Alumni Oxonienses: the members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886...

Author
University of Oxford.

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks
This book is part of a collection of four Alumni Oxonienses volumes from the University of Oxford.

Binding
This is a half leather binding with dark red sheep skin leather and royal blue cloth covered boards. The boards are cased-in with three recessed cords. The stuck on endbands are commercially constructed and are colored yellow and red. The leather is gilt along the edges where it meets the cloth cover.

Textblock
The text block is composed of 26 gatherings. The gatherings are sewn through the fold on three recessed cords. The top edge of the text block is gilt. There is a bookmark made of dark red cloth inside the text block.

Primary Support
The text block consists of a light beige machine made laid paper. The endsheets and pastedown are made of a wove paper. The endleaf is colored dark blue on one side and light beige on the other.

Medium
The text is printed in black ink.

Attachments| Inserts
There is a bookplate from the Public Library of Cincinnati on the pastedown of the upper cover with an inscription that reads “Joseph Foster Lond. Eng./ March 29 1888”. There is a red ink library stamp on verso of the title page.

Housing
N/A

CONDITION:

Summary
Overall, the text block and the binding are in poor condition and the book cannot be handled properly without suffering further damage.

Binding
The spine of the book is missing and the covers are completely detached from the text block. The spine lining
has become brittle over time and it is partially delaminating from the back of the text block. The color of the leather has faded to a dark red/brown instead of the original bright red. The leather has delaminated along the top left corner of the upper cover and along the edges of the boards. The cloth’s color has faded to a dark purple, and it exhibits a heavy layer of grime and dark stains. Both covers show signs of wear, and all the corners have lost the covering leather along the edges. Also, all the leather corners are delaminating.

**Textblock**

The text block is in poor condition. Most of all the top fore edge corners of the text block are torn, missing or folded. Overall the text block exhibits a superficial layer of dirt, more extensively on the first front pages. Both endsheets are coated with a heavy layer of soil. The front endsheet has small tears along the fore edge and the top corner is folded. There is no evidence of the existence of a bottom stuck on endband, however it is possible that all the evidence has been lost over time, since there is some evidence of a top endband. The sewing is seems to be stable but fragile. The bookmark has become brittle and it is detached from the text block.

**Primary Support**

The primary supports have become brittle and fragile over time.

**Medium**

All the media is stable.

**Housing**

**Housing Narrative**

No prior housing

**Attachments|Inserts**

**Previous Treatment**

No evidence of previous treatment.

**Materials Analysis**

No analysis was conducted at this time.

**TREATMENT:**

**Proposal**

1. Dry surface clean the covers and text block.
2. Remove loose covers and lift leather spine, as well as pages such as fly leaves or tipped-in leaves.
3. Clean text block spine to remove linings and brittle adhesive.
4. Prepare new archival endsheets.
5. Sew the text block with new sewing supports. Add new gatherings of hinged leaves and new endsheets (with a toned Usu mino hinge in between the new endsheets).
6. Reline text block spine with reversible layer of Usu mino and wheat starch paste, linen cloth lining and dove gray paper.
7. Prepare covers for split board cover attachment.
8. Reattach boards with a modified library split board binding.
9. Reback and reattach original spine.
10. Construct a corrugated clamshell box to house the binding for long term storage.

**Housing Need**

Corrugated clamshell

**Factors Influencing Treatment**
This book is being treated in conjunction with three other volumes from this set. To maintain the original boards, a cohesive aesthetic between all the treated books, and to compensate for the heaviness of the text block, a modified split board technique will be used to reattach the original boards. New archival endsheets will be added to protect the text block from the original acidic endsheets.

**Performed Treatment**

1. Overall both covers, pastedowns and flyleaves were dry surface cleaned with an Absorbene smoke sponge. The flyleaves that contained a heavy layer of grime were further surface cleaned with an eraser block. [CF, 1 hrs].

2. Both covers were removed from the textblock and all the pages that were tipped onto the text block were mechanically removed with a Casselli spatula. [CF, 0.60 hrs]. The leather on the covers was consolidated with Klucel G 3% in Ethanol. [CF, 0.15 hrs].

3. The text block spine was cleaned with a poultice of methyl cellulose 3%. The brittle spine linings and adhesive were reduced. [CF, 1 hrs].

4. The textblock leaves were mended mostly along the top corner of several pages. The folded corners where repaired with Tengujo tissue and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [CF, 10.25 hrs].

5. Prior to sewing, new archival endsheets of Dove Gray paper were constructed and placed between the acidic original endsheets and the text block. The original detached endsheets were hinged onto the gatherings of the new endsheets with an Uso Mino tissue hinge and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. A loose hinge of toned Usu Mino Kozo tissue was wrapped around the group of endsheets. [CF, 3.5 hrs].

6. The removed leaves were hinged onto the text block spine with Usu Mino Kozo tissue hinges and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.5 hrs].

7. Once the textblock treatment was complete, new sewing supports were sewn to the textblock with a French link stitch using the two original kettle stitch holes. The linen tapes were sewn to the entire textblock to reinforce several areas where the original sewing was broken. The original sewing was not removed. [CF, 7.75 hrs].

8. The spine of the textblock was lined with multiple layers. The spine was first lined with a reversible layer of Usu Mino Kozo tissue and wheat starch paste. Secondly, the spine was lined with a linen cloth lining adhered with a mixture of PVA and wheat starch paste. Finally, the spine was lined with a Dove Gray paper lining adhered also with a mixture of PVA and wheat starch paste. [CF, 1 hrs].

9. Once the spine was lined, the covers were prepared for a split-board cover attachment. First, the corners were repaired with Lascaux 498 HV. [CF, 0.15 hrs]. Second, using paring knives, the leather on the covers was lifted and the boards were split approximately 1 inch deep. [CF, 1.5 hrs].

10. Using new endsheets, cloth flanges and sewing supports, the boards were attached to the textblock. [CF, 1.55 hrs].

11. Once both boards were attached to the text block via a split board attachment, a new cover spine was created since the original leather spine was missing. To create a new spine, an acrylic toned Usu Mino kozo tissue was lined with a linen cloth lining and PVA. [CF, 2.5 hrs].

12. The book was rebacked with the Kozo tissue linen laminate and wheat starch paste. Once the cloth hinges were fully adhered to the cover boards on the outside, the cover leather was adhered to the new cover spine with Lascaux 498 HV. [CF, 2 hrs]. The toned Usu Mino tissue hinge that was loosely wrapped around the outer gatherings onto the pastedown with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.15 hrs].

13. A new title was stamped with gold foil onto paper and adhered with PVA. [CF, 0.5 hrs].

14. The book was rehoused with gold foil onto paper and adhered with PVA. [CF, 1 hrs].

**Housing Provided**

Corrugated clamshell

**Housing Narrative**

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**

**TOTAL Treatment Time**

35.55 hrs

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Friday, January 06, 2017

[THE PRESERVATION LAB]

A COLLABORATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CINCINNATI & HAMILTON COUNTY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI LIBRARIES
During treatment, cleaned spine

During treatment, resewn on supports and usu mino lining

During treatment, linen and dove grey linings