

IFLA PRESENTS

Professional Units Virtual Events



IFLA PRESENTS

Binding as conservation: practices, evolution, and challenges for the future

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01/03/2024



A French bookbinding and conservation training academy operating throughout the world



- **LA RELIURE DU LIMOUSIN**
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- **Direção Regional do Arquivo e Biblioteca da Madeira**
- **The TRITA Partnership**



LA RELIURE DU LIMOUSIN



International
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La Reliure du Limousin was created in **1950** and has been ever since dedicated to the long term conservation, restoration and binding of cultural heritage collections and archives. The company is labelled “**Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant**”.

88

Bookbinders and restorers

With complementary expertise

2 000

Projects per year

97

Countries

Where we can operate through the Memorist network



LA RELIURE DU LIMOUSIN



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Our expertise:

Craft Bookbinding

Restoration of ancient documents
(books, parchments, maps...etc)

Heritage Digitization

Conservation Audit of collections

For:

Cultural institutions, archive
departments, libraries, museums...etc



OUR TRAINING ACADEMY



The training academy was first created in 1990, then developed in 2022, with the double objective of **training la Reliure's experts** and **offering training opportunities to cultural heritage professionnals**.

The training academy's processes, teachers and lectures are audited each year by the French state for the **QUALIOPI** label.

12 students each year graduate from the French National Traditional Bookbinding degree (CAP).



OUR TRAINING ACADEMY



The training academy develops several tailor made programs for international cohorts. (Ex: conservation and bookbinding 5 week course for the Saudi Arabia Royal Institute for Traditional Arts, one week initiation for South African museum conservators)

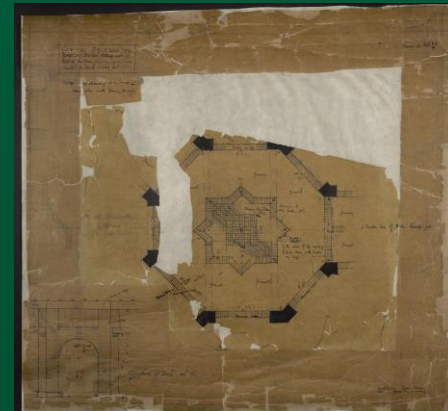
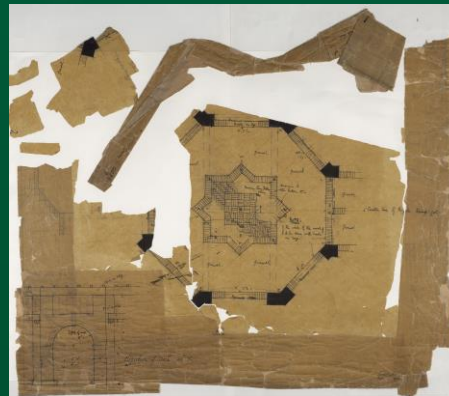
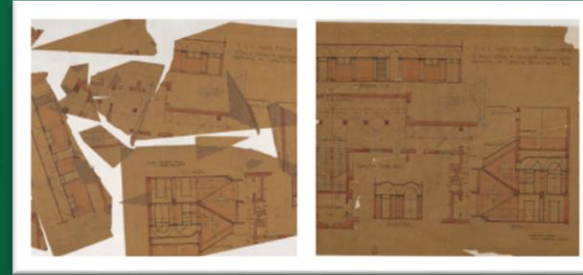
The teachers are experts in bookbinding and restoration with multiple years of experience. Most of them have run their own practice during many years before joining our academy.



INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

- **UCT Libraries**

In April 2021, a fire destroyed the Jagger Library. From March 2022 to December 2023, French experts of la Reliure set up two onsite workshops: a digitisation workshop and a restoration workshop staffed by a **team of 6 craftsmen**. These talented craftsmen have been taught exceptional skills: preventive conservation, flattening, full lining with Japanese papers and reversible glues. This restoration work, combined with digitisation, was carried out over a period of **two years**, enabling the entire collection to be preserved despite the extremely deteriorated condition of the documents.



INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

- **South Africa Iziko National Museum**

In March 2023, La Reliure du Limousin worked with the Iziko Museums of South Africa to restore the fresco “The Mutoko”, a copy of an emblematic cave painting. This magnificent watercolour from the early XXth century, measuring 7,22 m x 2,98 m, showed significant signs of deterioration: dust, tears, gaps, brittle paper... After a deep drey-cleaning, deconsolidating areas were treated with defibrated pieces of Japanese paper on the reverse side, the paper was flattened where necessary, the edges were strengthened, and the wooden poles reattached.

Now restored, this work can be displayed for visitors to admire.



INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

- **Senegal civil status agency**

In 2023, Senegal launched the NEKKAL program, which included the audit and bookbinding of its civil registers. La Reliure du Limousin has been entrusted with the audit of the archives and the implementation of the project. Two professional experts drew up a bookbinding restoration protocol tailored to the state of deterioration of the **15,000 registers**. Following this phase, a restoration and bookbinding workshop was set up onsite by our teams: **8 craftsmen** were recruited for this mission and trained by a skilled restorer from la Reliure du Limousin with 30 years' experience, enabling the documents to be preserved in their country.



INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

- **Direção Regional do Arquivo e Biblioteca da Madeira**

The Madeira Archives are embarking on a major project to digitise their collections. Two of them need to be restored: a collection of XVIIIth and XIXth century land registers from the Ministry of Finance, damaged by mould and mishandling, and a collection of century notarial deeds, legacies and wills from XVIIth to XIXth century, deeply eaten by woodworms. La Reliure du Limousin is currently setting up a workshop on site and will transfer conservation skills to a team of 10 people to take on this new challenge, which will last over a year.



INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

- The TRITA Partnership

The Royal Intitut of Traditional Arts aims to provide quality education and training services in the field of traditional arts, and to promote, encourage and strengthen national capabilities in these fields. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has numerous collections of manuscripts and parchments and wants to take action to preserve them in the best possible way. For this reason, TRITA asked La Reliure du Limousin to set up a 5-week training course for 40 young Saudis interested the preservation of cultural heritage and traditional bookbinding.



INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

- ## The Archives of the Jewish Community in Tunis

In December 2023, our expert Christophe Do Vale flew to Tunisia to carry out an audit on an exceptional scale: the archives of this collection contain 4,000 documents, most of them unique. Analyzed one by one in order to identify the particularities and state of each document, and to obtain both a precise collation and an overall, detailed condition report, these Tunisian religious and state registers will now be able to benefit from high-quality restoration, in line with their heritage value, their state of deterioration and the unique techniques required to safeguard them. The mission also analyzed the feasibility of setting up an onsite bookbinding and restoration workshop.

Onsite workshop will be installed in May 2024



THANK YOU



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