

TREATMENT PROPOSAL/AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

Date: October 28, 2008
 Temporary Identification number: 08-108
 Owner/Custodian: Elizabeth Haluska-Rausch
 Address: Tarlton Law Library Collection
 University of Texas at Austin
 Telephone: 512-471-7263
 Owner/Custodian call no.: KJA 1937 B42 1588
 Title/Subject/Description: *Silva Memorabilium ivris, seu conclusiovm illvstrivm, non omnivm qvae in ivre versantvr, sed qvae digniora select visa svnt*
 Creator: Blascus, Nicolaus Antonius
 Date of production: 1588
 Place of production: Neapoli
 Approximate dimensions (hxw): 19.5 cm x 15 cm x 2.5 cm
 Conservator: Helen Kuncicky

Authorization

The undersigned requests and authorizes the Kilgarlin Center at the University of Texas, Austin, TX, to undertake conservation treatment of the artifact described in the attached Condition Report according to the procedures outlined in the appended Treatment Proposal. In the event the Owner/Custodian authorizes the Kilgarlin Center to proceed with the treatment recommended in the proposal such authorization shall be deemed to include acceptance by the depositor of the terms and conditions appearing in the original Authorization for Examination and Treatment. The undersigned further agrees that the Kilgarlin Center and the conservator may share any information or images obtained during the agreed upon examination, treatment, or investigation in written and public presentations.

Signature of Owner/Custodian: _____

Date: _____

Signature of conservator: _____

Date: _____

Treatment Report

Author: Blascus, Nicolaus Antonius

Title: *Silva Memorabilium ivris, seu conclsionvm illvstrivm, non omnivm qvae in ivre versantvr, sed qvae digniora select visa svnt*

Imprint: Neapoli: Apud Haeredes Matthiae Cancer, M.D. LXXXVIII (1588)

Call Number: KJA 1937 B42 1588

Collection: Tarlton Law Library Collection

Binding Dimensions (cm): Not applicable

Textblock Dimensions (cm): 19.5 x 15 x 2.5

Date Examined: October 7, 2008

Date Treatment Completed: May 1, 2009

Conservator: Helen Kuncicky

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Treatment Objective

The goal of this treatment is to stabilize the book for safe handling by researchers in a special collections library environment.

Background

This volume is one of two copies housed in North American library collections. The other is at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Description and Condition

The volume consists of a sewn textblock with 41 sections of 2 folios each, with no boards or covering material. The last section has only three leaves, with the fourth leaf of the section missing. The sewing appears to be original and contemporary to the text. The sewing pattern is an all-along sewing of linen thread on three raised supports of rolled, alum-tawed skin. The supports are in very good condition and the sewing is also in good condition through most of the textblock. However, the sewing thread in the first and second sections, and several sections near the end, is severed and these sections are loose.

There is evidence of endbands, with many frayed fragments of undyed thread, similar to or the same as the sewing thread, remaining around the kettles. There are no remaining fragments of a core. The spine is lined with a thin paper lining that has an iron-gall ink marking across the spine. The lining adhesive is not visible, and is likely a flour-based starch paste. The paper lining has significant losses, mostly at the head and tail. It is also cracked vertically in several places and is lifting in areas.

The textblock paper is handmade, laid, medium-weight, cream-colored paper. The title page is tipped onto the first section and is a similar paper to the textblock, but slightly lighter in color. The paper is brittle and discolored, with stains and tide lines throughout the textblock and soil on the first and last pages. The first and last sections have some minor tears around the edges of the leaves. The spine folds of most of the sections are broken at the head and tail where the lining is missing. There are large red stains at the tail of the title page, and the red color bled through several pages into the textblock. The stains on the first page exhibit a weave pattern, which suggests that a cloth dyed with water-soluble dye was pressed against the textblock and the dye

transferred onto the paper. There are also water stains around the edges of the entire textblock, further suggesting that the textblock was exposed to a significant amount of water during its history.

The text media is black printing ink with a very shallow type impression which is in good condition. In addition to the text, there are designs and ornamented initials printed on many pages throughout the text. There is also a coat of arms printed on the title page and a printer's design printed on the last page. The printing ink has caused acidic discoloration of the paper to a brown color in some areas of text, however the ink itself appears in good condition. There is a black ink signature on the title page, which has been written over with iron gall ink. There is additional iron-gall ink writing on the title page and iron-gall ink notations in the upper right corner of several pages. The black writing ink is in good condition. The iron-gall ink has caused burn-through on the title page and is faded to a medium-brown color.

Photodocumentation

Photodocumentation was completed with a Nikon digital camera. Images include overall and detail shots of the book in spectral light, documenting the book's condition before, during, and after treatment. A micrograph was also taken of the red stain on the title page.

Testing

The stain was tested for solubility in water and ethanol by placing a small drop directly on the surface of the stain, blotting with chromatography paper, and looking for a visible offset. All testing was done under a microscope. The stain offset onto the chromatography paper in water but not in ethanol, and is therefore determined to be water-soluble.

The inks on the title page were also tested for water solubility. Two of them exhibited offset onto damp chromatography paper. Due to the water solubility of the inks, stain reduction will not be performed in a submerged aqueous environment.

Treatment Proposal

Minimal Treatment Option:

1. House the textblock in a custom-made drop-spine box with boards supporting the textblock shoulders.

Moderate Treatment Option A:

1. Mend tears in first and last sections.
2. Re-adhere lifted sections of the spine lining.
3. Line the head and tail sections of the spine with long-fiber paper and wheat starch paste.
4. Make a case out of paper case paper. The case will not be attached to the textblock.
5. House the book in a custom-made drop-spine box.

Moderate Treatment Option B:

1. Mend tears in first and last sections.
2. Sew on new double-folio endpapers of handmade paper.
3. Re-adhere lifted sections of the spine lining.
4. Line the head and tail sections of the spine with long-fiber paper and wheat starch paste.

5. Attach new overhanging leather strips to the existing supports.
6. Create a new case out of paper case paper.
7. Lace the new case to the textblock with the new overhanging leather strips.
8. House the book in a custom-made drop-spine box.

Major Treatment Option:

1. Reduce red stains from title page or entire first section, working on a suction table.
2. Mend tears in first and last sections.
3. Reinforce the sewing on loose sections, attaching new sewing thread to the original sewing supports.
4. Sew on new double-folio endpapers of handmade paper.
5. Re-adhere lifted sections of the spine lining.
6. Line the head and tail sections of the spine with long-fiber paper and wheat starch paste.
7. Attach new overhanging leather strips to the existing supports.
8. Create a new case out of paper case paper.
9. Lace the new case to the textblock with the new overhanging leather strips.
10. House the book in a custom-made drop-spine box.

Materials Used

1. Ethanol
2. Ammonium hydroxide
3. Tengucho long-fiber tissue
4. Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (Colophon)
5. Machine-made Kozo natural paper
6. Methylcellulose 2.5% (Methocel)
7. Barrett handmade western paper
8. Alum-tawed calf skin
9. Barcham Green handmade western paper, Bodeleian White
10. 2-ply Irish linen thread
11. Beeswax
12. Barrett cover-weight handmade western paper
13. PVAc
14. 10-point cardstock
15. 40-point cardstock

Treatment Performed

1. Brushed each page with a soft brush to remove dirt and dust.
2. Removed the tipped-on title page with a 50:50 mixture of water and ethanol.
3. Reduced stain intensity using water mixed with a few drops of ammonium hydroxide to raise the pH. Working on a suction platen, brushed water onto stain and pressed with chromatography paper to pull out the stain residue.
4. Mended tears in the first section with water-thinned wheat starch paste and Tengucho long-fiber tissue.
5. Removed linings from the head and tail of the textblock spine using methylcellulose to soften the adhesive.

6. Line the head and tail of the textblock with machine-made Kozo and wheat starch paste. Patch-lined around the kettles and under the loose endband remnants.
7. Made inner stays of handmade western paper.
8. Trimmed and pared alum-tawed leather for new slips.
9. Made new oversized double-folio endsheets of handmade western paper.
10. Hitched on six overhanging alum-tawed leather slips (two on each support) through eight inner stays, three in the front sections and five in the back sections.
11. Sewed on new endsheets with a two-hole link stitch, sewing down two sections into the textblock.
12. Made a paper case out of handmade western cover-weight paper.
13. Hinged title page to the textblock spine with long-fiber paper using water-thinned wheat starch paste.
14. Applied full-thickness wheat starch paste to the textblock spine, filling in the cracks and spaces between sections.
15. Laced textblock into the cover using the new alum-tawed slips.
16. Glued turn-ins to 10-point cardstock in the covers.
17. Made a book shoe out of 40-point cardstock and PVAc using the NEDCC pamphlet guidelines.

Length of Treatment: 24 hours