

Preservation Lab - Examination and Treatment Report

Database ID	Treatment ID	Item Record #	Date received in Pres.	Conservator
374	181	i17267559	8/11/2010	Ashleigh Schieszer

Department	Call Number	Date Returned to Origin
ARB Library	R. B. PQ4317 .G5 1921 v.1	

Title

Die göttliche komödie : deutsch von Otto Gildmeister, Hrsg. von Karl Toth. Farbenphantasien von Franz von Bayros

Author

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks

This book has been in the lab as part of the conservation backlog since Aug of 2010.

Binding

This is a quarter parchment binding with pink paste paper boards. The upper board contains a gold stamped coat of arms. The spine contained a stiff hollow tube with false raised bands and is decorated with a gold stamped title.

Textblock

The text block contains pink paste paper endsheets, cut undecorated edges, stuck-on endbands. It has been machine sewn with two tape supports. Only a fragment of the red silk ribbon bookmark remains attached beneath the stuck-on endband. The rest is nestled within an opening of the book.

Primary Support

The text block paper is comprised of three types of paper. The primary support paper is a beige machine made wove paper. Colored printed plates are pasted to a thin cardstock. The cardstock is hinged around a gathering with a white machine made paper. Protecting the plates is a machine made, thin and translucent tissue paper.

Medium

Black printed ink.

Attachments|Inserts

N/A

Housing

No prior housing.

CONDITION:

Summary

The binding is in severe condition and cannot be handled without causing damage to the parchment spine, however, the text block appears to be in excellent condition.

Binding

The binding and boards are heavily coated in surface dirt. The most severe condition issue is the failing vellum spine covering and its failed attachment to the text block with a hollow tube. Because the boards sit tightly against the shoulder of the text block, the repeated opening of the book with a brittle hollow tube most likely placed stress along the upper joint, causing the vellum to crack. Left un-restrained, the vellum reacted to changes in environmental conditions and further curled, cracked, and became crushed. It now exhibits a large areas of loss. The vellum covering the boards has delaminated and is curing away.

Textblock

Aside from surface soiling along the edges, the text block is in good condition. The bottom fore edge corner is especially dark from dirt. This appears to be engrained due to an introduction of moisture at some point in the object's history.

Primary Support

The text block paper is brittle because it is a poor quality lignin-containing machine made paper. The cardstock and tissue paper has darkened from light beige to brown.

Medium

Stable.

Housing

Housing Narrative

There is no prior housing.

Attachments|Inserts

N/A

Previous Treatment

It appears that the book might have been altered by another conservator. There are straight cuts along the top and bottom of the vellum board edges that look like they were cut with a scalpel, similar to how a conservator might prepare for a re-backing.

Materials Analysis

A majority of the surface dirt is removable with vinyl erasers.

TREATMENT:

Proposal

1. Surface clean the boards and vellum to remove loose dirt to prevent the dirt from becoming engrained during humidification.
2. Humidify and tension dry the vellum spine under weight incrementally to re-shape.
3. Remove the brittle spine linings and re-line the spine.
4. Reback the vellum and fill losses in the spine.

Housing Need

Clamshell

Factors Influencing Treatment

The vellum is extremely thin and has been crushed while curled. It is likely that the spine will contain permanent creasing after it is humidified and lined.

Performed Treatment

1. The upper and lower boards were first surface cleaned with vinyl eraser crumbs, followed by vinyl eraser blocks. [AF, 1.5 hrs]
2. The vellum was humidified through Gore Tex and dried under light weight to reduce planar distortions. Tears along the joints and along the vellum spine were repaired on the verso with Usu Mino kozo tissue and wheat starch paste. [AS, 2.0]
3. The brittle spine linings and adhesive were reduced with a methyl cellulose A4M poultice and spatulas. The cloth lining that was sewn into the textblock and had to be carefully cut away with small scissors throughout the adhesive softening process. [AS 2.25 hrs]
4. The spine was first lined overall with wheat starch paste and Usu Mino kozo tissue. Afterwards, the spine was lined with a thick Sekishu kozo tissue, adhered with wheat starch paste. The original stuck-on endbands were adhered on with wheat starch paste. The third lining extended from the spine onto the boards (under the lifted vellum) and consisted of Usu Mino kozo tissue and a 1:1 mixture of PVA and wheat starch paste. A final lining of Dove Gray machine made tissue was adhered to the spine. A hollow tube constructed out of Dove Gray paper was adhered to the spine one-on. [AS, 2.0]
5. The vellum spine was rebacked with Usu Mino tissue and wheat starch paste. It was filled with a Golden Acrylic toned Sekishu tissue and wheat starch paste. Tears in the vellum were repaired on the front with Tengujo tissue and wheat starch paste and the turn-ins were built up. Throughout the process of rebacking, the vellum had to be humidified and dried incrementally with weights to re-shape. [AS, 8.0 hrs]
6. The Sekishu fill was further inpainted with Schmincke watercolors. It was burnished with SC6000 to give a similar sheen as the vellum. [2.0 hrs]
7. The original spine linings were encapsulated in a polyester sleeve. [0.25 hrs]

Housing Provided

Corrugated clamshell

Housing Narrative

A corrugated clamshell with an integral cradle was constructed. The integral cradle was made out of Canapetta cloth, linen ties, and buffered corrugated board. Also incorporated into the box are encapsulated spine papers, which were adhered with 3M double stick tape to the upper lid.

Storage Recommendations and Handling notes

Use a cradle when opening the binding to protect the vellum spine from cracking and breaking. To prevent splaying of the boards, store the book in a climate controlled area within the enclosure. A dry environment will cause the vellum to shrink, making the book difficult to close.

TOTAL Treatment Time

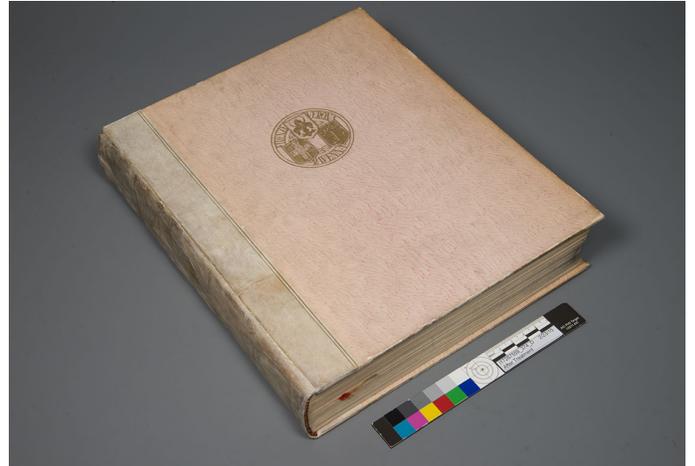
18 hours

The Preservation Lab

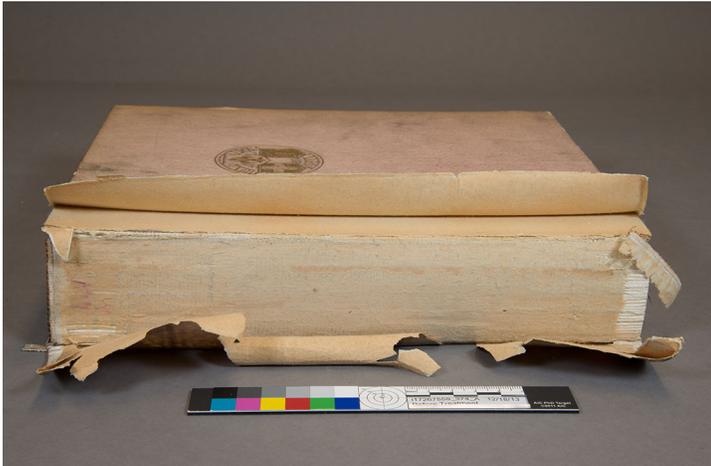
Treatment Report, Cont'd



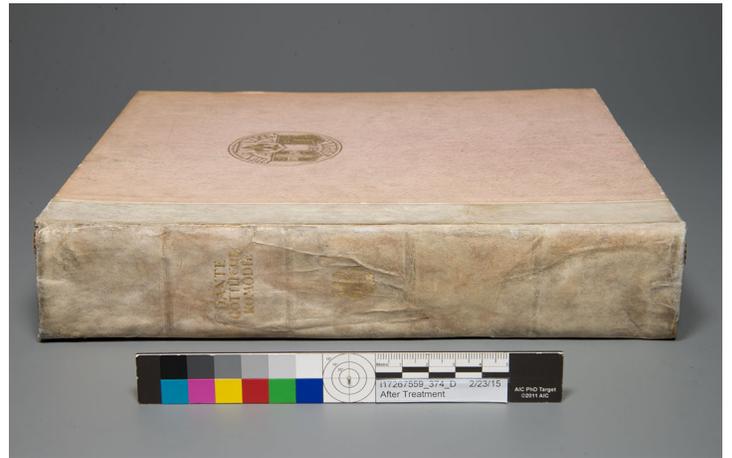
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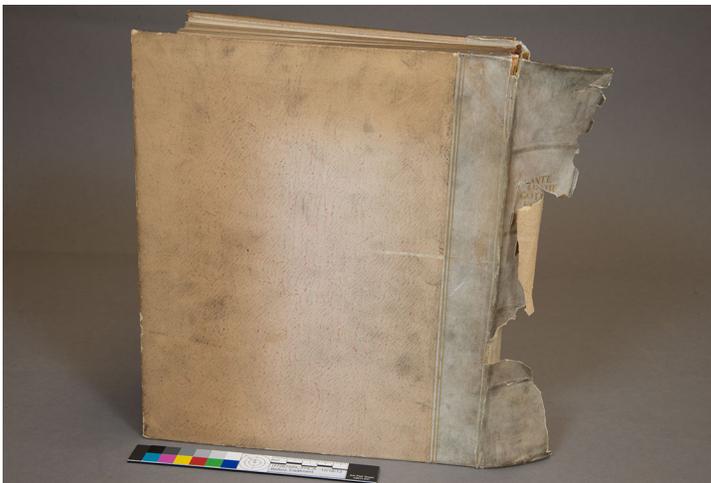
i17267559_374_D2N, After Treatment



i17267559_374_A3N, Before Treatment



i17267559_374_D3N, After Treatment



i17267559_374_A5N, Before Treatment



i17267559_374_D5N, After Treatment