

Author: La Sociedad Anonima "Mexico en el Centenario de su Independencia"

Title: Mexico en el Centenario de su Independencia

Imprint: 1910

Dimensions (binding): 40.0cm x 30.7 cm x 5.8 cm

Dimensions (text block): 39.5 cm x 29.6 cm x 4.0 cm

Collection: Benson Latin American Collection

Examination Date: 2/19/08

Treatment Date: February 2008

Conservator: Sarah Norris

### **Treatment Objective**

The goal of this treatment is to stabilize the volume for storage and handling by securing the outer sections, rebuilding the case, and supporting the text block while shelved.

### **Condition**

Binding: The sections are sewn with linen thread all along on three sawn-in cord supports with an unabbreviated pattern. Each section consists of three folios with one additional stub (approximately 2.5 cm wide) tipped into the middle of the fold. An additional folio is tipped onto each of these stubs, allowing the tipped folio to fold out as in an atlas structure. The volume is case-bound with split boards, but this structure has been created in an unusual way. The supports are glued atop the inner portion of the split board, along with the overhanging paper spine lining and the textile spine cover (applied quarter style.) The outer layer of the split boards was shaped separately, then glued in place and covered. The outer split board layer is sharply beveled at its edges, and the turnins cover the full thickness of the split boards. The volume is covered in red textile and stamped in gold and black on both covers and the spine. The boards are delaminated and the covering material frayed at the corners. The front board is detached, with the front endpaper and first page attached to it. Two bookplates and a modern library sticker are adhered inside the front board. On one bookplate, cataloguing notations appear in black ballpoint pen ink, along with a 0.5 cm square of liquid paper correction fluid.

Text block: The text block is made of thick, flexible, clay-coated, machine made paper. This paper is cream colored, approximately 80# in weight, and very smooth. The made endpapers are deep purple and textured, with a gold flower and vine pattern. They are stiffleaved with a deep purple textile hinge down the gutter. The text is printed in black letterpress printer's ink, and features hundreds of black and white photographic prints. The textblock edges are very lightly sprinkled with red. The sprinkling has faded and grime appears at the textblock edges.

The text block has been moderately rounded and backed. A sharp, crushed appearance at the folds especially in the middle of the spine indicates aggressive hammering during forwarding. The spine displays a bulge in this region that does not correspondingly appear at the foreedge. The spine has only one paper lining, which has cracked and torn and no longer supports the heavy text block. Pink and white machine made textile endbands were stuck on. They have faded and become partially detached.

### **Treatment Proposal**

1. Poultice off the existing paper spine lining with methyl cellulose.
2. Reline spine with Japanese tissue and textile. Textile lining should overhang front of spine by approximately 3 cm.
3. Lift under the front pastedown up to the edge of the cloth hinge.
4. Apply toned tissue on overhanging textile and exposed board edge.
5. Apply second textile lining with overhanging flaps that will eventually be adhered together as a textile lining for the spine covering.
6. Guard first section in situ as needed.
7. Reinforce first and last several sections by sewing through the spine lining.
8. Adhere textile stub underneath front pastedown with Lascaux.
9. Apply 70# paper linings on spine as needed to achieve desired opening.
10. Adhere textile flaps together and paste toned tissue in headcap regions.
11. Adhere spine covering to outer textile layer.
12. Paste tissue strip in gutter between endpaper and first section; dry open.
13. Paste tissue strip in gutter between pp 408-09; dry open.
14. Consolidate and stabilize board corners and headcaps.
15. Construct book shoe to support weight of text block while shelved.

### **Materials Used**

- Methyl cellulose (MC) 2.5% dispersed in hot then cold distilled water (Fisher 4000 cps.)
- Elvace PVAc 45675 (Poly vinyl acetate adhesive)
- Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (Colophon)
- Lascaux 498HV (Talas)
- Usumino tissue (Hiromi)
- Machine-made Kozo tissue
- Colored pencil
- Liquitex Professional Acrylics
- Cambric
- 70# Mohawk
- 25/3 thread
- 3 mm Ethafoam
- 20 point lignin-free board (Conservation Resources)

### **Treatment Steps**

1. 2/24 (1 hr) – Toned usumino tissue.
2. 2/25 (4 hr) – Adjusted toning. Poulticed and removed paper spine lining with methyl cellulose. Applied Kozo tissue spine lining with 4:1 wheat starch paste. Lifted under endpaper on front board.
3. 2/26 (3 hr) – Applied textile lining with overhanging front hinge with PVA / methyl cellulose mix. Adhered toned tissue in textile hinge region with PVA. Used PVA to apply second textile lining with two overhanging flaps that will close to form lining for spine covering. Adhered toned tissue on exposed front board edge with Lascaux.

4. 2/27 (3 hr) – Pamphlet stitched back three sections and front sections two and three to textile linings with 25/3 thread.
5. 3/3 (3 hr) - Spot guarded first section at sewing holes in situ with Kozo tissue and wheat starch paste. Pamphlet stitched first section to spine lining. Attached front board by adhering overhanging spine lining underneath lifted pastedown with Lascaux. Discovered that last section was originally sewed and cased-in crooked (this problem was not obvious until accentuated by stabilized, reinforced sections.) Repairing this would require undoing the original tip from the last section to the endpapers, reversing the new spine linings, resetting the section straight, and redoing the linings and tip. This action would be invasive and likely unsuccessful, as the tip is wide and stiff and resetting the section straight could cause the bottom part of the fold to gap away from the spine. Proceeded without correction. Will alleviate stress in this joint with book shoe.
6. 3/4 (4 hr) – Reinforced edges of tube to spine with PVA. Adhered toned tissue in spine cover caps with Lascaux. Adhered overhanging textile flaps closed with PVA. Adhered spine covering to textile with Lascaux. Worked overhanging toned tissue into hinges.
7. 3/5 (2 hr) – Stabilized frayed and delaminated corners with Lascaux. Adjusted tissue color with colored pencil. Built book shoe with Ethafoam textblock support.

Total: 20 hours