Title
Poems on various subjects, religious and moral.

Author
Wheatley, Phillis, 1753-1784.

DESCRIPTION:

General Remarks
This book is a possible anthropodermic binding that is being sampled in the lab for peptide mass fingerprinting (PMF). PMF is a protein analysis method that uses enzymes to break down proteins. This is one of two possible anthropodermic bindings 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. 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 about the project.

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

Binding
This is a full leather dark brown tightback binding with raised supports. It appears to contain lighter brown leather patches located on the top of the lower board that are most likely contemporary to when the book was bound. The title and imprint date are gold tooled on the spine. The boards contain single blind tooled lines around the edges.

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

Tuesday, November 03, 2015
There is a piece of black leather adhered to the pastedown that is tooled in gold lettering, "Given to the Department of Rare Books Public Library of Cincinnati by Bert Smith's Acres of Books." There is a loose, folded typewritten letter stored in the enclosure with the binding indicating provenance.

**Housing**
The binding is wrapped in plastic and stored with the folded letter in a Velcro four flap enclosure.

**CONDITION:**

**Summary**
The book is in fair condition overall due to deteriorating age-hardened leather.

**Binding**
The outer leather joints are cracked and beginning to tear, as well as along the marbled paper along the upper inner hinge.

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

**Primary Support**
The light beige paper is also in excellent condition and does not show any apparent signs of aging.

**Medium**
Stable.

**Housing**
Tuxedo Box

**Housing Narrative**
The Velcro four flap enclosure is worn along the perforated folds and is dirty. This is a generic enclosure and is not custom fit for the book, therefore it fits loosely. The plastic wrapping has slightly yellowed and does not appear to be archival.

**Attachments|Inserts**
The folded letter is slightly dirty and worn along the folds.

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

**Materials Analysis**
Four leather samples, 1mm in size or smaller, were removed from the binding for PMF testing. Leather was sampled from the spine, corners, and from a light brown leather patch along the top edge. Please see the PMF sampling list for more detailed sampling information.

**TREATMENT:**

**Proposal**
1. Stabilize the loose upper board with a kozo tissue hinge.
2. Rehouse the binding in a custom four-flap enclosure and replace the plastic wrapping with an archival polyester jacket.
Housing Need
Tuxedo Box

Factors Influencing Treatment
The typewritten letter would be better preserved if stored unfolded and flat, however, in this case, it may be best to keep the letter folded and stored in a polyester L-sleeve with the book so it does not become lost from the binding.

Performed Treatment
1. The inner hinge along the upper board was reinforced with a Tengujo tissue hinge adhered with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste.

Housing Provided
Tuxedo Box

Housing Narrative
The book was housed in a 3 ml polyester jacket. The folded letter was placed in a polyester L-sleeve. The book and letter were housed in tuxedo box constructed out of Cave paper and 3M double stick tape.

Storage Recommendations and Handling notes
To prevent the leather joints from continuing to crack, it is recommended to open the book at an acute angle with the aid of a book cradle.

TOTAL Treatment Time
3 hrs
i29412262_1052_A02N, four-flap velco enclosure

i29412262_1052_A03N, folded provenance paper (see page 9 of image pages for full scan)
15th, July, 1958

Ernest I. Miller, Director
The Cincinnati Public Library
Cincinnati, 2, Ohio

Dear Ernest:-

With this letter I am sending a book for the Department of Rare Books of the Cincinnati Public Library.

I believe that you will agree that the book is unique.

There are examples of anthropodermic bindings in a great many of the important libraries of the World, including the Library of Congress, the Huntington, the Cleveland Public, and when I was able to obtain two copies of this title I determined that the Cincinnati Public Library should have one for the Rare Book Collection.

Sincerely,

Bert Smith
General Manager
ACRES OF BOOKS

This particular book is referred to in paragraph three, page seventy eight, of Walter Hart Blumenthal's BOOK-MAN'S BEDLAM, published in 1955 by the Rutgers University Press.

BLjr