

**University of Texas at Austin
Kilgarlin Center
Book Lab III**

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITION REPORT

Date: 9/7/08

Temporary ID #: 2008.1

Conservator: Kathy Lechuga

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Call Number/Collection: Personal Collection

Author: A. Chevallier

Imprint: 1831

Title: *Manuel du Pharmacien*

Format:

Quarto

Collation/Foliation: 4 folios/section

Dimensions (binding): 21.8 H x 13.5 W x approximately 3.0 T (cm)

Dimensions (text block): 20.1 H x 13.0 W x 2.6 T (cm)

Description

The textblock consolidation makes it difficult to discern the sewing pattern, however it seems to be either one or two-on flexible sewing around 3 sunk cords. The binding is a half-style binding with tan calf, and a green and brown marbled paper. The corners look to have been covered in vellum or parchment as indicated by one remaining corner found on the back board. There are remnants of gold and blind tooling at the center of the spine. The gold tooling is abstracted floral and leaf motifs, framed with a gold line and a blind tooled line. The board is made of Davey board or some other laminated paper board and is approximately 3 mm thick.

The spine of the textblock has been lined with several paper linings; the outmost is a strip of old newsprint, with a strip of light pink paper under this one. The adhesive is probably animal hide glue, but cannot be easily detected. The spine's profile is rather flat with a very tiny shoulder that barely accommodates the width of the board. The end sheets are made from red marbled paper that has been stiff leaved with a blank piece of hand made paper. They look to be sewn to the rest of the textblock. There is a remnant of a torn paper edge that could be from an old label that was removed at some point located on the front marbled fly leaf. There are marbled edge decorations on all three sides of the textblock in red and blue colors, in a pattern that is very similar to that used on the endsheets and pastedowns. The text block paper is handmade, lightweight, light cream in color. The sections have been cut in a way that positions the paper's chain lines, perpendicular to the book's spine. Some deckle edges can be seen on several pages. The text has been relief printed with black printer's ink.

Between pages 200 and 201, a poor quality paper card has been inserted with an advertisement for “Bovine Vaccine Virus” from San Antonio, Texas printed on it in black ink. Between pages 366 and 367 a blue silk ribbon has been placed.

Condition

The front board has completely detached, and the textblock has split in half vertically along the spine. The back cover is attached to the rest of the textblock by only two cords and exhibits severe areas of loss in the green marbled paper. The top corner on the back board has totally been detached and lost. Most of the leather along the spine edge of the back board and on the actual spine has detached and been lost. The leather remnants on the back board still seem flexible, and do not exhibit red rot.

The sewing still seems to be in tact and sufficiently holds all the sections together. The textblock is heavily stained with red/brown spots that resemble foxing. The severity varies throughout the text block, but can be described as moderate to severe. There is a pronounced musty odor that is detected upon opening. There is a large amount of particulate matter found in between the folds of the sections throughout the textblock that varies in color from browns to dark grays. The book is overall very dusty and dirty. The silk ribbon found is stiff, somewhat brittle, but overall in fair condition with a still vibrant blue color.

Treatment Proposal

Treatment Objective

To explore special collections treatment options on non-collection material.

Disbind and diagram original sewing.

Wash and bleach pages if necessary to reduce the staining and remove as much dirt as possible.

Mend or reinforce any damaged sections with long fiber paper and wheat starch paste.

Re-sew using Irish linen seaming twine in the original sewing pattern.

Re-construct a front board using similar materials to recreate the original intent. The back board may need to be remade as well, perhaps salvaging the original paper remnants and leather as much as possible.

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TREATMENT REPORT

Date: 12/3/08

Temporary ID #: 2008.1

Conservator: Kathy Lechuga

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Call Number/Collection: Personal Collection

Author: A. Chevallier

Title: *Manuel du Pharmacien*

Collation/Foliation: 12 folios/section

Imprint: 1831

Format:

Dimensions (binding): 21.8 H x 13.5 W x approximately 3.0 T (cm)

Dimensions (text block): 20.1 H x 13.0 W x 2.6 T (cm)

Treatment Conducted

1. Lifted the remnants of the original spine.
2. Skinned off most of the original paper linings.
3. Soaked off remaining paper and adhesive spine linings with a methyl cellulose poultice.
4. Washed 6 sections* in a bath of deionized water buffered with calcium hydroxide. The sections were allowed to air dry on a rack. *All 6 sections were rebound with stubbs to indicate what treatment each received.
5. Resized 1 section in a 0.25% gelatin solution and 1 other section in a 0.5% gelatin solution. Both sections were allowed to air dry on a rack.
6. Bleached 1 section in a 0.25% bath of deionized water and sodium borohydride for 7 minutes and bleached 1 other section in a 1% bath of deionized water and hydrogen peroxide for 10 minutes.
7. Complex guarding was performed on 2 sections with 1:4 wheat starch paste in deionized water, mixed with methyl cellulose and thinned to the consistency of half and half and Usu Mino paper.
8. Wet cleaned the silk ribbon in a 1% bath of deionized water and Orvus detergent. It has been decided to not re-incorporate the ribbon as the silk is too brittle and will doubtless break again.
9. Mended first two sections with wheat starch paste and Usu Mino paper.
10. Punched all sections to be sewn and made inner stays for the endpaper section and the two guarded sections from Korean long fiber paper #1506.

11. Re-sewed disbound sections with Irish linen thread (2 strands), utilizing the original sewing pattern (all along for the first 2 sections, then two-on for the rest of the textblock). The sections were sewn around 3 new support cords.
12. Backed the textblock using backing boards and a lying press.
13. Re-aligned separate sections and pasted up the spine with 1:4 wheat starch paste, over the frayed out new cords that “hitched” both portions of the textblock together. A reversibility layer was adhered to the pasted up spine made of machine made long fiber paper.
14. To control the preferential opening, 2 local linings of machine made Kozo long fiber paper were adhered to it, followed by 2 more local linings of Sekishu paper, followed by an overall linen lining. The paper linings were adhered with paste; the linen lining was adhered with Lascaux 498HV.
15. New boards were cut and shaped to recreate the original boards using a blue, archival binding board.
16. New vellum tips were adhered to all four corners of the new boards using paste and Lascaux 498HV.
17. The back board was laced on with a 3-hole lacing pattern as was found on the original boards. The front board was left loose as the binding is meant to be a “fall away” model.
18. Constructed a tight back binding using blonde calf and red, gold, and black stone patterned marbled paper. The paper was chosen as it is a similar pattern that would have been used in the time period in which the book was bound.
19. The binding can be opened at the front to reveal the spine treatment and linings, but constructed in a manner to mimic a tight back binding that would have been contemporary to this book. The upper right corner of the back board has been left exposed so the new vellum tips can be easily observed. The lacing pattern has been left exposed on the head end of the back board as well.