

# Sensational American Book Bindings in the Library Company of Philadelphia

## Bearing Witness to the Industrial Revolution and the Gilded Age

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# 18<sup>th</sup> Century Bindings

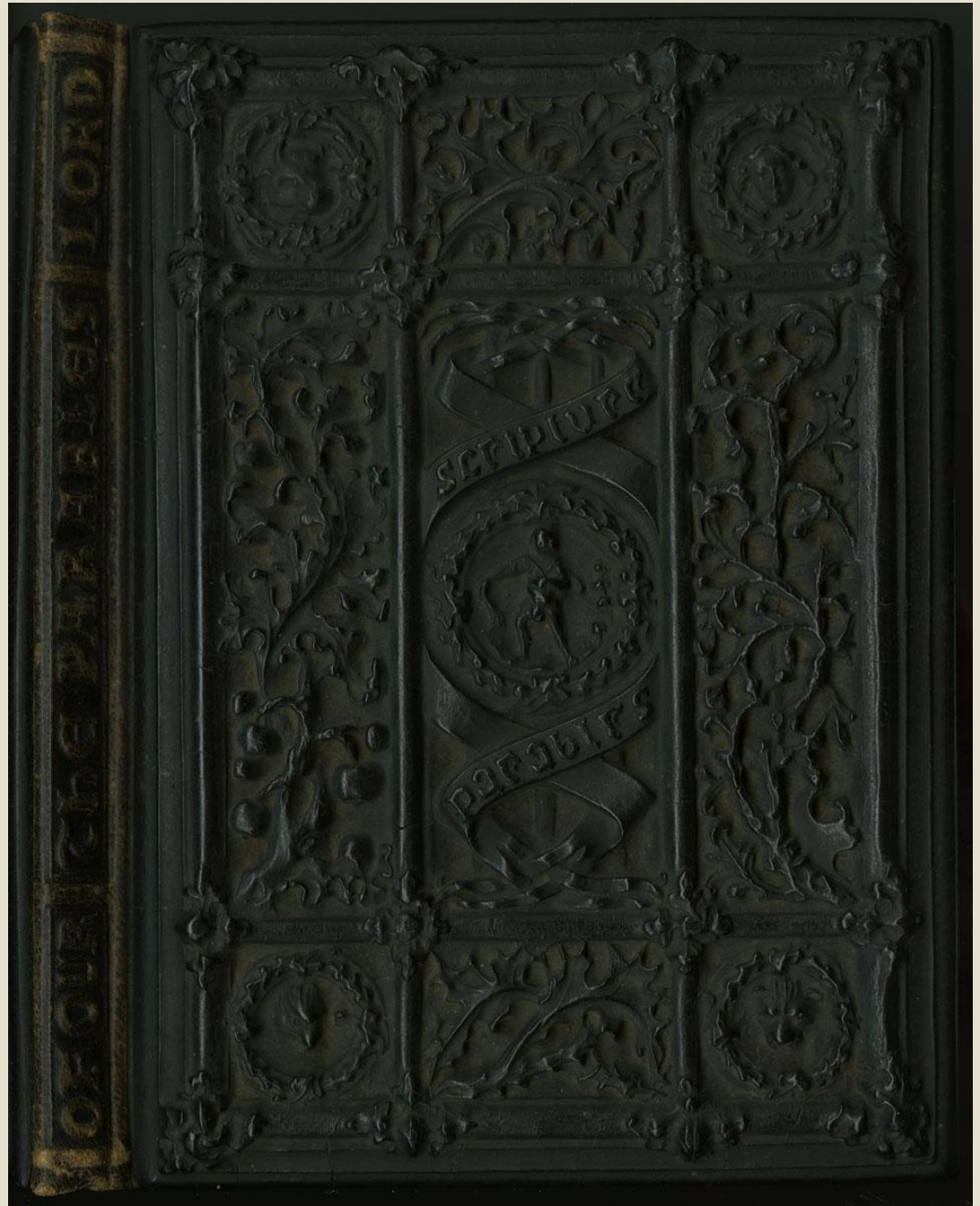


Wood?

Iron?

Ebony?

A monastic-  
style binding  
of  
Papier-mâché  
and plaster,  
1848.





Circa 1850-1855

## Designs in Mother-of-Pearl

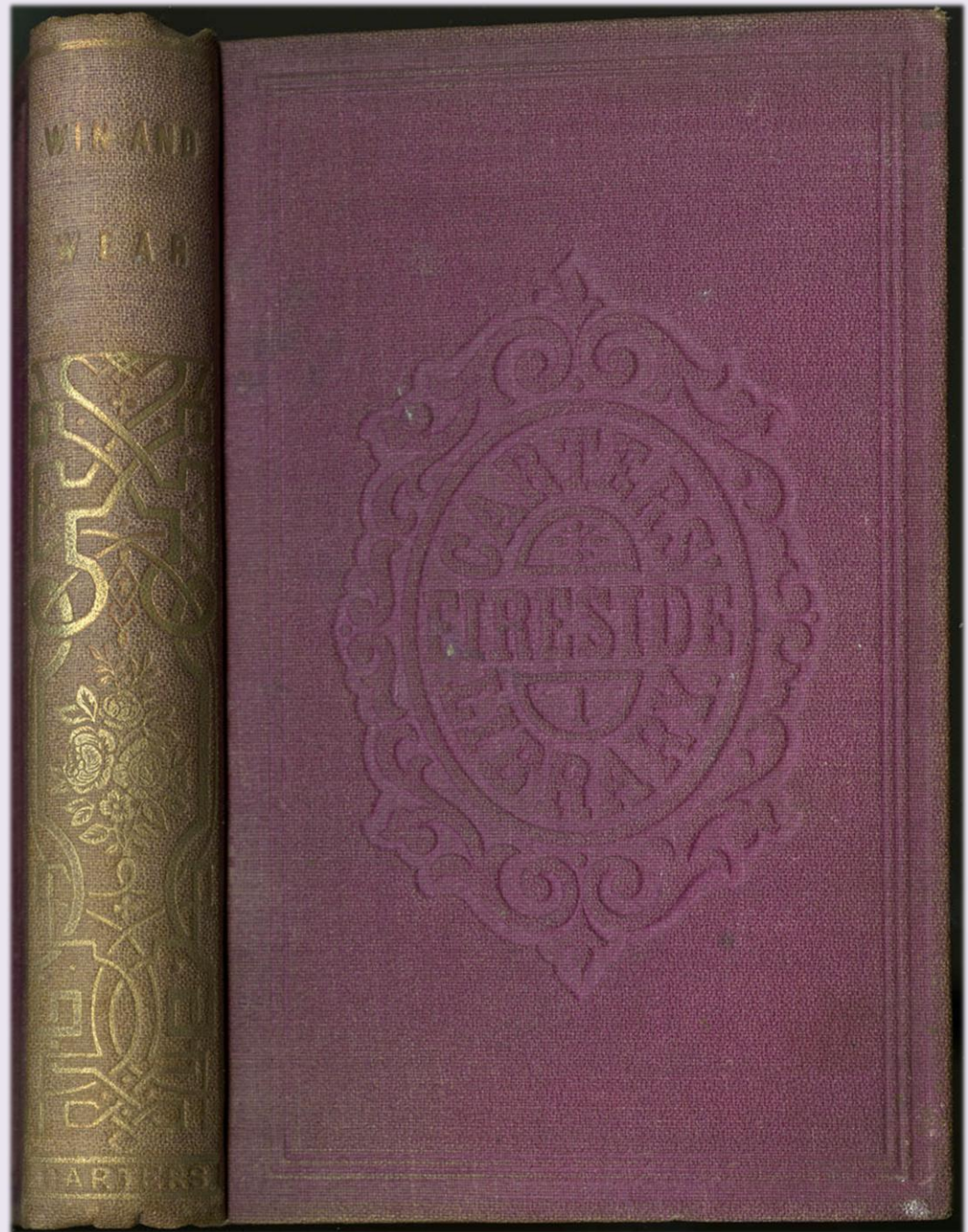


# Mauveine

The first synthetic  
organic dye,  
developed in  
1856.

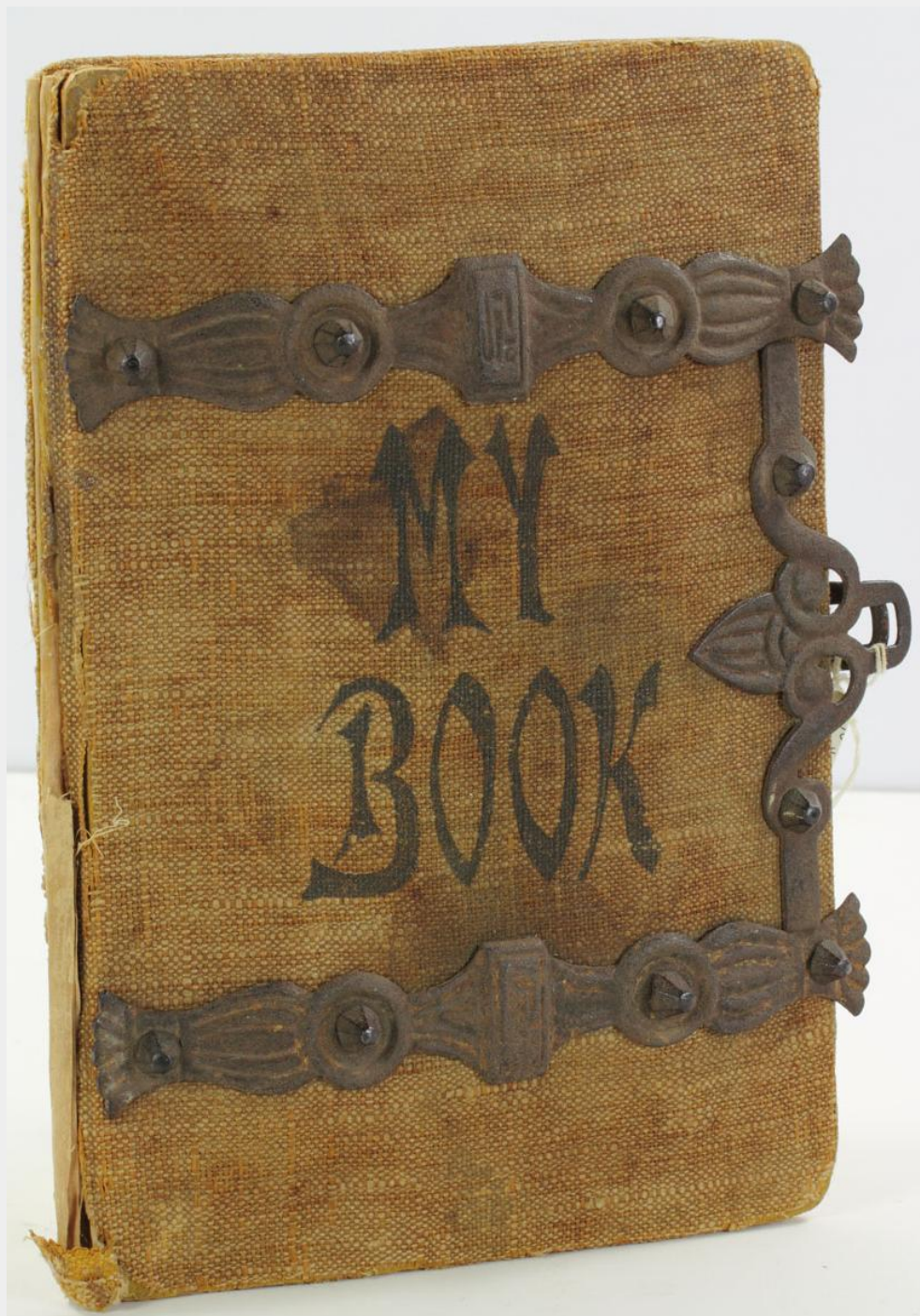
Empress Eugénie  
and Queen  
Victoria dictate  
style, from clothing  
to bookbinding.

1864



**DO  
NOT  
TOUCH!**

ca. 1858?



# Religious Sentiment

Bone, c1892



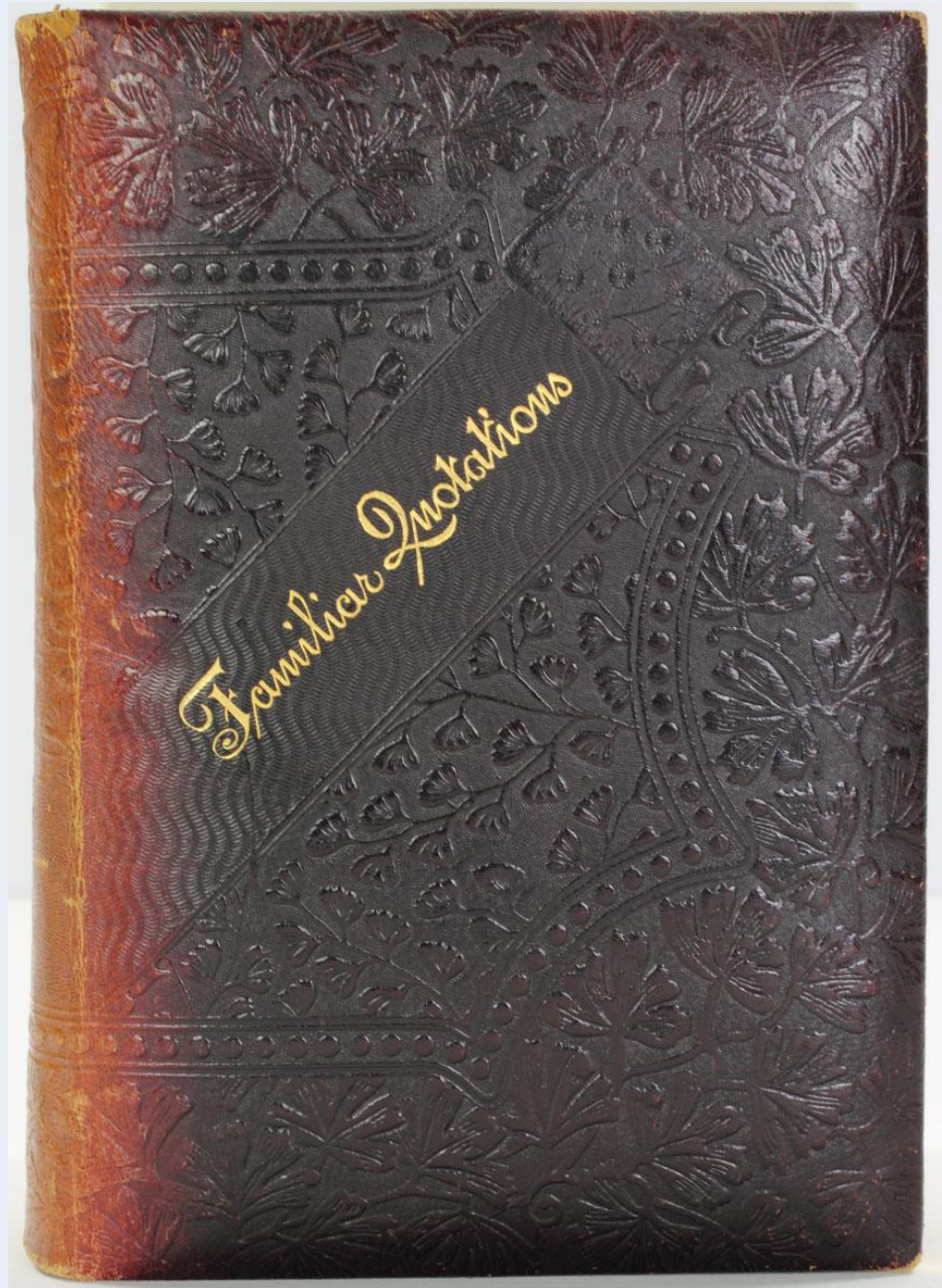
Mother-of-Pearl, c1891



# THE OLD AND THE NEW

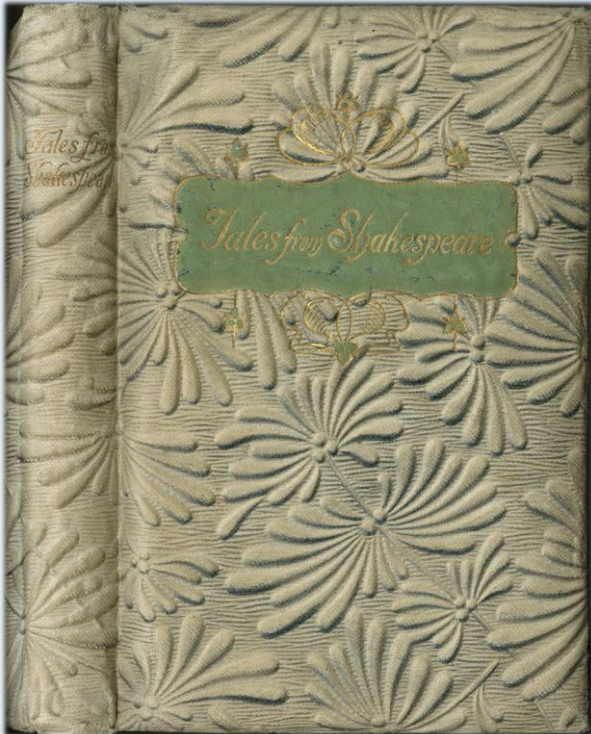
Some padded  
bindings are  
reminiscent of  
earlier styles of  
decorated  
leather –  
embossed and  
beveled.

c1883

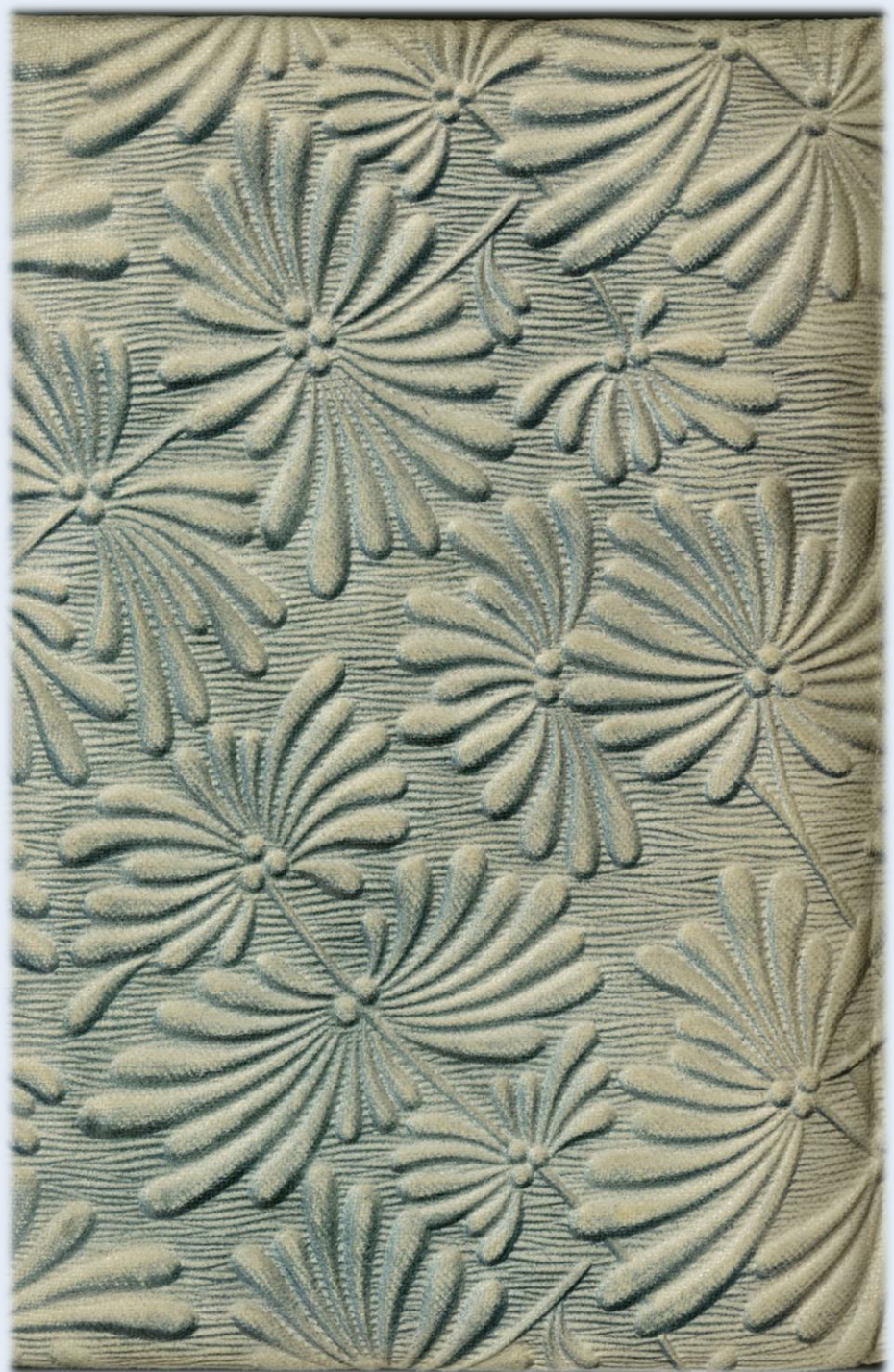




Color was used  
to add depth and  
dimension.



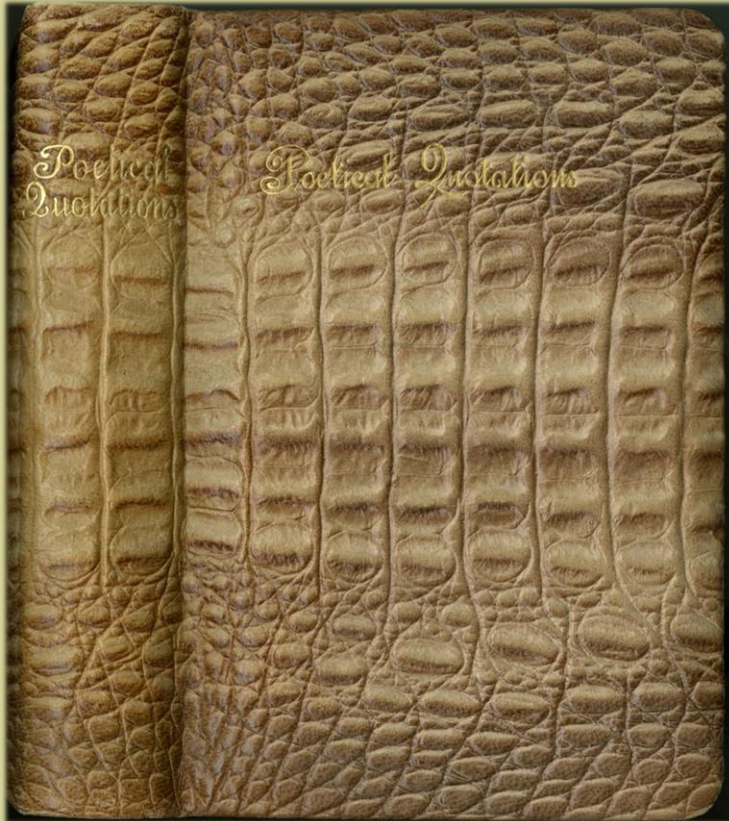
Not before 1878



# The Real Deal and the Knock Off

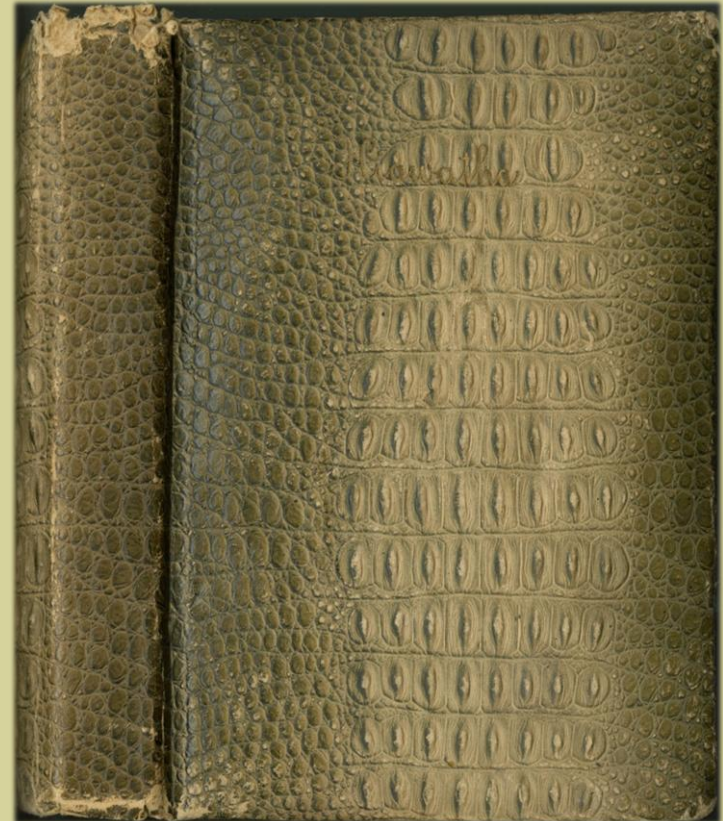
Crowell & Co., ca.1883.

Padded alligator.



Hurst & Co., c1898.

Padded paper.

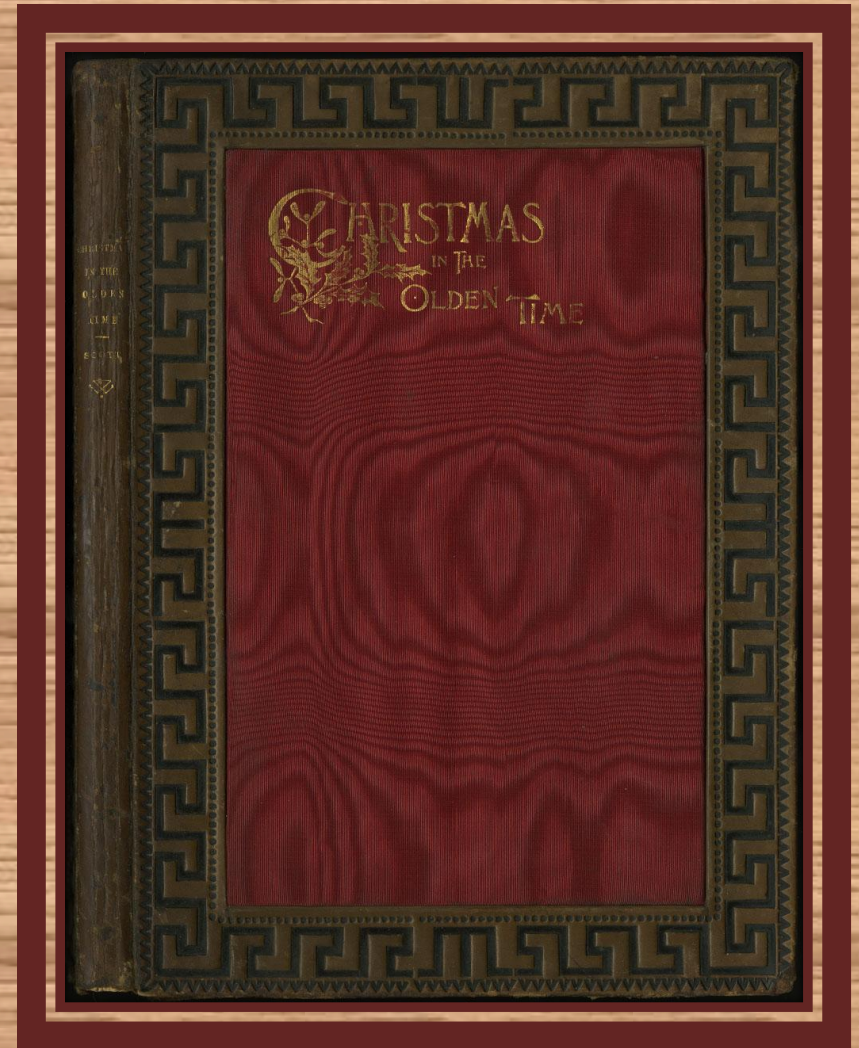


# Options in Padded Cloth



Both c1900

Pick the binding to match your décor!



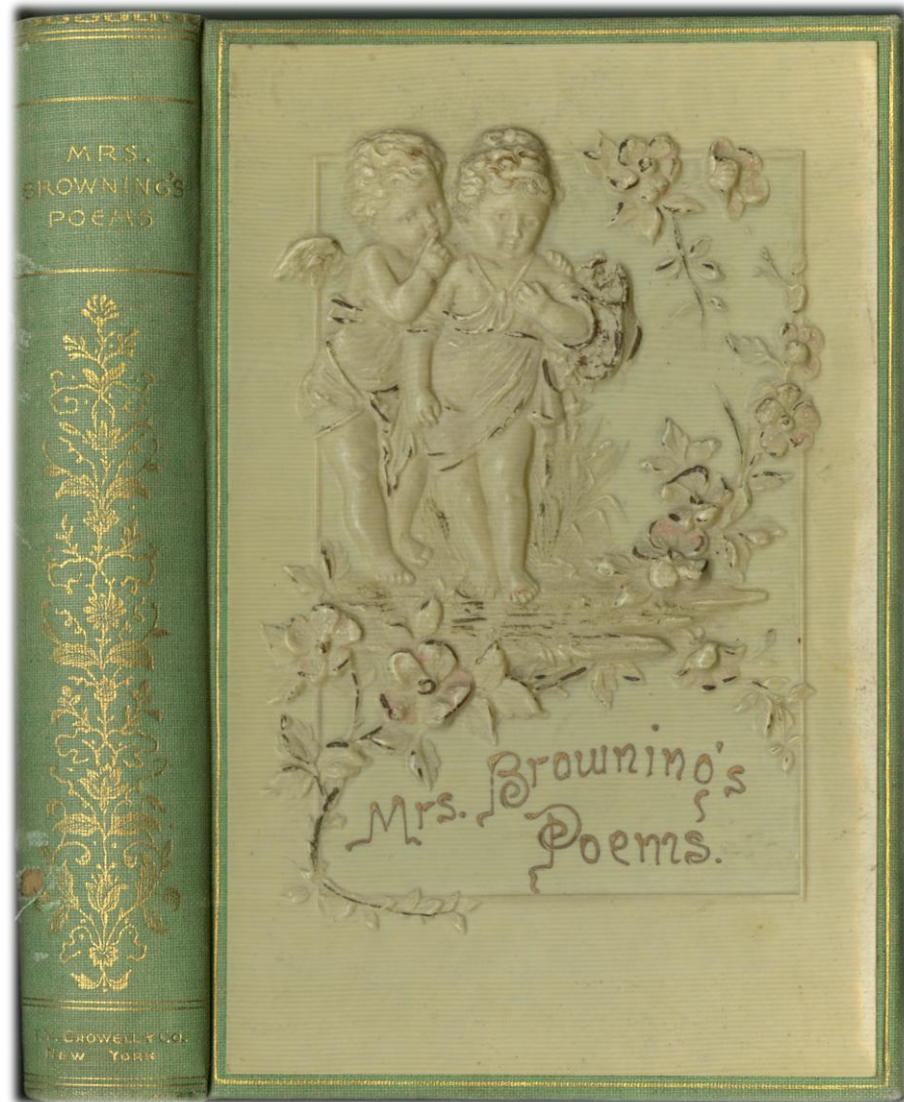
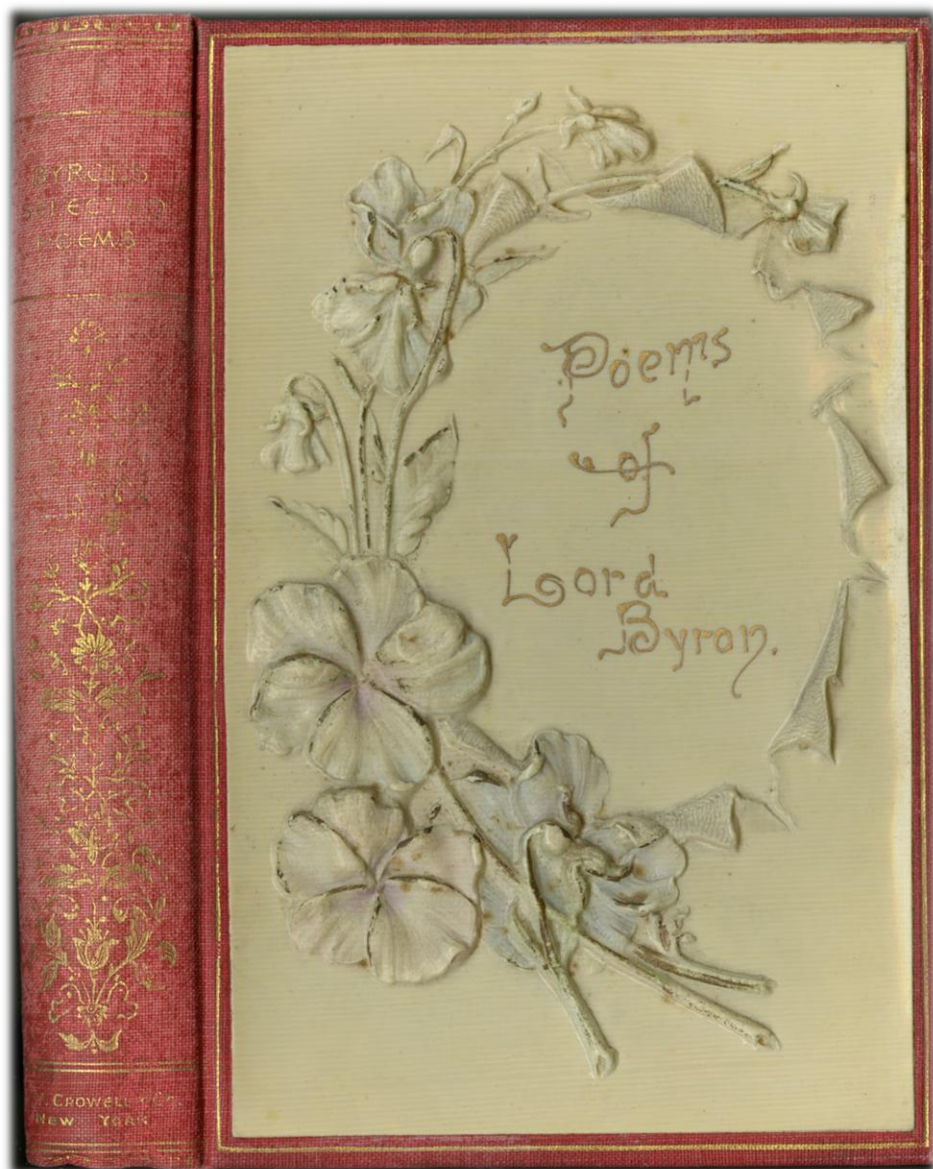
Both 1887

Chromo-  
lithographed  
paper  
wrapper  
with  
chenille  
fringe

1883



Hand-colored molded celluloid on cloth.

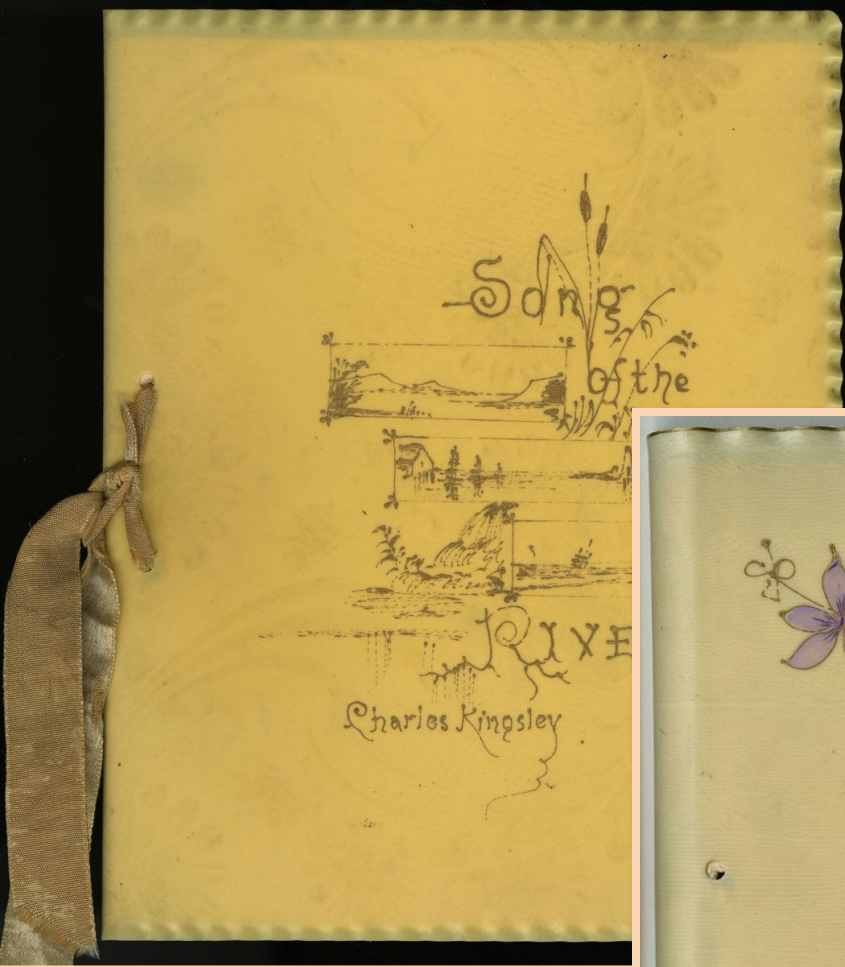


1890s

Plastic  
is in  
the  
House

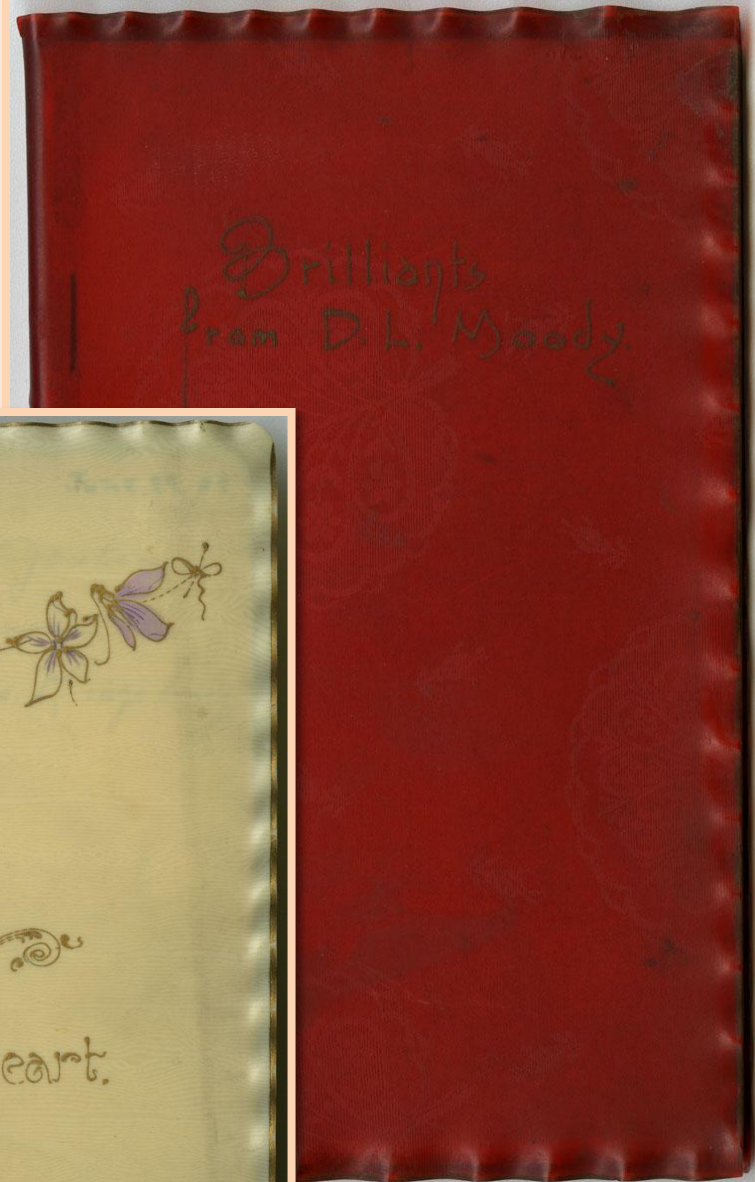
c1887



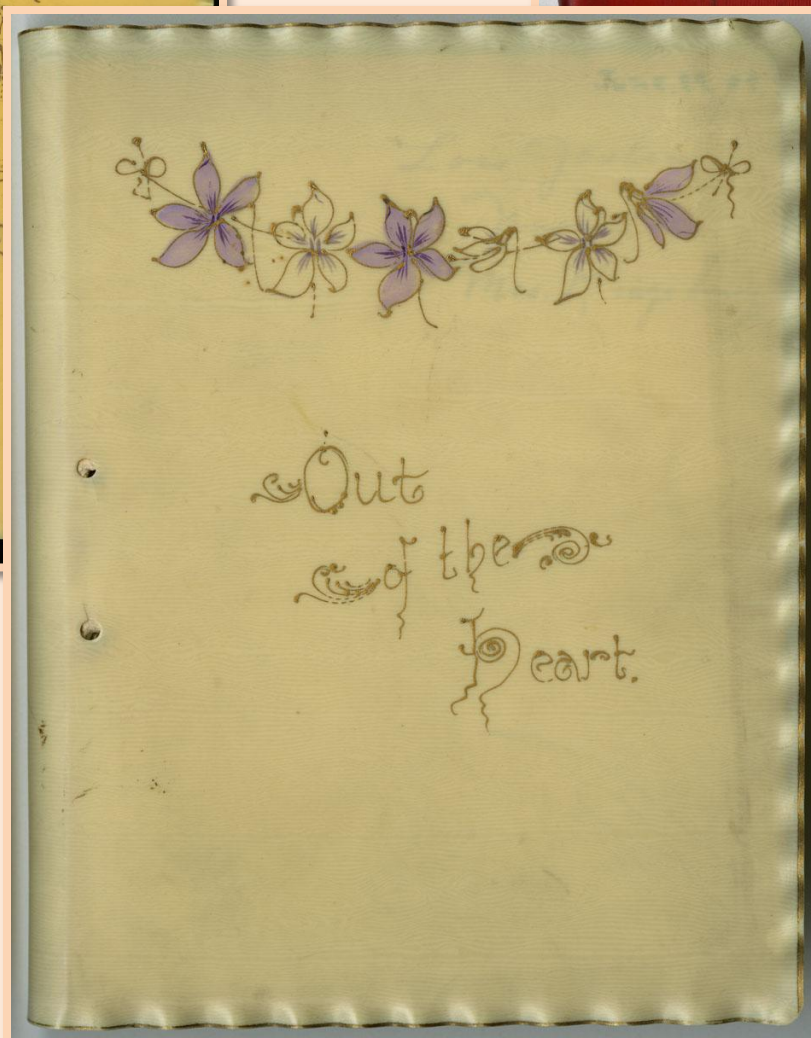


c1887

c1891



c1894





Plastic and Velvet:  
luxury meets modernity in your parlor.



Not after 1883



Not after 1888

Not after 1900



Not after 1887

Album

My, that's Sensational!!



ca. 1890s?

