

University of Texas at Austin
Kilgarlin Center
Book Lab III

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITION REPORT

Date: 10/8/08

Temporary ID #: 08 - 106

Conservator: Kathy Lechuga

Instructor: Chela Metzger

Call Number/Collection: KD 600 G55 1604

Author: Ranulf de Glanville, 1130 – 1190

Imprint: 1604

Format: Octavo

Title: *Tractatus de legibus & consuetudinibus regni Angliae, tempore Regis Henrici Secundi compositus: iusticiae gubernacula tenente illustri viro Ranulpho de Glanvilla iuris regni & antiquarum consuetudinum eo tempore peritissimo.*

Collation/Foliation:

Dimensions (binding): 14 H x 9.3 W x 3.2 T (cm)

Dimensions (text block): 13.7 H x 8.9 W x 2.5 T (cm)

Description

The book is bound in a full light brown calf binding with blind tooling on the boards and the spine. A frame is formed on the front and back boards with double lines and another line formed from tiny triangles. The corner motifs are abstracted floral elements. The spine has been stamped between the panels with double blind lines and another abstracted floral motif. The board edges also appear to have been blind tooled; the tooling impressions can be seen on the paste down edges in some places. There is a label attached to the spine remnant that is written in black ink (iron gall ?) on white paper with a red border that reads: “Granville/de/Logi[G]us” (“/” indicates the end of a line). The book was bound as a tight back and tight joint. The boards are made of Davey board or some other laminated paper board and measure approximately 3 mm thick that have been laced on. After beginning treatment and looking at the book more closely, it appears as if the boards were covered by some other paper underneath the leather. The turn-ins are visible under the paste downs and after lifting the leather dark brown fragments of paper laminated to the board material was visible.

There appear to be false bands inserted on top of what may have been a hollow tube to create a slightly raised band spine profile. This would indicate that the support cords are sunk or sawn in. The hollow tube looks to have been made from newspaper. Aside from the newspaper spine linings any other linings are not visible; there may not be any other ones. There are blue silk, sewn on endbands at the head and tail. They appear to be sewn on a rolled paper core. The adhesive used on the spine is most likely animal hide glue. The spine’s profile is rather flat but very minimally rounded with small shoulders that

barely accommodate the width of the board. The sewing pattern is an abbreviated sewing; sewn two-on around two support cords, remnants of which can be seen on the cover boards. The kettles do not appear to be reinforced. The end sheets are made from the same handmade paper as the textblock. They are made with two folios, including the title page so the fly leaf configuration is two at the front of the book and three at the back. The edges of the text block appear to have been left unfinished, but there is a shiny surface to it as if it was burnished. The text block paper is handmade, lightweight, and light cream in color. The text has been relief printed with black printer's ink. There are annotations throughout the text made in iron gall ink and in pencil on the front and back pastedowns. There are two stamps from there are a two relief stamps from the "Boston American Congregational Association", one of which is on the title page.

Condition

The front and back covers have completely detached. The leather is in fair condition, the edges are abraded and the corners are slightly exposed. The leather on the edges of the board has darkened slightly as well. There are some stress cracks in the center of the cover, but they mostly look like scratches. There is only a detached remnant of the spine that measures approximately 7.8 cm x 2.8 cm.

The front fly leaves are completely detached; only one of the back fly leaves is detached. The sewing still seems to be intact and sufficiently holds all the sections together. The textblock is in fair condition, slightly dusty with some scattered areas of minor tan staining. The outside of edges of the textblock have darkened and embrittled more than the interior paper.

Treatment Proposal A

Construct a phase box for the book with a small long fiber paper envelope for the spine remnant. The long fiber will provide a level of transparency that may minimize handling.

Treatment Proposal B

Dust the textblock as appropriate and surface clean the textblock edges and endbands. Clean and reline the spine as necessary in order to encourage an easier opening. Mend and reinforce endsheets on the inside of the joint with appropriately toned long fiber paper.

Re-attach boards by "re-backing" with a piece of appropriately colored leather positioned under the original leather.

Replace the original spine piece on to the new material; inpaint the new spine material to provide a less obvious transition, mimicking tooling found on the remnant.

Treatment Proposal C

Disbind the entire book.

Dust the textblock as appropriate.

Wash the textblock to reduce staining.

Mend and reinforce endsheets on the inside of the joint with appropriately toned long fiber paper.

Resew the textblock with appropriate thread in the same two-on pattern.

Reline the spine as necessary in order to encourage an easier opening.

Rebind the book in a full leather binding in the appropriate color, inseting the front and back original leather panels into the new material.

Replace the original spine piece on to the new material; inpaint the new spine material to provide a less obvious transition, mimicking tooling found on the remnant.

Construct a drop spine box to house the book.

*It is possible to re-use the original spine, however the spine will have about half new leather and half old leather. This will be integrated in the best manner possible, but cannot be seamless. Another option would be to just re-use the label, or not re-use any part of the original spine, in which case, the new leather would be used to re-create the original false band proportions.

Photodocumentation

Before Treatment images

<http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~klechuga/lawimgs.html>

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TREATMENT REPORT

Date: 5/2/09

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Collation/Foliation:

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Dimensions (text block): 13.7 H x 8.9 W x 2.5 T (cm)

Treatment Conducted

1. Original boards were lifted along the spine edge.
2. Custom dyed repair calf leather to match the original leather as closely as possible, using Sellaset metallic leather dyes. The leather was coated with Tinofix after the dye was fully dried.
3. Cleaned the spine with a methyl cellulose poultice, removing as much original animal hide glue as possible.
4. Lined the spine with a layer of usu-mino long fiber paper and 1:4 precipitated wheat starch paste.
5. Lined the spine with a layer of Dover Barcham Green paper and wheat starch paste.
6. Constructed a 1-on, 2-off hollow tube using Dover Barcham Green paper. The tube was adhered to the spine with Lascaux 498HV.
7. Constructed false raised bands out of blue museum board to replicate the original false bands. The new false bands were adhered to the hollow tube with Lascaux 498HV.
8. Re-backed the book with the custom dyed repair calf leather, adhered the new leather to the hollow tube and underneath the lifted boards with a 50:50 mix of Lascaux 498HV and wheat starch paste. The new leather was turned in only at the head and tail cap. It was decided that the original pastedowns were too brittle to be safely lifted.

9. Re-adhered the lifted covering material on the original boards with Lascaux 498HV.
10. Kozo white long fiber paper infill strips were adhered with Lascaux 498HV onto the inside of the joint to provide another point of contact as well as visual compensation for the broken pastedowns.
11. More Sellaset dye, in the appropriate color, was wiped onto the re-backed area with a cotton swab to provide a more sympathetic color match.
12. Blind lines were tooled around the false raised bands.

Materials Used

1. Repair calf leather.
2. Sellaset metallic dyes and Tinofix.
3. Dover Barcham Green western paper.
4. Hiromi long fiber paper: Kozo white, and Usu mino.
5. Blue museum board.
6. Lascaux 498HV.
7. 1:4 precipitated wheat starch paste in deionized water.
8. 2.5% Methyl cellulose in deionized water.

Total Treatment Hours: 8.0