

University of Texas at Austin
Kilgarlin Center
Treatment Lab 4

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITION REPORT

Date: 1/30/09

Temporary ID #: 2009.02

Conservator: Kathy Lechuga

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Call Number/Collection: GZZ IC92; Benson Rare Book Collection

Author: Bernardino de Sahagun

Imprint: 1583

Title: *Psalmody Christiana, y Sermonario delos Sanctos
Del Ano, en lengua Mexicana*

Format: Quarto

Collation/Foliation: 4 folios/section
2 folios/1st section

Dimensions (binding): 20.7 H x 14.5 W x approximately 3.5 T (cm)

Dimensions (text block): 19.8 H x 15.0 W x 2.5 T (cm)

Condition Summary

The front board is completely detached from the text block. The spine has delaminated and the top quarter panel of the spine is missing from the head cap. The head endband is also missing. The text block exhibits preferential openings in areas where the adhesive consolidation on the spine has cracked.

DESCRIPTION

The book is a 1583 Mexican incunable printed by Ocharte with partial Nahuatl text, a native Mexican language. It has been re-bound in what appears to be a mid to late 19th century binding.

Binding

The book is bound in what appears to be full sheep leather that has been dyed to a maroon color. The boards are made from binder's board and are approximately 4mm thick and have been back cornered. There are five false raised bands on the spine. The author and title have been gold tooled between the 1st and 2nd bands, and the date, and printing origin have been gold tooled between the 4th and 5th bands. There are floral motifs gold tooled along the squares and gold lines tooled along the board edges and the end caps. There is a blind tooled frame on the front and back boards.

Text block

The text block has been sewn with linen thread on 3 sawn-in cords that have been laced into the boards. The first two sections appear to have been sewn all-along, and the rest of the book has been sewn 2-on; it is difficult to view the sewing on the last two

sections, but it is assumed that they were sewn all-along just like the first two sections. The text block has been moderately rounded with a shallow shoulder that exhibits a sharp 90 degree backing angle. There are stiff leaved marbled endpapers in a red, blue, black, beige, and orange comb pattern that suggests either a British or American origin and dates the binding the mid to late 19th century (p. 185 in *Marbled Paper* by Wolfe). The spine has been consolidated with animal glue and lined with what appears to be a 1 on 2 off hollow tube constructed out of brown/gray craft paper. There is a white and navy blue stuck on silk endband remaining at the tail. The endband is a double band with a much heavier top band exhibiting a fine zig-zag pattern and a much narrower secondary band with corresponding stripes. The edges of the text block have been sprinkled maroon or light brown.

The text block paper is hand made, light beige in color and rather thin overall with horizontal chain lines. There are watermarks visible in the gutters that are not fully discernable; however some crucifix patterns are evident. The text is relief printed in black printer's ink.

CONDITION

Binding

The most severe problem is the detached front board, loose spine piece, and the missing top panel of the head cap. The leather is in overall fair condition with minor abrasions along the edges and joint areas. It has faded to a medium orange color along the spine and along the top quarter of the boards, especially evident on the back board. Some minor cracking is observed on the spine, but the gold tooling appears to still be well adhered and legible.

Text block

The text block is in overall fair condition and still attached to the back board fairly well. The paper is not brittle and still exhibits good drape. The front marbled fly leaf is a little loose but the sewing is in tact and secure. There are two areas of preferential openings, the worse of the two being located towards the rear of the text block. These correspond to splits in the animal glue on the spine. The hollow tube has completely detached and split on both sides making the spine piece "flop" precariously from its rear joint.

Treatment Proposal

Treatment Objective

To re-attach the front board, spine piece, and to minimize preferential openings in the text block.

1. Line the spine with long fiber paper and wheat starch paste to minimize the preferential openings.
2. Attach another stuck on end band that is similar to the original at the head. (This step can be omitted if a good match cannot be found).
3. Re-attach the front board with toned long fiber paper.

4. Construct a hollow tube out of toned long fiber and adhere to the spine to produce an easier opening and to reattach the spine piece.
5. Construct a fill out of toned long fiber paper for the missing head cap.
6. Construct a phase box or similar enclosure if necessary.

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: _____

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TREATMENT REPORT

Date: 3/6/09

Temporary ID #: 2009.02

Conservator: Kathy Lechuga

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Call Number/Collection: GZZ IC92; Benson Rare Book Collection

Author: Bernardino de Sahagun

Imprint: 1583

Title: *Psalmodia Christiana, y Sermonario delos Sanctos
Del Ano, en lengua Mexicana*

Format: Quarto

Collation/Foliation: 4 folios/section
2 folios/1st section

Dimensions (binding): 20.7 H x 14.5 W x approximately 3.5 T (cm)

Dimensions (text block): 19.8 H x 15.0 W x 2.5 T (cm)

Treatment Conducted

1. Toned long fiber paper with Liquitex soft body acrylics to match the original binding color as closely as possible.
2. Reinforced the loose marble fly leaf with paste and long fiber paper.
3. The covering material on the front board was lifted up the blind line and a strip of toned long fiber paper was adhered to the board with Lascaux 498HV. This strip was then subsequently adhered to the spine to re-attach the board with Lascaux 498HV. The same procedure was carried out at the head board edge on the back board to re-attach the loose area.
4. The spine was re-attached with toned long fiber paper v-hinges adhered to the spine with Lascaux 498HV.
5. A fill for the missing head cap was constructed out of the same toned long fiber paper with a piece of paste stiffened linen cord in the cap. This was adhered between the original leather on the spine and the original hollow tube with Lascaux 498HV.
6. The spine fill and the long fiber paper repair strip on the inside of the marbled paper gutter were toned with Windsor & Newton watercolors to create a more sympathetic color match to the original materials.
7. Constructed 4-flap enclosure out of 20 pt. acid free, buffered board with foam text block supports at the head and tail. The box was padded on the inside to accommodate the wedge shape of the book and to provide a better fit.

Materials Used

1. Hiromi long fiber paper: Kozo white, and Usu mino.
2. Lascaux 498HV.
3. Liquitex soft body acrylic paints.
4. Windsor & Newton watercolors.
5. Linen cord.
6. 1:4 precipitated wheat starch paste in deionized water.
7. 20 pt. acid free, buffered board.
8. Volara Foam.
9. Double stick tape.

Total Treatment Hours: 4.75