

BOOK CONSERVATION AND TREATMENT RECORD

Library of Congress – Conservation Division

Project Number & Name: 5697, Murray v. Charming Betty

Division:	<u>Law</u>	Date In:	<u>03/25/2025</u>
Division Contact:	<u>Nathan Dorn</u>	Date Out:	<u></u>
Conservator(s):	<u>Brittany Murray</u>	Examination Date:	<u>03/26/2025</u>

I.D./Call number: KF 223.M87 U65 1800 c.1

Title: Opinion of the Supreme Court of the U. States in the Case of Alexander Murray and Others, v. The Schooner Charming Betsy

Author:

Imprint:

Alternative Format:

Existing Container:

Background Information: (significance, provenance, set of volumes, labels, stamps, inscription):

The Charming Betsy was an American ship sold to Jared Shattuck, an American who pledged allegiance to Denmark. The Charming Betsy was captured by a French national, but was later recaptured by Alexander Murray, an American ship captain. Murray was acting according to a law that prohibited commerce between the United States and France. Murray believed Shattuck violated the act, and sold the ship to the French, under the guise that the ship was stolen. The trial court held that Murray's seizure was illegal and that the ship had to be returned. Murray appealed and the courts affirmed.

Reference: Carroll, Sean. Murray v. Schooner Charming Betsy.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITION:

Dimensions: **Height:** 21.6 **cm** **Width:** 14 **cm** **Thickness:** 0.3 **cm**

Collation (signatures, format, leaves, pagination, foliation, and inserts):

The item is in the octavo format and consists of two gatherings, each containing two bifolia. Signature marks are at the bottom of the first page of each gathering, from A to B. The leaves are paginated from 2-16; the title page is not numbered. Graphite inscriptions on the verso of the last page can be attributed to LC. A perforated LC punch is at the tail of pages 1 and 11.

General Description:

The item consists of two gatherings that were once bound in a larger volume, due to the presence of five piercings along the spine edge of the bifolia. The paper is wove, and likely handmade as some bifolia have a deckled edge. The primary media is black printing ink.

General Condition:

The item is in poor but stable condition. The item is unbound and stored in a folder within an envelope. Overall, the paper is brittle and discolored with various staining throughout. The first gathering has a dark tideline along the first half of the spine edge of each leaf. The exterior pages have the most significant yellowing. The first two pages have minor losses, with the most significant damage at the bottom right corner. All bifolia have split along the center fold, except for the inner folio in the second gathering. A hole is present in the center of the last three pages. The verso of the last page has a large accretion in the center of the page, towards the spine edge. Surface grime is present throughout. The printing ink is in fair, stable condition.

Treatment:

1. Before treatment photographs were taken.
2. Solubility testing of the inks using DI water, 1:1 DI water and ethanol, and ethanol, indicate that the printing inks are stable and insoluble.
3. The pages were surface cleaned using a soft brush, latex-free polyurethane sponges, and a vinyl eraser.
4. The bifolia were washed in a bath of water adjusted to pH 8.5 using calcium hydroxide and allowed to dry.
5. The pages were lightly dampened and then allowed to dry under felts.
6. Pulp was selected and blended to match the tone of the bifolia.
7. Fragile areas were mended with toned dry tear strips and Lascaux 498 HV.
8. The pages were repaired with the leaf caster and then sized with 0.75% 200 bloom Gelatin B on the suction table.
9. The casts were allowed to dry under felts.
10. The corner of the first page was reinforced with a toned dry tear strip and undiluted wheat starch paste, because the tear was not filled during the casting process.
11. The repaired bifolia were trimmed and then sewn into a five-hole double-pamphlet binding using laid Cobscook Macgregor endsheets. The paper cover was constructed out of blue University of Iowa Center for the Book case paper.
12. A label was printed on 70 lb. Dove Gray Antique endleaf paper. The label was sized with methyl cellulose and then adhered to the front cover of the binding with PVA.

Photography:

- BT AT
 slides
 digital
 transmitted
 raking

Testing:

- pH
 media
 phloroglucinol
 ninhydrin
 potassium iodide

Testing Results:

Gatherings: (identify all materials, manufacturers, and solution strengths)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fixing/consolidation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> drycleaning | Soft brushes and latex free polyurethane sponges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removal of attachments | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> washing | Bath adjusted to pH of 8.5 using calcium hydroxide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bleaching/stain removal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> alkalize | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> size | 0.75% 200 Bloom Gelatin B |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mend | Toned dry tear strips and Lascaux 498 HV before casting, and the same paper and wheat starch paste after casting. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> guard | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> line | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> leaf cast | One cast was done for each gathering of two bifolia. The pulps used were Dunkel, Braun, and Cotton #2. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flattening | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rebinding | The gatherings were rebound in a double pamphlet binding using laid Cobscook Macgregor endsheets. The paper cover was constructed out of blue University of Iowa Center for the Book case paper. |