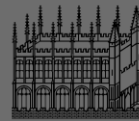


The binding of blockbooks: searching for evidence of contemporary methods

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[Script of paper given at the *Eine experimentierphase im frühen buchdruck: Blockbücher des 15 Jahrhunderts / An experimental phase in early printing : 15th-century blockbooks* conference (16-17 February 2012, Bayerische StaatsBibliothek , Munich)]

My paper today will look at the evidence that remains for early or contemporary bindings of blockbooks. I am a book conservator working at the Bodleian Library in Oxford and I must admit that I had not seen a blockbook before April 2004 when Nigel Palmer asked me whether I would look over his binding descriptions; this was for the section describing blockbooks, woodcut and metalcut single-leaf prints for the then soon to be published *Catalogue of Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century now in the Bodleian Library*. [Nigel F. Palmer, 'Blockbooks, Woodcut and Metalcut Single Sheets. Binding descriptions by Andrew Honey', in Coates, A. et al, *A Catalogue of Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century now in the Bodleian Library*, Oxford: OUP, 2005, 1-50, hereafter Bod-inc.]

		Impression date	Shelfmark
BB-1	Apocalypse [Edition I/II state II]	c.1466-70	Douce 249
BB-2	Apocalypse [Edition IV state E]	c.1470	Auct. M 3.15
BB-3	Apocalypse [Edition V]	c.1472	Auct. M 3.14
BB-4	Biblia Pauperum [Edition III]	c.1465-70	Douce 248
BB-5	Biblia Pauperum [Edition VIII]	c.1462-8	MS. Hearne's diaries 50
BB-6	Biblia Pauperum [Edition XI]	c.1470	Arch. G c.14
BB-7	Canticum Canticorum [Edition II]	c.1469-70	Arch. M 3.12
BB-8	Donatus: Ars minor	c.1476/80	Auct. 2Q inf. 1.50

Over the next three and a half months I became more drawn into Nigel's cataloguing project and helped to write the binding descriptions for the Bodleian's eight blockbooks, and for the host manuscripts of the single-leaf prints.

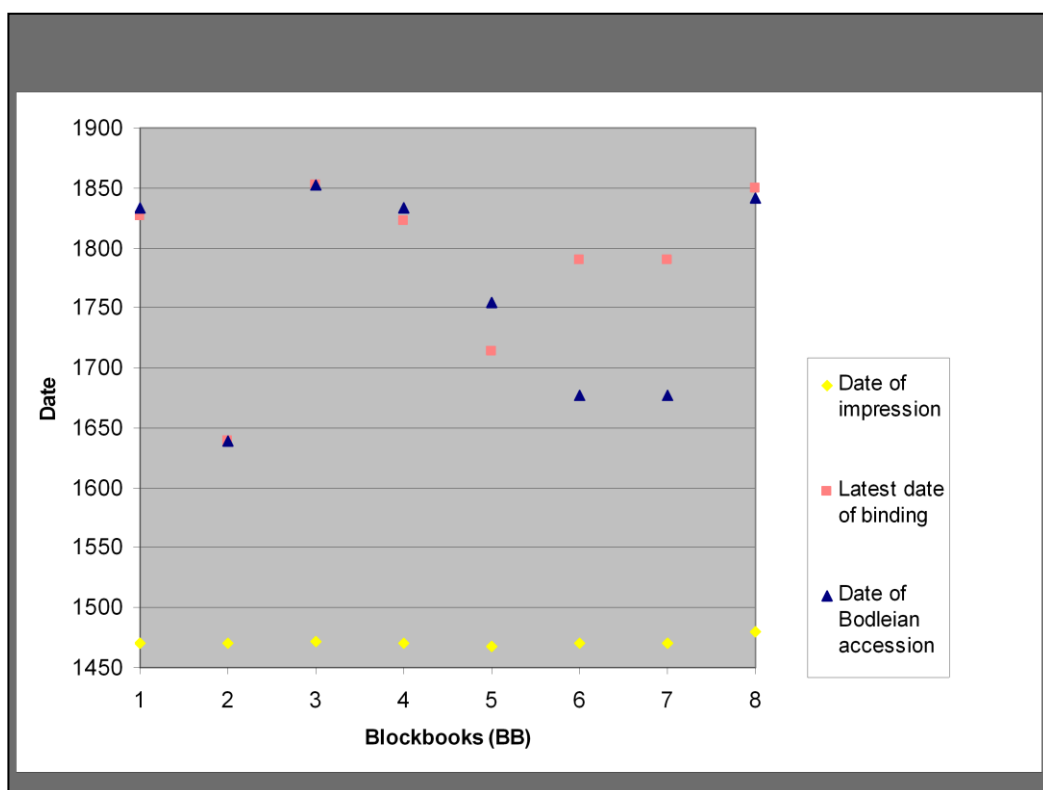


However my descriptions largely concentrated on the bindings that now house these blockbooks, and although I did attempt to describe evidence left from earlier bindings this was not my main focus. Here are the bindings of the Bodleian's blockbooks shown at their relative sizes.

The Bodleian has eight blockbooks (including two fragments, Bod-inc: BB-5 & 8) and all of them have been rebound at least once. All of the Bodleian's blockbooks are now bound as single works. However, two of them originally came to the library bound together, and a further blockbook is known to have been part of a *Sammelband* of three works. This repair, rebinding or reformatting found in the Bodleian copies is not unusual for blockbooks. Palmer has noted that "The process of washing, pressing, repair, remounting of the leaves, and rebinding to which these prized items were subjected in the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries [has] destroyed 90 percent of the evidence for the original assembly and codicological presentation of medieval blockbooks. It is hard to think of another category of book for which the codicological evidence has been so comprehensively destroyed." [Nigel F. Plamer, 'Woodcuts for Reading: The Codicology of Fifteenth-Century Blockbooks and Woodcut Cycles', in Peter Parshall (ed.), *The Woodcut in Fifteenth-Century Europe*, Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 2009, 93-117 at 94].



As well as the obliteration of evidence that this later repair and rebinding has caused we must also consider the survival history of blockbooks. Paul Needham has written that this “depends primarily on the nature of early ownership. A book bought by or given to an institution with a formal library [...] had a much higher chance of surviving into the present than a copy bought by a private individual.” [Paul Needham, ‘Prints in the Early Printing Shops’, in Peter Parshall (ed.), *The Woodcut in Fifteenth-Century Europe*, Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 2009, 39-91 at 46]. When thinking about evidence for the early binding of blockbooks we must bear these two factors in mind. The blockbooks that survive have tended to have been greatly altered and the survivors themselves may preserve evidence only of later institutional binding.



Here I show the dates of impression, current binding and Bodleian accession for each of the blockbooks. Three have been bound for the Bodleian, two were bound at about their time of accession and only three retain earlier bindings – though these are not very early.

For this paper I have again looked at the Bodleian's blockbooks, looking more closely for evidence of their earliest bindings. I have found evidence in only three of the eight. I will also discuss two blockbooks which are now in the New York Public Library, one of which survives in its first binding, with very little later interference. However, this is a very small sample representing less than one percent of surviving blockbooks and my conclusions about the early binding of blockbooks can only be tentative.

Although very few blockbooks survive in early or contemporary bindings, we do have many other surviving fifteenth-century bindings. A question must be: are blockbooks a separate class of codex with different binding needs, or can we assume that they were originally bound in a similar manner to other fifteenth-century books surviving in early bindings? The codicological structure, the printing methods, printing on only one side of a leaf, and the occurrence of blank pages in blockbooks all have implications for their binding and perhaps it is worth outlining what these factors are.

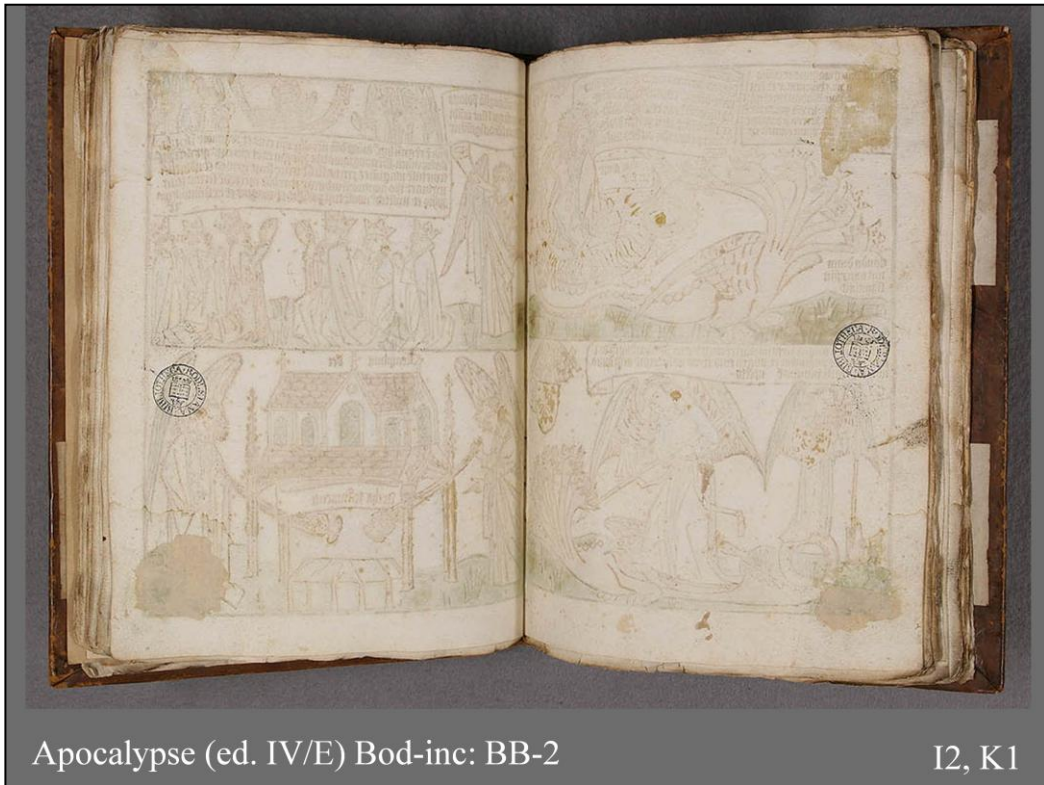


NYPL Apocalypse (ed. IV)

L1, L2, fols. 21-22

[*Apocalypse* (Schreiber edition IV), New York Public Library *KB+ 1465 (Apocalypsis Sancti Johannis (Block-book). [Apocalypsis Sancti Johannis), hereafter NYPL Apocalypse (ed. IV)]

My paper will only discuss examples of two codicological types of blockbook and I will outline the binding constraints of these. The first type is what Paul Needham has called “stacked-sheet” blockbooks, where a series of printed bifolia, printed on one side of the sheet of paper only, exist as a series of individual bifolia. [Needham, ‘Prints in the Early Printing Shops’, 50] The second type, are blockbooks printed from single-page blocks arranged so that the bifolia could be grouped into quires.



In the later case the printing is either on only one side of the sheet of paper or on only one side of each leaf. Both types share a printing method where a well sized sheet of writing paper was placed on the block which had been coated with water-based printing ink and the sheet was then rubbed from the reverse.



This produced the image but also led to an embossed and burnished effect to the other side of the leaf. This method produces a series of leaves printed on only one side of the leaf , and are either arranged in a series of bifolia or grouped into quires.



I will now to look at what evidence survives in the three Bodleian copies. I will start with the Bodleian blockbook that I first returned to and which seemed to offer least hope for further evidence of its early binding. Bodleian Auct. M 3.14 is an *Apocalypse*, Schreiber edition V, that was bought by the Bodleian in 1853. It is preserved in an album bound between 1847 and its purchase in 1853. For the album, each of the 48 leaves were separated, trimmed and repaired and then tipped to support sheets, presenting the blockbook as a series of single leaves with the printed side facing out.



Apocalypse (ed. V) Bod-inc: BB-3

R2.O1, fols. 34v.27r

Here indicated by the green line.



Apocalypse (ed. V) Bod-inc: BB-3

R2.O1, fols. 34v.27r

With Photoshop I have removed the repair and virtually reattached the leaves. Although they are not a perfect match, and the spine margins have been slightly trimmed they have not been trimmed to the extent that I first imagined.



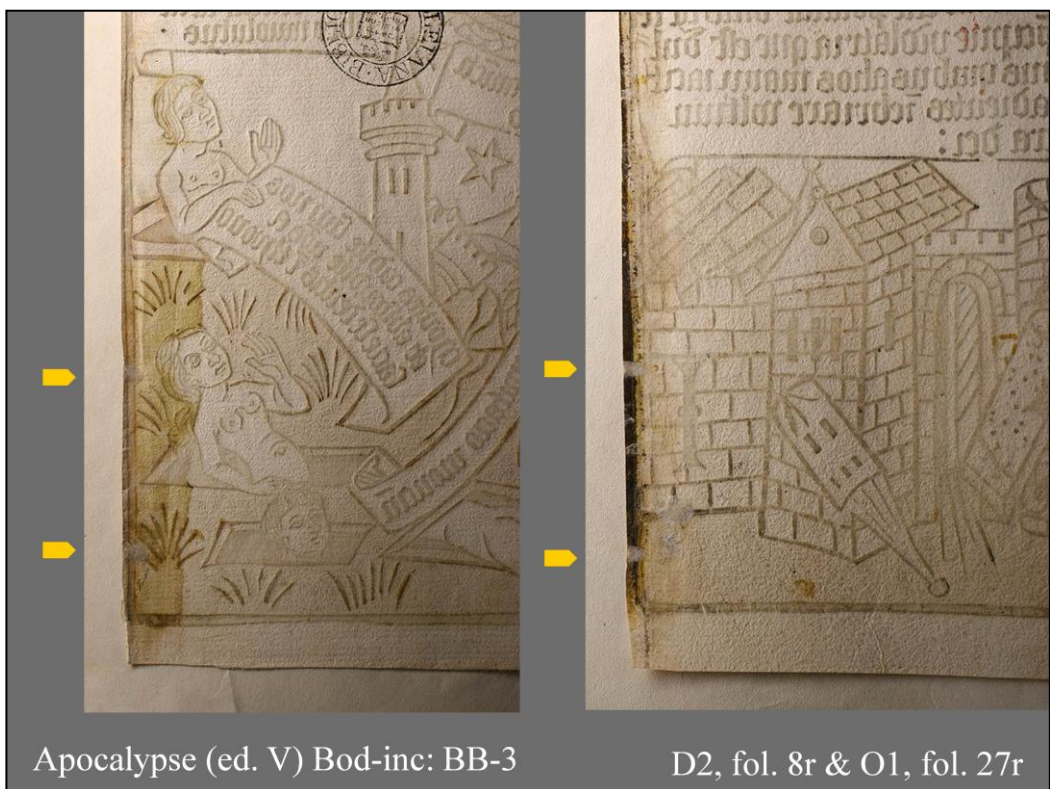
Apocalypse (ed. V) Bod-inc: BB-3

B2, fol. 4v

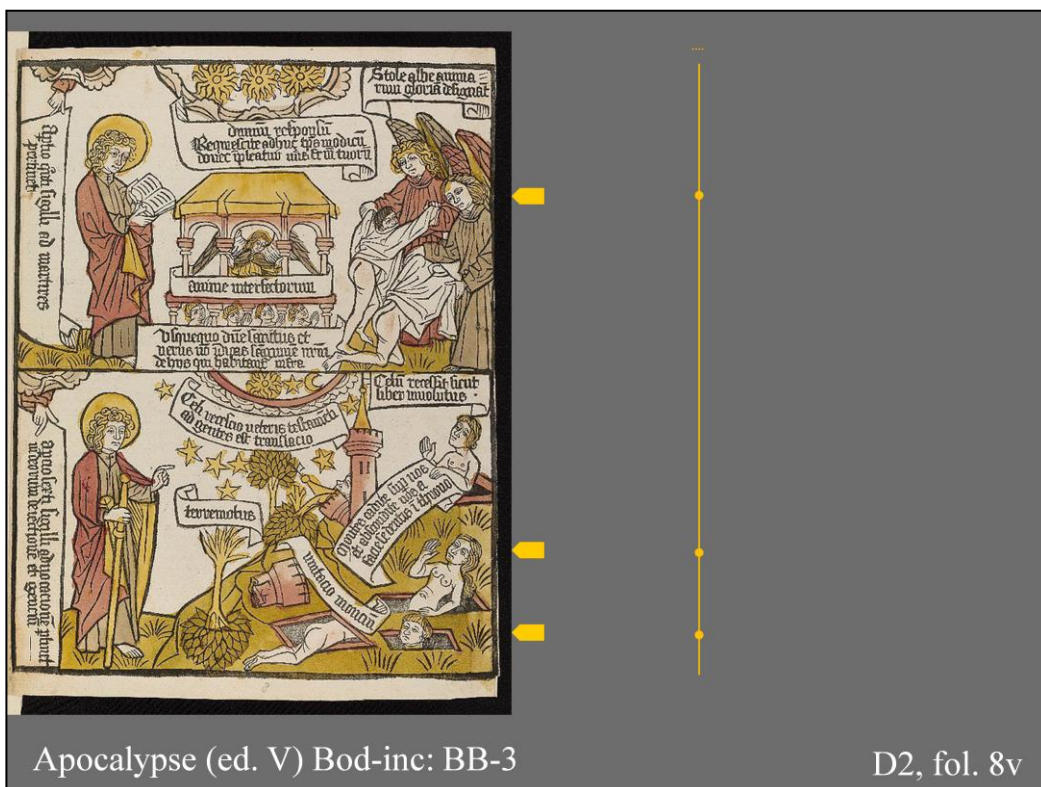
Realising that remnants of the spine fold might lie beneath the nineteenth-century repairs on other leaves I now looked for evidence of sewing holes.



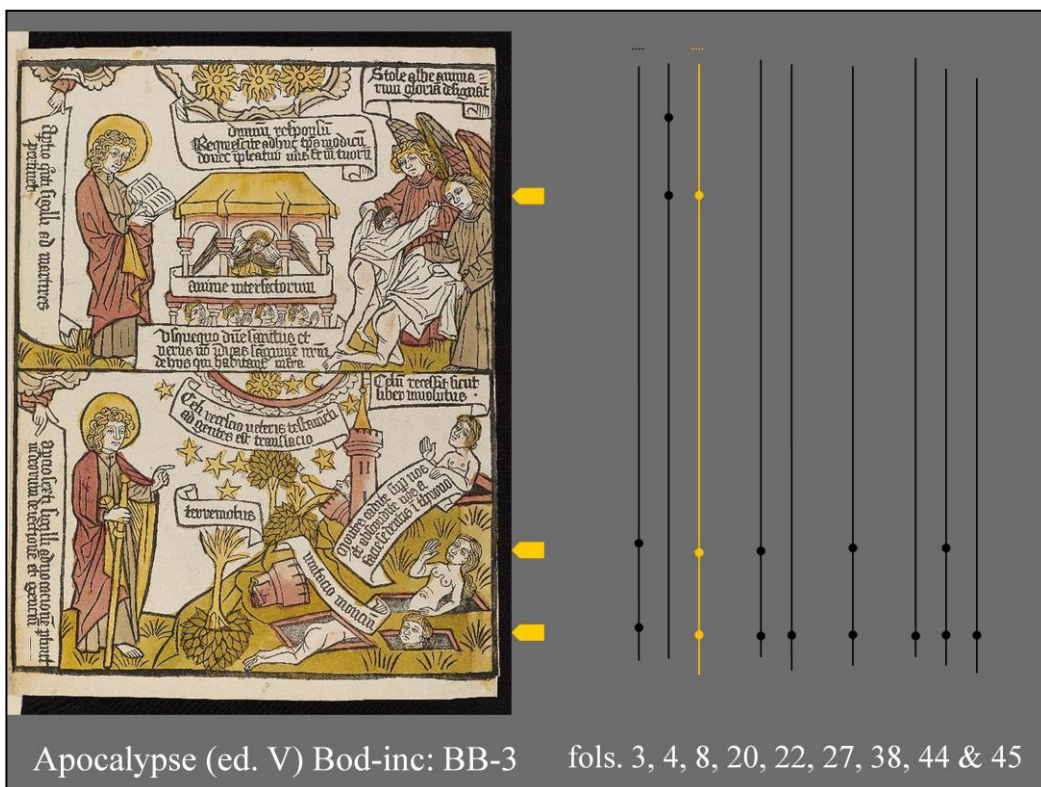
The repairs at the spine-edge of B2, when viewed with transmitted light, show a pair of sewing holes.



Repairs to the tail of D2 and O1 show another pair.



D2 has the most intact spinefold with three remaining sewing holes.

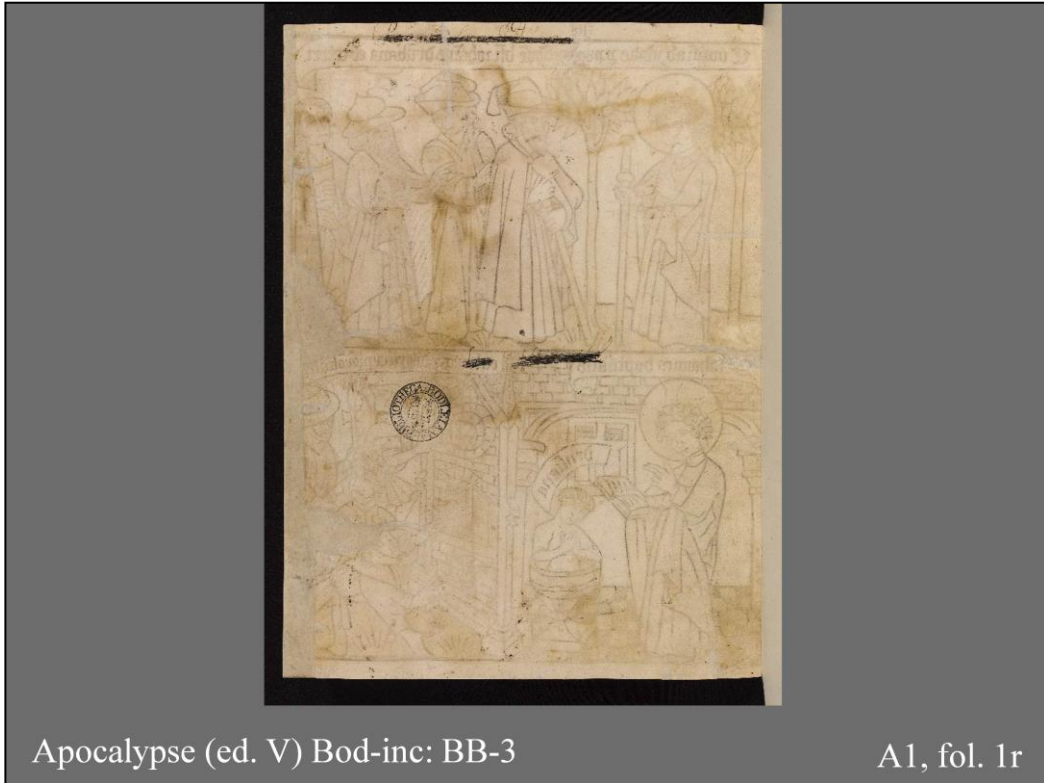


In total, sewing holes were found on nine leaves across all four quires. They are grouped as two pairs, one towards the head, the other towards the tail, coinciding with the offset from the manuscript waste sewing guards. This confirmed our earlier hypothesis of a tacketed structure, though the distribution of sewing holes could also possibly indicate a longstitch structure, that is where quires are sewn through a cover, with a continuous thread, but without sewing supports.

Paul Needham has noted that the inner or spine margins of blockbooks printed from double-page blocks is “strikingly narrow”, but this example shows that blockbooks printed from single blocks can also have very narrow spinefolds. [Needham, ‘Prints in the Early Printing Shops’, 49]

			Number measured	Min (mm.)	Max (mm.)	Average (mm.)
Bod inc: BB-1	Apocalypse	Edition I/II state II	3	2	9	6
Bod inc: BB-2	Apocalypse	Edition IV state E	9	3	10	5.7
NYPL *KB+1465	Apocalypse	Edition IV	6	4	9	6.2
Bod inc: BB-4	Biblia pauperum	Edition III	10	3	4.5	3.9
NYPL *KB+1465	Biblia pauperum	Edition III	12	3	5	4.3

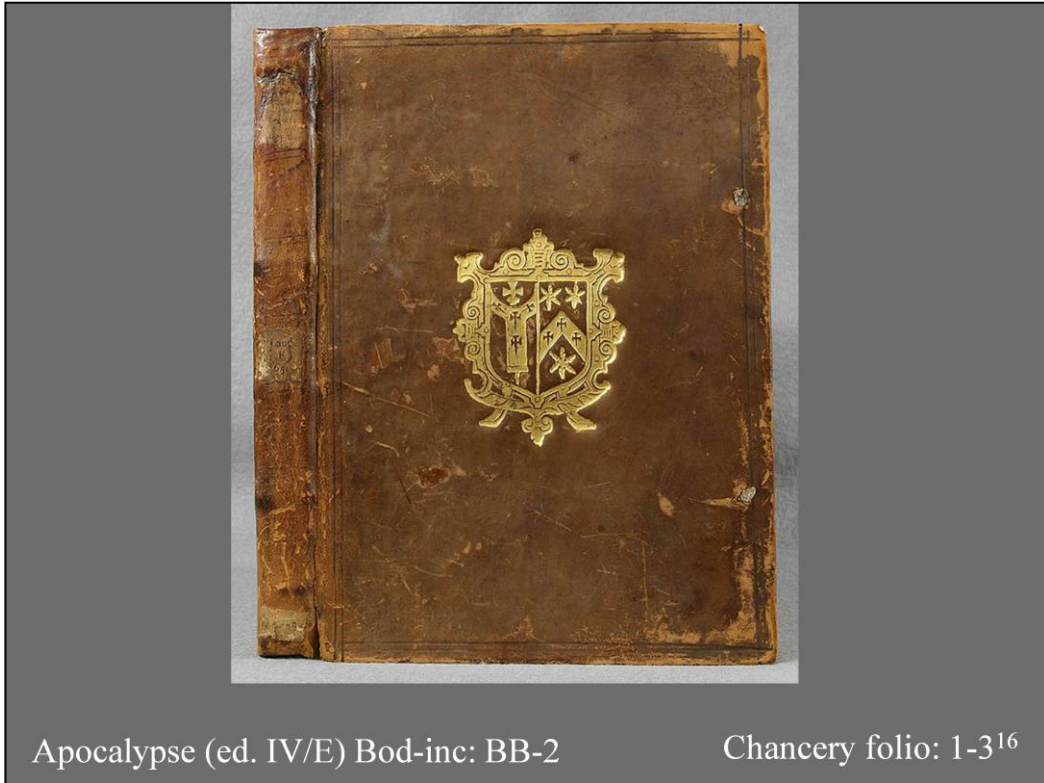
I have now measured the intact spinefolds on a number of *Apocalypse* and *Biblia pauperum* and they all exhibit very narrow margins. This narrowness of spine margin has important implications for any binding - requiring a structure that would allow the text-block to open wide with little restriction. It has also made me wonder whether the high level of repair to the spinefolds of blockbooks purely reflects damage or whether the ‘repairs’ indicate a desire by eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century owners and binders to have blockbooks that open wide within modern gold-tooled morocco bindings. Most of the repairs that I have seen to spinefolds extend these margins with an infill strip of paper.



Apocalypse (ed. V) Bod-inc: BB-3

A1, fol. 1r

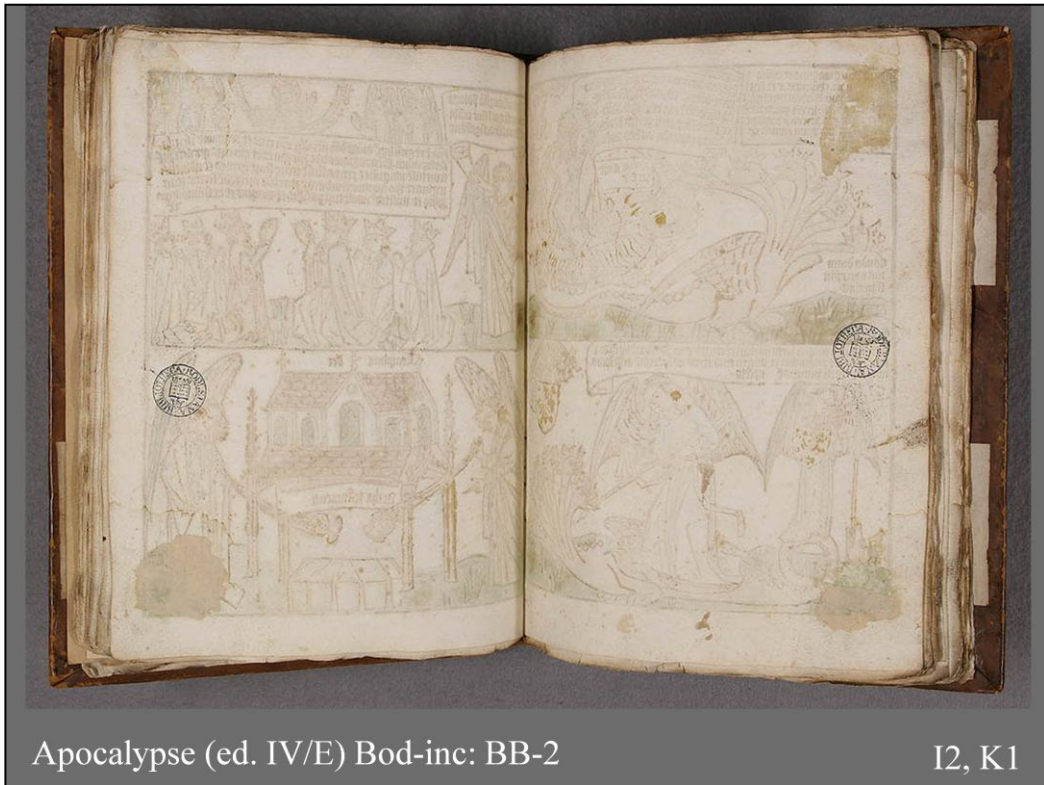
Bodleian Auct. M 3.14 has one further piece of evidence. The blank side of the first leaf, fol. 1r of the original blockbook, is stained and has handling grime. It has no evidence of being stuck down or adhered to a cover or binding. The final leaf of the blockbook does not have these stains or grime which might indicate that this copy was once bound with one or more other blockbooks, this being the first item, and that the outer leaves were not adhered to any cover or binding.



Apocalypse (ed. IV/E) Bod-inc: BB-2

Chancery folio: 1-3¹⁶

My second example is another *Apocalypse*, Schreiber edition IV, state E that came to the Bodleian with William Laud's collections in 1639 (Bodleian Auct. M 3.15). This blockbook was rebound for Laud in London prior to being given to the library and remains, with some minimal later in-situ repairs, in this state.



The blockbook was printed from two single-page blocks on one side of each sheet of paper. These printed sheets were arranged into three quires with printed pages facing printed pages, and blanks facing blanks.



Apocalypse (ed. IV/E) Bod-inc: BB-2

K1, fols. 28v-29r

The printed leaves in each quire were interleaved with a German translation written on both sides of each leaf and facing the printed leaves. This translation was later cut away leaving stubs, and a replacement translation was added, the leaves of the replacement translation being pasted to these stubs.



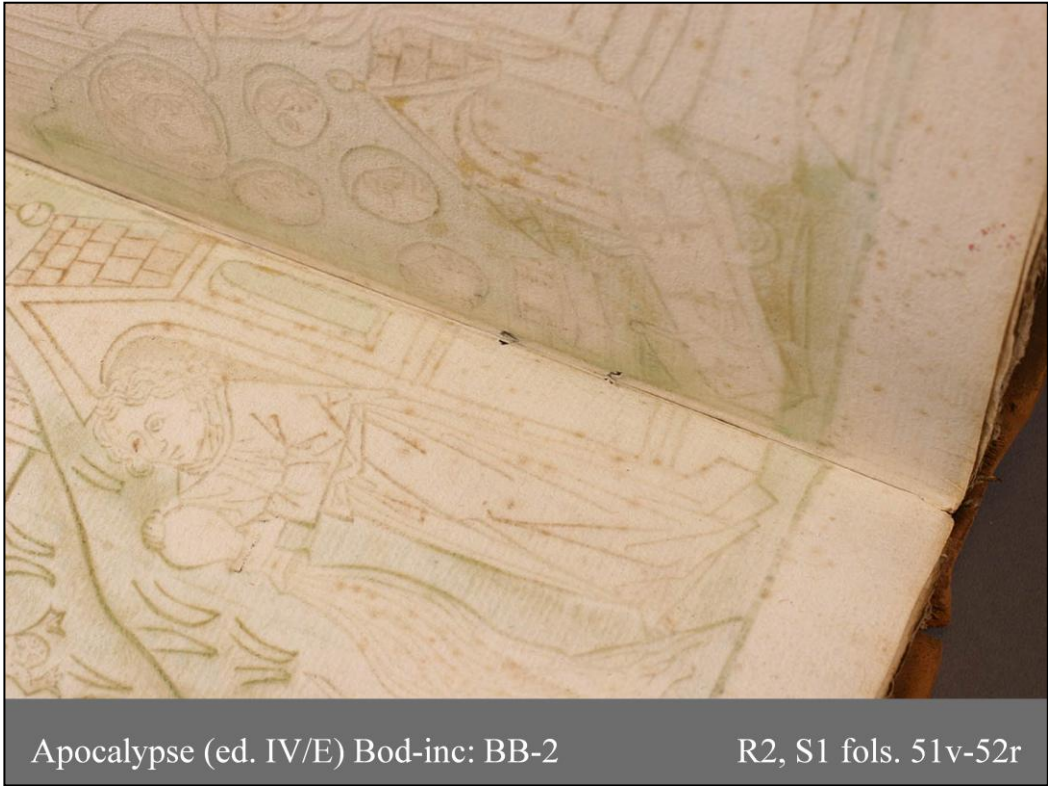
Apocalypse (ed. IV/E) Bod-inc: BB-2

V2, fol. 63v

The blank sides of the printed leaves were stuck together with a blob of glue at each corner. Most of these have now been intentionally separated.



The binding for Laud seems to have taken the existing structure and re sewn the three quires, with new endleaves, onto four alum-tawed supports. These were laced into pulpboards, then covered with tanned calfskin and tooled with one of Laud's two centrepieces.



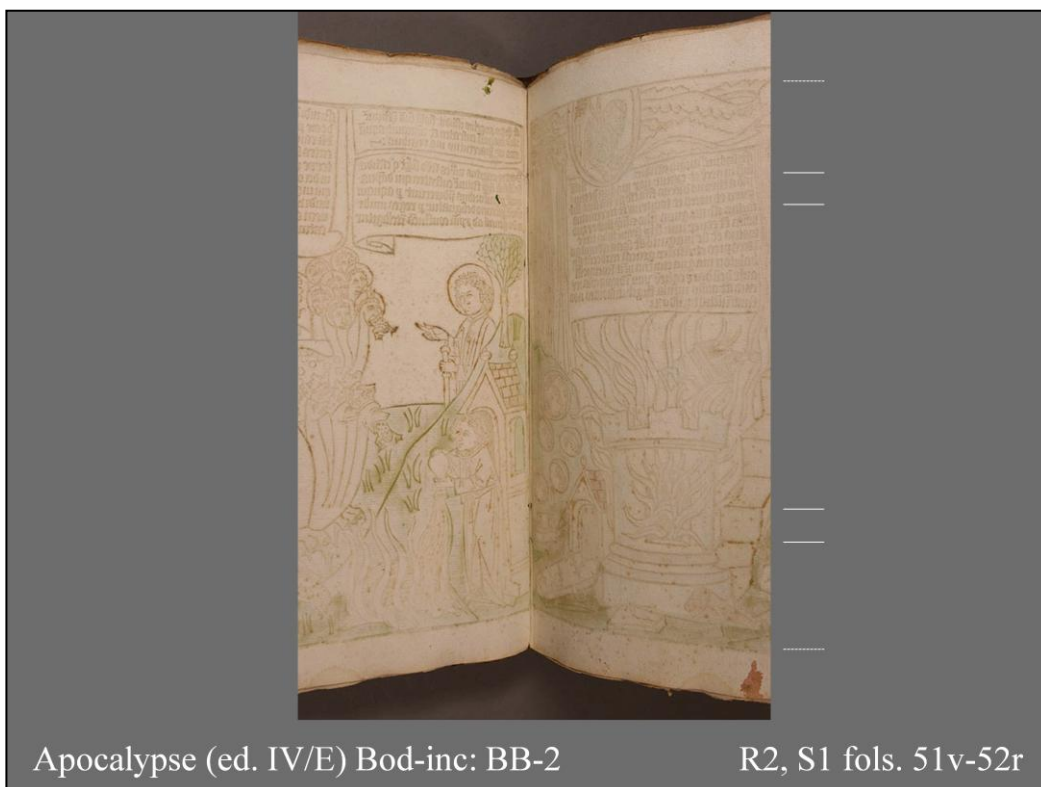
Within this binding, traces of an earlier binding remain. Looking closely at the spinefolds of the printed leaves, other sewing holes can be seen. These are most clear at the tail of R2 and S1 where they can be seen as a pair.



Apocalypse (ed. IV/E) Bod-inc: BB-2

R2, fols. 50v-51r

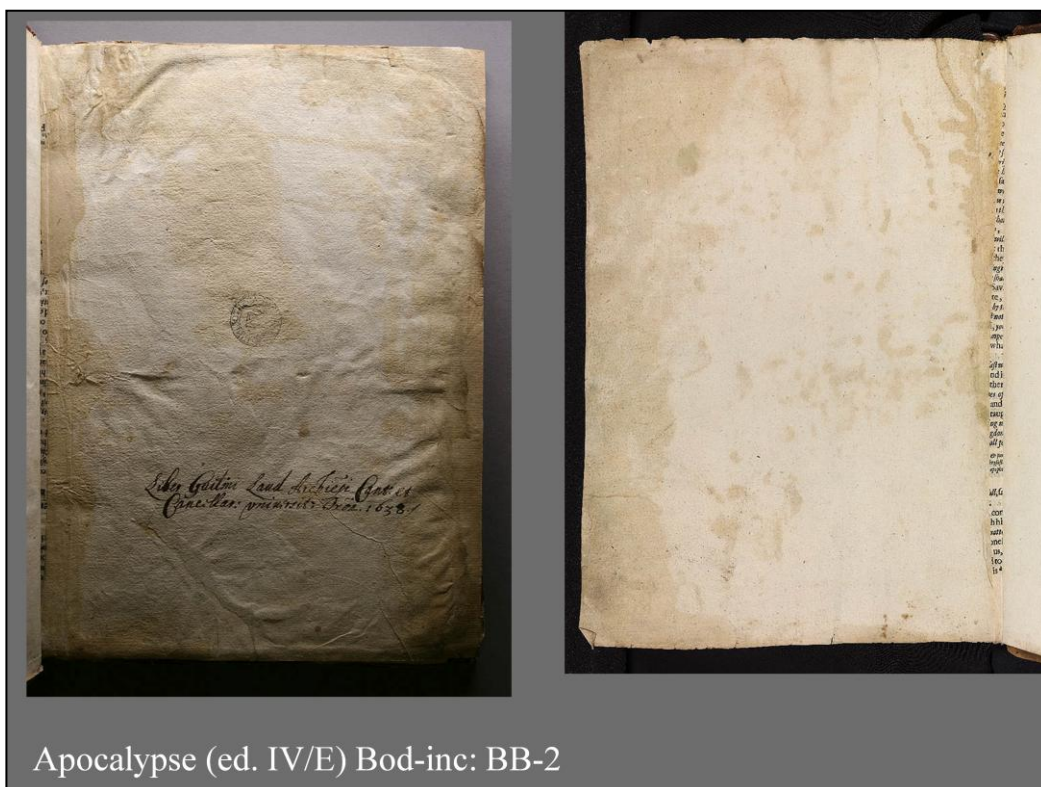
At the head of R2 and entering the manuscript interleaving before this leaf, the remains of an earlier sewing thread can be seen.



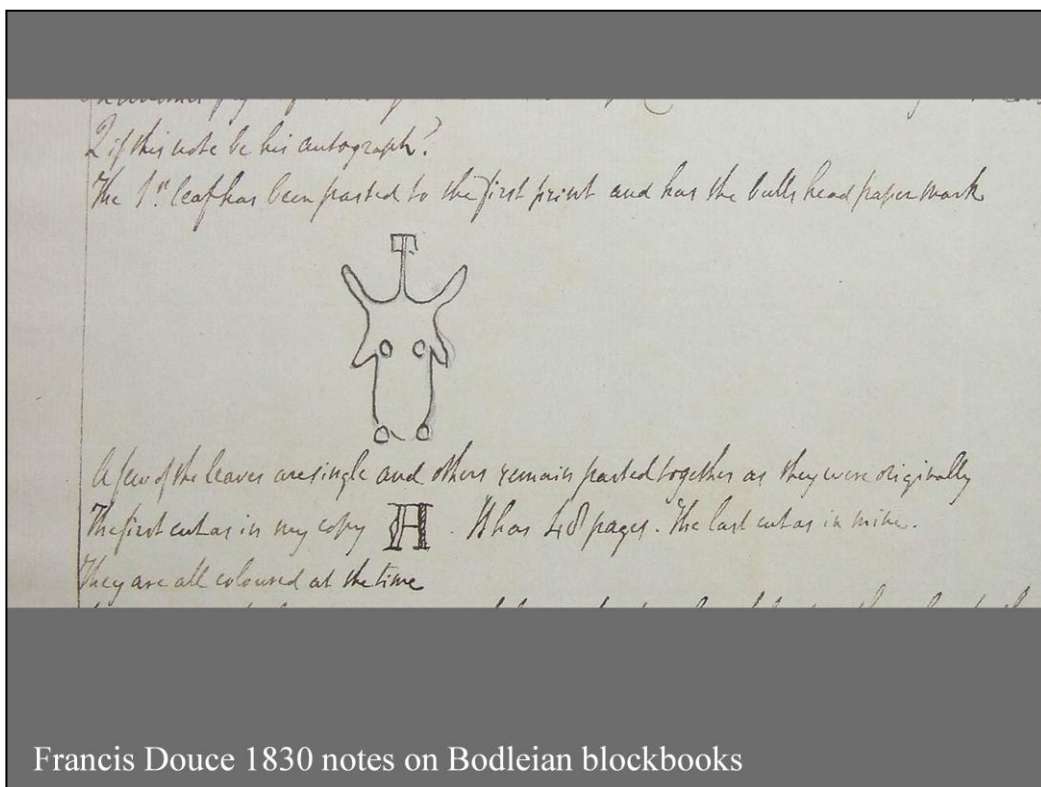
These two pairs of sewing holes are the only earlier holes and when they are plotted against the spinefold they show a similar pattern to the edition V, *Apocalypse* that I have just shown; that is, two pairs of holes, one at the head and one at the tail.



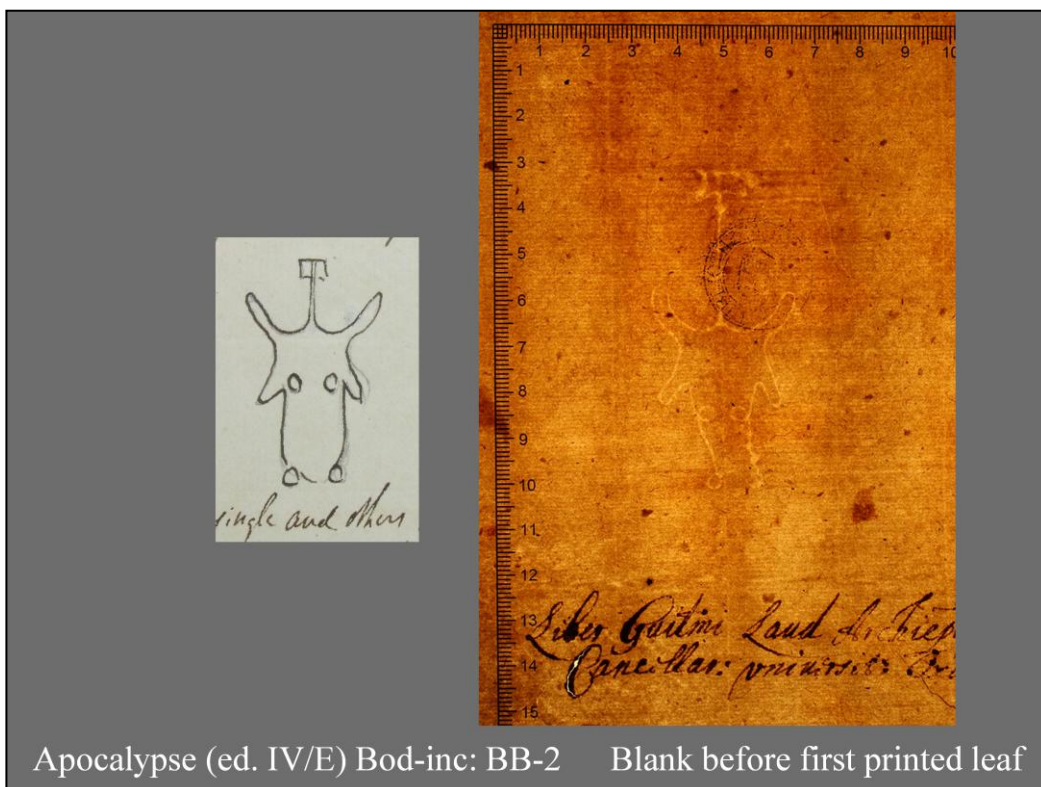
The first and last blank pages of the text-block again show stains and handling grime and must have been exposed during the blockbook's early use. However, the current binding also preserves two other early blank leaves.



These occur before and after the first and last printed leaves. These are entirely blank except for Laud's librarian's annotation on the first leaf. Francis Douce visited the Bodleian with Isaac D'Israeli on the 7th July 1830 and made notes about the Library's blockbooks.



Douce's notes have been preserved in his *Apocalypse*, edition I/II, state II which came to the Library with his bequest in 1834. In them he notes the first of these two blank leaves and states that it "has been pasted to the first print and has the bulls head paper mark".



The first leaf has a watermark while the second does not and they may have once been conjoint. Neither Piccard or Briquet has an exact match for the watermark so it is not possible to date it precisely.



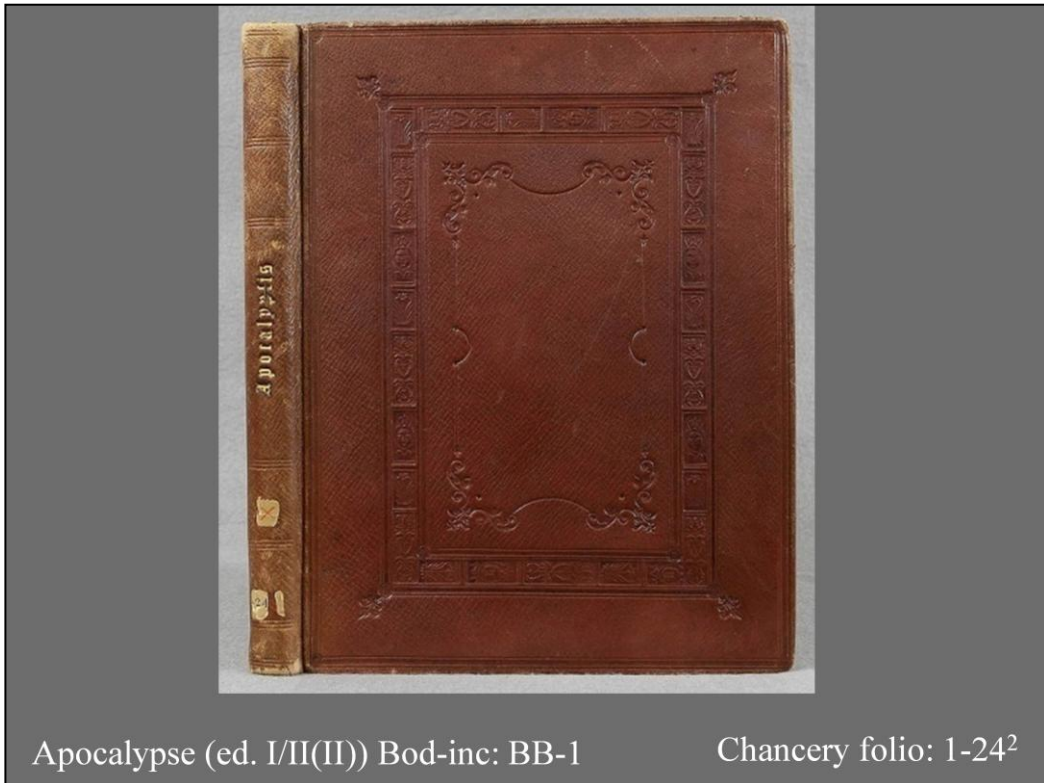
As Douce noted, these leaves were pasted to the outer blank pages of the blockbook, though they have now been separated. The blank leaves are slightly larger than the printed leaves and may have acted as a wrapper.



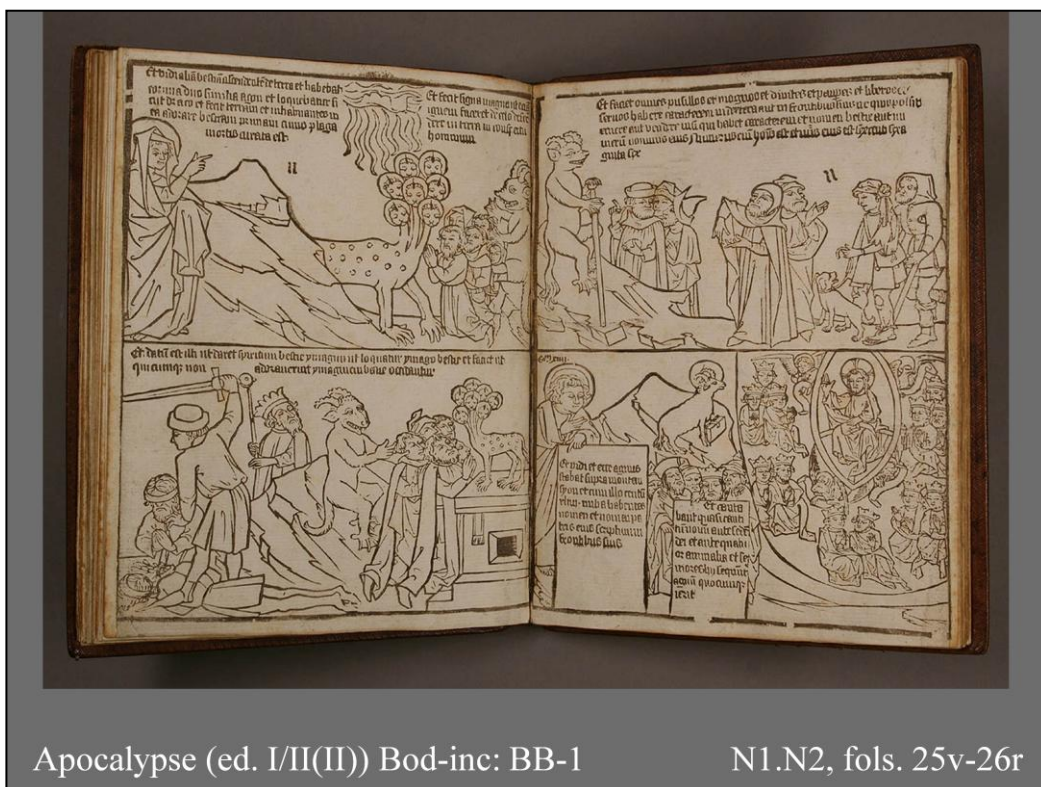
Apocalypse (ed. IV/E) Bod-inc: BB-2

V2, fol. 63v (left), wrapper(?)
after last leaf (right)

The adhesive used to attach this possible wrapper to the outer leaves is different to that used to stick the blank printed leaves to each other and this possible wrapper may date from the replacement of the interleaving which Nigel Palmer thinks was added “at a very early date”. [Bod-inc, 11]



My final Bodleian example is the uncoloured *Apocalypse*, edition I/II, state II bequeathed by Francis Douce to the Library in 1834. This is a Needham “stacked-sheet” blockbook consisting of 48 leaves printed on only one side of the paper from double-page blocks, and arranged as a series of bifolia.



The blockbook was bound in about 1820 for John Bellingham Inglis. Inglis owned three blockbooks and had them bound in matching bindings. It is known that this *Apocalypse*, with a *Biblia pauperum* (ed. IV) also owned by Inglis, and an as yet unidentified *Ars moriendi* came from a Sammelband, broken up by the dealer Alexander Horn before 1814, and the three blockbooks sold separately. It is not known what the binding of this sammelband was though Dibdin recorded that it had an inscription “stamped, at the extremity of the binding, towards the edge of the spine”.



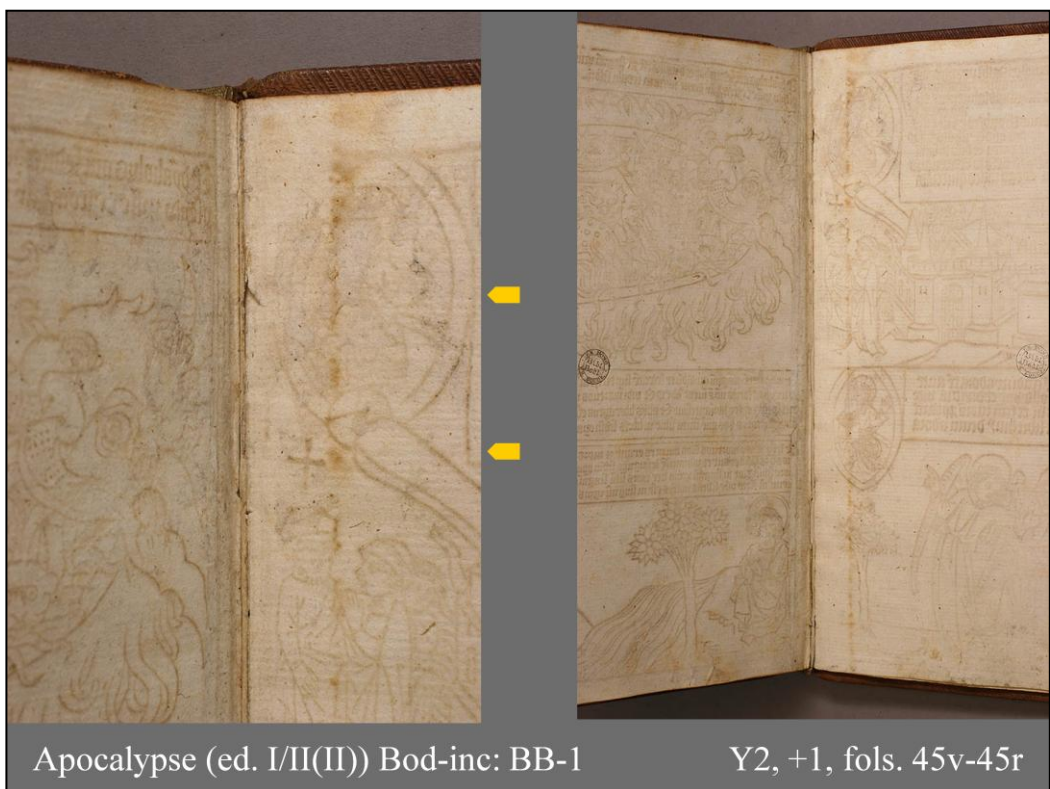
Apocalypse (ed. I/II(II)) Bod-inc: BB-1

K2, L1, fols. 20v-21r

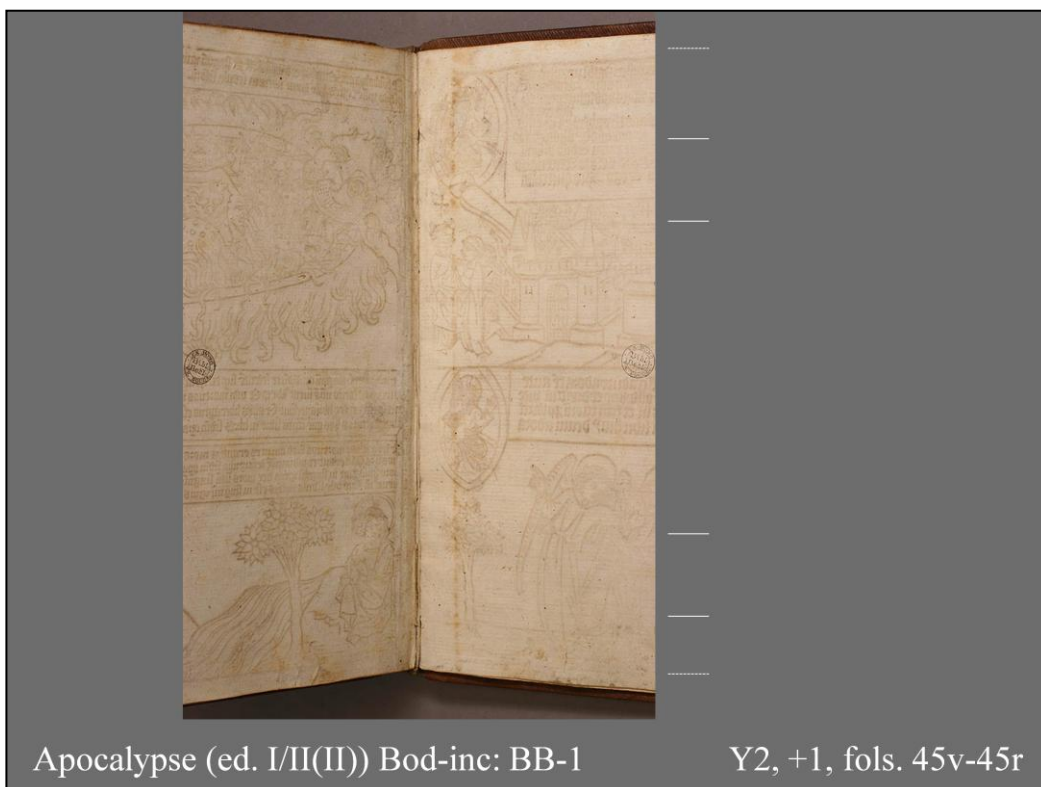
Although the blockbook is now a series of separate bifolia, matching traces of flour paste with flecks of bran can be seen around the perimeter of the blank pages, showing that the leaves were once pasted together. Paul Needham has speculated that “when the blank sides of the leaves were pasted together, the effect was to create what is more or less a single stout quire, but the way in which binders attached such a “quire” to the sewing bands of a binding has apparently not been investigated” [Paul Needham, ‘Prints in the Early Printing Shops’, 50]. I’m not sure if this is the case - pasting a series of folded leaves together accurately would not be easy and I imagine that blank sides were pasted together at the end of any binding process rather than at the beginning.



Of the 24 bifolia of this copy, only three retain spinefolds, though one of these is very damaged. N1.N2 has been repaired by two paper patches, one towards the head of the spinefold and one towards the tail.



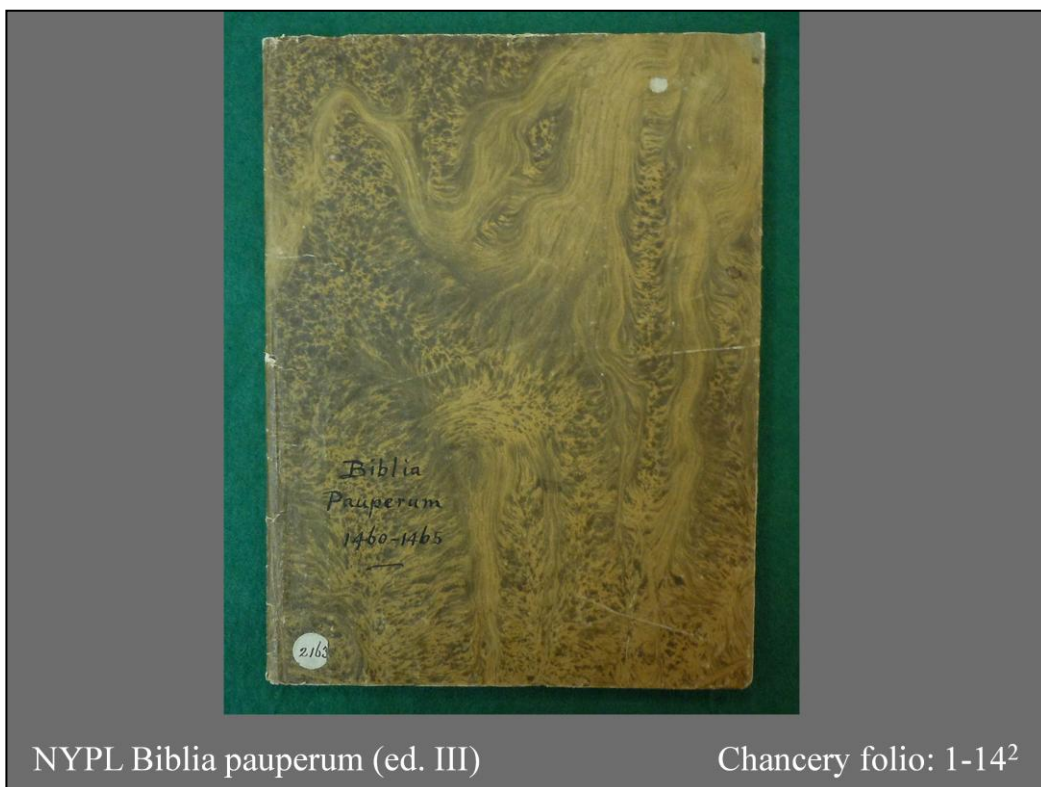
For the current binding +1.+2 has been refolded a couple of millimetres away from the earlier spinefold and there are sewing holes visible, again these follow the pattern of a pair at the head and another at the tail, with no holes in the middle.



This seems to follow a similar pattern to the two quired blockbooks that I have already shown. These intact spinefolds are also very clean and do not have evidence of a layer of glue, or stains from removing a layer of glue from the backs of the spinefolds.

The three Bodleian examples seem to show a sewing structure using two pairs of sewing holes, an absence of glue on the spine, with the blank sides of leaves pasted together, handling dirt at the beginning and end of the printed text, and possible evidence of a wrapper.

Since my work on the Bodleian catalogue, I have been fortunate to study a number of other blockbooks, including some now in the collections of the New York Public Library, one of which was brought to my attention by Nigel Palmer. I would like to finish my overview of binding evidence with two further examples from the NYPL.



NYPL Biblia pauperum (ed. III)

Chancery folio: 1-14²

[*Biblia pauperum* (Schreiber edition IV), New York Public Library *KB+ 1465 (Biblia pauperum (Latin). 1465. [Biblia pauperum), hereafter NYPL Biblia pauperum (ed. III)]

The first is a *Biblia pauperum*, edition III which was bought by James Lennox at the second Payne and Foss sale in 1850, in London. [*Catalogue of the second portion of the extensive and valuable stock of books of Messrs. Payne and Foss [...] which will be sold by auction by Messrs. S. Leigh Sotheby & Co. [...] on Monday, June 24th, 1850, and eight following days, London, 1850, 139 (lot number 2163)*] Again, it is a Needham “stacked-sheet” blockbook consisting of 24 leaves printed on one side of the paper only from double-page blocks, arranged as a series of bifolia. The leaves now have no binding or sewing structure and are stored in a late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century laminated paper wrapper. They were once sewn into this wrapper at five sewing stations but are now loose. They are of great interest because they have not been repaired following their removal from their earlier binding and the sewing for the wrapper has not greatly altered them. They are now a series of loose bifolia with interesting evidence.



NYPL Biblia pauperum (ed. III)

n.o, fols. 13-14

The blank pages were once pasted together, either around the perimeter of the leaves, or only at their spine and fore-edges with paste, but they have now been separated. However, their most unusual marks are the paste stains to the printed side of the leaves at the spinefold. These occur on 9 of the 14 remaining bifolia, either as shown here, as a strip at the tail of the spinefold (with six consecutive occurrences) or in three consecutive cases at the head. These may have been for sewing guards which have since been lost and they correspond with the positions seen in my first Bodleian example (Auct. M 3.14).



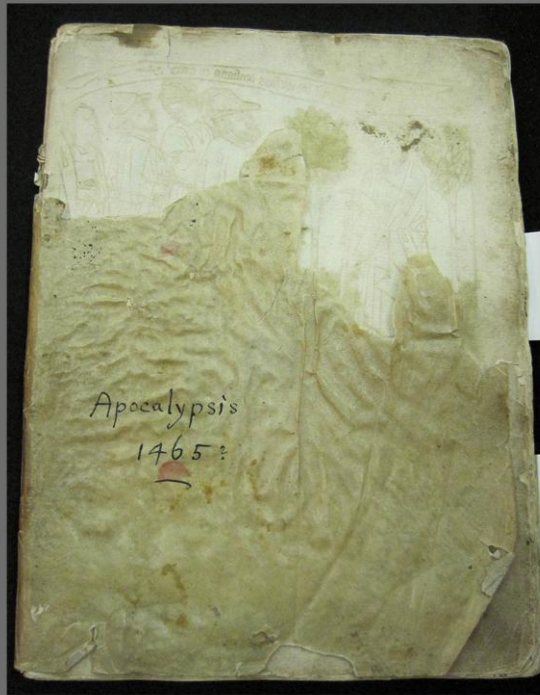
NYPL Biblia pauperum (ed. III)

Spine

My primary interest in this copy, though, is its spine, which, though damaged, can be seen. It is remarkably clean and shows no evidence of any paste or glue. Whatever early binding structure this blockbook once had, and due to the separated leaves we must assume that it has since been washed, it was one that did not glue up the spine.



Although there is other damage to the spinefold, a pair of what appear to be sewing holes can still be seen towards the tail of the spinefold.



NYPL Apocalypse (ed. IV)

Chancery folio: 1-3¹⁶

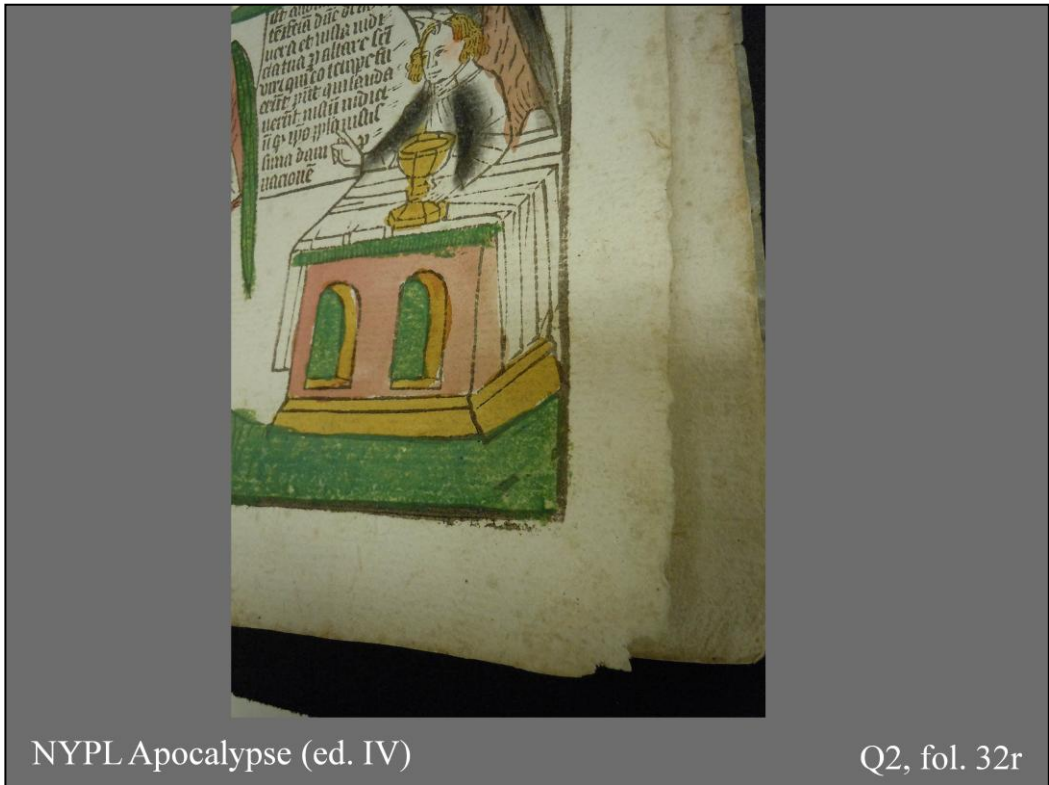
This brings me to my final example which was brought to my notice by Nigel Palmer in 2010, and which I have fortunately had the chance to study since. It has survived in its first binding and was again bought by James Lennox in London in 1850, this time from one of the Libri sales. [*Catalogue of the extensive, curious, and valuable library, of a well known and eminent collector [...] which will be sold by auction by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson [...] on Thursday, Feb 21st, 1850, and 5 following days, London, 1850, 141 (lot number 1754)*]



NYPL Apocalypse (ed. IV)

L1, L2, fols. 21-22

It is another *Apocalypse*, edition IV, printed from two single-page blocks on one side of each sheet of paper. These printed sheets were arranged into three quires with printed pages facing printed pages, and blanks facing blanks.



Although the edges of the bookblock have been trimmed, the deckle edge of the paper remains in places indicating that the trim of this book was minimal.



The three quires have been sewn into a simple parchment wrapper and here we can see stains and handling grime to the blank side of the first leaf.



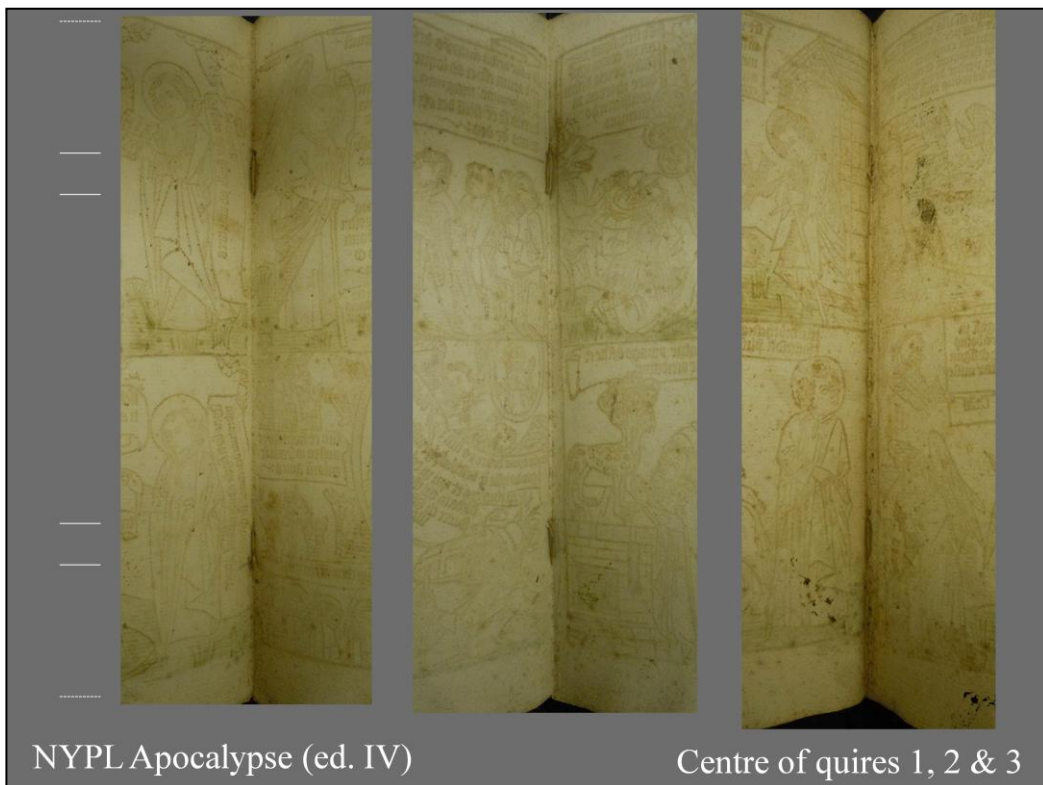
NYPL Apocalypse (ed. IV)

Spine (head)

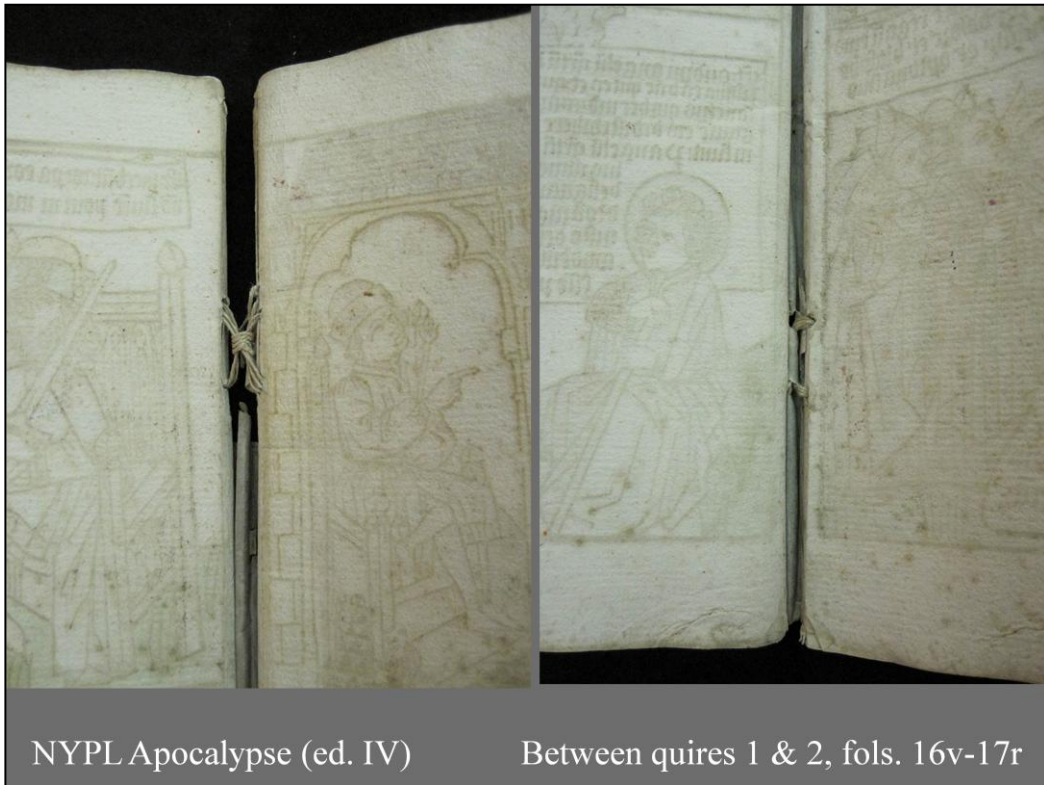
The quires are held together by sewing them independently at two pairs of sewing holes with a longstitch structure. The sewing (with a double thread) started in the centre of the first quire with a knot. The thread made a loop and then continued up to quires two and three with a complete loop around both sewing stations at each quire. The sewing was then repeated in reverse returning to quires two, and then one.



The sewing was completed by winding the free end of thread around the loops of sewing on the spine to provide protection and to tension the sewing before being knotted off.



Here we can see the sewing thread in the centre of each quire, as two pairs of small stitches. Each pair of holes has been sewn twice with a doubled thread, meaning that four threads lie in the spinefold.



This is the opening between quires one and two. Note that the blank sides of the leaves are not pasted together and have never been adhered. At the tail stations, the longstitch sewing can be seen passing through the quire spinefold and the parchment wrapper. No adhesive has been applied to the spine of the blockbook. At the head, where the parchment wrapper is now lost, and where the sewing has loosened the remains of the protective winding can be seen. This rare survival matches the hypothesis of a tacketed or longstitch structure that Nigel and I proposed in the 2005 Bodleian catalogue, and is a remarkable and important survival.

In conclusion I will return to my earlier question: are blockbooks a separate class of codex with different binding needs, or can we assume that they were originally bound in a similar manner to other surviving fifteenth-century books? They certainly do have different binding requirements. Primarily, the narrowness of the spine margins requires an unrestricted opening, and any structure needs to allow for either many thin or a few thick quires.



Antwerp 1556, Venice
1552, Paris c.1515

[Clockwise from top left: *Elegantiarum ex Plauto et Terentio lib. ii, collecti à G. Fabricio*, Antwerp, 1556 (Bodleian Library, Mason P 16), *Aristoteles de conuenientia politica & economica ... cū cōmento & annotationibus ... Gilberti de crab*, [Paris], [c.1515] (Bodleian Library, Byw. K 3.5), *Le rime del Sannazaro nuouamente corrette & reuiste per il Dolce*, Venice, 1552 (Bodleian Library, Antiq.f.I.1552.7)]

In view of the observations, I think that we should probably not always be looking for evidence of blockbooks having been sewn with raised sewing supports, which were then laced into wooden boards, with the spine glued up and covered with alum-tawed or tanned leather - the predominant form of surviving fifteenth-century bookbindings. This would not allow them to open wide, resulting in the loss of image and text in the inner spine margin.



[Left to right: *Octauiani Ferrarii ... de disciplina encyclo ... liber*, Venice, 1560 (Bodleian Library, Auct. 2 R 4.49), *Concilium prouinciale Aquileiense primum, celebratum 1596*, Udine, 1598 (Bodleian Library, Antiq.e.I.1598.1), *Aristoteles de conueniētia politice & economice ... cū cōmento & annotationibus ... Gilberti de crab*, [Paris], [c.1515] (Bodleian Library, Byw. K 3.5), *Moschi, Bionis, Theocriti ... idyllia aliquot, ab H. Stephano Lat. facta*, Venice, 1555 (Bodleian Library, Auct. 2 R 3.22), *Le rime del Sannazaro nuouamente corrette & reuiste per il Dolce*, Venice, 1552 (Bodleian Library, Antiq.f.I.1552.7), *Elegantiarum ex Plauto et Terentio lib. ii, collecti à G. Fabricio*, Antwerp, 1556 (Bodleian Library, Mason P 16)]

However, longstitch bindings, with quires sewn into parchment, paper, or leather covers offers one model of a structure that would allow them to function with their very narrow spine margins. My five blockbook examples, though small in number, do offer types of evidence that it would be worth looking out for in future.

Future enquiry of other blockbooks should include: types and position of repairs to spinefolds, evidence of and position of sewing guards, remaining early sewing holes, handling grime at the start or end of volumes, possible paper, parchment or leather wrappers, evidence of pasting blank pages together.

Here I show some of the few sixteenth-century longstitch bindings that I have found in the Bodleian. Interestingly these all came into the library in the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries – I have not found any in the earlier accessions.

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Digitised images from
The Bodleian Libraries
Special Collections



Blockbooks and single-leaf woodcut and metalcut prints from the Bodleian Library

This digital resource displays blockbooks and relief-printed images made in Europe during the earliest period of printing, in the mid-15th century to the 16th century



All but one of the items in this collection are from the Bodleian Library. Full descriptions of the Bodleian blockbooks and single-sheet metalcut and woodcut prints, including information on their origins and earlier provenance, are available from the [Browse collection](#), which also links to digital images of the items.

This resource provides [Transcriptions](#) of the Latin texts of 4 blockbooks.

The illustrated blockbooks are highly visual materials and the images they contain, with the single-leaf prints also shown here, are a vivid remnant of 15th-century culture. Because it is built upon the collections of the Bodleian Library, this digital resource emphasises items that survived as books or through their association with books, for instance because they were preserved by book collectors as evidence of early printing, or kept inside books by early users, as aids to devotion, or because they were used as bookcovers. Larger collections of 15th-century prints will be found in museums such as the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, from which one item, a blockbook fragment, is represented here.

Visit the [Themes](#) pages for a quick tour introducing different parts of the collection.

Other resources

[Glossary of early printing](#)

[Descriptions of Bodleian blockbooks and single-leaf prints \(published 2005\)](#)

[Bod-Inc](#)

[For a list of all the blockbooks, worldwide, that are available as digital images on the internet, see \[Blockbooks Wikisourced?\]\(#\)](#)

[See the major online collection \[Blockbücher aus bayerischen Sammlungen?\]\(#\)](#)

[Notes and Bibliography](#)

http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/blockbooks_home

I would like to thank Nigel Palmer for setting me to work on blockbook bindings and for his many suggestions, and to Jessica Pigza and Kyle Triplett (Rare Book Division, New York Public Library) for providing images of the two NYPL blockbooks. All of the Bodleian's blockbooks have now been digitized and are available on the web.