Title
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (2 maps)

Author
Sanborn

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks
These are Sanborn fire insurance maps dating to 1917-1930.

Binding
Currently, these maps are unbound and encapsulated in polyester but appear to have once been bound, as evidenced by the presence of leather fore edge tabs.

Textblock
N/A

Primary Support
These are oversized maps with multiple layers of colored and collaged paper on thin board.

Medium
Watercolor and black ink

Attachments| Inserts
Leather tabs with gold hot-stamped numbers are present on the fore edge of the maps.

Housing
Encapsulated

CONDITION:

Summary
The maps were damaged during the digitization process while the two maps were each removed from problematic polyester encapsulations. Inside the encapsulation, double sided tape was adhered to the inside of the polyester and was also stuck to the face of the map along the left side. Subsequently, when the maps were removed from the polyester, the top layer of the paper adhered to the tape contained handcolored areas of the maps that peeled away and remained attached to polyester film and tape.

Binding
N/A

Textblock
N/A
Primary Support
Overall, good condition aside from the torn fragments stuck to the polyester. Slightly dirty.

Medium
Excellent condition

Housing
Polyester encapsulation

Housing Narrative
The polyester is heavily scuffed and cloudy.

Attachments | Inserts
Leather tabs are in good condition.

Previous Treatment
None

Materials Analysis
The double sided tape adhesive softens only with acetone and does not dissolve.

TREATMENT:

Proposal
Remove the separated map fragments from the polyester encapsulations and reattach to the maps.

Housing need
Polyester encapsulation

Factors Influencing Treatment
The tape adhesive may not be completely reversible.

Performed Treatment
1. Excess polyester around the adhered fragments was trimmed away for ease of handling during treatment.
2. Acetone was brush applied to the verso of the adhered fragments to soften the double sided tape adhesive.
3. Next, a thin coating of 3% methyl cellulose was applied to the verso of the separated fragments before the acetone evaporated.
4. A clean piece of polyester film was placed on top of the fragments to form a sandwich. The methylcellulose applied to the verso of the separated pieces encouraged the fragments to cling to the clean polyester film as the fragments were slowly removed from the adhesive. A metal casselli spatula was inserted between the fragments and the polyester containing the tape adhesive, and the two were slowly peeled apart. The clean polyester film acted as a sturdy carrier throughout the process. Acetone was frequently brush applied to keep the adhesive soft as they were peeled and mechanically lifted apart with the spatula.
5. The removed fragments were re-attached to the map with 3% methyl cellulose and dried under light weight.
6. Remaining adhesive was removed from the surface of the re-attached map fragments, as well as the surrounding areas, with a crepe eraser and a dental tool under the microscope.
7. Schmincke watercolors were used to inpaint small areas of loss.

Housing Provided
Polyester encapsulation

Housing Narrative
The original call numbers were encapsulated into the new polyester enclosures.

TOTAL Treatment Time
4 hours
During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment

During Treatment