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## Make Marbled Paper

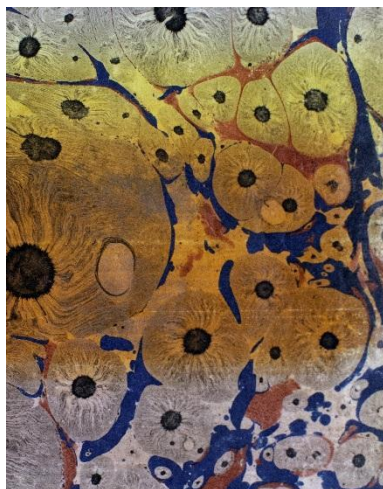
Have you ever looked inside an old book and seen beautifully decorated endpapers lining its cover? Bright patterns and swirling designs have added unexpected touches to books for centuries, becoming wildly popular in European book making during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (The technique of marbleizing paper was pioneered in Japan in the 10<sup>th</sup> century!)

Here are a few examples of marbled end papers from Pequot Library's Special Collections:



### **Peacock**

In the binding of:  
A Historical Sketch of Westfield  
By Emerson Davis  
Westfield, Printed and Published by Joseph Root, 1826  
Presented by Virginia Marquand Monroe

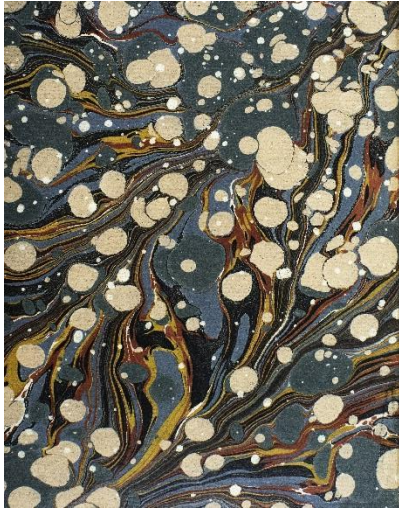


### **Tiger**

In the binding of:  
The Sunday School Hymn Book  
Philadelphia, American Sunday School Union, [c. 1845]



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### **Zebra**

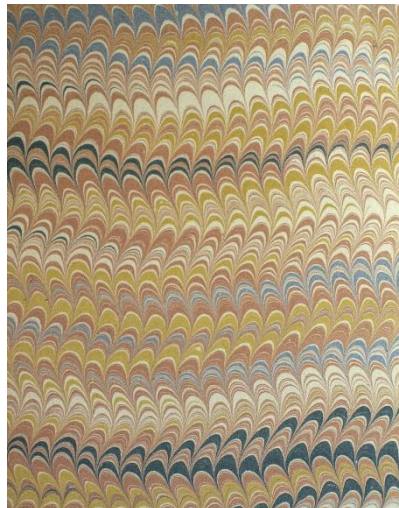
In the binding of:

The History of Long Island from its Discovery and Settlement to the Present Time

By Benjamin F. Thompson

New York, Published by Gould, Banks & Co., 1843

Presented by Virginia Marquand Monroe



### **Serpentine**

In the binding of:

An Historical Sketch of Merrick, Long Island, 1643-1900

By Chas. N. Kent

Merrick, The Merrick Library, 1900

Presented by Virginia Marquand Monroe

To create marbled paper, an artist suspends different colored oil-based inks in a tray of water, either letting the design develop as the ink falls and spreads, or deliberately creating different designs with tools, like fine-metal combs or styluses. Because the ink is oil-based, it rests on top of the water, which makes it possible to manipulate it into complicated patterns without excessive smudging or blending. Oil is less dense than water, so it floats on top rather than dissolving!



## Want to give it a try? Here's how!

Making marbled paper can be a messy, so if you can, try this outside. If you can't be outside, just be sure that you have plenty of floor space – and that's it's covered!

### What You Need:

- Paper cups
- Food coloring
- Flat tray – aluminum roasting pans work well
- Craft sticks
- Cooking oil

### What You Do:

1. Fill several paper cups about 1/3 full with cooking oil and add several drops of food coloring. Stir them thoroughly with a craft stick.
2. Fill your tray with about 1 inch of water. With your dropper, add a few drops of color to your water.
3. Gently swirl the color around until you like the pattern. Make sure you do not mix the color into the water – it should sit on the surface.
4. When you have a pattern that you like, carefully place your paper on top of the water. Be sure that there aren't any air bubbles under it.
5. Lift the paper immediately and let it drip for a minute.
6. Hang the paper on a clothes line, drying rack, or on a surface to dry
7. Gently stir the surface of the paint in the tray, or add some new colors and swirl them. Practice patterns like circles, hearts and squiggles.