

Author: Samuel Pepys
Title: Diary and Correspondence of Samuel Pepys
Imprint: 1858
Collation / Foliation: A4 – 24, 32 sections
Format: Quarto
Dimensions (binding): 18.8 x 13.1 x 3.9 cm
Dimensions (text block): 18.1 x 12.3 x 3.4 cm
Collection: Collections Deposit Library
Examination Date: 1/31/07
Treatment Date: 3/1/07- 4/27/07
Conservator: Sarah Norris
Instructor: Chela Metzger

Treatment Objective

The goal of this treatment is to stabilize this special collections publisher's binding for future use while preserving its distinctive, original, decorative and binding traits.

Condition

General Summary

This publisher's binding is cased-in and sewn, with some loose sections. The textile and paper linings are brittle, and the adhesive consolidation is failing.

Binding

The binding is contemporary to the book. The text block's spine consolidation has failed. The case is made of rigid boards, presumably binder's board, with a thickness of 2 mm. The boards are unshaped and remain intact. The case is fully covered in decorative cloth and embossed. The cloth has been abraded with use. The case's spine label is gold stamped at the head and tail and remains intact. There is no groove between the boards and spine in the case.

Case-to-text Attachment

The text block is cased in, with the textile lining visible underneath the pastedowns.

Text Block

The text block's spine holds a moderate round with a shallow shoulder. The rounding profile is unevenly skewed, appearing roughly symmetrical at the head, but with the front board jutting forward at the tail. There are continuous paper and textile linings at the text block's spine, with a natural hollow. The text block consolidation adhesive is presumed to be water-soluble. Due to this adhesive's failure, the text block has split and displays multiple preferential openings. Further, the linings have become weak and brittle. There are no endbands on this book.

The text block's edges are trimmed and in basically good condition, with some grime appearing at the head. The sewing is two-on and original, presumably using an s-twist thread. The sewing's condition is weakened. There are also three sawed-in hemp cord supports.

The paper is machine made, beige in color, and of a weight something less than 70 pounds. It is smooth, without watermarks, and will absorb a small drop of water in approximately two minutes. The paper has become discolored and displays foxing, but

still remains flexible. The sewn on endleaves are made of a paper that is similar to that of the text, but which features a decorative advertising print.

The printing medium is black printer's ink, with a visible type impression. This ink appears stable. Engraved plates are also present with interleaving sheets.

Treatment Proposal (estimated time: 16 hrs)

1. Consolidate and re-line the text block.
2. Pamphlet stitch two loose sections to lining.
3. Mend endpapers.
4. Rebuild case with cloth spine piece, toned tissue, and original spine label.
5. Recase the volume.
6. Adhere toned tissue at shoulders of pastedowns.

Materials Used

- Methyl cellulose (MC) 2.5% dispersed in hot then cold distilled water (Fisher 4000 cps.)
- Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (Colophon)
- Elvace PVAc 45675 (Poly vinyl acetate adhesive)
- Lascaux 498HV (Talas)
- Cotton textile
- Textile spine lining (LBS)
- Mohawk 70# text weight paper
- 25/3 machine-made linen sewing thread (Colophon)
- Mylar
- Machine-made lightweight Kozo (Hiromi)
- Sekishu Mare tissue (Hiromi)
- Gampi Shi tissue (Hiromi)
- Tengucho tissue (Hiromi)
- Crompton's heat set tissue
- Liquitex Professional Acrylics
- Eberhard Faber blue colored pencil

Treatment Steps (actual time: 22 hrs)

1. Mechanically separated the text block from the case, leaving endpapers attached to case.
2. Cleaned the text block's spine using methyl cellulose poultice.
3. Lined text block's spine with machine-made Kozo adhered with wheat starch paste.
4. Lined text block's spine with cambric adhered with PVAc.
5. Pamphlet-stitched two loose sections to cambric using new sewing holes and 25/3 linen thread.
6. Lined text block's spine with Mohawk 70# text weight paper adhered with PVAc.
7. Toned Sekishu Mare tissue to cap color with acrylic paint.
8. Mechanically removed endpapers from case.
9. Mended endpapers flat with wheat starch paste and machine-made Kozo. Reshaped to text block before totally dry.
10. Hinged endpaper sections onto text block with machine-made Kozo.

11. Separated boards from case.
12. Lifted edges of the pastedowns to approximately 3 cm for flexibility.
13. Toned Gampi Shi tissue to case's shoulder color with acrylic paint.
14. Cut 2 cm tabs in bookcloth on inside of boards.
15. Adhered toned tissue inside abraded caps using wheat starch paste when possible and PVAc when necessary.
16. Adhered toned tissue on board edges using wheat starch paste.
17. Cut square of cotton cloth to create new spine piece for the case.
18. Trimmed original spine label's edges.
19. Gently peeled approximately 1/8" of original paper spine lining away from back of original spine label and sanded transition.
20. Lightly applied blue colored pencil to original spine label's edges.
21. Assembled boards, new cotton spine piece, and text block. Drew placement lines for boards, spine label, and turn-ins.
22. Adhered toned tissue to gutters of the case's new spine piece using PVAc, leaving enough tissue to cover turn-ins.
23. Created turn-ins off the book using PVAc.
24. Attached boards to case's new spine piece with 60/40 PVAc/methyl cellulose.
25. The repaired endpapers were found to be too weak to hold their mends. Removed loose endpapers and hinged each one to text block individually with machine-made Kozo and wheat starch paste.
26. Adhered overhanging text linings under lifted pastedowns with 60/40 PVAc/methyl cellulose with added methyl cellulose on the board to aid in placement.
27. Adhered tail turn-in of original spine label with 60/40 PVAc/methyl cellulose and added methyl cellulose. Inserted mylar under cotton spine piece to prevent tight back-style adhesion. Let dry.
28. Adhered outside of original spine piece using 60/40 PVAc/methyl cellulose. Let dry with mylar.
29. Adhered head turn-in of original spine label with 60/40 PVAc/methyl cellulose and added methyl cellulose. Let dry with mylar.
30. Toned Tengucho tissue to match the pastedowns at the shoulder.
31. Glued down pastedowns and tabs with 60/40 PVAc/methyl cellulose.
32. Adhered two strips of toned tissue with slightly different widths in the shoulder using wheat starch paste.
33. Lightly applied colored pencil in uneven toned areas.
34. Consolidated corners with wheat starch paste.
35. Front endpapers were again found to be too weak to hold their hinges. Removed toned tissue in joint and cut out the two front endpapers along their hinges.
36. Adhered heat set tissue at spine edge of both sides of endpapers, with staggered edges.
37. Tipped endpapers to shoulder with Lascaux.
38. Adhered new toned tissue strip in joint.