

Treatment Report

Title: *France and the Confederate Navy 1862-1868*

Author: John Bigelow

Collection: Private donation

Binding Dimensions (cm): 19.2 x 13.3 x 3

Textblock Dimensions (cm): 15.6 x 12.5 x 2.5

Date Examined: February 5, 2008

Date Treatment Completed: May 6, 2008

Conservator: Helen Kuncicky

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Treatment Objective

The goal of this treatment is to explore the possible treatment materials and techniques for a 19th-century publisher's case binding. The item will be stabilized for non-circulating collections use.

Description

The binding is a case-bound, full-cloth binding with 6mm binder's boards, which appears to be contemporary to the textblock. The covering material is green cloth, possibly starch-filled. The title of the book is gold stamped on the spine of the case, and there is also a printed library label on the spine. There is no other decoration on the cover.

The textblock is sewn in a two-on style on three sawn-in cords and is rounded and backed. The spine of the textblock is lined first with an overhanging textile and then a paper lining, attached with a protein glue. The endbands were originally green and white striped, stuck-on textile endbands.

The textblock paper is machine-made, heavy beige paper. The endleaves are tipped-on single folios, of the same paper as the rest of the textblock. The text media is printing ink.

There are four layers of library plates on the inside of the front cover, all printed in black ink on paper and attached adhesively to the paste-down.

Condition Summary

The binding is in poor condition overall, with moderate structural damage. The back of the case is completely detached from the textblock, and the front of the case is loose. The covering material is abraded, stained, friable, and has light surface grime. A large portion of the covering material on the spine is detached. The boards are slightly delaminated and bent at the corners.

The textblock is in fair condition overall. The sewing is intact and is not loose or damaged. The round is skewed sideways, likely from crooked shelving. The spine linings are partially delaminated and very friable. The headband is missing, and the tailband is deteriorated with a missing core. The head of the textblock is branded on the edges with "COL BKS.L", which is possibly a library ownership marking.

The textblock paper is brittle and inflexible, as well as discolored and stained on the edges. The paper has tears, tide lines, surface dirt, and stains. There is some offset of ink on the first endleaf, but the text media is in good condition.

The top two layers of library plates are torn. The top layer is almost entirely missing, with only the upper left corner still attached. There are also some graphite markings on the inside of the front and back covers. These appear to be library cataloging notations.

Photodocumentation

Photodocumentation was completed with a Pentax digital camera. Images include overall shots of the book in spectral light and during-treatment shots in ambient light. The images document the book's condition before, during, and after treatment.

Treatment Proposal

1. Remove case.
2. Remove original spine linings.
3. Consolidate spine of textblock.
4. Re-line spine of textblock.
5. Surface clean textblock leaves as needed.
6. Rebuild case with synthetic materials, toned with acrylic paint to match the original binding as closely as possible.

Treatment Performed

1. Detached remaining board by cutting through pastedown and textile lining.
2. Removed original textblock spine linings and remaining endband mechanically.
3. Soaked endband in distilled water for 1.5 hours, then lightly rubbed adhesive off and air-dried overnight.
4. Tore off uneven edges of original tipped-on endsheets.
5. Trimmed remaining textile lining and cords from spine edges of boards.
6. Lifted pastedowns 1-inch in from spine edge of the boards.
7. Created hinges for original endsheets out of machine-made Kozo paper adhered with wheat starch paste.
8. Applied a mixture of 60:40 wheat starch paste and methylcellulose adhesive consolidant to textblock spine, then gently reshaped the round.
9. Lined textblock spine with machine-made Kozo paper adhered with wheat starch paste.
10. Hinged original endsheets onto textblock spine using wheat starch paste.
11. Lined textblock spine with hinging linen adhered with a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste.
12. Replaced missing endband core with linen cord rolled in a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste. Rolled endband around core and adhered to textile lining on textblock spine using the same Lascaux/wheat starch paste mixture.
13. Lined textblock spine with 70# Mohawk text-weight paper adhered with a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste.
14. Toned a piece of hinging linen with Acrylic paints mixed with methylcellulose, mixed and brushed onto the cloth to match the original cloth cover.

15. Backed the toned hinging linen with lens tissue using a mixture of 50:50 wheat starch paste and methylcellulose.
16. Prepared a cloth spine replacement from the toned, backed hinging linen with a spine strip of blotter, adhered with a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste.
17. Consolidated board corners with wheat starch paste.
18. Attached new cloth spine replacement piece to original boards under the lifted pastedowns, carefully shaping to fit around the textblock, using a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste.
19. Cased in using a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste to adhere textile spine lining to the boards under the lifted pastedowns.
20. Applied strips of pre-toned Sekishu paper to the hinges of both boards, underneath the lifted pastedowns, using a mixture of 60:40 wheat starch paste and methylcellulose.
21. Re-adhered lifted pastedowns using a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste.
22. Re-adhered all loose cloth fragments to board edges and corners using a mixture of 65:35 Lascaux and wheat starch paste.
23. Attempted to improve the color match of cloth spine replacement to color of original cloth cover using colored pencils, but determined that the correct color could be more appropriately matched using a different medium in the future, if desired. Time constraints prevented attempting another medium for this treatment.
24. Re-adhered original spine material to new cloth spine piece using a mixture of 60:40 wheat starch paste and methylcellulose.

Length of Treatment: 12 hours