

## **Treatment Report**

Author: Jean Choisin

Title: *Memoires Relatifs a l'Histoire de France*

Imprint: 1823

Collection: Perry Castaneda Library Collection

Binding Dimensions (cm): 21 x 13.6 x 2.9

Text block Dimensions (cm): 20.4 x 12.8 x 2.3

Date Examined: September 7, 2008

Date Treatment Completed: November 9, 2008

Conservator: Helen Kuncicky

Instructor: Chela Metzger

## **Treatment Objective**

The goal of this treatment is to reattach the front board so the volume can be handled without causing further damage.

## **Description**

The volume is a laced-on-boards quarter style binding with 3 mm boards, which appears to be contemporary to the text block. The covering materials are brown marbled paper, and brown, vegetable-tanned calfskin. The title is gold-tooled on the spine, along with decorative gold tooling on the spine only. The spine has four false bands which do not line up with the sewing supports for the text block.

The text block is 31 sections of 4 folios each, sewn in a two-on style on three sawn-in cords, and is slightly rounded and hammer-backed. The spine is lined with a textile lining and a newsprint paper lining, both attached with animal glue. A green ribbon bookmark is adhered to the text block under the spine linings. There is a two-folio section hooked around the first section, with the latter two leaves trimmed to stubs. The text block paper is machine-made, laid, medium-weight, cream-colored paper. The text block edges are marbled blue and yellow.

The endpapers consist of a folio of brown marbled paper and two sheets of paper similar to that of the text block. The first leaf of the marbled paper is a pastedown and the second leaf is stiff-leaved to the following plain end sheet. The end sheets appear to be tipped in to the text block. The text media is printing ink.

There is a University of Texas library plate on the inside of the front cover, printed in black ink on paper and attached adhesively to the paste-down. There is a cataloging label on the tail of the spine, attached with pressure-sensitive tape. There is also a bookseller's ticket on the inside bottom left corner of the back cover.

## **Condition Summary**

The binding is in fair condition overall, with moderate structural damage. The front board is slightly loose. The leather covering material is abraded, stained, friable, and exhibits the early stages of red rot. The leather is split along the shoulders at the head of the spine, and the top portion of the spine covering is loose.

The text block is in fair condition overall. The sewing is intact and is not loose or damaged. The text block opens preferentially to the center of a middle section, and the spine makes a sharp upside-down “V” when opened. The number and condition of spine linings is not visible prior to treatment.

The text block paper is brittle and stained. It is also discolored, particularly near the edges and around the printed text. The text block edges are discolored and faded. The end sheets are split along the joint and the sewing supports are visible between the covers and the text block. There is a small graphite notation very close to the gutter on page 1.

### **Photo documentation**

Photo documentation was completed with a Nikon 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. Detach boards.
2. Consolidate leather.
3. Line spine to control text block opening.
4. Reattach boards.

### **Materials Used**

1. Methylcellulose 2.5% (Methocel)
2. Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (Colophon)
3. Machine-made Kozo natural paper
4. Lascaux 498 HV (Talas)
5. Ethanol
6. Natural Kozo HM-10 (Hiromi)
7. Liquitex Professional Acrylic paints
8. Cellugel (Preservation Solutions)
9. 70% isopropyl alcohol
10. Stabilo pastel colored pencils

### **Treatment Performed**

1. Cut through the supports and pressure sensitive adhesive along the edge of the spine to remove the spine from the boards.
2. Mechanically removed paper spine lining where possible.
3. Cleaned the remaining paper lining, textile lining, and adhesive from the spine of the text block with methylcellulose.
4. Lined the text block spine with machine-made Kozo paper using a 60:40 mixture of wheat starch paste and methylcellulose.
5. Attempted to lift the pressure-sensitive tape from the front board. The tape lifted easily from the leather, but proved difficult to lift from the paper board covering. The lifted section of tape was trimmed off, and the remaining tape was left on the boards. This decision was deemed acceptable as the book is a circulating collections item and will

likely have more pressure-sensitive tape applied to the cataloging label if the current tape is removed. Therefore, removing the tape would not have any lasting preservation effect on the book.

6. Lined the text block spine with airplane linen using a 60:40 mixture of Lascaux and wheat starch paste.
7. Lifted the paste-downs from the spine edges of the boards, using ethanol to help soften the brittle marbled paste-down paper.
8. Lifted the leather from the boards about 1 inch in from the spine edges.
9. Toned Hiromi Kozo paper with acrylic paint to use for the board attachment.
10. Burnished the toned Kozo paper with a bone folder to increase its sheen to better match the leather.
11. Glued the toned Kozo paper to the boards under the lifted leather using Lascaux.
12. Attached the boards to the text block by gluing the toned Kozo paper to the text block spine using Lascaux.
13. Consolidated the leather covering on the boards and spine piece with Cellugel thinned with 70% isopropyl alcohol.
14. Glued the lifted leather down to the boards over the toned Kozo using Lascaux, which slightly darkened the deteriorated edges of the leather.
15. Re-attached the leather spine with two v-hinges of long-fiber paper using Lascaux.
16. Toned the visible Kozo board attachment paper with pastel colored pencils to match the leather cover.

Length of Treatment: 13 hours