**Title**
Poems on various subjects, religious and moral.

**Author**  Wheatley, Phillis, 1753-1784.

**DESCRIPTION:**

**General Remarks**
This is one of two possible anthropodermic binding that are being sampled in the lab for peptide mass fingerprinting (PMF). The samples have been requested by a team of conservation scientists that are conducting a national survey to identify anthropodermic bindings. PMF is a protein analysis method that uses enzymes to break down proteins. Once proteins are digested, peptides are formed. Mammalian peptides are unique. Therefore, the digested proteins are then identified with a matrix assisted laser desorption ionization mass spectrometry (MALDI) spectrum (Kirby, et al., Identification of collagen-based materials in cultural heritage, Royal Society of Chemistry, 2013). See http://anthropodermicbooks.org/ for more information.

The second book is of the same title and imprint and belongs to the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The two books appear to be bound by the same binder but differ in coverings. This binding is a half leather binding with parchment covered boards whereas the Public Library’s version is a full leather binding.

**Binding**
This is a dark brown half leather tightback binding with raised supports and parchment covered boards. The title and imprint date are gold tooled on the spine. Otherwise, there is no other binding decoration.

**Textblock**
The textblock is sewn on cords. The edges are trimmed and decorated with gold gilding. The endsheets are a decorative marbled paper.

**Primary Support**
A light beige handmade antique laid paper.

**Medium**
Black printed ink throughout. There is a frontispiece etched portrait of Phillis Wheatley.

**Attachments | Inserts**
There is a leather gold stamped label adhered to the pastedown that reads, "Given to the Department of Rare Books University of Cincinnati by Bert Smith's Acres of Books."

**Housing**
The binding is housed in a slip case.

**CONDITION:**

**Summary**
The book is in good condition overall.

**Binding**
The binding is in excellent condition. The leather is in excellent condition aside from a small amount of abrasion at the corners. There are small areas of parchment loss along the edges of the parchment on the lower board. The book covers warp outward when removed for extended periods from the slipcase due to the hygroscopic parchment covering.

**Textblock**
The textblock is in good condition.

**Primary Support**
The frontispiece and title page have discolored overall from light beige to dark beige, most likely from light damage.

**Medium**
Black printed ink.

**Housing**
Custom

**Housing Narrative**
The slip case successfully helps prevent the boards from warping into a convex shape. The slip case does not protect the leather spine from light, but the spine does not appear to be light damaged.

**Attachments | Inserts**
Label is in good condition.

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

**Materials Analysis**
Five samples, 1-3 mm in size or smaller, were removed from the binding for PMF testing. Leather was sampled from the spine and corners, and parchment was sampled along the bottom edge turn-ins. Please see the PMF sampling list for more detailed sampling information (AS).

**TREATMENT:**

**Proposal**
The binding is in good condition and does not require treatment at this time.

**Housing Need**

**Factors Influencing Treatment**
Usually, a slip case is not recommended for storage of special collection items, however in this particular case, there is no evidence of abrasion or light damage to the leather spine and the slip case is successfully

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preventing the boards from warping.

Performed Treatment
1. The binding was placed in a custom polyester book jacket (CF).
2. It wasreshoused in a custom cloth covered clamshell compression enclosure (CF).

Housing Provided
Cloth clamshell

Housing Narrative
The cloth covered enclosure was constructed out of Davy’s binder board, Canapetta cloth, and Jade 403 PVA.

Storage Recommendations and Handling notes
To prevent the binding from warping, keep the binding housed in the cloth covered compression enclosure when not in use.

TOTAL Treatment Time
10 hrs
i21768183_1053_A11N

i21768183_1053_A08N, head, gold decorated edges

i21768183_1053_A09N, tail
i21768183_1053_D01N, Cloth covered compression enclosure

The Preservation Lab

Treatment Report Cont'd

Enclosure Photography By: Catarina Figueirinhas