

Author: W. Somerset Maugham  
Title: Travel Books  
Imprint: 1955  
Dimensions (binding): 20.3 x 13.9 x 4.3 cm  
Dimensions (text block): 19.7 x 13.6 x 3.8 cm  
Collection: Perry Castaneda Library  
Examination Date: 2/28/07  
Treatment Date: 3/1/07 – 3/3/07  
Conservator: Sarah Norris  
Instructor: Chela Metzger

### **Treatment Objective**

The goal of this treatment is to stabilize this circulating collection item so that it may be safely used without causing additional damage.

### **Condition**

The case is fully covered in cloth, which is slightly abraded. Insects have grazed on the starch-filled bookcloth. The text block is cased in, but has become detached from the case at the front joint. The corners are bent and delaminated.

The text block's spine is lined with textile, which is overhanging under the pastedown. There is a slight round with backing. The consolidating adhesive has failed.

The text block is Smythe sewn in three stations. The sewing is loose, the text block has split, and several sections and leaves have become detached. The text block paper is machine-made, with a medium texture, and approximately 70# in weight. Single folio endpapers are tipped on, and the endsheet has split from the text.

### **Treatment Proposal** (estimated time: 5 hours)

1. Pull the sewing and guard the necessary sections with machine-made Kozo tissue.
2. Resew the text block, using the original sewing holes. Include new single folio endsheets made of 80# coverweight paper.
3. Gently re-round using wheat starch paste and methyl cellulose.
4. Line text block with machine-made Kozo tissue, cambric, and 70# Mohawk western paper.
5. Build a new full cloth case.
6. Case in, using new endsheets as pastedowns.

### **Materials Used**

- Machine-made lightweight Kozo (Hiromi)
- Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (Colophon)
- 25/3 machine-made linen sewing thread (Colophon)
- Mohawk 70# and 80# text weight paper
- Textile spine lining (LBS)
- Elvace PVAc 45675 (Poly vinyl acetate adhesive)
- Paper-backed book cloth
- Davey board (LBS)
- Methyl cellulose (MC) 2.5% dispersed in hot then cold distilled water (Fisher 4000 cps.)

**Treatment Steps** (actual time: 5 hours)

1. Removed text block from case by cutting through flyleaves and overhanging textile.
2. Removed existing linings mechanically.
3. Cut the thread inside each section and gently removed sections, pulling off hardened glue pieces.
4. Guarded four damaged sections with Kozo tissue, using thinned wheat starch paste.
5. Punched sewing holes in pre-folded 80# coverweight endsheets.
6. Sewed text block, using double-hole link stitch and reusing original sewing holes.
7. Applied a wheat starch paste / methyl cellulose 50/50 mix to the text block's spine to gently reshape the round.
8. Applied linings of Kozo tissue (adhered with wheat starch paste,) cambric (adhered with PVAc,) and 70# Mohawk western paper (adhered with PVAc) to the text block's spine. Allowed item to dry overnight.
9. Built new case using davey board, paper-backed book cloth, and 80# Mohawk spine strip, adhered with PVAc.
10. Cased text in using PVAc to adhere pastedowns to case.
11. Created new spine label from library template and adhered with PVAc.