

**BOUND OR UNBOUND.**

Paul Tcherkasov, of St. Petersburg, writes a sensible letter to the "Publishers' Circular" on the Exportation of British Books to Russia. It is, he says, a great mistake to have all books, or well nigh all, published bound. I think it would be by far the better plan to have them published bound and unbound, just as they are in many cases published now in different qualities of binding. And for the export trade, the unbound book ought to prove by far the preferable article, on the following ground: (1) The bindings of most books which have come under my notice are very poor as far as their wear-resisting qualities go; they are sometimes very artistic in design—that is true. (2) The journey by book-post spoils the binding, crushes the corners, etc., to such an extent that I often have had to send books to the book-binder's straight from the post. Now add to these considerations the existence of the above duty, and remember the many cheap editions, with their not very artistic covers, and think of their price being increased by something like 4d., or even more apiece.

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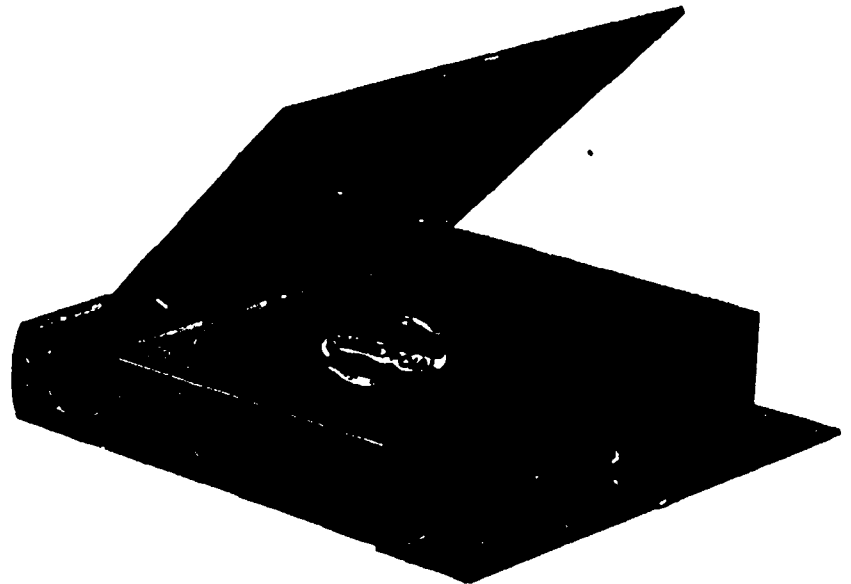
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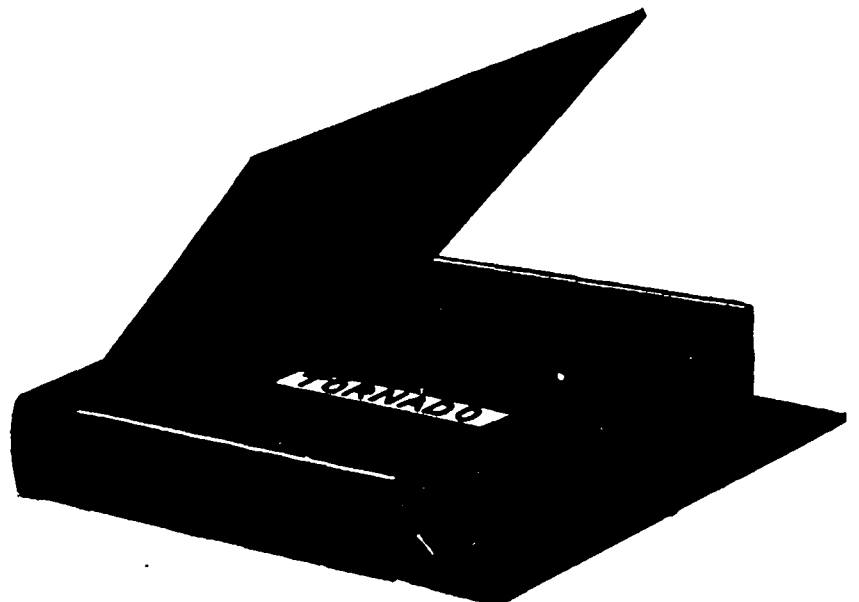


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