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 brown and red. The leather is gilt along the edges where it meets the cloth cover.

Textblock
The text block is composed of several gatherings that are sewn through the fold on three recessed cords. The top edge of the text block is gilt. There is evidence of a bookmark made of dark red cloth attached to the spine of 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. Also, there is a purple ink library stamp on verso of the title page and on the last page of the text block.

Housing
No prior housing

CONDITION:

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

Binding
The leather spine of the book is detached from the text block and it shows a big loss in the middle. The upper
The primary support has become brittle and fragile over time. The color of the leather has faded to a dark red/brown instead of the original bright red. 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 color of the cloth has faded over time and it exhibits a heavy layer of grime and some dark stains.

Textblock
The text block is in fair condition. Overall, it exhibits a superficial layer of dirt, more extensively on the first front and last pages. Both endsheets are coated with a layer of grime. The back endsheet has small tears along the fore edge and the bottom corner is missing. The sewing is stable and strong. It is possible that the bottom stuck on endband is missing, however there is no evidence of the existence of a bottom stuck on endband. The cloth bookmark has become brittle and darker over time and it is missing from the text block.

Primary Support
The primary support has 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 necessary pages, such as fly leaves or tipped-in page.
3. Clean text block spine to remove linings and brittle adhesive.
4. Prepare new archival endsheets.
5. Sew on new sewing supports, hinged leaves and new endsheets (with Cambric cloth hinge in between the new endsheets).
6. Reline spine with reversible layer of Usu Mino and wheat starch paste, linen cloth lining and Dove grey paper.
7. Prepare new covers for a split board cover attachment.
8. Attach boards with a modified library split board binding.
9. Inlay original upper cover.
10. Reback and reattach original spine.
11. 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 a cohesive aesthetic between all the treated books. To compensate for the heaviness of the textblock, a modified split board technique will be used to attach the new boards. The upper cover will be inlaid into the new cover. New archival endsheets will be added to protect the text block from the original acidic endsheets.

**Performed Treatment**

1. The pastedowns and flyleaves were dry surface cleaned overall with an Absorbene smoke sponge. The flyleaves that contained a heavy layer of grime were further surface cleaned with a vinyl eraser block. [CF, 0.5 hrs].

2. Both endsheets and the pages that were tipped onto the textblock were mechanically removed with a Casselli spatula. [CF, 0.35 hrs]. The covering of the detached upper cover was removed mechanically with a lifting knife and the leather was consolidated with 3% Klucel G in ethanol, [CF, 1 hrs].

3. The textblock spine linings were removed with a poultice of 3% methyl cellulose. The brittle spine adhesive was also reduced. [CF, 0.35 hrs].

4. Several small tears along the edges of the flyleaves were mended with Tengujo tissue and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.5 hrs]. The removed leaves were hinged onto the text block spine with Usu Mino Kozo tissue hinges and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. [CF, 0.75 hrs].

5. A gathering of new archival endsheets of Dove Grey buffered paper was constructed, and placed between the acidic original endsheets and the textblock. The original endsheets were hinged onto the gathering of new endsheets with an Usu Mino tissue hinge and Zen Shofu wheat starch paste. A loose guard of Cambric cloth was palced in between the two folios of endsheets. [CF, 0.45 hrs].

6. New sewing supports were sewn onto the textblock with a French link stitch using the two original kettle stitch holes. The linen tapes were sewn onto the first four gatherings and onto the last four gatherings, reinforcing these areas. The rest of the text block was in good condition and it did not re-sewing or extra support. [CF, 0.65 hrs].

7. 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. Then 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 Dove Gray paper adhered with a mixture of PVA and wheat starch paste. [CF, 1.5 hrs].

8. Once the textblock treatment was complete, new covers were prepared for a split-board binding attachment. [CF, 0.5 hrs]. The laminated flanges were created and adhered in between the two boards of each cover with PVA. [CF, 1.5 hrs].

9. Once the both boards were attached to the textblock via a split-board attachment, a recessed space was created for the original upper cover inlay using 20 point Bristol board and PVA. [CF, 0.5 hrs].

10. The attached boards were covered with a Tan Cialux bookcloth. [CF, 1.5 hrs]. Once the boards were covered the original upper cover was coated on the back with Lascaux 498 HV to aid in future reversibility and inlayed onto the new cover with PVA. [CF, 0.5 hrs].

11. The inner flanges along with new pastedowns of Dover Gray paper were adhered down onto the boards with PVA. [CF, 0.5].

12. A new spine was created since the original leather spine could not be used due to its poor condition. To create a new spine, an acrylic toned Usu Mino kozo tissue was lined with a linen cloth lining and PVA. [CF, 2 hrs]. The original spine was encapsulated in a polyester sleeve and housed with the book. [CF, 0.15 hrs].

13. A new title was stamped with gold leaf foil on an acrylic toned Usu Mino tissue laminated with a linen cloth. The title was adhered with PVA. [CF, 0.35 hrs].

14. The book was rehoused in a protective enclosure, a corrugated clamshell box. [CF, 1 hrs].

**Housing Provided**

Corrugated clamshell

**Housing Narrative**

**Storage Recommendations and Handling notes**

**TOTAL Treatment Time**
14.55 hrs
During treatment, cleaned spine

During treatment

After treatment, original spine retained in polyester L-sleeve

Treatment Photography By: Catarina Figueirinhas & Jessica Ebert