

PROSPECTUS FOR  
THE BOSS DOG PRESS LIMITED EDITION OF

# The Bone Folder

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN  
AN AESTHETICALLY-INCLINED BIBLIOPHILE  
AND A WELL-VERSED-IN-ALL-ASPECTS-OF-THE-CRAFT BOOKBINDER  
BY ERNST COLLIN

Translation from the German and Introduction by  
Peter D. Verheyen

Illustrated with photographic images by  
John (Hans) Schiff

Boss Dog Press  
Plains, Pennsylvania  
2016



Applying leather to the spine of the book using a bone folder.

THE BOSS DOG PRESS IS VERY PLEASED TO PRESENT THIS PROSPECTUS for its most ambitious project to date: a handpress edition of Ernst Collin's didactic dialogue about bookbinding entitled *The Bone Folder*. Originally published as *Der Pressbengel* in Berlin in 1922, it was first translated into English by Peter Verheyen beginning in 2008, and published in the Guild of Book Workers' *Journal* in 2009. Peter later made it available online as a PDF through his website, [www.philobiblon.com](http://www.philobiblon.com).

Prior to its commitment to undertake the *Bone Folder* project, the Press had been granted access to a series of photographic negatives and contact sheets of the hand bookbinding process which had been taken in Germany in the late 1920's or 1930's. The photographer, Hans Schiff, fled Germany and spent the rest of his professional photographic career in New York City working as John Schiff. During discussions between Peter Verheyen and Don Rash about the design of this edition, the fact that the Schiff photographs were roughly contemporary in both time and location to the text led to the realization that they would be the perfect illustrations for the book. The Press is deeply indebted to Sibylle Fraser for allowing the use of these photographs.

#### ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Peter D. Verheyen was trained as a bookbinder and conservator in Germany and Switzerland through apprenticeship at the Kunstbuchbinderei D. Klein in Gelsenkirchen, internships at the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg, and coursework at the Centro del Bel Libro in Ascona, Switzerland. Following his apprenticeship and studies, he returned to the United States to work as a conservator in private practice at Monastery Hill Bindery and with William Minter in Chicago, before working in research library conservation laboratories at Yale, Cornell, and Syracuse. In addition to establishing the special collections conservation lab at Syracuse, he also served as head of Preservation and Conservation. While working as a conservator, he completed his Master of Library Science with a focus on issues surrounding special collections and digitization.

Peter Verheyen is past Exhibitions and Publicity Chair for the Guild of Book Workers. His bindings have been exhibited widely with the Guild, and in invitational and solo exhibitions throughout the USA and abroad. In 1994 he founded online discussion list Book\_Arts-L, in 1995 the Book Arts Web website, and published *The Bonefolder: an e-journal for the bookbinder and book artist* from 2004 - 2012. His research and teaching interests are centered on the history and practice of traditional bookbinding techniques in the German tradition as well as introducing students studying the book as art to the fundamentals of sound structure and its continuing validity to the art of the book. He is also interested in the impact of the online environment on the book arts, especially in regard to how people learn.

Peter was introduced to the *Pressbengel* as an apprentice and eventually acquired his own copy. He was attracted to the manner in which a bibliophile and a master bookbinder described, in dialogue form, their way through the canonical structures utilized in Germany at that time. Gustav Moessner's introduction to the 1984 Mandragora Verlag reprinting of Collin's text provided valuable context for Peter Verheyen's English introduction, but also left significant unresolved questions about who Ernst Collin was, his background, family, and fate. Moessner, an important author and editor of bookbinding publications in Germany, said that nothing was heard from Collin after 1933. Other sources

such as bibliographies were also unclear. Parallel to the publication of *The Bone Folder*, Peter had begun a blog around the German bookbinding tradition; a topic which has received relatively little attention in the English-language literature. Collin's text provided a focal point for these explorations; but also, in early 2013, caught the attention of a genealogist researching her roots and possible connections to the Collin family. This brought everything back to the inconsistencies in Collin's biography and led to a joint reinvestigation of Collin and his family which clearly identified his roots and revealed that Ernst and his wife had perished in the Shoah. Aided by advances in digital libraries, this research also revealed a far greater body of writings and other activities than had previously been known. All this led to a new edition with an expanded introduction that provides rich context for Ernst, his family, and his writings. This research also led to the writing of an illustrated history and bibliography of the Collins that is being published to accompany the publication of this fine press edition. Those who are interested in this research process and project can learn more under "Colliniana" at [pressbengel.blogspot.com](http://pressbengel.blogspot.com).

#### ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS

These photographic images come from a collection of 34 negatives taken by Hans Schiff sometime after 1920, and document the pulling (taking apart) and rebinding a copy of the Bremer Presse *Faust* with that date on the spine.

An image was chosen to accompany each of the six days' dialogues. The photographs do not necessarily relate directly to each daily subject; rather, they illuminate the progressive nature of the hand binding process. The images are presented at their original size of 110mm by 80mm and include the edges of the negatives. In addition to the six primary images there is a portrait of the young Hans Schiff. Unfortunately there do not seem to be any extant pictures of the author, Ernst Collin. The photograph used for this prospectus is an additional image not used in the book.

The photographs have been scanned and digitally printed onto Canson Rag Photographique paper by Light Works, a non-profit photography organization based at Syracuse University.

#### ABOUT THE EDITION

As with the previous Boss Dog Press titles, *The Bone Folder* will be printed on our Morgans & Wilcox Washington handpress. The edition will consist of 120 copies, with 100 copies available for purchase. The paper for the book will be mouldmade Hahnemühle Biblio, chosen to show the digital Monotype Walbaum type to best advantage. Typesetting has been done here at the Press using Adobe InDesign, and plate processing will be provided by Boxcar Press of Syracuse, New York. The titling font is the second iteration of the Boss Dog Press FritzGotische, a fraktur face created by Don Rash in memory of the late Fritz Eberhardt, calligrapher and bookbinder extraordinaire. The page size is 9" x 12", and echoes the 3:4 proportions of the seven tipped-in photographs. The frontispiece is a facsimile of the original 1922 *Pressbengel* title page, printed letterpress. This prospectus is presented in the same format and materials as the edition in order to give interested parties an idea of the look and feel of the finished books.

#### ABOUT THE BINDINGS

Of the 100 copies for sale, 54 will be case bound in full pastepaper over boards and will be distinguished by Arabic numeration(1-54). The case bound copies will be hand sewn over linen tapes with sewn-on endpaper sections for durability and strength. Titling for these books has yet to be decided. There will be 26 copies (A-Z) bound in quarter leather with pastepaper boards, titled in gold on the spines. The leather bound copies will be hand sewn over flat cords, with which the boards will be attached; the sewn-on endpaper sections will have leather inner hinges. All of the 80 bound copies will be housed in pastepaper covered slipcases. The remaining 20 copies will be offered in signatures for bookbinders and will receive Roman numeration (I-XX).

#### ABOUT THE PRESS

Don Rash initially became interested in fine press printing in college; after graduation he purchased an Adana Horizontal Quarto press and began to dabble in letterpress printing. In 1978 he was hired to be bookbinder at the Haverford College Library and quickly came to the realization that he would have to narrow his focus if he were to become a hand bookbinder with any pretention

to adequacy. From 1980 to 1986 he studied bookbinding with Trudi Eberhardt, and calligraphy and design binding with Fritz Eberhardt. Since 1986 he has worked as an independent bookbinder and book conservator in Northeast-ern Pennsylvania.

Things came full circle in 2003 with the acquisition of a Washington hand-press from Michael Peich's Aralia Press, and the establishment of the Boss Dog Press. The following year saw the publication of *Rules for Bookbinders*, a poem about bookbinding written by Fritz Eberhardt in both German and English. The poem was printed from line cuts of Rash's calligraphy and Fritz Eberhardt's pencil sketches. After a long hiatus, the *Catalog of Bookbinding Tools and Equipment Formerly Belonging to Loyd Haberly* was printed in 2012, followed by *Three Lectures by Fritz Eberhardt* in 2014, *Einschlagpapier: Wrapping Papers of the Deutsche Demokratische Republik* in 2015 and now, in 2016, *The Bone Folder*.

#### PRICES, ORDERING AND PREPUBLICATION BENEFITS

Prices for *The Bone Folder* are as follows:

Unbound copies: \$300

Paper case copies: \$450

Quarter bound copies: \$600

In order to finance the work of printing and binding the edition the Press is offering special benefits to anyone who chooses to prepay for their copy(ies) prior to September 1, 2016. For prepayment for either a paper case copy or an unbound copy the Press will print an ad personam line on the colophon page: "This is copy 10 and was printed for Your Name Here". For prepayment for a quarter leather copy the Press will print the ad personam line and also provide a signed copy of Peter Verheyen's family history/bibliography of the Collin family, *The Collins*.

All books will be shipped via Priority Mail for \$15. Standing order customers receive the usual 20% discount plus free shipping; dealers receive 30% discount. Orders may be made using the included order form; by emailing [bossdogpress@donrashfinebookbinder.com](mailto:bossdogpress@donrashfinebookbinder.com); or by phoning 1-570-239-8643. The Press accepts checks, credit cards and PayPal.