

**Author:** Louis-Jerome Gohier  
**Title:** Memoires des Contemporains, Tome 1  
**Imprint:** 1824  
**Dimensions (binding):** 20.7 cm x 13.8 cm x 2.9 cm  
**Dimensions (text block):** 19.9 cm x 12.4 cm x 2.6 cm  
**Collection:** Perry Castaneda Library, circulating collections  
**Examination Date:** 09/05/08  
**Treatment Date:** 09-10/2008  
**Conservator:** Sonya Issaeva  
**Supervising Conservator:** Chela Metzger

**Treatment Objective:**

Re-enforce attachment of the front board and re-attach the spine so that the book can be handled safely.

**Condition:**

Binding: The book is Volume 1 of two volumes, bearing the OCLC # 53696473.

The sections are sewn two-on onto three sawed-in cord supports. The volume is a tight joint quarter leather binding with marbled paper and leather tips. The paper appears to be hand-marbled under magnification, the leather appears to be sheep. There are hand-sewn white and tan endbands at the head and tail. The cord lacings are partially visible through the front and back pastedown. The front board is partially detached at the tail, while the attachment of the backboard is precarious overall. The corners of the front board are abraded and delaminated, with the leather tip material rubbed off. The corners of the back board are abraded, delaminated and misshapen, especially the one on the bottom.

Spine: The spine is gold stamped with horizontal lines. A section of about 3.5 cm from the tail up is painted over in black, with the library catalog ID # written on it in white.

The leather on the spine is broken along the entire attachment to the front board and abraded at the attachment to the back board. It's worn at the corners of endcaps and at the head and tail edges of the boards. The spine has a diagonal tear in the upper half. The spine is lined with a printed piece of off-white paper, which bears numbers.

Text block: The text block is moderately rounded. It is made of flexible, high quality machine made paper. Its color is off-white, with small beige inclusions. The paper has faux laid and chain lines. The pulp distribution appears too uniform for the paper to have been made by hand. The weight of the paper is medium to light text weight, with a moderate texture.

The text block is in good condition, with no tears or losses to the pages. The pages have discolored to a light yellowish brown at all edges which had been exposed to the atmosphere. There is a green ribbon page marker at pages 144 and 145. The ribbon appears to be made from silk. Both the pages have discolored a result of prolonged contact with the ribbon.

The single folio end sheets are sewn on; they are made of a different paper than the rest of the text block. A library pocket with pressure sensitive labels is adhered to the front pastedown. A library check out slip is adhered to the front end sheet. The library catalog ID # is written in graphite in the upper left corner of the front end sheet.

**Treatment Proposal:**

- Lift leather from the lower portion of the partially detached board
- Line lower portion of the spine with cloth
- Insert cloth lining under lifted leather
- Attach V-hinges of toned Japanese tissue to the spine
- Attach leather spine covering to the V-hinges
- Integrate the reattached spine piece aesthetically by adhering a strip of thin toned tissue along the spine edge of the board, covering the gap between the leather spine piece and the leather on the front board.

**Treatment Performed:**

- Coated leather covering on the binding with a 70% to 30% solution of Cellugel and Isopropyl alcohol in order to consolidate flaking of the leather and to minimize discoloration from introduction of moisture later in the treatment.
- Lifted leather from lower portion of the front board, using a rounded lifting blade.
- Lined lower portion of the spine with airplane linen and Lascaux. Left linen lining overhanging on one side.
- Inserted overhanging linen lining between the lifted leather and the board. Adhered linen to board and the lifted leather to linen using Lascaux.
- Mended the scarf tear in the leather spine covering using Lascaux and placed a soft pillow weight on the spine.
- Toned medium weight Japanese tissue with acrylic pigments. Lined the spine with Lascaux and the toned tissue, making V-hinges along spine edges.
- Attached the leather spine piece to V-hinges with Lascaux, placed under weight.
- Toned light weight Usu-mino tissue with acrylic pigments. Adhered a narrow strip of toned tissue to the edge of the front board with Lascaux, in order to minimize the distracting appearance of the gap between the leather spine piece and the leather covering of the front board.
- Toned strip of tissue in situ using small amounts of water color. Rubbed on a small amount of SC 6000 emulsion coating, using a piece of Hollitex, to impart a leather-like sheen to the tissue.

**Materials Used:**

Cellugel, Conservation Resources, Inc.

Isopropyl Alcohol

Lascaux, Tallas

SC 6000, Tallas

Airplane linen

Kizukishi Japanese tissue, Hiromi

Usu-mino Japanese tissue, Hiromi

Acrylic pigments, Liquitex

Water color, Windsor Newton