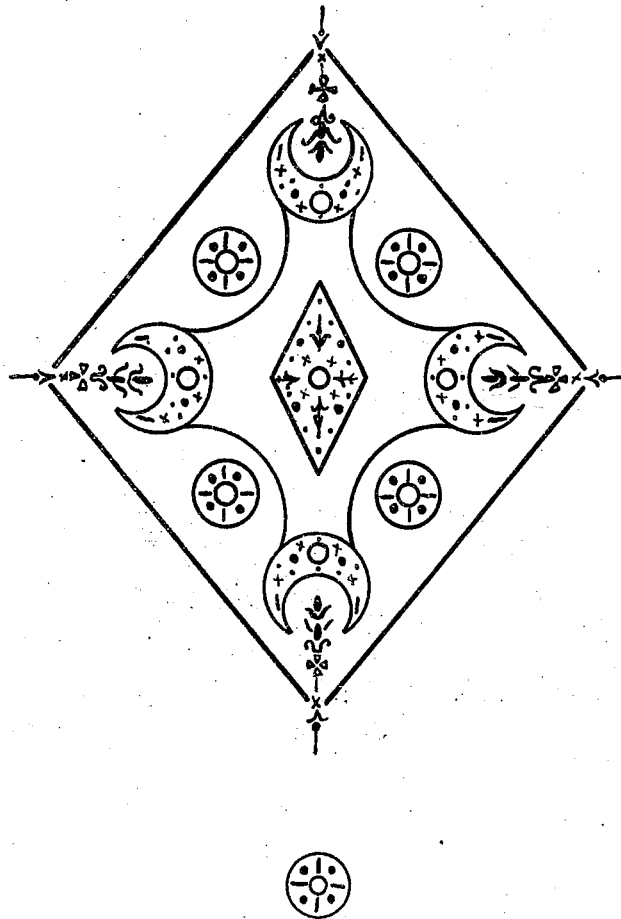


W. Mc Adams.
Illuminating Covers of Books.
N^o 5327. Patented Oct. 9. 1847.



Witnesses.

A. L. Garrison
John A. Garrison

Inventor.

William Mc Adams.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WM. McADAMS, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

ORNAMENTING BOOK-COVERS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 5,327, dated October 9, 1847.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM McADAMS, of the city of Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented
5 a new and useful process of illuminating or ornamenting with colors the leather covers of books or fancy articles covered with leather, which I denominate "stereographic binding," which is described as follows.

10 The mode heretofore practiced in effecting the above named result on book covers, has been, either, by cutting out pieces of leather of the desired form and color, and after paring or thinning them, pasting them upon
15 the covers in their required relative positions, or by the hand of an artist, painting such devices as are designed for the covers in water colors in the same manner that it is done upon paper. Both of these processes
20 it will be seen are very elaborate; the one first above named, requiring in the performance some two or three days, where the devices are in any degree intricate, or numerous, while that last above named may require
25 as many weeks.

By my improvement in the art, hundreds of volumes may be done in the same time, and as well as by the process of applying colored pieces of leather that one volume
30 could be completed by the old mode and much cheaper.

My process is as follows: The leather used must be white, or what is termed virgin leather, tanned with oak bark, and free from
35 grease, acid, and alkalies. The covers may be made in the usual manner, and left to dry for four or five days, and then stamped in blank with a heated die (that is to say the brass die that is to be used in stamping the
40 gold). This blank impression acts for a gage by which to put on the colors, and is absolutely necessary to prevent the colors from spreading.

The colors are prepared in the following manner: For a red color take one ounce of
45 cochineal; three quarters of an ounce of Brazil wood, simmered in a pint of rain water till nearly dry; and then poured into a very fine linen cloth, and as much of the color pressed through it as possible, by a
50 binder's common press, into a china vessel; then add four or five drops of aqua-regia to be used cold. For a light green take Persian berries two ounces, simmered down in
55 a pint of rain water, and subjected to the same process as with the red, and brought

to the required shade with chemic blue. The purple is the same as binders use. For black take iron filings simmered in vinegar for several days. For a yellow color use
60 aqua regia. The pans in which the colors are prepared must be of china ware, as a vessel of a metallic substance would be corroded with the acid in the colors and spoil them.

The colors must be purified, or filtrated from all sediment in the following described manner: Take several thicknesses of fine soft flannel and lay them in a vessel so as to leave a space between the lower piece of
70 flannel and the bottom of the vessel. Pour the color into that space at the side of the vessel until it reaches the flannel through which it will rise in a pure state leaving the sediment behind; for should any sedi-
75 ment rise to the upper surface of the flannel it could not be used in staining the leather as it would stick to the die and smear and spoil the impression.

The dies.—The dies are prepared in the
80 following manner. Take blocks of a soft pine wood that will absorb and impart the colors prepared as above described and bring them to the required length, breadth, and thickness. Make the surface on which the
85 design is to be formed smooth. Draw the required design thereon. Cut away the block half an inch deep at right angles to the face thereof leaving the portions that are to stain the leather smooth and the sides
90 wall-sided to prevent the colors from running together, or mixing, and not like common wood cuts.

Manner of staining the leather.—Place the die upon the flannel in a horizontal position and let it thus remain until it has taken
95 up into its pores a sufficient quantity of the filtrated color to make a fine impression on the leather. Then lay the die upon the leather cover and apply a gentle pressure to
100 the back. Remove the die and a beautiful colored design will appear on the leather cover. Let this impression dry before stamping another color on the white or blank places, which is done by applying
105 another and a different die in a similar manner; or several colors may be transferred to the face of the die at the same time by making a vessel to contain the several colors with partitions, in it forming spaces corresponding with the shape of the design on the
110 die in which the several colors are placed

and upon which the pieces of flannel are laid, which will enable the operator to stamp the several colors on the cover at one operation, which mode is preferable to using
5 several separate dies for the various colors.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

The peculiar process of ornamenting the cover of books, as above described and set
0 forth:—that is to say by first indenting the outlines of the required figures on the covers

by metallic dies to prevent the spreading and mixing of the colors, and then stamping the colors (previously prepared in the particular manner above described) by means
15 of soft porous wooden stamps made wall sided, as herein more particularly set forth, by which the ends above stated are attained.

WM. McADAMS.

Witnesses:

WM. P. ELLIOT,

A. E. H. JOHNSON.