

Study on the Bookbinding Method of Modern Separate Edition Novels

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Abstract—The binding of modern separate edition novels adopts the new styles while retaining the tradition, and gradually turns into the modernization direction. Western-style binding entered China in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902), and began to spread from the late 29th year of Guangxu (1903) until the 30th year of Guangxu (1904). Some novels use a western-style binding, while retaining some of the features of the thread-sewn binding. On the one hand, the binding of the western-style is more convenient and time-saving; on the other hand, the western-style binding is printed on both sides, which can reduce the use of paper and reduce the production cost. In the middle and late Guangxu period, the publication of the stereotype edition and lithography novels has entered a peak period. The binding method of the novels at this stage is more complicated and varied, and the new and old styles are mixed, with the new styles gradually occupying a dominant position.

Keywords—modern times; separation edition novels; western-type binding; thread-sewn

I. INTRODUCTION

Western printing technology introduced to China in the late Qing Dynasty not only brought about the technological changes in book printing, but also brought about changes in the form of printing, which had a great impact on the binding and design of books. This paper explores the binding characteristics of modern separation edition novels under the leadership of stereotype edition and lithography, and analyzes the characteristics of the new type of western-style binding and its use in the publication of novels. The author has reviewed the version information of more than 500 novels, including the novels of original editions, the electronic editions, the photocopies of the series editions, and editions recorded by the novel catalogues and in person. The time spans from Daoguang to 3rd year of Xuantong (1911) and even to the early Republic of China. Although it cannot cover the version of all the novels in modern times, it can be seen big things through small ones, and the version of the book has certain regularity and universality in a period of time. Basically, it can be seen from the binding characteristics of modern separation edition novels.

II. THREAD-SEWN BINDING AND WESTERN-STYLE BINDING FEATURES

The biggest change in the form of binding in modern separation edition novels is the emergence of the so-called

"western-style binding". The binding forms of Chinese ancient books mainly include accordion binding, cyclone binding, butterfly-fold binding, wrapped-ridge binding, and thread-sewn binding. Binding books in the Qing Dynasty, inherited the old ones of the late Ming Dynasty, were basically thread-sewn binding. The Chinese periodicals published in the early 19th century by Westerners also used thread-sewn binding. By the end of the Guangxu era, new-style western-style binding began to be introduced to China, bringing a richer variety of bookbinding styles. Since then, the novel binding form, both thread-sewn and western-style binding, has not yet formed a uniform specification. Some organizations still used the old thread-sewn style of binding when they published novels. Some institutions took the lead in adopting new styles of western-style. Other books use both western-style binding and some features of the thread-sewn binding. The binding form is mixed with old and new, and gradually transitions to the modernization direction, eventually eliminating the traditional thread-sewn style.

The thread-sewn binding began in the Song Dynasty. But so far, there were no thread-sewn binding books in the Song Dynasty line until the Wanli era of Ming Dynasty, and it was very popular in the early Qing Dynasty. The basic style is: printing one side of the paper, folding the paper in half, stacking it into a book, wearing a small hole with an awl, and then ordering it into a book with a line, and turning right in rows. In the modern line of novels, the binding form was basically the same as that in the middle and early Qing Dynasty. It retained the basic features of the thread-sewn binding, but it was simplified in some aspects. The most common perforation was still four holes, or six holes. Some novels still wrote the title of the book in the root cutedge of the book, such as the lithograph "New Book of Youmeng Yiguan Biography", published by Xiaolin Newspaper Office in 29th year of Guangxu (1903), a total of 6 volumes, 5 remaining, made its book name and volume number at the root cutedge of the book. However, this method was not common, and more books were to directly put the bookmark and write the bookname on the book cover. Most of the novels in modern times had omitted the secondary pages, and the bookname page was directly bound after the book. In addition, modern thread-sewn binding novels tended to be more rough and sloppy: the pages were not straight and accurate; or the paper size was different, and the cutting was not appropriate; or the root cutedges were rough, without being carefully polished. For example, in the 29th year of

Guangxu (1903), the lithograph "Sanmen Street Full Biography" (see "Fig. 1" and "Fig. 2") printed by Guangyi Book Company, the perforation was set to four holes, and the book was decorated with red pattern bookmarks, titled with "Full-length Characters, Sanmen Street Full Biography, Shanghai Guangyi Book Company Issued", and there was no secondary page. Another example is the lithograph "Shigong Case Full Biography" (see "Fig. 3" and "Fig. 4") published in 29th year of Guangxu (1903). The perforation was set to four holes, and the bookcover was attached with a bookmark, titled with "Full-length Painting, Shigong Case Prequel / Sequel / N Set", and there was no secondary page. The book pages fold was not accurate and straight enough, and the size of the book on both sides was asymmetrical. These two were the most popular styles of thread-sewn novels in modern times.



Fig. 1. The lithograph "Sanmen Street Full Biography" printed by Guangyi Book Company in 29th year of Guangxu (1903), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library's Collection.

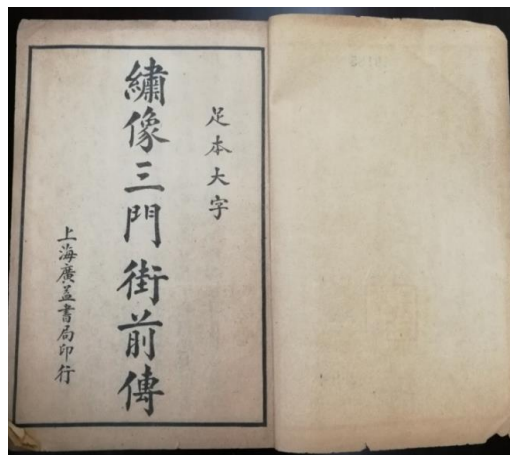


Fig. 2. The lithograph "Sanmen Street Full Biography" printed by Guangyi Book Company in 29th year of Guangxu (1903), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library's Collection.

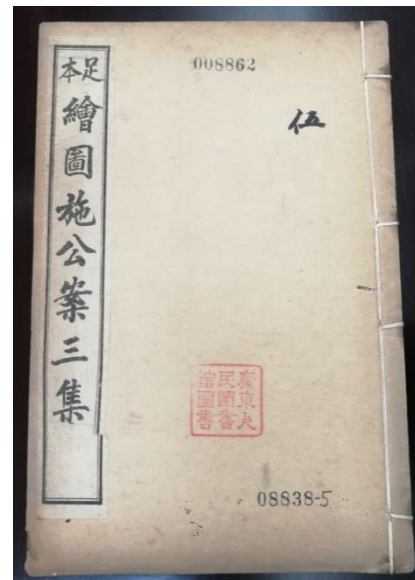


Fig. 3. The lithograph "Shigong Case Full Biography" published in 29th year of Guangxu (1903), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library's Collection.



Fig. 4. The lithograph "Shigong Case Full Biography" published in 29th year of Guangxu (1903), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library's Collection.

The biggest difference between western-style binding and thread-sewn binding was two-sided printing and western-style binding. The basic style was: each double-sided printed paper was glued together with paper-glue or iron wire, and after sticking, the entire book cover was placed on the outer bread, and the spine was also wrapped in the book cover. This method of wrapping the bond and the spine together in the book cover was similar to the wrapped-ridge binding that prevailed in the Ming Dynasty, and the thread-sewn binding did not need to be wrapped in the entire book cover, just adding a book cover on the front and back of the book, and then perforating and threading. In addition to the vertical and right turn, the western-style binding in the late Qing Dynasty was very close to the current paperback books. For example, in the 32nd year of Guangxu (1906), the stereotype edition published in November of the Commercial Press, "Bo Naiyin Biography" (see "Fig. 5"), with color covers. The title of the book was written horizontally, and

each piece of paper was printed on both sides, surrounded by no sidebars. Another example was the stereotype version of the "Sherlock Holmes' Reborn Case" (see "Fig. 6") published by Xiaoshuolin Association in the 30th year of Guangxu (1904) to the 31st year of Guangxu (1905). In addition, because it is double-sided printing, the layout of the western-style binding page number is different from the thread-sewn binding. Traditional thread-sewn books are arranged by volume, while western-style binding books are pagged by booklet, and both sides are marked with page numbers instead of sharing one page number on both sides. For example, in the 33rd year of Guangxu (1907), the stereotype version of "Beauty in the Hollow" (see "Fig. 7") of the Commercial Press, each sheet of paper was printed on both sides, and the page number was marked on both sides. It should be noted that some western-style binding books actually have some features of the thread-sewn and the western-style. There are many western-style novels that use double-sided printing and western-style binding, while retaining the style of the sidebar, fore edge and other styles of thread-sewn binding books.

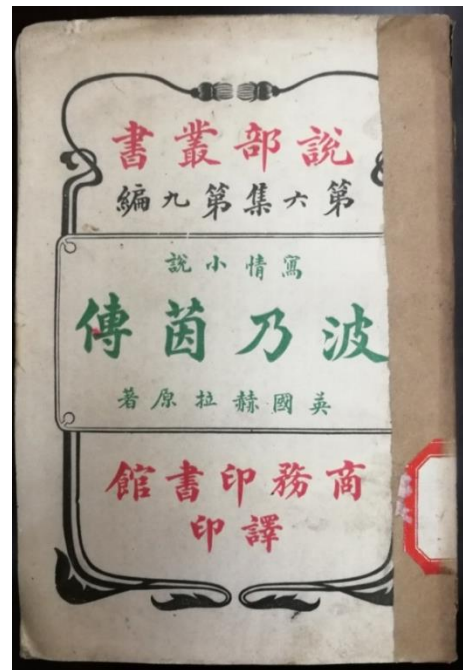


Fig. 5. November Commercial Press Stereotype Version "Bo Naiyin Biography", the 32nd year of Guangxu (1906), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library Collection.



Fig. 6. The stereotype edition, "Sherlock Holmes' Reborn Case" published by Xiaoshuolin Association in the 30th to 31st year of Guangxu (1904-1905), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library Collection.

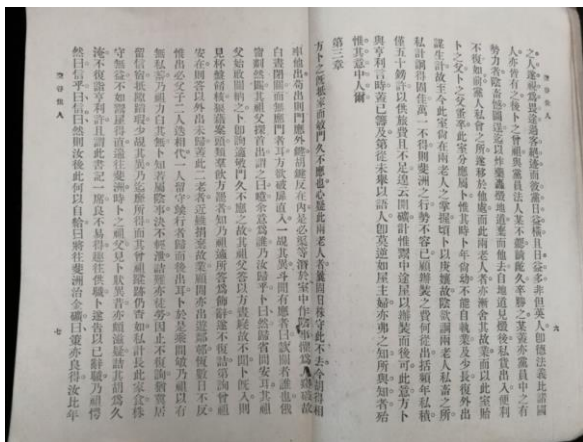


Fig. 7. The stereotype edition, published by the Commercial Press, "Beauty in the Hollow" in the 33rd year of Guangxu (1904-1905), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library Collection.

III. INTRODUCTION PROCESS OF WESTERN-STYLE BINDING

The time when western-style binding first appeared in China should be in the Ming Dynasty. At that time, the Western prints brought back from Europe by people such as Matteo Ricci and Kinni Court, were printed on both sides. The paper was white, and the outer packaging was made of leather. Some of them also had hot stamping copper hooks and were covered with Pope's coat of arms. However, this had not had any influence on the binding of Chinese books. The Western-style binding method adopted in modern times was originally brought to China by Chinese students from Japan. [1]⁴²¹ In August 1900, the book "Normal Japanese" was printed and published in Japan. The book was written by the students studying in Japan, Tang Baozhen and Qi Yihui. It is the first Japanese-language book with the nature of textbooks compiled by the Chinese. It is also the first book published by the Chinese in two-sided printing and western-

style binding. In 1901, the book "The History of the Decline of Poland", written by Shichiang Tamo, translated by the Japanese Book Translation's Collection and Edition Association's companions, and the "Staatswissenschaft Principles" translated by Takada Satsuki, translated by Ji Jing, were published by the Book Translation's Collection and and Edition Association. These books were printed on both sides in western-style binding, and they were printed in Japan and published in China after being printed as books. In the same year, Shanghai Zuoxin Association was founded, and was jointly opened by Ji Yihui and the famous Japanese female educator Shimada Koji, only publishing western-style binding books. In February 1902, "Xinmincong Newspapers" was founded in Yokohama, Japan by Liang Qichao; in October, "New Fiction" magazine was founded in Yokohama, Japan. Both were western-style binding books printed on both side of pages.

Under their influence, some Chinese printing agencies had also begun to improve the binding method of books. In the 28th year of Guangxu (1902), the "New World Magazine", which was published in Shanghai in August, was the first magazine printed by the Chinese in China with two-sided printing and western-style binding. In November of the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), the "Business Newspaper", printed by the Beijing Industrial Paintings Museum, was also printed on both sides with the western-style binding, which indicated that at the end of the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), the printing and binding style of two-sides printed and the western-style binding was sprouted both in the north and south. In the novel publishing world, the 28th year of Guangxu (1902) and the 29th year of Guangxu (1903) also appeared the western-style binding. The institutions in Shanghai and Hong Kong took the lead in this attempt. For example, in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902) Hong Kong China Huayang Book Company published the stereotype edition of the "Founding of Switzerland" (see "Fig. 8"), written by Guangdong Zheng Zhéguan Gong with western-style binding. Its style was that it printed on both sides of the paper, surrounded by no sidebars, with a dotted line on the top of the page, and titled with "Founding of Switzerland". The fore edges of the book were not connected, titled with "Chapter X, X (page number)". Another example was the stereotype edition of "The Prophecy of Partition" (see "Fig. 9") published by the Shanghai Independent Press in December of the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), a political novel written by the Xuanyuan Zhengyi, using the Japanese as the original writer, whose style was that the sheet of paper was printed on both sides, with two edges all around, and the fore edge was not connected, titled with "The Prophecy of Partition X (page number)". Western-style binding were used more in the publication of translated novels. For example, in the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), the stereotype edition of the "Farmer Biography" published by the Shanghai Civilization Book Bureau in September written by Melchon from France. The book was in the western-style binding, printed on both sides of the paper, surrounded by no sidebars, with a curve on the top margin, and the fore edge was not connected, titled with "Educational Novel Farmer Biography X (page number)." Another example is in the March of the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), Shanghai Guangzhi Book

Company published the stereotype edition of "Elysian Fields", written by Japanese Yano Fumio. Its style was double-sided printing on each page, surrounded by no sidebars. There was a horizontal line on the top margin and the fore edge was not connected, titled with "Elysian Fields Section X X (page number)" on the fore edge of the front page and "X (page)" on the fore edge of the back page. In the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), the stereotype edition of the "Female Student" published by the Guangzhi Book Company in April, edited by the Japanese Sato Takezo, was printed on both sides of the paper, surrounded by no sidebars, with a curve on the top margin, and the fore edge was not connected, titled with "Female Student X page number".

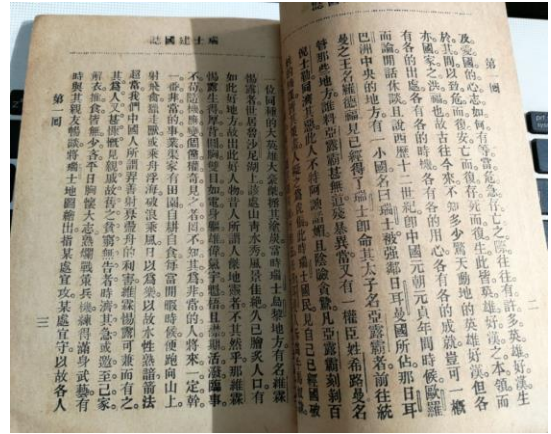


Fig. 8. The stereotype edition, published by the China Huayang Book Company, "Founding of Switzerland" in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902), Sun Yat-Sen University Library Collection.

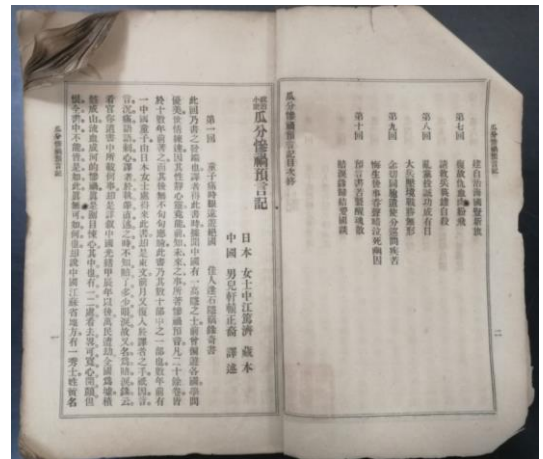


Fig. 9. The stereotype edition, published by the Shanghai Du Association, "The Prophecy of Partition" in the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library Collection.

However, between the 28th year of Guangxu (1902) and the 29th year (1903), there were still not many novels in western-style binding, and the thread-sewn binding still accounted for the main body. In addition to the traditional old novels that had consistently adhered to the use of thread-sewn binding, some new novels and translated novels also used the thread-sewn binding. For example, in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902), the stereotype edition of the book

"Adventures of the Japanese Restoration Heroic Sons and Daughters" (see "Fig. 10" and "Fig. 11") published by the Guangzhi Book Company, written by Japanese Nagata Tamatoku, still used the thread-sewn binding, with two edges all around, black boundary lines, with a blank line in the middle of the page and a "[]" shape in the gap of the layout, titled with the book name and the page number. Another example is the stereotype edition of "The Warring States of the Future" printed by the Guangzhi Book Company in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902) and published by the Guangzhi Bookstore in the first month of the 29th year of Guangxu (1903), written by a Japanese miraculous person. This book also used the thread-sewn binding, with two edges all around, with a blank line in the middle of the page and a "[]" shape in the gap of the layout, titled with book name, section name and page number on the fore edge. It can be seen that the western-style binding entered China in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902), but the real popularity should start from the late 29th year of Guangxu (1903), and it was not flourishing until the 30th year of Guangxu (1904).

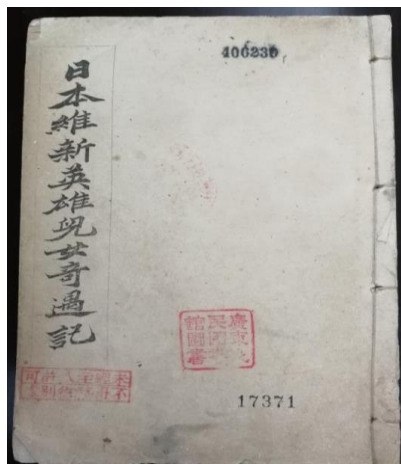


Fig. 10. The stereotype edition, published by the Guangzhi Book Company, "Adventures of the Japanese Restoration Heroic Sons and Daughters" in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library Collection.

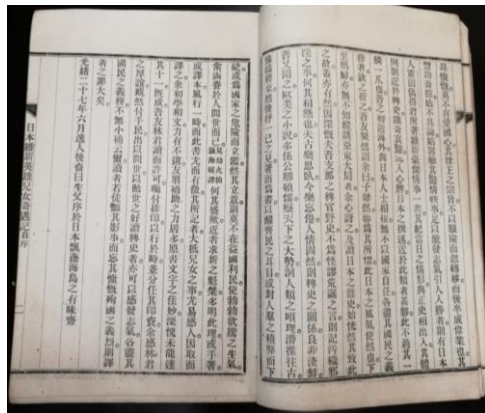


Fig. 11. The stereotype edition, published by the Guangzhi Book Company, "Adventures of the Japanese Restoration Heroic Sons and Daughters" in the 28th year of Guangxu (1902), Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library Collection.

IV. THE USE OF WESTERN-STYLE BINDING IN THE PUBLICATION OF MODERN SEPARATE EDITION NOVELS

What kind of novel used western-style binding mainly? What were the main printing agencies? Among the costume novels printed in the late Qing Dynasty, the largest number was the translated novels of the stereotype edition, followed by the self-written new novels of the stereotype edition. Most of lithograph traditional old novels and new novels were still in the thread-sewn binding, and the western-style binding was extremely rare. Until the end of the Qing Dynasty and the early Republic of China, there were still many lithograph novels in the thread-sewn binding. For example, in the 3rd year of Xuantong (1911), the lithograph "Embroidery Full Historical Novel of Hong Xiuquan" was in the thread-sewn binding, with single edge all around, and a blank line in the middle of the page without the "[]" shape in the gap of the layout, titled with book name, column number and page number. In another example, in the early years of the Republic of China, Shanghai Guangyi Book Company published the lithograph "Embroidery Full Biography of Green Peony" (see "Fig. 12" and "Fig. 13"), six volumes, with thread-sewn binding, the single edge all around, and a blank line in the middle of the page and a single "[]" shape in the gap of the layout, titled with "Embroidery Full Biography of Green Peony Column X Section X X (page number)". According to the various novel versions the author has reviewed, about 110 kinds of stereotype edition novels, about 70 kinds were in the western-style binding, of which about 70% were translated novels. Among the about 300 kinds of lithograph novels, only a few were in the western-style binding, which were printed with the new novels, such as the lithograph version of "Paintings of the Lastest World Sensation Novels" printed by Shanghai Cuiying Publishing House in the 30th year of Guangxu (1904), the lithograph version of "Revealing the Slippery Fellow's True Features" published by the Shanghai Hongwen Book Company in the 30th year of Guangxu (1908), and the lithograph version of "Paintings of Games' Wonders" published by the Shanghai Book Company in the 34th year of Guangxu (1908). These three kinds of western-style lithograph were in western-style binding, while still retaining the layout features of the sidebar, the boundary line, the fore edge and other features of thread-sewn binding books.

The most typical institutions that use western-style binding were Guangzhi Book Company, Integrated Book Company, Xiaoshulin Association, and Commercial Press. During the period from the end of Guangxu to Xuantong, these major institutions published a large number of new novels and translated novels. The basics were all western-style binding, and the novels printed by various organizations, from binding to single-page layout, had their own fixed styles. In addition, the New Fiction Society, the New New Novels Society, the New World Fiction Society, Youzheng Book Company, Kaiming Bookstore, the Lequn Fiction Society, Wenming Book Company, Zuoxin Society, Qixing Society, the Tong Society and other printing agencies also mostly use the western-style binding to publish the novels, which had greatly promoted the renewal of the book printing industry.

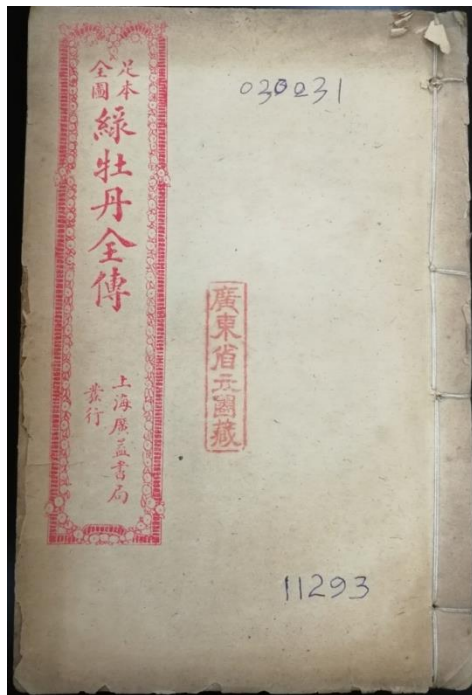


Fig. 12. The lithograph "Embroidery Full Biography of Green Peony" printed by Guangyi Book Company in the early years of the Republic of China, Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library's Collection.



Fig. 13. The lithograph "Embroidery Full Biography of Green Peony" printed by Guangyi Book Company in the early years of the Republic of China, Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library's Collection.

Western-style binding can be widely used in the publication of new novels and translated novels in the late Qing Dynasty, which has its inevitability and rationality. On the one hand, comparing the binding process of the thread-sewn binding and the western-style binding, it can be seen that the binding of the western-style was more convenient. The process of thread-sewn binding books seems to be simple, but it is actually a very specialized technique. Completely and properly binding a thread-sewn book, the following twenty troublesome processes are necessary to be gone through [2]⁵³³:

- Checking the order;
- Filling the broken book page;
- Cutting the edge and repairing the broken pages;
- Sprinkling some water and easing the page to flat;
- Flattening and planishing;
- Folding pages;
- Cutting pages and the surrounding paper edges;
- Beating the books;
- Selecting paper, beating paper, sprinkling paper, folding paper;
- Adding slip sheet;
- Beating it to flat the second time;
- Organizing the page numbers;
- Aligning the columns;
- Pressing them tight;
- Aligning the columns the second time, drilling holes, and drawing up the spill;
- Cutting the book;
- Smoothing;
- Covering the book corners and inspecting after the package, pulling the misalignment and cutting the secondary page to aligned;
- Hitting the book cover and buttoning the cover;
- Comparing the holes and drilling holes;
- Setting the line.

In the Qing Dynasty, Sun Congtian also talked about the specific method of thread-sewn binding in "Summary of Collecting Books: Bookbinding" [3]³⁴⁵, which had detailed the requirements of folding book pages, drilling the holes, and cutting papers. He also pointed out that Taishilian paper should be used to serve as a secondary page, fine sandstone should be used to polish the root of the book, then two white chalk lines should be used to bind, etc. It can be seen that it is very particular from the folding, drilling holes, and cutting papers to what materials to use to make a book, and to cover the book corners.

Of course, the above mentioned is a relatively high requirement. The printed thread-sewn novels in modern times were often bound to be rough and sloppy. The binding of the western-style is relatively simple, and the double-sided printing does not need to be folded in half, and there is no need to drill holes or threading when binding. More importantly, the thread-sewn binding is usually hand-stitched, while the western-style binding can use mechanical equipment. In contrast, the binding of thread-sewn books is cumbersome with numerous procedures and laborious time, while the western-style binding is obviously more time-

saving and labor-saving. On the other hand, the western-style binding is printed on both sides, which can reduce the use of paper and reduce the production cost. The nature and purpose of the publication of novels in modern printing institutions had been different from the private publications in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. They are also more commercial than the previous bookstores. The purpose of the booksellers printing novels is not for handing down or spreading knowledge, but for profit. They pay attention to high efficiency and low cost, and it is impossible for them to spend so much time and cost on binding. The emergence and popularization of advanced western printing presses and the increase and change of paper types had made double-sided and large-format printing possible. At the same time, the binding materials and processes had been continuously improved. Under such conditions, the more time-saving and low-cost western-style binding came into being, which was obviously more suitable for the needs of those for-profit bookmakers. From this perspective, the western-style binding has its own advantages.

However, it was not until the Republic of China that the western-style binding did not completely replace the thread-sewn binding. Western-style binding also had its shortcomings, and readers' reading habits and aesthetic habits were difficult to completely change in the short term. Lu Xun once said in the "After the Illness": "Reading the western-style binding books need to be young and strong, and sit in a serious posture and has a serious attitude. If you lie down and read it, it would be like two hands holding a big brick, and with a little effort, the two arms would be sore, therefore you have to sigh and put it down. So, after I sighed, I went to find a thread-sewn book." [4]¹⁹⁶ Lu Xun's admiration for thread-sewn binding books was mainly because the western-style binding books were binding with glue, and each book could be bound with more pages, which led the books to be more and more cumbersome. But the book pages of the thread-sewn book cannot be too thick, drilling holes on the right side of the page and sewing with the open thread, which was simple, beautiful and elegant. And the rice paper printing also made it lighter and softer. In addition, the thread-sewn binding books are more robust, not easy to fall off. And the old book can be reloaded, which means that the book would be like new by replacing the book cover and the cotton. The western-style binding is not as strong as the thread-sewn binding, and the pages are easy to fall off. Once it falls apart, it would be difficult to repair.

V. CONCLUSION

With the extensive use of lead and stone printing, the binding style of modern separation edition novels has appeared in the new type of western-style binding, while retaining some of the features of the thread-sewn binding, with the mix of the old and new binding form. The thread-sewn binding is usually hand-stitched, while the western-style binding can use mechanical equipment, which saves time and effort. On the other hand, the western-style binding is printed on both sides, which can reduce the use of paper and reduce the production cost. With these advantages, the dress gradually replaced the traditional thread-sewn method

in the printing of modern separation edition novels. However, the development from the thread-sewn binding to the western-style binding is a gradual process. In the novel printing of this period, traditional technology and modern technology were used interchangeably. Similarly, the version of this period was also more complex and changeable, retaining the tradition while at the same time innovating, adopting new styles from foreign countries, new and old mixed use. Binding, cover, and other design of the binding design were also transitted into the modernization direction.

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