

An introductory workshop to
Book-binding and Paper-marbling
Siracusa, Italy
Saturday 7th - Saturday 14th October 2017

Programme - 8 days/7 nights
Number of participants - 15 (max)
Programme Fee per Participant - €850
Dates 7th - 14th October 2017
Application Deadline: 4th August 2017
Course will be conducted in English



Open to all who love beautiful books and bindings, this workshop will give participants first-hand knowledge and experience of making their own marbled paper and creating a book based on a 12th-century English Limp Tawed Skin Binding.

Under the expert guidance of **Kate Brett** of Payhembury Marbled Papers, Cambridge, participants will first try their hand at trying to reproduce old patterns in the traditional manner, floating water-based paints on a size made from carragheen moss. Then, course tutor **Shaun Thompson**, Collections Care Manager of Cambridge University Library, and expert in medieval bindings, will help participants recreate Manuscript Pembroke 119 (*Alain de Lille, Anticlaudianus*) which has an exceptional contemporary binding with interesting structural features, including a limp covering of alum-tawed skin, stained red. The covering is further edged with a separate piece of alum tawed skin and was formerly fastened with an alum-tawed strap. An examination, by the tutor, of the sewing which attaches the text-block to the cover has revealed a complex structure that has yet to be recorded. The beautifully executed sewing of all of the elements testify to the sophistication of the craftsmanship of the Romanesque period. Processes will include sewing and covering with alum-tawed skin. The skins will be stained red prior to covering using the appropriate materials and techniques. Complementing the practical aspect of the course, the tutor will seek to set the binding into context.

Participants will be given the opportunity to visit the local library and see examples of historic book production in Sicily.

Course tutors

Shaun Thompson is a bench trained bookbinder with twenty-five years' experience. He has worked at Cambridge University Library since 2003. During this time Shaun has taken the opportunity to examine and recreate some of the medieval bindings within the library. He has sought to share his knowledge and skills by teaching a number of practical workshops in the UK and Italy.

Kate Brett of Payhembury Marbled Papers has since 1982 specialises in trying to reproduce some of these old patterns in the traditional manner, floating water-based paints on a size made from carragheen moss. Traditional papers were often highly polished with beeswax and an application of 50% beeswax/50% white spirit on the papers before use is recommended. This enhances the colour as well making them more durable.

Judith Wiesner - After training at the Institute of Art and Restoration in Florence and Camberwell College of Art, she graduated with a distinction in Paper Conservation. In her Suffolk conservation studio, she primarily dealt with books and paper drawings, water colours, prints, documents. Now she lives in Sicily and works in her garden studio, immersed in the quiet of the Sicilian landscape.



This course is held at the Sicily Centre for International Education in Syracuse, Italy in the historic Palazzo Francica Nava at the heart of beautiful Ortigia. This gothic palazzo, rebuilt after the 1693 earthquake in baroque style, has large rooms for classes and workshops, a small library and wifi in all teaching areas. Quiet terraces and a *pensatoio* or 'thinking room' with a beautiful view onto the central square and cathedral of Siracusa provide visitors with pleasant corners in which to read and relax. During their free time, participants will have an opportunity to experience Italian culture as well as enjoying the local cuisine and lifestyle.

Course Outline

Date	Activity	Lecture/Event
Saturday 7th October	Arrival at Catania airport and transfer to Syracuse Welcome Dinner	
Sunday 8th October	10.00 Coffee at SCIE 10.30 Ortigia tour Free by lunchtime	
Monday 9th October	Classes start 9:30 Coffee break Classes continue pm. Optional guided visit to Archaeological park	Paper marbling (KB)
Tuesday 10th October	Classes start 9.30 Coffee break Classes continue	Paper marbling (KB)
Wednesday 11th October	Classes start 9:30 Coffee break Classes continue	Book binding (ST)
Thursday 12th October	Classes start 9:30 Coffee break Classes continue Afternoon visit to the local Library	Book binding (ST)
Friday 13th October	Classes start 9:30 Coffee break Classes continue Farewell Dinner	Book binding (ST)
Saturday 14th October	Transfer to Catania airport and departure	

Course fee includes:

- Collection and transport from Catania airport to Hotel on arrival day
- Transport back to Catania airport from Hotel on departure day
- Full tuition and support with trained and experienced tutors
- Materials for book binding and paper marbling included
- Welcome and Farewell dinners
- Morning coffee/tea breaks
- Certificate of participation
- General liability Insurance
- SCIE Center 24-hour support

Course fee does not include:

- Travel to and from Sicily
- Accommodation (SCIE can recommend B&Bs and hotels at different price levels and can organise booking etc.)
- Meals with the exception of those listed above
- Personal expenses
- Passport or visa fees



For more information, enquiries and booking:

Email: info@sciecenter.org

Telephone: +39 366 190 7984

Application Deadline: 4th August 2017

