

University of Texas at Austin  
Kilgarlin Center  
Treatment Lab 4

**DESCRIPTION AND CONDITION REPORT**

**Date:** 2/4/09

**Temporary ID #:** 2009.01

**Conservator:** Kathy Lechuga

**Instructor:** Chela Metzger

**Call Number/Collection:** GZZ 808 V23r; Benson Rare Book Collection

Author: Diego Valades

Imprint: 1579

Title: *Rhetorica Christiana ad Concionandi et Orandi vsvm* Format: quarto

*Accommodata, Vtrivsz Facvltatis Exemplis svo Loco Insertis*

Collation/Foliation: 2 folios/section

Dimensions (binding): 23.6 H x 18.3 W x approximately 4.3 T (cm)

Dimensions (text block): 23.2 H x 18.0 W x 4.0 T (cm)

**Condition Summary**

The text block is split into three sections and mostly detached from the parchment laced case. The end band cores are split and most of the silk is abraded and lost.

**DESCRIPTION**

The book is a 1579 Mexican incunable printed in Latin. It has been bound in a parchment laced case that is most likely original to the book.

**Binding**

The book is bound in a limp vellum binding. The author and title have been written on the spine in iron gall ink between the first and second supports. The endband cores were originally laced into the case, but the tanned leather supports do not appear to have been. There are remnants of green silk ties at the foreedge, probably similar in color to the silk used in the decorative endbands.

**Text block**

The text block has been sewn with linen thread on 3 tanned leather raised supports which look to be mostly suede. The sections appear to have all been sewn all-along using a packed sewing technique. There are both structural endbands and decorative single front bead sewn endbands executed in green and yellow silk thread around alum tawed leather cores which were subsequently laced into the parchment case binding. There are two fold outs that have been tipped into the text block. The first one is an elaborate intaglio scene depicting a native Mexican village with a temple in the center located between pages 172 and 173. It has been attached with a stub that wraps around the

section and has been adhered to page 165 with animal glue in the gutter. The stub is approximately 1 cm wide. The second is a list of what appears to be books located between pages 292 and 293.

The text block has been moderately rounded with a shallow shoulder. The endpapers consist of hand made paper that is similar to the rest of the text block with a pastedown covering the interior green silk tie remnants. On the front fly leaf there is a watermark visible: a circle with what looks like a diagonally inscribed ladder. The spine has been consolidated with animal glue and lined with an overhanging patch lining constructed from both paper and parchment manuscript waste. The parchment manuscript patches are used at the head and the tail panels and the paper manuscript patches are adhered in between the center panels of the text block.

The text block paper is hand made, light beige in color and rather thin overall with vertical chain lines. Aside from the front flyleaf, additional watermarks were not observed; they could be obscured by the printing. The text is relief printed in black printer's ink. There are a number of intaglio prints throughout the book and all printed in black/dark brown ink. From the plate impressions it can be determined that in many instances the intaglios were printed first then the paper was run through the press a second time to print the text. There are pages with intaglios on both sides and others with intaglios inserted in the middle of the text. In most cases, there is either text or other images printed on the opposite side of the intaglio images.

## **CONDITION**

### **Binding**

The binding is only attached to the text block by the front and back pastedowns. There is a tear along the front bottom joint measuring approximately 4 cm. The binding is dirty and exhibits some planar distortion and surface cracking, but overall it is in fair condition; the parchment is still fairly supple. The foreedge ties are completely missing with small remnants remaining attesting to their color and material.

### **Text block**

The text block is split in three areas. The first is right at the point where the first fold out has been tipped. The structural endbands have kept these sections attached to the rest of the book and the second split is attached with some interior sewing threads as well. The tanned leather supports have totally split in these. The endbands are in poor condition. The silk is almost completely abraded and the alum tawed cores are split into three pieces at the tail and two at the head. The parchment spine linings show signs of insect grazing especially at the tail patch. Foxing and water staining is scattered throughout the text block. Some of the pages have yellowed considerably, mostly located towards the center of the book. The illustrations have offset to the neighboring pages in most cases. The front title page is completely detached from the rest of the text block. The paper is still flexible and exhibits only minor planar distortion. There is a previous western paper fill in a lost corner on pg. 9 that has been positioned with the chain lines running diagonally from the original vertical ones of the page. There are also rather heavy, long fiber paper mends adhered to the back of the fold out illustration.

## **Treatment Proposal**

### *Treatment Objective*

To re-unite the split sections of the text block.

The treatment of this book will involve rejoining the split sections mechanically and with linings. As much of the original materials will be preserved and reused as possible.

### **Authorization**

**The undersigned requests and authorizes KCPCR University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, 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 KCPCR to proceed with the recommended treatment 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.**

Signature of responsible officer for owner/custodian:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

University of Texas at Austin  
Kilgarlin Center  
Treatment Lab 4

TREATMENT REPORT

Date: 5/3/09

Temporary ID #: 2009.01

Conservator: Kathy Lechuga

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Call Number/Collection: GZZ 808 V23r; Benson Rare Book Collection

Author: Diego Valades

Imprint: 1579

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**Treatment Conducted**

1. Removed the textblock from the case by slitting the parchment linings. These linings were already mostly split, with only one intact, which was left attached to the textblock.
2. Removed the fold out illustration between pages 172 and 173 by slitting along the few remaining intact areas.
3. Humidified and flattened creases and folds in the illustration. Tears were mended with tengucho long fiber paper and 1:4 precipitated wheat starch paste.
4. The gutter edge of the illustration was extended by adhering a comb-style stub constructed out of Barcham Green *Bodleian White* western paper with wheat starch paste. The comb section of the stub wrapped around the same section as the original stub, between pages 164 and 165. This extension was necessary as the edges of the fold out illustration were considerably creased due to the fact that they were too close to the gutter of the book.
5. Faced the original manuscript linings with kozo white long fiber paper and wheat starch paste. The linings were dampened and removed mechanically to provide access to the spine between the two centermost panels.
6. Cleaned the center panels with a methyl cellulose poultice and removed as much of the original animal hide glue as possible.
7. Lined both halves of the textblock with patch linings of usu-mino long fiber paper and wheat starch paste.

8. The title page was re-attached to the textblock with usu-mino long fiber paper hinges and wheat starch paste adhered to the exposed spine panels.
9. Lined the spine again with a continuous strip of long fiber paper adhered on the panels only, not to the supports, with a mix of 60:40 wheat starch paste and methyl cellulose.
10. Hitched the textblock back together using an un-waxed, 3-ply linen seaming twine with a figure-eight Byzantine technique taken from Szirmai's *Archaeology of Medieval Bookbinding*, pg. 69.
11. Adhered usu-mino long fiber paper patch linings over the hitched areas with Lascaux 498HV.
12. Attached new endpapers constructed from single folios of Barcham Green *Bodlain White* with usu-mino long fiber paper tabs adhered to the spine with wheat starch paste. The endpapers were re-enforced at the head and tail edges with long fiber paper v-hinges and small "band-aids" over the fold edge, adhered under the remaining parchment linings.
13. Adhered linen patch linings with Lascaux 498HV over the exposed center panels.
14. Adhered Barrett handmade paper patch linings onto of the linen with Lascaux 498HV.
15. Re-adhered the original parchment lining fragments and endband fragments to the spine with Lascaux 498HV.
16. Mended a tear on another fold out located between pp. 292-293 with usu-mino long fiber paper and wheat starch paste.
17. Lined the verso of the lifted spine linings with wheat starch paste and kozo white long fiber paper. The new long fiber paper areas were toned with Winsor & Newton water colors to better match the original manuscript linings and then the entire patches were re-adhered to the spine in their original locations with Lascaux 498HV.
18. Mended the tear in the parchment case with a "band-aid" of usu-mino long fiber paper and Lascaux 498HV placed underneath the tail turn-in. The overlapping tear on the front of the case was repaired with Lascaux 498HV. The parchment case was allowed to dry around the textblock, under weight.

### **Materials Used**

1. Barcham Green *Bodlain White* western paper.
2. Hiromi long fiber paper: Kozo white, Usu mino, Tengucho.
3. Lascaux 498HV.
4. 1:4 precipitated wheat starch paste in deionized water.
5. 2.5% Methyl cellulose in deionized water.
6. Winsor & Newton watercolors.
7. Linen cloth.
8. Linen seaming twine.

**Total Treatment Hours: 10.5**