Conservator's Note

This is a small commercially produced autograph album from the late 19th century. It contains handwritten notes to Elvira Kittredge. The covers are bound in a dark red leather. The endsheets are a thick moiré patterned white paper. The front title page is printed in gold ink. The textblock consists of a light beige wove paper, folded into gatherings that are sewn on recessed cords. The textblock is signed throughout accompanied by ink drawings. The textblock spine is lined overall and contains stuck-on endbands.

Overall the album is in poor condition. The leather is suffering from red rot, is detached along the upper joint and is missing the bottom endcap. The front endsheet is fully detached. There are heavy dirt accumulations throughout the pages, in including four fingered hand print. Since these prints are evidence
of use, they will not be removed at this time.

Treatment was performed as follows:
1. The upper endsheet was surface cleaned along the gutter with vinyl erasers in preparation for paper repair.
2. Before hinging on the loose endsheet, the board attachment was first strengthened by adhering an usumino hinge that spanned from the pastedown to the first page of the textblock. A v-hinge was then used to reattach the loose endsheet to the textblock.
3. The leather spine was rebacked with a kozo tissue spine, adhered beneath the lifted leather on the boards. The reback was created out of two layers of Sekishu kozo tissue adhered together with Zen Shofu wheat starch paste and toned with Golden Acrylics. The original leather was adhered on top of the reback with Lascaux 498 HV. The missing endcaps and breaks in the joints were filled with Sekishu kozo tissue adhered with wheat starch paste.
4. The album was housed in a tuxedo box constructed out of archival 20 pt. library board.