

TREATMENT PROPOSAL/AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

Date: August 27, 2008
Temporary Identification number: 08-101
Owner/Custodian: Stephanie Malmros
Address: Center for American History
University of Texas at Austin
Telephone: 512-475-4257
Owner/Custodian call no.: N/A
Title/Subject/Description: als "Nachitochy, August 28, 1824"
Creator: Cable
Date of production: August 28, 1824
Place of production: Nachitochy
Approximate dimensions (hwx): 9 3/4" x 8" folio
24.6 cm x 20.2 cm folio

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: _____

Description

Primary support (hxw): 9 ¾" x 8" folio
24.6 cm x 20.2 cm folio

General

The manuscript is written in iron gall ink on a single leaf of handmade paper, folded in half vertically to form a folio. The folio was folded in thirds both vertically and horizontally to form an envelope, and sealed with a red starch seal.

Media

Iron Gall Ink 1

The primary iron gall ink was thickly and unevenly applied to the entire first page, the top half of the second page, and as an address on the fourth page. There is no ink on the third page. The ink is very heavy, particularly on the downstrokes, and is a uniform dark color. The ink used for the address on the fourth page was applied more thinly than the body of the letter.

Iron Gall Ink 2

The secondary iron gall ink is a cataloging annotation and was applied thinly and unevenly to the top right corner of the fourth page. It is a uniform dark brown color, darker than the primary iron gall ink.

Iron Gall Ink 3

The third iron gall ink was applied to the fourth page underneath the address. It is an apparently unrelated annotation in very light brown iron gall ink.

Seal

There is a red starch seal on the right edge of the third page, where it was used to seal the folded document closed. The seal affixed with a tool displaying a symmetrical pattern of perforations, which are still evident.

Graphite

There is a small number 19 written in lightly in graphite on the fourth page just below the iron gall ink cataloging notation. This is also a cataloging notation.

Primary support

The manuscript is written on a single folio of handmade, wove, beige-colored, medium thickness, moderately textured paper¹.

Condition

General

The manuscript is in fair condition overall, with two large losses, a few small losses and tears, and iron-gall ink deterioration. It has been silked overall on the recto and verso of the paper.

Media

Iron Gall Ink

The ink retains a rich dark brown color, but shows significant signs of corrosion. It has sunk into the paper and the writing is clearly visible from the opposite side of each page, which makes it difficult to read. There are several areas of burn-through on the first leaf where the ink was applied very heavily on the first and second pages. There is also some offsetting of the ink on page two onto page three.

Seal

¹ Lunning, Elizabeth and Roy Perkinson. *The Print Council of America Paper Sample Book*. 1996: The Print Council of America.

The seal is intact and the red color remains vibrant. Paper fragments from the original attachment are still adhered to the surface of the seal.

Graphite

The graphite is in good condition with no sign of smudging.

Primary support

The primary support is in fair condition overall. The paper has darkened on the first and last pages to a brown color. There is also discoloration on the corners due to acid migration. The top and bottom left corners on page two and the bottom left corner on page three exhibit darkening, while the bottom left corner of page four shows lightening.

The paper is brittle and there are several small losses and tears along the center fold and around the edges. There are two major losses, one in the center where the paper was attached to the seal, and one on the upper right corner of the third page.

There is a horizontal stain along the lower third of the folio crease, visible in ambient light and brighter under UV light. UV light also shows a few small, white spots along the paper, indicating the beginning stages of foxing.

A layer of silk was adhered to the front and back of the paper with a thin, even layer of paste. The silk is firmly adhered and trimmed along the edge of the paper. The silk is slightly yellowed but otherwise in good condition. The silk was applied over creases in the paper, which have been compressed and distorted as a result.

Treatment Proposal

1. Remove silk from front and back of manuscript.
2. Wash to remove residual adhesive, as possible.
3. Mend as necessary.
4. House in original folder.

Photography

Digital images were taken before treatment, in spectral, raking, and transmitted light. The images include overall shots of the recto and verso and close-up shots of the seal, burn-through, and loss.

Testing

Media were tested for solubility in distilled water by placing a small drop directly on the surface of the medium. Results were as follows:

Iron Gall Ink 1

No visible change or fragmenting.

Iron Gall Ink 2

No visible change or fragmenting.

Iron Gall Ink 3

No visible change or fragmenting.

Seal

Starch absorbed water and became very soft.

Graphite

No visible change.

Possible Effects of Treatment

Due to the water-reactive nature of the starch, some of the seal may be lost or damaged during treatment. It is also likely that small fragments of ink will be lost due to the high level of deterioration. Every effort will be made to prevent any loss during treatment.

Treatment Performed

1. Humidified document in a Goretex humidity chamber. **30 minutes.**
2. Sprayed document out with deionized water. **10 minutes.**
3. Removed silk from both sides of the document with a microspatula and foreceps. The silk remained firmly adhered to both sides of the starch seal and had to be sprayed out very lightly with deionized water and allowed to sit before the silk would lift. **20 minutes.**
4. Washed the document in a shallow bath on a screen-covered egg crate with the seal facing up. Even with the seal barely immersed in the water, it began lifting very quickly. **5 minutes.**
5. Sprayed document out with calcium-enriched deionized water at a pH of 9. **10 minutes.**
6. Dried document between Hollytex and soft felts with no weight on top. **(7 days).**
7. Made heat-set tissue from Uso-mino long-fiber paper brushed with deionized water-thinned Lascaux. **30 minutes.**
8. Lined document all over with heat-set tissue on one side only using a tacking iron. Trimmed the lining around the starch seal so no lining tissue or heat was applied directly on the seal's surface. **1 hour.**
9. Toned long-fiber paper (Korean HDES International Mulberry Paper 1506) with acrylic paints (Paynes Gray, Yellow Light Hansa, and Medium Violet) to match document. **1.5 hours.**
10. Applied heat-set solution of deionized water-thinned Lascaux to the toned long-fiber paper. **15 minutes.**
11. Trimmed toned long-fiber paper to fill three large areas of loss on the document and adhered fills to the lining in the losses. **2 hours.**

Total Treatment Time: 6.5 hours