Preservation Lab - Examination and Treatment Report

Database ID    Treatment ID    Item Record #    Date received in Pres.    Conservator
1854            316              i18277020         10/17/2018              Catarina Figueirinhas, supervised by Ashleigh Schieszer

Technicians    Call Number
Jessica Ebert & Chris Voynovich    PA4452 | .A2 1844 t.1

Date Returned to Origin
12/18/2019

Title
History of the Peloponnesian War

Author
Thucydides

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks
This book was chosen to be a part of the Adopt-a-Book campaign by the University of Cincinnati Libraries. More information about the 2019 Adopt-a-Book event can be found here: https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/adoptabook/.

As explained by the Classics Library curator Rebecka Lindau, in the 19th century steam-powered presses mass-produced classical texts printed on inexpensive paper in small sized books to fit in shirt pockets or belt pouches for the consumption of an increasingly literate public. The railroad and steamboat aided their distribution. The small sized texts could also be conveniently perused by itinerant scholars and easily carried by traveling salesmen and studied by school children. Smaller and more convenient book sizes in the 1800s sometimes aimed at counteracting and combating a waning emphasis on Greek and Latin in schools in Europe and the U.S. during this time, a “movement” eventually leading to such pocket sized books.

As a pocket sized book, this copy of the title The History of the Peloponnesian War is particularly interesting for its numerous small handwritten inscriptions written throughout the margins of the pages, as well as for the variety of blank paper included throughout the textblock, such as graph paper, embossed paper, and thin tracing paper.

Binding
This is a quarter leather binding with boards covered with Papier Tourniquet marbled paper. The leather spine is decorated with gold tooling and the title stamped in gold. On the upper cover there is a call number label adhered on the bottom left corner. Adhered to the front pastedown there is a University of Cincinnati bookplate and a library barcode label. In addition, adhered to the back pastedown there is a check out split.

Textblock
The textblock is composed of several gatherings sewn through the fold onto two recessed cords. Included in the textblock is a variety of blank paper, such as graph paper, embossed paper, and a folio of thin tracing paper. The thin tracing paper folio is secured by a thread that extends along the fold of the folio and wraps around the spine of the textblock. The edges of the textblock are uneven and undecorated. There is no evidence of endbands.

Primary Support
The primary support consists of thin light beige colored machine-made wove paper. Additionally, throughout the textblock there are folios of graph paper, embossed paper, and thin tracing paper.
Medium
The text is printed in black. In addition, through the margins of the textblock there are handwritten annotations written in black and blue ink.

Attachments | Inserts
Adhered to the front pastedown there is a University of Cincinnati bookplate and a library barcode label. In addition, adhered to the back pastedown there is a check out split.

Housing
N/A

CONDITION:

Summary
Overall, this book is in poor condition. The leather spine is torn along the headcap and fully detached along the front outer joint.

Binding
The binding is in poor condition. The leather is suffering from red rot, and the spine is torn along the headcap, and fully detached along the front outer joint. There are several small losses of the marbled paper along the board edges. The board corners are worn and delaminating.

Textblock
The textblock is in fair condition. Overall, there is a superficial layer of dirt throughout the textblock, particularly along the top edge. The front endsheet is tearing along the spine edge. In the back of the textblock, there are two leaves completely detached with tears along the fore edge and creases along the bottom edge. The spine linings and spine adhesive of the textblock have become brittle over time.

Primary Support
The primary support is in good condition and has a good drape. The additions of graph paper, embossed paper, and thin tracing paper through the textblock are also in good condition.

Medium
All the media appears to be stable.

Housing

Housing Narrative
N/A

Attachments | Inserts
The different library labels adhered to the endpapers are in good condition.

Previous Treatment
N/A

Materials Analysis
N/A

TREATMENT:

Proposal
1. Consolidate the powdering leather to prevent further loss.
2. Dry surface clean the textblock to remove superficial dirt and prevent dirt transfer during handling.
3. Repair the front endsheet to prevent it from becoming loose. Repair and reattached loose leaves at the end of the textblock.
4. Consolidate textblock spine linings.
5. Repair torn headcap to prevent further loss.
6. Reinforce the upper cover board attachment with new spine linings.
7. Line leather spine and repair torn outer joint.
8. If necessary, reinforce the inner and outer joints with tissue v-hinges.
9. Add a protective polyester jacket.

**Housing Need**
Polyester book jacket

**Factors Influencing Treatment**
This book was part of the 2019 Adopt-A-Book event. In its current condition, it cannot be safely handled without suffering further damage. As a result, this book is receiving conservation treatment to be safely handled by scholars.

**Performed Treatment**
1. The red rotted leather was consolidated with 3% klucel G in isopropanol. [CF, 0.15 hrs]
2. The textblock was surface cleaned with an Absorbene smoke sponge. Areas with grime were further surface cleaned with a Staedtler vinyl eraser block. [CF, 0.15 hrs]
3. The loose front endsheet was reattached to the textblock with a toned Usu Gami thinnest tissue hinge and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.15 hrs]
4. The loose sheets at the end of the textblock were reattached with toned Uus Gami thinnest tissue hinges and wheat starch paste. Small tears along the edges were repaired with Tengujo tissue and wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.5 hrs]
5. The torn headcap was repaired from the inside with a toned Tengujo tissue and wheat starch paste. All the toned tissues that were used were previously toned with Golden and Liquitex acrylics. [CF, 0.70 hrs]
6. In preparation for the reattachment of the leather spine at the front outer joint, the leather on the upper board was lifted with a Caselli spatula. [CF, 0.15 hrs]
7. To reattach the leather spine at the front outer joint, the exposed textblock spine was lined with a hinge that extended from the textblock spine, wrapped around the interior of the leather spine, onto the upper board, creating a hollow tube. The Tengujo tissue hinge was adhered with wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.40 hrs]
8. The leather spine was then reattached at the front outer joint, by adhering the extended lining hinge onto the upper board. The hinge was adhered with wheat starch paste under the lifted leather. The lifted leather was adhered back down with Lascaux 498 HPV. [CF, 0.70 hrs]
9. The front outer joint was reinforced with a toned Tengujo tissue hinge and wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.35 hrs]
10. The front and back inner joints were reinforced with Usu Gami thin v-hinges and wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.15 hrs]
11. The book received a protective polyester jacket. [CF, 0.15 hrs]

**Housing Provided**
Polyester book jacket

**Housing Narrative**
The book should be handled with care and the polyester jacket should not be removed.

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**

**PRODUCTION - WORK ASSIGNMENT AND TIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Member</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Ebert</td>
<td>135 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catarina Figueirinhas</td>
<td>200 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wednesday, December 18, 2019
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Voynovich</td>
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<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL Treatment and Documentation Time**

6 hrs
- Before treatment
  Upper Cover - Spine detached at the outer joint
- During treatment
  Lining hinge
- After treatment
  Upper cover
  Polyester jacket
- Before treatment
  Lower Cover
- After treatment

Photographic documentation by Jessica Ebert & Catarina Figueirinhas
Before treatment
Front inner hinge

After treatment
Front inner hinge reinforced

Before treatment
Back inner hinge

After treatment
Back inner hinge reinforced
The Preservation Lab

Treatment Report Cont'd

Before treatment
Spine

After treatment
Spine repaired

Collection of "pocket-sized" books that were part of the 2019 Adopt-A-Book program

Photographic documentation by Jessica Ebert