

University of Texas at Austin
Kilgarlin Center
Book Lab II

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITION REPORT

Date: 2/21/08

Temporary ID #: 2008.001

Conservator: Kathy Lechuga

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Call Number/Collection:

Author: Arthur C. Heacox & Friedrich T. Lehmann

Imprint: 1906

Title: *Lessons in Harmony*

Format:

Collation/Foliation: 9 folios/section

Dimensions (binding): 18.3 H x 12.8 W x 2.5 T (cm)

Dimensions (text block): 17.5 H x 12.5 W x 1.7 T (cm)

Description

Originally Smyth sewn textblock, cased in a publisher's binding. The case covering cloth is probably starch filled, very thin, dark green with the title and author stamped in gold on the top of the front cover and at the head and tail of the spine. The boards look to be binder's board, evident at the abraded corners. The boards are approximately 3 mm thick.

The text block sections have been completely disbound and all the sewing removed along with the spine lining layers. The spine adhesive remnants have a slightly rounded shape indicating that the text block was probably rounded at one point. The spine consolidation used protein glue (water soluble) and alternate layers of textile (resembling loose weave cheesecloth), then newsprint, textile, then another layer of paper. It is evident that the spine linings are a later repair. It is possible that it had been previously repaired in some manner. The outer most textile lining extended onto the boards, underneath the pastedown.

The text block paper is lightweight, beige, and clay coated. The text has been relief printed with black printer's ink. The endsheets are made of thicker paper that looks like it has been calendered. There are double folio endsheets that have been tipped on.

At the end of the book, there is an enclosure of a small piece of blue ruled notebook paper with writing in black ink. There are annotations in pencil and ink on the endsheets and the pastedowns.

Condition

The entire case to text block attachment has failed, and the book has been entirely disbound. All sewing remnants have been removed, and numerous strips of pressure sensitive tape have been used to repair tears and damaged areas especially along and across the folds of most of the sections. The tape's carrier layer is plastic and very shiny. The tape is yellowed, but still very sticky and well adhered to the paper, making mechanical removal dangerous and damaging.

The cloth covering and turn-ins on the case are intact and in fairly stable condition, with minor areas of abrasion at the head and tail, and some areas of slitting along the groove. The stamping on the front cover is discolored to a dark gray at the left side on the "LE" of "LESSONS" in the title. The corners of the case are slightly abraded and the board underneath has been exposed.

The paper of the text block is in good condition, still flexible, though the sections are cross grained. There are numerous tears throughout as well as many strips of pressure sensitive tape that have been adhered all over the pages, changing paper flexibility in places. The edges of the text block and most of the pages are dirty and dusty.

The spine linings have been totally removed, cleanly, from the sections, skinning the backs of all the sections, so no additional spine cleaning is necessary.

Treatment Proposal

Surface clean dirty pages with soot sponges, but this may not be necessary.

Remove as much tape as possible with appropriate solvents, making sure they don't damage any ink or other aspects of the text block.

Mend overlapping tears with 1:4 v/v wheat starch paste and de-ionized water.

Mend other tears and damaged areas with heat set tissue.

If the folds of the sections are strong enough after mending and/or guarding, re-sew sections together with a two-hole link stitch pattern, using original sewing holes as possible.

Sew on new endsheets, but consider saving original endsheets and pastedowns as they have written annotations on them in pencil.

Round and back spine slightly using PVA and methyl cellulose mix or wheat starch paste and methyl cellulose mix, whichever is most appropriate.

Apply a reversibility layer of Japanese tissue and wheat starch paste. Reline spine with appropriate new textile and paper linings.

Repair original case and reinforce tearing areas of endcaps and groove with appropriate new material, lifting original pastedowns to insert the new material if needed.

Re-case after all areas have been repaired.

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TREATMENT REPORT

Date: 5/5/08

Temporary ID #: 2008.001

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Instructor: Chela Metzger

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Imprint: 1906

Title: *Lessons in Harmony*

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Treatment Conducted

- 1) The textblock was surface cleaned with a soft brush and soot sponges where needed. Accretions were removed mechanically with a microspatula.
- 2) The damaged folios were guarded using Usu-mino thin long fiber paper and 1:4 wheat starch paste in deionized water.
- 3) The textblock was sewn using linen seaming twine in a two-hole link stitch pattern, utilizing the original Smyth sewing holes. The thread was lightly waxed with beeswax. The original endsheets were retained and tipped onto the sewn textblock following the original tip line.
- 4) The textblock was, consolidated with wheat starch paste and methyl cellulose, rounded, and gently backed, retaining as much of the original round as possible.
- 5) The spine was lined with Usu-mino thin long fiber paper and wheat starch paste mixed with methyl cellulose, then lined with a plain weave linen fabric and Lascaux mixed with wheat starch paste. A Sekishu long fiber paper lining was adhered on top of the linen with Lascaux/wheat starch paste.
- 6) The spine area of the case was reinforced with a layer of Sekishu long fiber paper adhered, with Lascaux/wheat starch paste, to the spine, groove areas, and onto the boards approximately ½” under the original paste downs and textile lining remnants.
- 7) A length of seaming twine was rolled and adhered with Lascaux/wheat starch paste in between a folded piece of Sekishu. This was then attached with

- Lascaux/wheat starch paste under the head and tail turn-ins to reinforce the endcaps.
- 8) The exposed areas of Sekishu, abraded areas of the spine, and abraded board corners were toned with Windsor & Newton watercolor paints to match the original covering material.
 - 9) The textblock was cased in only with the textile lining positioned under the lifted pastedowns and adhered with Lascaux/wheat starch paste.
 - 10) A layer of Usu mino thin long fiber paper was toned with Derwent Signature colored pencils and adhered over the exposed textile lining in the joint. This was then covered with a layer of Sekishu Mare long fiber paper. Both layers were adhered with Lascaux/wheat starch paste.