

**THE ESSENTIALS OF GOOD  
BINDING: A LECTURE DELIVERED  
BEFORE THE MASSACHUSETTS  
LIBRARY CLUB**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649305308

The Essentials of Good Binding: A Lecture Delivered Before the Massachusetts Library Club by  
John H. H. McNamee

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN H. H. MCNAMEE**

**THE ESSENTIALS OF GOOD  
BINDING: A LECTURE DELIVERED  
BEFORE THE MASSACHUSETTS  
LIBRARY CLUB**





THE ESSENTIALS  
OF  
GOOD BINDING

---

A LECTURE DELIVERED  
BEFORE  
THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB

BY

JOHN H. H. McNAMEE

1896

PRESS OF LOMBARD & CAUSTIC,  
26A BRATTLE ST., CAMBRIDGE.

McNamee d. H. - 205-100 FIN

*INTRODUCTORY*

---

THE following lecture was delivered before the Librarians' Club of Massachusetts, at their meeting in Lowell.

Mr. McNamee has received so many requests for copies that he has put it in this form. The text is taken from a report contained in the Cambridge Tribune.

"One of the most interesting papers read before the Massachusetts Library Club at Lowell was that of Mr. John H. H. McNamee of this city, bookbinder to the University. His subject was: 'The Essentials of Good Binding.' Mr. McNamee had made preparations to explain his lecture by bringing with him, as nearly as possible, a complete lay-out of bookbinders' materials and implements. These



were spread over a large table at one end of the hall. A young lady was in attendance, who showed by actual working, the different methods of folding, sewing, and putting together a book from the time it leaves the printer's hands until it was ready for the journeyman bookbinder. The paper is as follows:"

*Mr. President and Members:* It was with a great deal of hesitation that I consented to appear before your honored body in the role of a lecturer, because I felt that a man who had confined himself closely to the details of his business for the last twenty years, and who had during that time looked to the development and improvement of the actual manual labor which enters into it, and the solving of the many interesting problems connected with the work, rather than to acquiring a perfect command of language (so necessary to the public speaker), was better fitted to perform the labor required rather than to intelligently explain it. Again I knew I was to appear before a society of the most intelligent minds of Massachusetts, minds fully capable of selecting the true from the false, and that would not be satisfied with

statements which could not be verified. It would be the height of presumption on my part to present to you an historical sketch of the art of bookbinding, as many of you are much better informed on that branch of the subject under discussion than I can ever hope to be. Therefore I shall confine myself to that which I know is uppermost in the mind of everyone present, the practical side of the trade. In order to derive the points necessary to come to a conclusion on this most important subject, I will ask your close attention while I take two or three different specimens through the process known to the trade as extra binding. As the first essential for good binding is good printing, we will first examine the printed sheet.

As the work which is sent from the modern public library to the bookbinder has generally been bound in some form before reaching the librarian, I will spend only a