
Condition Assessment and Treatment Report

item bibliographical data

A Plea for the Lords.

William Prynne

London: printed for the Author, 1658.

structure and appearance

Binding: Traditional tightback binding, covered in polished sprinkled calf. Boards blind tooled, gold tooling along board edge. Red title label with gold tooled border.

Textblock: Sewn on 4 raised cords. 3 colour endbands. All edges gilt. Very little rounding and backing. Laid paper, short grain. Sections of two bifolia.

Guildhall Library stamps throughout.

condition assessment

Binding: Item previously rebacked. [figure 3] Front board is detached from textblock. Back board joint leather deteriorated. [figures 1, 2]

Textblock: Spine has almost no rounding. Gilding along head completely obscured by dirt.

Foreedge gilding worn from use. Tail endband missing. Foxing throughout.

treatment proposal

Remove the extant spine leather. Lift the leather and pastedowns along the spine edge.

Clean the spine of animal glue. Oversew cords with linen braid. Line spine with aero cotton.

Reattach textblock to boards by splaying the braids and spine lining onto the boards.

Consider using a hollow construction instead of the original tightback. Tone new calf leather to match extant. Recover the spine. Reattach any original pieces of the spine and label.

final treatment

Textblock dry-cleaned. Tinted Japanese paper guarded around endsheet as hinge between the textblock and the pastedown.

Spine was lifted dry; hard animal glue and brittle leather prevented lifting much of the spine.

Poultice of SCMC (4% w/v) was used to clean the spine. The original cords were dampened using SCMC, and over sewn with a linen braid support. [figure 4]

The spine was pasted, and rounded and backed using light pressure. Spine lined with medium weight Japanese paper and aero cotton over the entirety.

Leather lifted along the spine edge. The pastedowns lifted to accommodate inner hinge.

The linen braid frayed and adhered to the boards. Aero cotton spine lining adhered to the boards, forming a second hinge in addition to the leather joint. [figure 5]

Hewit's semi-alum tawed calfskin toned using Sellaset dyes, and then pared.

Spine liner for the book using 7 layers of medium weight Japanese paper. Spine liner dried in place, then trimmed to size. [figures 6, 7, 8]

The book was wrapped in cling film and placed in a press. The leather was dampened and pasted out. The spine liner was placed onto the protected book; the leather was worked over the spine liner and cords. The leather dried in place overnight. [figure 9]

The book was removed from the press, and the cling film unwrapped. [figure 10]

The leather was redampened and repasted. The leather was worked into place onto the boards, and the turn-ins and headcaps formed.

The raised leather was readhered over the new leather, a mix of paste and EVA was used; the volume was pressed for 10 minutes and then allowed to dry under weights.

To form the internal hinge, tinted Japanese tissue was worked across the joint and under the raised pastedowns. The pastedowns were then readhered using a PVA and paste mix, and allowed to dry with tins in, under weights.

The leather which was lifted from the board edges, and the fragments of original leather from the spine, were reattached using EVA. [figures 11, 12]
