# Texas State Library and Archives Commission Conservation Treatment Report

Lab Number 0630

## Item

Title Travis Bible

Author n/a Published 1823 Format Book

I.D. Number 1903/001 Department Archives

## **Treatment Overview**

Start Date November 1, 2014 Estimated Hours 40.00 End Date December 9, 2014 Actual Hours 53.00

Conservator Sarah Norris Pieces Treated 1

## Treatment Objective

Desilk leaves, reestablish rounding & backing, leather reback, replace endbands, consolidate cover leather, drop spine box. During treatment, additional objectives were added: wash, deacidify, mend, and mat family history leaves; remove and house inclusions; customize enclosure to accommodate removed materials.

# Item Description

# Binding

Dimensions (cm) Height 22.40

Width 14.80 Depth 8.30

Binding Style Binding Provenance

• laced • original

Raised Bands 3 False Bands 2

## Covering

Covering Style Spine

• full • tight back

Covering Materials Decoration

• leather • blind tooled

stamped

**Covering Color** 

• brown

Decoration Material
• foil

Skin Type

• sheep

Boards

**Board Material** 

• binder's board

Shaping
• square

Split Boards
• no

Spine

Spine Shaping

rounded

Backing • yes

Adhesive

animal glue

Sewing / Leaf Attachment

Leaf / Section Connectionhand-sewing

Sewing Pattern
• two-on

Sewing Thread • cotton

Sewing Support Number

5

Text Block

Dimensions (cm)
Height 22.00
Width 13.80
Depth 6.90

Material

paperPaper Style

• wove

Paper Manufacture
• machine-made

Back-Cornering

yes

Corners
• mitered

Lining

• one layer

Lining Material

leather

Sewing Structure
• supported

Sewing Supports
• single cords

Sewing Preparation

pierced

Edges

ploughed

Gathering • sections

Text-to-Cover Attachment

cords

Grain

Coated

• head-to-tail

Paginated
• yes

Foliated
• yes

Watermarks

• no

• no

Number of Sections 58

Media

Printing Media Inscription Media
• printer's ink
• iron gall ink

**Endleaves** 

Endleaf Paper Watermarks
• same as textblock
• no

Endleaf Material Pastedowns
• paper • yes

Endleaf Paper Style Doublures
• wove • no

Endleaf Paper Manufacture Endleaf-to-Text Attachment

• machine-made • sewn

Free Flyleaves 1

**Endbands** 

Endbands Endband Decoration

decorativestripes

Endband Style Endband Color

machine-madestuck onwhite

Endband Thread Endband Core
• textile • cord

**Notes** 

"Stereotype Edition. New-York: Stereotyped by E. and J. White, for 'The American Bible Society.' 1823." See background on ABS and its publications in A History of the Book in America v2, UNC Press 2010, p230-232.

Volume covered in highly burnished sheep.

Rounding and backing only evident in partial portions of spine.

Water damage has caused textblock expansion, resulting in almost non-existent squares.

Two-on sewing pattern inverts itself in consecutive section pairs (ex: AB BA AB BA.)

Of five sewing supports, only three compose the board attachment.

Housed in flat document box with tissue paper.

Silking:

- -front pastedown
- -three family history leaves preceding New Testament title page
- -New Testament title page
- -page 13 of New Testament
- -back flyleaf
- -back pastedown

Inclusions:

-Page 31: small feather

-Page 303: lock of hair, enclosed in Mylar L-sleeve 3/3/11.

-Page 587: pressed flower

-Page 639: newspaper clipping

## Item Condition

#### Cover

#### Boards

- corners damaged
- loose

## Endcaps

- losses
- missing

## Joints

weak

#### Leather or Parchment

- abraded
- cracked
- delamination
- lifting
- losses
- scraped

## Spine

## Spine Covering

- detached
- losses

## **Environmental Damage**

water

Spine Shape

- asymmetrical
- concave

Spine Label

cracked

Spine Lining

failing

**Shoulders** 

flattened

**Environmental Damage** 

water

Sewing / Leaf Attachment

Supports

• broken

**Text Block** 

Leaves

• brittle

distortions

loose

missing

silked

stains

tears

Edges

distortions

• grime

**Endleaves** 

**Flyleaves** 

missing

silkedtears

Pastedown

stained

Endbands

Sewing / Thread

- broken
- missing

Notes

Water damage has swollen text block, pulling the text block spine into a convex shape, away from the spine covering leather.

Tidelines and evidence of past mold activity are present throughout text block.

Sewing supports are broken at board connections.

Front endpapers, title page, and full first section are missing.

Small piece of endband textile remains at head.

Media

• burn-through

**Environmental Damage** 

• mold

water

**Environmental Damage** 

mold

water

## **Treatment Performed**

## Cover

#### Boards

• consolidate corners

· reinforce board attachment

#### Case

re-back

#### **Endcaps**

• rebuild (2)

# Spine

Spine Covering

reattach

· consolidate leather

Spine Label

reattach

Spine Lining

replace

## Text Block

#### Leaves

• aqueous deacidification (3)

- desilk (8)
- hinge (5)
- mend (40)
- wash (3)

## **Endleaves**

**Flyleaves** 

desilk

• hinge

• mend (5)

## **Endbands**

Sewing / Thread

• replace (2)

## Housing

**Boxes** 

drop-spine box

## Notes

Desilk mechanically and with methyl cellulose poultice.

Leather or Parchment

- consolidate
- mend
- toning

Spine Shape

reshape

Shoulders

reshape

Edges

• dry clean

Pastedown

• desilk (2)

Reestablish board-to-text attachment by tying onto cord ends.

Create new endbands with toned muslin and thread cores. Leave existing endband scrap in place on spine under release tissue.

Consolidate leather on spine covering and front board where upper layer is loose and rough skin is exposed. Use Laucaux diluted in Klucel G to feed adhesive under cupping top layers of leather on front board.

Treated volume will not return to a round, likely because water damage swelled the text block without breaking the sewing. This treatment leaves sewing intact and creates a roughly square, flat-backed shape for spine.

Applied alum-tawed goat lining over release tissue; sanded it in order to achieve more regular spine surface for stability of original spine covering.

Tie up headcaps after reback in style consistent with 19th century (remaining original leather shows evidence of this practice.)

During treatment, it was discovered that the three family history leaves were severely embrittled and were attached to the textblock primarily with silking. It was decided to remove the leaves, wash in 50/50 EtOH/H2O (due to iron gall corrosion), mend, and house in window mats. This necessitated the design of a custom phase box with side compartment, which added to initially estimated treatment time.

After completion of box, ARIS Director requested removal of inclusions. These have been encapsulated and mounted to lined cardstock in order to achieve a thin profile that fit into the mat compartment.

## Materials Used

#### Materials

Adhesives / Consolidants

- Klucel G
- Lascaux
- · methyl cellulose
- PVA
- SC6000
- · wheat starch paste

#### Paper

Mohawk

#### Tissue

Kozo

#### Leather

- · alum-tawed
- goat

#### Chemicals

- calcium hydroxide
- ethanol

#### Board

- 20 pt.
- 40 pt.
- mat board

## Toning

- · acrylic paint
- leather dye
- · methyl cellulose

# Thread

• linen

#### Dry Cleaning

soot sponge

#### Mylar

• .003

#### Water

type 2 lab water

## Textile

- muslin
- paper-backed bookcloth

## Notes

Reback and repair original sheep with goat for better stability, paring, and texture.

Do not replace front endsheet, as other losses at front of volume are already extensive (title page and first section.)

Enclosure materials also included above.