**Title**

Lucretius. Codex Vossianus oblongus phototypice editus; praefatus est Aemilius Chatelain

**Author**

Lucretius Carus, Titus. Mss. (Cod. voss. lat.F.30)

**DESCRIPTION:**

**General Remarks**

This is a 20th century oversized folio. It is a lithographic reproduction of a vellum manuscript containing Lucretius' poems. Lucretius was a Roman poet and philosopher in the 1st century who followed Epicureanism. The manuscript is most likely a later medieval copy of an earlier version.

**Binding**

This is a diced half leather sheep skin binding, decorated with blind and gold tooling (stamp embossed?). The boards contain triple blind lines making up square panels with gold dots stamped at the intersections of the blind tooling. The boards are extremely thick, composed of layers of book board that are edge beveled on the inside of the boards at the head, tail and fore edge. The boards are covered with a brown wood veneer. There are five false raised bands along the leather spine. The endsheets are marbled made endsheets with red cloth hinges.

**Textblock**

The textblock is sewn all along on four cloth tapes. The spine is lined with a cloth lining. The gatherings are comprised of three folios, of which two of the folios are gaured together with a strip of machine made paper. These two gaured folios are then sandwiched around a single folio, and the guard and single folio are sewn through the fold. This results in a gathering of three folios, two of which are not sewn through the fold but are sewn through the guard connecting them together as one folio. The top edge is gilt.

**Primary Support**

Think, machine made wove paper.

**Medium**

The textblock consists of lithographed plates of a vellum manuscript.

**Attachments | Inserts**

None

**Housing**

**CONDITION:**

**Summary**
The leather and textblock paper is acidic and is no longer strong. Combined with the heavy weight of the oversized boards and textblock, the leather spine is tearing and the leaves are coming loose from the binding.

**Binding**

The leather is suffering from red rot. It is delaminating from the boards at the corners. The lower board's top corner leather is lost. The leather is tearing along the outer joints. The grain layer of the leather is worn away along the board edges and along the spine.

**Textblock**

The textblock is damaged throughout the upper half. Approximately every other leaf is loose from the textblock along the damaged section. The leaves are no longer sewn in because the brittle guard paper has broken along the fold.

**Primary Support**

Brittle, but in fair condition. There is pressure sensitive tape adhered to the leaf rectos of some torn areas of the textblock leaves.

**Medium**

Excellent condition.

**Housing**

**Housing Narrative**

**Attachments| Inserts**

n/a

**Previous Treatment**

It is not clear whether the made endsheets are original to the binding, or if the binding has been resewn at some point.

**Materials Analysis**

The tape adhesive is soluble in water.

**TREATMENT:**

**Proposal**

1. Brush out debris from gutter of gatherings.
2. Surface clean the pages to remove large spots of dirt or fingerprints.
3. Consolidate leather on boards. Adhere any lifting areas of leather to the boards.
4. Remove pressure sensitive tape from textblock leaves and repair with archival materials.
5. Disbind to gain access to textblock spine.
6. Remove spine linings. Examine sewing and assess degree of damage.
7. If sewing is stable, reline spine and hinge-in loose plates. If sewing is too loose or leaves are torn through, mend the gatherings and resew the damaged sections.
8. Reattach binding to textblock.
9. Reback.

**Housing Need**

Polyester book jacket

**Factors Influencing Treatment**
The textblock gathering structure is atypical. The guarded folios have broken and come loose from the binding due to the brittle guard paper, however the sewing appears intact. If the guarded folios are re-guarded in the same manner, the textblock will have to be resewn even though the sewing is not broken.

**Performed Treatment**

1. Debris was brushed out from the gutter of gatherings and the pages were surface cleaned with smoke sponges. Areas of fingerprints and dark smudges were surface cleaned with a vinyl block eraser. [AS 2 hrs]
2. Lifting areas of leather on the boards were adhered down with wheat starch paste and dried under light weight.
3. Pressure sensitive tape was mechanically removed from textblock leaves using localized heat from a Zephytronics air pencil.
4. The leather spine was mechanically detached at the outer leather joints to gain access to textblock spine.
5. The spine linings were removed using methyl cellulose poultices. The sewing and board attachments were examined and found to be strong.
6. To reattach the loose plates, 10 plates received Uso Mino kozo hinges. Nine tabs per plate were cut in the hinges to correspond to the spacing of the five sewing stations. To align and reattach the plates, four of the nine tabs were slid in between the sewing tapes through the textblock sections and adhered to the spine with wheat starch paste. The remaining five tabs were adhered to the adjacent album leaf with wheat starch paste. [AF 8 hours]
7. The spine was first relined with wheat starch paste and Uso Mino tissue. Panels of handmade western paper were then pasted on top of the Uso Mino in-between the sewing tapes with wheat starch paste. A linen cloth layer was then adhered to the spine. [AS 1 hr]
8. The spine edges of the boards were cut with lifting knives and cloth lining flanges were inserted into the split boards with Jade 403 PVA.
9. A Dove Gray machine made paper hollow tube was adhered to the spine “one on, two off” with PVA.
10. The board leathers were lifted and the binding was rebacked with Golden Acrylic toned Hosho kozo tissue.
11. The original leather spine was repaired with Tengujo tissue and a mix of wheat starch paste and PVA. The original spine stiffener was left in place because removing the board would have un-necessary damaged the friable red-rotted spine leather and left it more vulnerable during handling. The leather spine was adhered to the back of the binding with PVA. It was allowed to dry overnight wrapped with bandages. [Steps 9-12: AS, 9 hours]

**Housing Provided**

Polyester book jacket

**Housing Narrative**

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**

Handle book with a cradle to protect the spine sewing. Do not open the book flat on a table.

**TOTAL Treatment Time**

21 hours
The Preservation Lab

Treatment Report Cont'd

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i12976192_830_D2N After Treatment

Photography By: Jessica Ebert
Opening Before Treatment

Opening After Treatment

Photography By: Jessica Ebert