Histoire chronologique des évêques, et du chapitre exemte de l'église cathédrale de S. Bavon a Gand ; suivi d'un recueil des epitaphes modernes et anciennes de cette église.

Author

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks
This is an 18th century book printed in French. It contains a chronological history of events as well as detailed epitaphs from memorials at the St. Bavon a Gand Cathedral. This book belongs to the Genealogy and Local History department.

Binding
This is an 18th century tightback trade binding, bound in half leather with paper covered boards. The leather is a dark brown sheepskin. The paper is yellow with black decoration in a contemporary 18th century pattern called papier coulé. The book measures 21.5 cm (H) x 14.0 cm (W) x 4.2 cm (D). The spine is a flat back but contains seven decorative double gilt bands. The title is tooled in gold.

Textblock
The text block is sewn onto three recessed cords. The edges of the text block are trimmed and decorated with red speckling.

Primary Support
The endsheets are wove undecorated beige paper. The text block consists of handmade light beige antique laid paper.

Medium
The text block contains letterpress printing in black ink. The front endsheets contain French handwriting in graphite and brown ink. Next to the title page is a plate containing an etching of a winged figure that is posing in front of a grave monument. The bottom of the plate reads, "P. Martenasie Sculp 1772." There are also black printed etchings of crests throughout the text.

Attachments|Inserts
N/A

Housing
The book was received unhoused.

CONDITION:

Summary
The book is suffering from poor structural integrity and is in danger of losing the spine leather and front board.
**Binding**
The leather is suffering from red rot. The grain surface layer of the leather is peeling away, which is characteristic of sheep skin. The joints and edges of the boards are friable with loss. The corners are worn. The boards are barely connected to the text block. They are tenuously attached by two brittle cords as visible in the before treatment examination photography.

**Textblock**
The text block is cockled throughout with poor drape. There are no tears or losses. The spine is stiff and brittle. The sewing is in excellent condition. Only the endsheets exhibit surface dirt.

**Primary Support**
Good condition.

**Medium**
Excellent condition.

**Housing**

**Housing Narrative**
No prior housing.

**Attachments| Inserts**
N/A

**Previous Treatment**
There is no evidence of previous treatment.

**Materials Analysis**
The leather is extremely brittle. The red-rotted areas discolor from orange to dark brown during consolidation.

**TREATMENT:**

**Proposal**
As soon as the leather was closely examined, it became clear that merely lifting the leather and applying kozo tissue hinges over the joints would not successfully arrest further degradation of the tightback binding. Additional measures would indeed need to be taken to prevent the leather from continuing to crumble.

1. Consolidate the leather.
2. Lift the spine and board leather in preparation for rebacking.
3. Consider re-lining the spine to increase opening flexibility.
4. Repair and repack to strengthen board attachment.
5. Reattach leather spine.

**Housing Need**
Corrugated clamshell

**Factors Influencing Treatment**
The librarians have requested a stabilization treatment, and to conduct as little treatment as possible in order to make the book usable. Unfortunately, the leather is severely brittle, friable, and delaminating away from the spine. Rebacking the binding and placing a natural hollow on the back of the text block is necessary to keep the binding attached to the text block, and will help protect the leather from disintegrating when the binding is opened.
Performed Treatment
1. Removed leather spine mechanically with lifting knives. The upper and lower board leather was lifted in preparation for board reattachment and rebacking. [AS, 3 hrs]
2. Consolidated leather spine and board leather with 3% Klucel G in ethanol. [AS, 0.75 hrs]
3. Toned a laminate of kozo tissue adhered to linen with wheat starch paste with Golden Acrylics to match the base color of the binding leather.[AS, 0.5 hrs]
4. After removing the spine leather, the paper spine linings were examined. It was determined that while removing and replacing the linings and adhesive would improve the books open-ability, they were stable enough to not be removed at this time. Therefore, to strengthen the board attachment, un-toned kozo tissue hinges were adhered on top of the original spine linings spanning onto the boards with wheat starch paste. [AS, 0.5 hrs]
5. The book was rebacked using the toned linen laminate. It was adhered with wheat starch paste and nipped in the press. The original leather spine was reattached to the binding with Lascaux 498 HV [AS, 3 hrs]
6. The exposed areas of leather red rot were further consolidated with the Leather Conservation Center SC6000 wax emulsion. The linen laminate joints were carefully inpainted with acrylics to better match the mottled leather tones. The laminate joints were given a shiny surface texture similar to the leather with SC6000. [AS, 1.5 hrs]
7. The inner hinges and leather edges were repaired with a toned Usu Mino kozo tissue and wheat starch paste. [1.25 hrs]

Housing Provided
Custom

Housing Narrative
A soft polyethylene Colibri book jacket was heat welded around the book to preserve the degraded leather during handling.

Storage Recommendations and Handling notes
The book leather is no longer in danger of flaking off and the boards are strongly reattached. To protect the original spine linings and sewing, open the book at an acute angle with cradles.

TOTAL Treatment Time
10.5 hours
i78808637_871_A1N, Before Treatment

i78808637_871_D1N, After Treatment
i78808637_871_A3N, Before Treatment

i78808637_871_D3N, After Treatment