

TREATMENT PROPOSAL/AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

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Date: October 5, 2007  
PCS Identification number: 08-29  
Owner/Custodian: Stephanie Malmros  
Address: Center for American History  
University of Texas at Austin

Telephone: 512-475-4257  
Owner/Custodian call no.: 2E250  
Title/Subject/Description: als "14 Mar. 1842, Sam Houston to W.D. Miller"  
Creator: S. Houston  
Date of production: 14<sup>th</sup> march 1842  
Place of production: Houston, TX  
Approximate dimensions (hwx): 9 15/16" x 15 3/4"  
25.2cm x 39.9 cm

Conservator: Emily Rainwater

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: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Primary support**

The primary support is in moderate condition overall. There is evidence of staining and the paper has darkened slightly to a warm, yellow color. The paper is brittle and there are several small losses and tears. The paper has puckered underneath the seal. There is one major area of loss, likely incurred when the seal was first broken.

A layer of silk was adhered to the front and back of the manuscript with a thin, even layer of paste. The silk has bunched along the right edge of the verso. In addition, there are several dark grey stains, possibly graphite, on top of the silking on the recto side of the document. It appears that these stains have not reached the paper support.

### **Treatment Proposal**

1. Remove silk from front and back of manuscript.
2. Wash to remove residual adhesive, as possible.
3. Immerse in phytate bath followed by an alkaline bath as possible.
4. Dry clean if needed.
5. Mend as necessary.
6. House in folder.

### **Photography**

Digital images, recto and verso, raking and ambient light.

### **Testing**

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

#### **Iron gall ink 1**

No solubility in water.  
No solubility in ethanol.

#### **Iron gall ink 2**

No solubility in water.  
No solubility in ethanol.

#### **Graphite**

No solubility in water.  
No solubility in ethanol.

#### **Starch seal**

Soluble in water; seal becomes soft and pliant when water drop is placed on the surface and then re-hardens as it dries. Extra care must be taken when washing to prevent accidental deformation of the seal.  
No solubility in ethanol.

### **Possible Effects of Treatment**

It is likely that there will be a slight shift in the color of the ink as a result of the alkalization. It is possible that the density of the ink will be slightly reduced and a slight "halo" effect. Although the phytate treatment may help stabilize the iron ions in the iron gall ink, it might also cause a color shift in the ink. Small particles of phytates may be deposited on the surface of the manuscript.

**Treatment Performed**

1. Removed manuscript from mylar encapsulation for examination (5 minutes)
2. Removed silk from recto and verso of document (3 hours)
3. Sprayed document with a solution of calcium hydroxide and distilled water raised to a pH of 9 (30 min)
4. Consolidated starch seal with wheat starch paste (15 min)
5. Air dried on holytex followed by several days of drying under felts (30 mins)
6. Mended tears with lens tissue and wheat starch paste (2 ½ hours)

**TOTAL TIME: 6 hours 50 minutes**