
The Newberry Library

Conservation Treatment Report

ItemID: 410

Call Number: Wing + W 235.1	Conservator: Sarah Norris
Title: Novum Italiae Theatrum	Contact Person: Paul Gehl
Author: Joan Blaeu	Date Examined: 11/24/2008
Publication Date: 1724	Date Returned: 1/26/2009

<u>Selection method:</u>	<u>Format:</u>	<u>Housing:</u>
general	book	none

Media:

The item is printed in black printers' ink. Red printers' ink appears on the title pages.

Support: **H** 56.8 **W** 37.8 **D** 8.7

The item is printed on thick, handmade, cream-colored, laid paper. The sewing goes through stubs of slightly thinner, handmade, cream-colored, laid paper.

Binding: **H** 57.8 **W** 38.6 **D** 11.1

The item is an atlas structure, with folded folios adhered to paper stubs. Groups of three to four stubs are folded together to form the sewing fold. The item was sewn on eight double cord supports. Endbands appear once to have existed. The item is bound in brown calf with gold tooling on the boards and spine.

Presence of Foreign Substances:

Change in Appearance:

The item is in poor condition.

Structural Changes:

All the sewing in the item is missing. A few stray threads still remain in the folds, indicating the sewing may have been purposefully removed at some point in the past. Some of the item's paper stubs are torn and broken, especially the ones closer to the front of the volume. The covering leather is missing at the spine and board corners, and exhibits brittleness and red rot.

Treatment Completed:

The structure of the sections and the sewing pattern was documented. Remaining sewing thread was removed from the folds, which were then brushed clean. A guarding aid was constructed from mylar and remay. This was used to guard the outer folio of every section with usumino tissue and wheat starch paste. The sections were then re-punched for sewing using a punching jig, creating a more stable new kettle positioned farther from the head. New endsheets were made of handmade Roger Powell paper sheets joined in the fold with usumino. The item was sewn with linen thread on Clarkson hemp cord, replicating the original abbreviated sewing pattern. Front bead endbands were sewn to match the remaining endband in the companion volume of this set using linen thread toned with watercolor dye and a core of Clarkson cord. The item's spine was lined with kozo tissue and two layers of machine made 65# Mohawk paper, which were sanded to smoothness. Pre-dyed kozo was pasted over the supports.

It was decided to reuse the original boards despite their bowed shape and severely brittle, chipping leather in order to match the companion volume in the set. The board leather was coated with Klucel G and SC6000 to control continuing losses. Board corners were stiffened with paste. Tissue was pasted in the leather losses along the board edges, toned with acrylic paint in methyl cellulose, and coated with SC6000. The existing pastedowns were removed to allow access to the lacing holes and to help address

board bowing. The existing bookplate was removed and saved. A piece of machine made Mohawk 70# paper was pasted inside the front board to control bowing. Existing cords were then removed from the lacing holes and the boards were laced onto the volume's new cords. The attachment was reinforced with a paste-PVA mix.

The item was then rebacked. Linen was toned with acrylics in methyl cellulose and adhered in patches with a paste-PVA mix. Caps were formed in the head and tail patches off the book with hemp cord cores. A comb lining of pre-dyed kozo was then cut and adhered over the patch linings with a paste-PVA mix. This method avoided creases and bumps at the support edges. The spine was tied up at the head and tail to reduce gapping at the boards' back corners and to create a cap shaped sympathetically with a 19th century binding. The lifted board leather was readhered with a paste-PVA mix. Thin strips of pre-dyed kozo were pasted over the lifted leather's edges to prevent future abrasion. The kozo tissue was toned with acrylics in methyl cellulose and coated with SC6000. The new pastedowns were pasted down very carefully; creating pastedowns of the correct size had required their grain to run left to right. The bookplate was pasted back in place. A spine label was made of a toned linen and pre-dyed kozo laminate, gold stamped, and coated with SC6000. It was adhered to the spine with a paste-PVA mix.

Housing Completed:

No housing created. The item will lie flat on the shelf.

Examination, Documentation, and Treatment:	60
Housing or Mounting:	0
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Total Treatment hours:	60