

Author: Hubert Howe Bancroft  
Title: The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft Vol. 18  
Imprint: 1884  
Dimensions (binding): 23.8 cm x 16.7 cm x 6.0 cm  
Dimensions (text block): 23.1 cm x 15.8 cm x 5.0 cm  
Collection: Benson Latin American Collection  
Examination Date: 1/29/08  
Treatment Date: February 2008  
Conservator: Sarah Norris

### **Treatment Objective**

The goal of this treatment is to reattach the front board so the volume can be safely handled.

### **Condition**

**Binding:** The sections are sewn two-on on three sawn-in cord supports. The volume is a tight-joint full leather binding covered in tanned sheep with a hollow tube. The leather is missing at the board corners, scarred on the boards, and dry and spotted with light damage on the spine. The leather gaps away from the front board at the joint, either because of poor adhesion or previous lifting. Four false raised bands appear on the spine. Gold lines are tooled at their edges and at the head and tail of the spine. Two leather spine labels are adhered to the spine. They feature gold stamping and gold lines. The hollow tube is partially broken along the front hinge. The boards are delaminated at the corners where the leather is missing. The front board is detached, and was previously repaired with two strips of clear pressure-sensitive tape that span across the spine and 2.5 – 5 cm across the front and back boards. A library sticker is adhered over the repair tape at the tail of the spine. A bookplate and a modern library sticker are adhered inside the front board, where carbon black and graphite cataloguing annotations also appear.

**Text block:** The text block is made of flexible, machine made paper. This paper is cream colored, approximately 70# in weight, and smooth. The endpapers are brown, embrittled, and cracked where they lie in contact with the turn-in leather. The text is printed in black letterpress printer's ink. The textblock edges are marbled in red, black, and yellow. These colors are faded at the head and foreedge, but are still vibrant at the tail. One cataloguing notation appears in graphite on the front endpaper, and a library stamp appears on the title page.

The text block has been moderately rounded and lightly backed, with gentle shoulders. Red and white machine made textile endbands were folded over a cord core and stuck on. They display grime, especially at the head.

### **Treatment Proposal**

1. Release the unbroken portion of the tube hinge at the front joint.
2. Tone Kozo natural tissue to translucent browns to match leather and pastedowns.
3. Lift leather on board at front hinge.
4. Adhere mending strip on exposed spine (over bottom portion of tube) with Lauscaux.
5. Adhere mending strip under leather on board with Lauscaux.

6. Adhere lifted leather on board with Lascaux.
7. Adhere V-hinge with Lascaux to reconstruct tube with mylar to keep strip from sticking to itself.
8. Adhere inner mending strip with wheat starch paste over pastedowns and let dry with board open.
9. Adjust toning on outside tissue with colored pencil.

### **Materials Used**

- Kozo natural tissue
- Liquitex Professional Acrylics
- Lascaux 498HV (Talas)
- Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (Colophon)
- Colored pencil

### **Treatment Steps**

1. 1/30 (1 hr) Toned tissue to match leather and pastedowns.
2. 2/2 (1.5 hr) Adhered outer hinge and V hinge in tube with Lascaux. Readhered lifted leather.
3. 2/5 (1.5 hr) Adhered inner hinge with paste. Mended front endpaper and stabilized leather on board corners.

Total: 4 hr