Description:

General Remarks
This is one of four "Photographic Views of..." albums owned by the Public Library. It is the only one out of the four that contains photographic plates that are still attached to the binding's cloth hinges and functions as an album. The other three (Photographic Views of Syria, Egypt, and Athens) have plates that are fully detached from the binding and were received by the lab stored loosely in between the covers. The four bindings were treated in the lab to remove heavy soiling from the plates prior to digitization. The digital copies can be accessed online at http://digital.cincinnatilibrary.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16998coll10/id/23003.

Binding
This is a red half leather binding with black embossed cloth boards. The cloth is embossed to resemble leather. The textblock is sewn on four thin recessed cords that are laced into the boards. The pastedowns are cloth-hinged papers that are decorated with green vine-patterned print.

Textblock
The edges of the textblock are gilt. Board leaves are hinged to similar thickness board stubs with cloth.

Primary Support
The leaves are thick boards with photographic prints mounted on the recto.

Medium
(Lithography?) yellow printed borders around photographs contain image titles. The text is formed from by negative space in the yellow printing, allowing the beige board to show through.

Attachments/Inserts
Black and white albumen (?) photographs.

Housing
None.

Condition:

Tuesday, July 07, 2015
Summary
Overall, the binding and textblock are in poor condition and need cleaning and stabilization for digitization and handling.

Binding
The leather suffers from red rot. The front joint is tearing along the edge of the board. The upper grain layer of the leather is shearing away in many places, particularly around the edges of the corners. The front board is detached from the textblock. The laced-in cords are broken at the joint.

Textblock
The textblock spine linings are brittle and beginning to delaminate from the spine. Many of the plates contain hinged foldouts. Some of the hinged foldout plates are shorter in width than the adjacent plates. As a result, over time, the longer plates have become distorted and warped beneath the weight of the textblock, conforming to the shape of the smaller group of foldouts below.

Primary Support
Overall, the album plates are covered in surface dirt. The plates are strongly attached to the cloth hinges.

Medium
The printed yellow ink is stable.

Housing

Housing Narrative
No prior housing.

Attachments | Inserts
Overall, the photographs are coated in accumulated dirt. Some of the photographs, particularly the foldout panorama photographs are fading near the edges of the textblock.

Previous Treatment
No previous treatment is apparent.

Materials Analysis
The dirt is easily lifted from the photographs using an Absorbene sponge and vinyl eraser crumbs without disturbing the photographic emulsion.

TREATMENT:

Proposal
Binding:
1. Consolidate the leather and repair the upper leather joint.
2. Lift the front pastedown along the gutter.
3. Remove the brittle spine linings and reline the spine with stable materials.
4. Reattach the upper board to the textblock.

Textblock:
1. Surface clean the plates prior to digitation.
Housing Need
Corrugated clamshell

Factors Influencing Treatment
This object will receive surface cleaning before digitization and binding treatment after digitization to help preserve the binding and facilitate better digital image capture.

Performed Treatment
Binding:
1. The upper leather joint was repaired with Sekishu tissue and Lascaux 498 HV from the inside of the cover. The headcaps were repaired with Usu Mino tissue toned with Golden Acrylics and Lascaux 498 HV on the outside and inside of the spine. [AS, 1.5 hrs]
2. The false raised bands in the leather spine were replaced with strips of Rising museum mat board. They were adhered to the leather with Lascaux 498 HV. [AS, 45 min]
3. The original textblock spine linings were removed by softening the adhesive with a methyl cellulose poultice and mechanically scraping with spatulas. [AS, 2 hrs]
4. The spine was relined with wheat starch paste and Usu Mino Kozo tissue, followed by a linen cloth lining with overhanging flanges and a colored Moriki hollow tube. The linen cloth and Moriki hollow tube were adhered with PVA. [AS, 30 min]
5. The paste down on the upper board was mechanically lifted 2 inches from the gutter. [AS, 15 min]
6. The upper board was reattached to the textblock by adhering the linen spine lining flange to the board beneath the paste down with a 1:1 mix of Jade 403 PVA and methyl cellulose. [AS, 15 min]
7. The lifted portion of the paste down was adhered down to the board with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste and dried with the cover closed under light weight. [AS, 15 min]
8. An Usu Mino kozo tissue hinge that was toned with Golden Acrylics was adhered along the inner hinge of the fly leaf with wheat starch paste. [AS, 15 min]
9. The leather along the spine was consolidated with 2% Klucel G in ethanol as well as Lascaux slightly thinned with ethanol. A lifting flap of leather, located on the bottom corner of the lower board, was adhered back into place with Jade 403 PVA. [AS, 1 hr 20 min]

Textblock:
1. The plates were surface cleaned overall with an Absorbene sponge, vinyl eraser crumbs, and block erasers [VS, 26.5 hrs; CV 6 hrs]

Housing Provided
Corrugated clamshell

Housing Narrative
A corrugated clamshell was constructed out of an archival buffered blue board [CV, 1.25 hrs].

Storage Recommendations and Handling notes
These oversized bindings are heavy and may require two people to lift. It is highly recommended to use a cradle to support the bindings and covers when handled. The binding’s three edge flaps are best stored against the lower board beneath the textblock, rather than wrapped around the textblock.

TOTAL Treatment Time
40.6 hrs
i78602919_906_A1N, detached cover and broken upper joint and headcaps, Before Treatment

i78602919_906_D1N, repaired joint and headcaps and cover reattached, After Treatment
i78602919_906_A7N, top edge detail showing planar distortion of plates, Before Treatment

i78602919_906_D6N, corrugated clamshell enclosure with sliding tray, After Treatment

i78602919_906_D7N