

Edward Seymour & The Fancy Paper Company – Sidney E Berger, Oak Knoll Press, 2006. 80pp \$150. ISBN 1-48456-189-0

Edward Seymour created a highly distinctive range of papers which were in great demand at the top end of the bookbinding market in the first half of last century – Zaehnsdorf, Sangorski & Sutcliffe, Morrell's and Bayntum – were among the customers of the Fancy Paper Company's papers which were often highly coloured, with a blotchy, watery appearance and without a repeat pattern.

Seymour (1898-1979) was dedicated to his craft and highly inventive – creating a machine that would produce a 'marble' paper on a roll – thus generating a considerable increase in output. Prof. Berger has written a lively account as he unravelled the history of the company and the man who became synonymous with it. He had the benefit, to which he justly pays tribute, of Ronald Gouseman, Los Angeles bookbinder, and the purchaser of the residue of papers on the company's demise in 1977 and who donated the tip-ins which add so much to the books value and interest, and to William Seymour, nephew of Edward, who both worked in the company and who maintained, what has proved to be, an invaluable archive.

Alan Isaac