
Condition Assessment and Treatment Report

item bibliographical data

Prince Arthur An Heroick Poem, The 3d edition corrected

by Richard Blackmore

London, Awnsham and John Churchil, 1696

structure and appearance

Binding: Raised cord tightback binding. Boards are either pressboards or pasteboards. Blind tooling on sides. No tooling on spine. Gilt decoration along edges of boards. Red leather label on spine. Outer side of boards lined in brown paper.

Textblock: Red sprinkled edges. Sections of 2 bifolia. Sewn on 6 raised cords, all laced in.

condition assessment

Binding: Front board detached. Back board leather and paper joints split. Leather delaminating at edges and corners. Boards delaminating at corners. Spine original to binding, red label 'rewritten' in white ink. [figures 1, 2]

Textblock: Ink markings throughout text. Front flyleaf is detached from the textblock. Back joint very weak. [figures 3,4]

treatment proposal

Consolidate leather. Lift leather from spine, from boards along spine edge and as necessary along board edges and . Tone new calf leather to replace losses and for reback.

Sew new supports of linen braid over sewing cords. Attach linen braid to the boards.

Reinforce the back joint. Resew endbands if evidence suggests they were originally present.

Reback the textblock as a traditional tightback binding.

final treatment

Front flyleaf (detached): head, tail, and foreedges supported using Japanese 'spider' tissue. Medium weight Japanese paper tinted and adhered to spine edge using starch paste, join supported using a layer of spider tissue. Flyleaf reattached to the textblock after rebacking.

Individual pages of textblock dry-cleaned.

Water damage at the head of the textblock resulted in mould growth, removed using chemical sponge and IMS/water 50%/50%.

Internal page tears mended using Japanese 'spider' tissue.

Back endpapers: Tinted Japanese paper inserted under the sewing thread (between cords). Paste applied to the tinted paper after in placed into position on endpaper. [figures 4, 5]

Pastedown lifted from front board to enable reattachment of flyleaf using paper hinge.

Leather consolidated using aluminium alkoxide.

Leather lifted along board and spine edges to repair / consolidate boards.

Spine leather removed. Spine of the textblock cleaned using 4% SCMC poultice.

Rounding and backing redefined using starch paste and a bone folder.

Endbands sewn of blue and white cotton over a vellum core, in a front-bead style.

Linen braid oversewn to the original cords at the head, tail, and middle two cords.

Board corners rebuilt using hemp cord. [figures 6, 7, 8]

Hewit's semi-aluminium tanned calf toned using Hewit's aniline leather dyes. Leather pared for spine and board edges. [figures 9, 10]

The textblock was reattached to the boards: linen braids frayed out, attached using EVA. Japanese paper adhered over the spine and the joints. [figures 11, 12]

The leather attached to spine of book for a traditional tightback style. The book was tied up in a press and allowed to dry overnight. [figure 13]

The original leather reattached to the boards using EVA, and consolidated with Klucel G (2% w/v in IMS). Losses in the leather were toned using watercolours, and microcrystalline wax applied as a surface protectant. [figure 14, 16, 17, 18]

Front flyleaf adhered underneath the front pastedown. [figure 15]
