**Description:**

**General Remarks**

Kevin Grace, the Head of Archives and Rare books at UC, wrote a detailed UC libraries blog entry about the history surrounding this object [http://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2014/04/poetry-month-and-arb-dublins-easter-rising/]. A pdf of this article is stored within the conservation lab's digital treatment folder for this item. Paraphrasing from Kevin’s article, this is a poetry chapbook written in 1916 during an Irish rebellion against the British, taking place during Easter weekend. The failed rebellion lasted six days. The poetry by Cavanagh describes the romance of war at this time, including a poem about Cavanagh’s brother, Ernest, who died during the movement.

**Binding**

This is an early 20th century pamphlet with a paper wrapper adhered only to the back of the text block. The paper wrapper is a blue mottled paper with black ink printed text and a decorative emblem.

**Textblock**

The text block consists of four gatherings that are side stapled.

**Primary Support**

The text block paper is a textured, machine made wove paper. The edges are cut.

**Medium**

Printed in black ink.

**Attachments|Inserts**

None.

**Housing**

Received in a pamphlet binder.

**Condition:**

**Summary**

The pamphlet overall is brittle and in poor condition. The front cover is fully detached with areas of loss all around the edges. The text block opening is impeded by the side staples, which are severely corroding.
Binding
The paper wrapper is mottled, both in the original paper fiber composition and overall discoloration from age. The paper has discolored from blue to dark green/brown, especially around the edges. The upper cover is detached and fragmented around the edges. It is extremely brittle.

Textblock
The text block paper is brittle, and contains damage from two metal side stables that are corroded. If left in its current condition, the corrodong metal will surely cause larger areas of paper loss. Additionally, the brittle paper and could possibly crack along the gutter when read due to the embedded opening.

Primary Support
The text block paper is slightly yellowed around the edges from atmospheric pollution and generally dirty.

Medium
The printed black ink is stable.

Housing
Envelope in pambinder

Housing Narrative
The current housing is not safe for constant use. Sliding the pamphlet in and out of the envelope puts the paper wrapper at risk for further damage.

Attachments|Inserts
N/A

Previous Treatment
No previous treatment apparent.

Materials Analysis
The cover's black ink was tested for solubility before washing. After applying drops of water to an inconspicuous area of ink and blotting it away after 30 seconds and again after 1 min, the black ink was found to be insoluble in water. No ink was found to transfer to the white blotter.

**TREATMENT:**

Proposal
1. Disbind entirely to remove the corroded staples.
2. Surface clean text block and cover.
3. Wash the cover to reduce the paper’s acidity as well as line the cover overall and fill paper losses to improve structural stability for handling.
4. Repair losses in the text block long the gutter to repair loss from corrosion. Fill paper losses in the cover.
6. Consider re-sewing through original staple holes if the paper is strong enough, or sew through the fold. Line the spine as needed.
7. Rebind in new paper binding to protect the pamphlet during repeated use and wear.

Housing Need
Tuxedo Box

Factors Influencing Treatment
In general, poking new sewing holes in a historical binding is not sympathetic to the original binding structure and is not encouraged. In this case, a model was constructed to re-recreate the side stapled holes, and variations of modified side sewing were tested to improve openability. Re-using the original sewing holes did
not seem to ensure the object’s long-term stability, especially when the model’s new and strong paper failed during repeated opening. Therefore, sewing through the fold was chosen since the binding’s paper is brittle from age and corroded from staples. It was decided between the conservator (AS) and ARB librarian (KG) that sewing through the fold of the four gatherings would cause less stress on the opening of the text block over time, and would ensure its longevity.

**Performed Treatment**

1. The binding was disbound. The fragments of the cover that were attached to the back of the text block were first mechanically removed with spatulas. A thick poultice of methyl cellulose A4M was additionally used to soften the adhesive on the back of the text block and remove the final fragments. [1 hr AS]
2. Once the paper wrapper was removed, the adhesive on the spine of the text was greatly reduced with spatulas and with poultices of thick methyl cellulose [0.5 hr AS]
3. The side staples were mechanically lifted with a microspatula to remove the corroded metal from the paper. The staples came out in multiple pieces due to friability. Remaining bits of metal in the sewing stations were pushed through with an awl. [15 min AS]
4. The covers and text block were surface cleaned overall with Absorbene smoke sponges. [30 min AS]
5. The covers were humidified overall by misting filtered water on both sides of the paper and allowing the paper to fully expand and relax.
6. Together, the covers were immersed in filtered water baths adjusted to a pH of 7.5 with calcium hydroxide to remove soluble degradation products and reduce acidity in the paper. The covers were washed in a total of 6 baths and were dried in between felts. [1 hr. AS]
7. To reduce overall discoloration and darkening of the paper, the covers were humidified and sun light bleached outdoors for 1 hour and 30 minutes while immersed in a water bath. A sheet of clear Plexiglas was placed over the bath tub to protect the paper from ultraviolet radiation. The covers were rinsed in a final bath of filtered water. [15 min AS]
8. Kozo fibered Sekishu tissue and Tengujo thin tissue were toned with Liquitex and Golden Acrylics to match the tones of the cover papers in preparation for lining and filling losses. [2 hrs AS]
9. In order to reinforce the brittle cover paper, the covers were lined overall with Tengujo thin paper toned with Liquitex Acrylics and adhered with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [45 min AS]
10. Using the pin-prick method on a light box, the losses in the covers were filled with toned Sekishu kozo tissue and adhered to the lining paper with wheat starch paste. A total of two layers of fills were used to compensate for the thickness of the paper wrapper. A fill was placed on both sides of the lining paper to form a sandwich. [4 hrs AS]
11. A hinge, constructed out of four laminated layers of Tengujo thin tissue, was adhered to the gutter edge of the covers with wheat starch paste in preparation for rebinding.
12. The fills in the recto of the upper cover and the verso of the lower cover were further toned with Prismacolor colored pencils to blend the repair paper into the varying edge discolorations. The insides of the covers were left untoned by colored pencils so users could more easily recognize the repairs. [1 hr AS]
13. The corroded areas of the textblock leaves were repaired with guards of Tosa Tengujo kozo fibered tissue toned with Golden acrylcs and thin Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [2.5 hrs A.S.]
14. Endpaper folios were constructed out of acid free textured wove paper acquired from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. [0.25 A.S.]
15. The book was resewn through the fold in its original gatherings, plus two new endpaper gatherings. New gatherings were added at the front and back of the textblock, consisting of both the new endpapers and the hinged covers. The gatherings were sewn all along using a French link stitch through six sewing stations. [0.5 A.S.]
16. The back of the sewn textblock was lined overall with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste and Uso Mino Kozo tissue. [0.25 AS]
17. The textblock was cased into a paper case constructed out of Cave Paper, 20 pt. library board, and double stick tape (modeled after Gary Frost’s design). The Cave Paper is drummed onto the library board. Similarly, the endpapers are drummed onto the case. [0.75 A.S.]
18. A spine label was printed onto Canson paper using the Kwick Print.  [JE 0.75 hrs]

**Housing Provided**
Tuxedo Box

**Housing Narrative**
Constructed out of 20 pt. library board and double stick tape.

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**
The binding is now in excellent condition and is safe for repeated use by scholars.

**TOTAL Treatment Time**
16.25 hrs
A Voice of Insurgency.

MAEVE CAVANAGH.

i5194456x_833_A1N, Before Treatment

i5194456x_833_D1N, After Treatment
i5194456x_833_A2N, Before Treatment

i5194456x_833_D2N, After Treatment
i5194456x_833_A6N, Before Treatment

i5194456x_833_D6N, After Treatment
i5194456x_833_A8N, Before Treatment

i5194456x_833_D7N, After Treatment
Before Treatment

After Treatment

i5194456x_833_A7N, Before Treatment

i5194456x_833_D8N, After Treatment