood. Their creation and use are very different: they were 'living' structures, meant to grow (letters, new sections and parts added along many years), and not born as distinct defined codicological units like printed books. This peculiar nature has inevitably deeply influenced the craftsmanship of their making. Therefore, the conservation of those book structures requires an in depth understanding of their physical features and a specific knowledge essential when performing treatments that must be respectful and conservation based.

The course, designed with a strong hands-on, practical approach, will explore, through the making facsimiles of historical archival examples, the features of 16th century leather archival bindings. The course will focus on each specific and unique structural feature, such as sewing, 'tacketing', 'overbands/straps', always analysing possible variations and the reasoning behind the use of different materials and techniques. The workshop will help participants to become familiar with a unique and peculiar set of binding terminology.

The course will be implemented by guided tours to the Recanati Diocese Archive and the Archive of the Holy House in Loreto during which the students will be able to examine original historical examples of archival bindings.

Week one:

September 2nd, 3rd: practical/theoretical lessons in the workshop

September 4th: visit to the Archive of Holy House in Loreto and Basilica

September 5th, 6th: practical/theoretical lessons in the workshop

Free weekend or possible organised trip to nearby places of historical interest, details will follow.

Week two:

September 9th / 10th: conservation treatment shadowing in the workshop

September 11th: visit to the Diocese Archive of Recanati and Museums.

September 12th / 13th: conservation treatment shadowing in the workshop