

Hidden Treasures

The History and Technique of Fore-edge Painting
by Jeanne Bennett

In *Hidden Treasures: the History and Technique of Fore-edge Painting*, Jeanne Bennett has given us almost three books in one. Bookbinding literature generally falls into one of three categories. There are the catalogs from auction houses, booksellers and institutions that hold exhibits; often richly illustrated. There are technical books describing the techniques, methods, and styles used in binding and decorating books. Third, there are those books that are contextual, presenting us with an historical storyline, helping us to understand bookbinding and its changes over time within a broader social sphere. Rarely do books fall into more than one category as Jeanne Bennett's book does.

In the first several chapters she relates the history of fore-edge decoration from past to present, illustrated generously with examples from simplistic to exceptionally complicated. We stop along the way as Jeanne pays homage to some of the better-known edge decorators. In the main body of the book we learn the techniques of edge decoration, from making and acquiring the tools necessary to marking out the paintings and producing finished work. She includes full directions on how to "hide" the paintings as well as bookbinding instructions on how to make a hardcover binding. We are invited to become edge decorators and are enticed to try our hand by following clearly outlined and well-illustrated steps.

This book is a glimpse of a world of edge decoration we rarely see and experience – a decorative technique which affords great pleasure, pays homage to text or patron, historic or contemporary, and enlivens our interest in the book as the tactile object we all love and cherish.

Sam Ellenport
President, Harcourt Bindery
Master Bookbinder
Bookbinding Historian

Dust jacket designed
by KrazyKat Studio

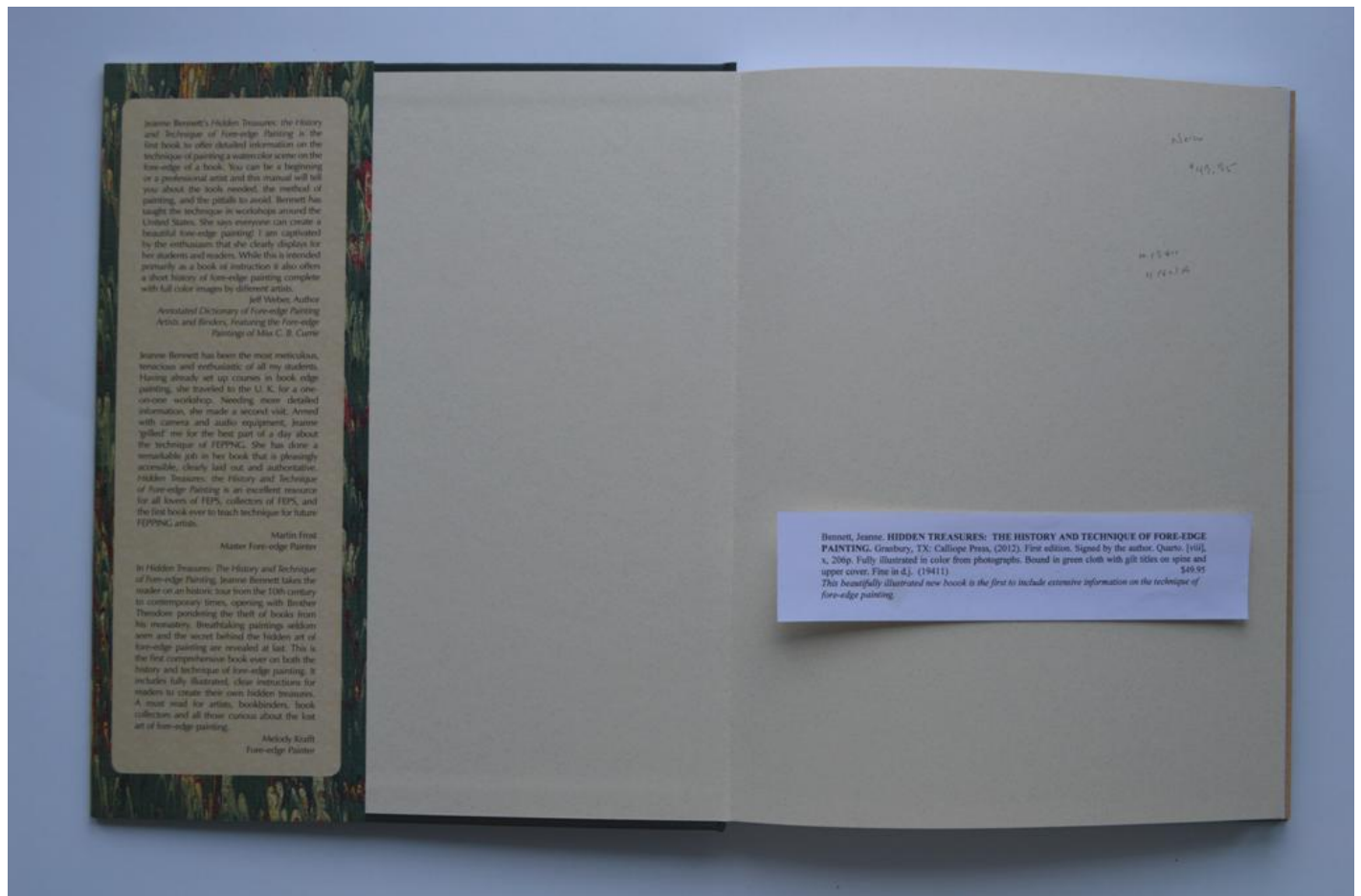
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The History and Technique
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Jeanne Bennett's *Hidden Treasures: the History and Technique of Fore-edge Painting* is the first book to offer detailed information on the technique of painting a watercolor scene on the fore-edge of a book. You can be a beginner or a professional artist and this manual will tell you about the tools needed, the method of painting, and the pitfalls to avoid. Bennett has taught the technique in workshops around the United States. She says everyone can create a beautiful fore-edge painting! I am captivated by the enthusiasm that she clearly displays for her students and readers. While this is intended primarily as a book of instruction it also offers a short history of fore-edge painting complete with full color images by different artists.

Jeff Walker, Author
Revised Dictionary of Fore-edge Painting Artists and Binders, featuring the Fore-edge Paintings of Miss C. B. Carter

Jeanne Bennett has been the most meticulous, tenacious and enthusiastic of all my students. Having already set up courses in book edge painting, she traveled to the U.S. for a one-on-one workshop. Needing more detailed information, she made a second visit. Armed with camera and audio equipment, Jeanne guided me for the best part of a day about the technique of FEPPNG. She has done a remarkable job in her book that is pleasingly accessible, clearly laid out and authoritative. *Hidden Treasures: the History and Technique of Fore-edge Painting* is an excellent resource for all lovers of FEPS, collectors of FEPS, and the first book ever to teach technique for future FEPPNG artists.

Martin Frost
Master Fore-edge Painter

In *Hidden Treasures: The History and Technique of Fore-edge Painting*, Jeanne Bennett takes the reader on an historic tour from the 18th century to contemporary times, opening with Bencher Thomson pondering the theft of books from his inventory. Breathtaking paintings adorn walls and the secret behind the hidden art of fore-edge painting are revealed at last. This is the first comprehensive book ever on both the history and technique of fore-edge painting. It includes fully illustrated, clear instructions for readers to create their own hidden treasures. A must read for artists, bookbinders, book collectors and all those curious about the lost art of fore-edge painting.

Melvyn Kuzil
Fore-edge Painter

Bennett, Jeanne. **HIDDEN TREASURES: THE HISTORY AND TECHNIQUE OF FORE-EDGE PAINTING**. Granbury, TX: Calliope Press, (2012). First edition. Signed by the author. Quarto. [vi], x, 208p. Fully illustrated in color from photographs. Bound in green cloth with gilt titles on spine and upper covers. Fine in d.j. (19411) \$49.95
This beautifully illustrated new book is the first to include extensive information on the technique of fore-edge painting.

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The History and Technique of Fore-edge Painting

Happy Reading!
Jeanne Bennett
by
Jeanne Bennett



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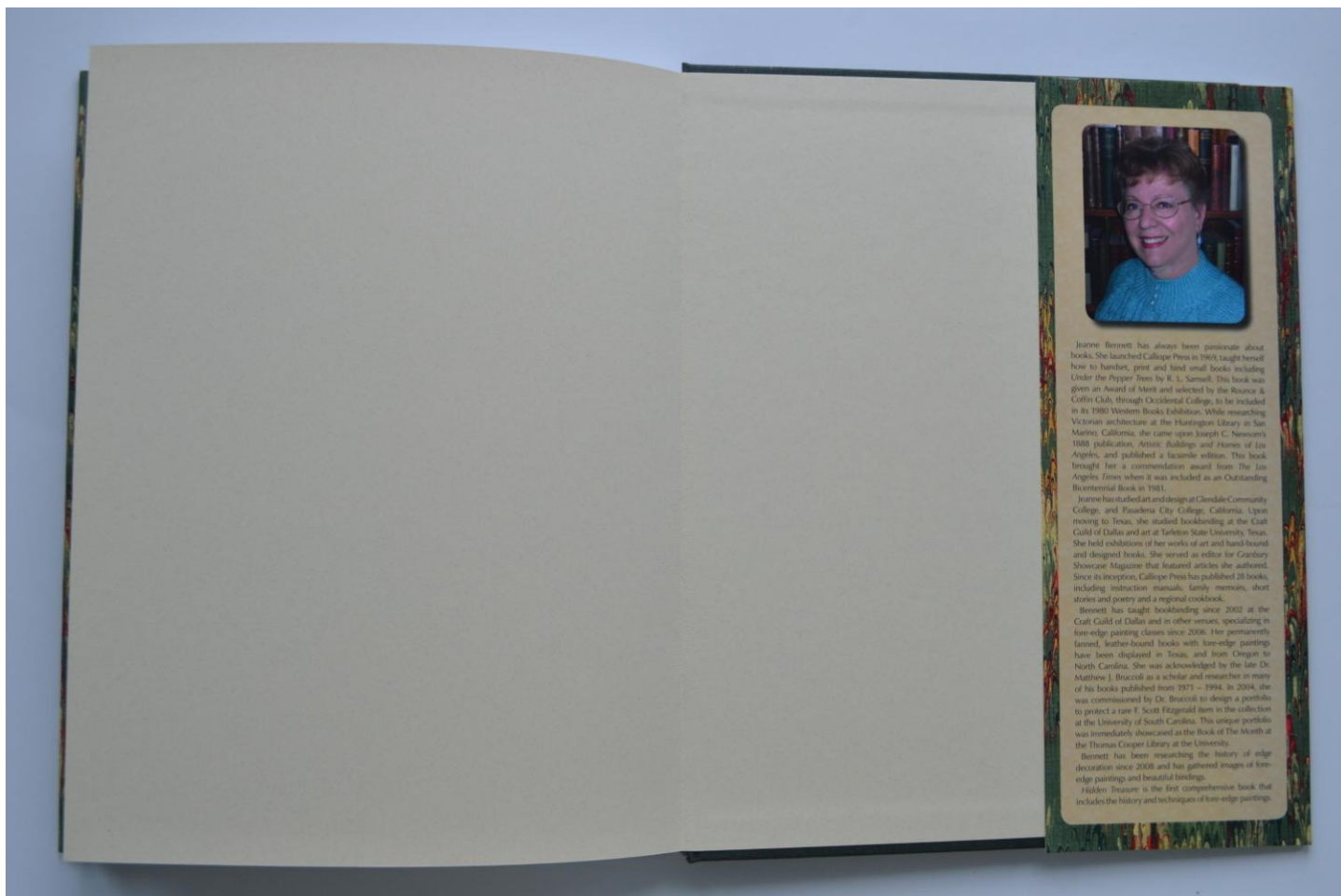
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This page: Fore-edge painting of Canterbury Cathedral on a leaf of The Book of Common Prayer, and administration of the sacraments, and other rites and ceremonies of The Church, Pastor or Pastor of David. London: Printed by Milnes Bickers for J. Cook, Broad Street, and E. Harding, Pall Mall, 1794
From the collection of Dr. Charles C. Tandy, M.D.

Dedicated to

- Martin Frost, artist, mentor, friend
- Jeff Weber, scholar and keeper of the records
- Carl J. Weber [1894 - 1966], pioneer



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***Description:* Signed by the author.** Fully illustrated in color from photographs. Bound in green cloth with gilt titles on spine and under cover. Fine in d.j. This beautifully illustrated new book is the first to include extensive information on the technique of fire-edge painting.