

TREATMENT PROPOSAL/AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

Date: 9/13/07
PCS Identification number: 08-28
Owner/Custodian: Christian Kelleher
Address: The Benson Latin American Collection
University of Texas at Austin

Telephone: 512-495 4581
Owner/Custodian call no.: G976.3 N466m
Title/Subject/Description (.01): Map of New Orleans and View of the Exposition
Buildings

Creator: New Orleans News Co.
Date of production: 1885
Place of production: New Orleans, Louisiana
Approximate dimensions (h x w): Map: 27 1/8" x 36 3/4"
68.2 cm x 93.5 cm
Case: 7 1/4" x 4 7/8" x 1/2"
18.3 cm x 12.2 cm x 1.3 cm

Conservator: Sarah Norris

Authorization

The undersigned requests and authorizes the Kilgarlin Center at the University of Texas, Austin, TX, to undertake conservation treatment of the artifact described in the attached Condition Report according to the procedures outlined in the appended Treatment Proposal. In the event the Owner/Custodian authorizes the Kilgarlin Center to proceed with the treatment recommended in the proposal such authorization shall be deemed to include acceptance by the depositor of the terms and conditions appearing in the original Authorization for Examination and Treatment. The undersigned further agrees that the Kilgarlin Center and the conservator may share any information or images obtained during the agreed upon examination, treatment, or investigation in written and public presentations.

Signature of Owner/Custodian:

Date:

Signature of conservator:

Date:

Description

Primary support (hwx): Map: 27 1/8" x 36 3/4"
68.2 cm x 93.5 cm
Case: 7 1/4" x 4 7/8" x 1/2"
18.3 cm x 12.2 cm x 1.3 cm

Image area (hwx): 26 1/8" x 35 7/8"
66.7 cm x 91.4 cm

General

The map is an etching in printer's ink on thin, machine made paper. The paper has been folded and adhered to the back cover of a case, which is blind and gold tooled.

Media

Medium 1

Black printer's ink is applied extensively over the image area, thinly in the shading lines and thickly in lettered areas. The ink does not offset in 15 seconds of contact with damp chromatography paper, nor does it appear to feather or run beneath a small drop of water.

Medium 2

Stamp ink appears on both sides of the map's title, both times showing the number "200965." This marking does not appear to be contemporaneous with the map's production, and may be a cataloguing annotation. The ink does not offset in 15 seconds of contact with damp chromatography paper, nor does it appear to feather or run beneath a small drop of water.

Medium 3

Two graphite inscriptions appear on the inner front board of the case. These inscriptions appear to be cataloguing annotations. The graphite does not show noticeable offset against damp chromatography paper, nor does it change color as copy pencil would.

Primary support

The primary support is a machine made paper that is thin #2, very smooth, and beige #1.¹ It is adhered at its lower left corner to the back board of the case. The map has been folded into 32 panels, and its edges (when folded) emerge from the head and foreedge of the case by approximately 5 mm.

Secondary support

The case is presumably made of some type of binder's board, paperboard, or strawboard, and is covered with black bookcloth. The case is both blind and gold tooled. The pastedowns are machine made paper, beige 2 in color, with blue fibers throughout. Printer's ink appears on the pastedowns along with graphite inscriptions.

Condition

¹ Lunning, Elizabeth and Roy Perkinson. *The Print Council of America Paper Sample Book*. 1996: The Print Council of America.

General

The etching is in poor condition overall with creases, tears, and losses along the fold lines. Wide pressure sensitive tape was used at some time in the past to reinforce the folds. This tape has caused extensive staining and translucency in the primary support.

Media

Medium 1

The printer's ink appears to be stable, with losses visible in the areas of primary support loss.

Medium 2

The stamp ink appears to be stable.

Medium 3

The graphite appears to be stable.

Primary support

The primary support is still flexible, but there are tears, creases, and losses along the fold lines. Where pressure sensitive tape was applied for repairs, staining and translucency have resulted. This tape is smooth and approximately 7.5 cm in width, and has been applied extensively. In many places, it is falling off the primary support. The paper does not lie flat. It has torn where it is adhered to the case's back board, and it will continue to suffer further damage in use in its current housing.

Secondary support

The case is in good condition overall, though the bookcloth displays some abrasion and fraying. The remaining metallic portions of the gold tooling are actually copper in color, and several deteriorated portions appear green.

Treatment Proposal

1. Release map from case.
2. Remove tape carrier.
3. Reduce adhesive and staining as possible.
4. Humidify and flatten.
5. Mend.
6. Rehouse in acid-free folder, along with case.

Photography

Digital images will be taken before and after treatment. These images will feature ambient and raking light.

Possible Effects of Treatment

The staining left from the tape might remain even after solvent work. Existing tears in the primary support could lengthen, requiring mending.

Treatment Notes

9/25, 2 hr: Tested media for stability in water, ethanol, acetone, ethyl acetate, amyl acetate, and naphtha, all candidates for tape removal and stain reduction. Media appear to be stable.

9/27, 3 hr: Removed carrier on recto mechanically. This may be a cellulose acetate tape adhered with heat. Remaining stuck pieces are unaffected by ethanol. As learned from testing on removed scraps, acetone dissolves the carrier. Removed one remaining piece of recto carrier by gelling with acetone.

10/10, 4 hr: Removed verso tape. Had a very difficult time removing two pieces of a newly-revealed different type of tape (more like standard Scotch or 3M pressure sensitive tape than the wide, cellulose acetate tape.) Tried heat, ethanol, acetone, and eventually settled on naphtha. Map stored flat for the first time.

10/15, 3hr: Used naphtha to remove residual adhesive from verso left edge. Mechanically removed library sticker adhered with pressure-sensitive tape.

4 hr: Tested stain reduction. Best effect with acetone, second-best with ethyl acetate, third best with amyl acetate. Removed adhesive from loss areas with naphtha. Removed carrier from case by gelling with acetone. Removed map portion remaining adhered to case by humidification of the animal glue. Used damp swab to clean slight resultant skinning of case pastedown from map verso. Attempted humidification, ethanol, acetone, naphtha, and humidification with ethanol to remove the bookplate. None of these worked well.

10/21, 4 hr: Removed bookplate with 50/50 ethanol/water.

10/25, 3 hr: Removed residual adhesive in case with alpha cellulose, gum eraser, and vinyl eraser. Removed animal glue from case with damp blotter. Removed animal glue from map with dampened swabs.

10/28, 3 hr: Began stain removal by brushing acetone onto the tape stain on the map's top edge. Four coats on the recto and verso lightened the stain and began to make the printing ink move slightly onto the blotter below. Re-tested ethyl acetate and amyl acetate on the damp area and found that the ink now moved in these solvents, too. Tested spot humidification in fully stained area; the substrate wetted evenly.

11/19, 4 hr: Completed 4 conservative coats of acetone on recto and verso of remaining stained areas without moving ink. Humidified map for 1 hour in Goretex chamber. Dried between felts for 2 days. Humidification slightly moved one ink drop on the verso.

11/26, 4 hr: Mended map on light table with tengujo tissue and 2:1 wheat starch paste.

11/27, 3 hr: Continued mending.

12/4, 4 hr: Completed mending. Built enclosure for case into map folder with mylar and tyvek tape.

Treatment Performed

9/25/07 2 hours: Tested media for stability in water, ethanol, acetone, ethyl acetate, amyl acetate, and naphtha. Stable in all.

9/27/07 3 hours: Removed tape carrier on recto mechanically. Removed one remaining piece by gelling with acetone.

10/10/07 4 hours: Removed verso tape mechanically. Tried heat, ethanol, acetone, and eventually naphtha to remove two pieces of a newly-revealed different type of tape (like current Scotch or 3M tapes).

10/15/07 3 hours: Removed residual adhesive from verso left edge with naphtha. Mechanically removed library sticker adhered with pressure-sensitive tape.

4 hours: Tested stain reduction with acetone, ethyl acetate, and amyl acetate. Removed adhesive from loss areas with naphtha. Removed carrier from case by gelling with acetone. Used humidification to release map portion adhered to case with animal glue. Used damp swab to clean pastedown fibers from map verso. Unsuccessfully attempted humidification, ethanol, acetone, naphtha, and humidification with ethanol to remove the bookplate.

10/21/07, 4 hours: Removed bookplate with 50/50 ethanol/water.

10/25/07, 3 hours: Removed residual adhesive in case with alpha cellulose, gum eraser, and vinyl eraser. Removed animal glue from case with damp blotter. Removed animal glue from map with dampened swabs.

10/28/07, 3 hours: Achieved partial stain reduction by brushing acetone onto the tape stain on the map's top edge. Ink began to move with heavy acetone application.

11/19/07 4 hours: Completed stain reduction elsewhere on map with lighter acetone application. Humidified map in Goretex chamber and dried between felts for two days.

11/26/07 4 hours: Mended map on light table with tengujo tissue and 2:1 wheat starch paste.

11/27/07 3 hours: Continued mending.

12/4/07 4 hours: Completed mending. Built enclosure for case into map folder with mylar and tyvek tape.

Total time: 41 hours