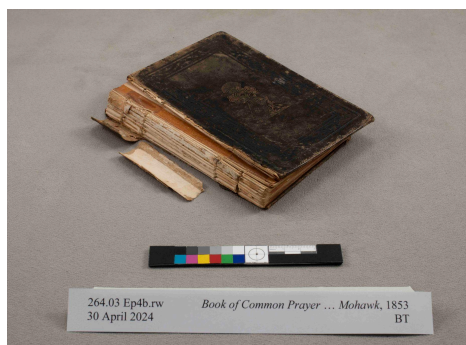
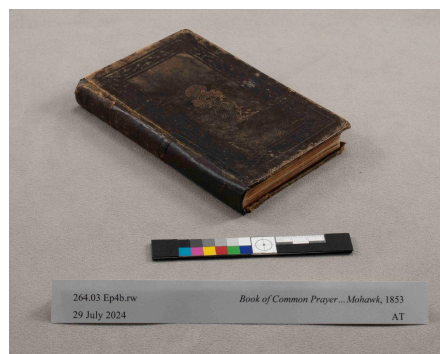


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Before Treatment



After Treatment

BOOK CONSERVATION: CONDITION AND TREATMENT REPORT

DATE EXAMINED:

29 April 2024

CONSERVATORS:

Renée Wolcott, Anne Downey, Brittany Murray (conservation intern)

AEON TN:

N/A

CALL NUMBER:

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COLLECTION:

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AUTHOR/MAKER:

Rev. Eleazer Williams, V.D.M. (trans.)

TITLE/DESCRIPTION:

Book of Common Prayer ... Translated into the Mohawk or Iroquois Language;
 bound with *Selections from the Psalms and Hymns ... Translated into the Mohawk*
or Iroquois Language (Rev. eds.)

PUBLICATION/DATE:

New York: Protestant Episcopal Tract Society, 1853

BINDING:

Full dark-brown leather case binding, stamped with blind foliate panels and central gold cross-and-book vignettes on both boards; double-folio endleaves of thick, plain machine-made paper with double pastedowns; paper spine linings and spine inlay on case; edges colored red; no endbands.

SEWING:

Sewn 2-on through the fold over two recessed fiber cords with white S-twist sewing thread (duodecimo in sixes; last section contains two folios)

TEXT:

Black letterpress ink with graphite and blue fountain-pen ink on machine-made paper, with previous owner's pressure-sensitive tape repairs to the front flyleaves, pages [1]-5, 12-13.

COLLATION:

Pages numbered [1]-108 (*Book of Common Prayer*), [1]-68 (*Psalms and Hymns*); 88 leaves total

IDENTIFYING MARKS:

APS call number in graphite at head of front pastedown. In the *Book of Common Prayer*: APS bibliographic number "257100" in graphite on page [3] at head and page 107 at tail; "Lounsbury Papers" on page [3] in graphite in the gutter; Mohawk marginalia in graphite on page 10 at head, in blue fountain pen ink on pages 40 and 99 at head, in brown ink on page 61 at tail. In *Selections from the Psalms and Hymns*: "257101" in graphite on page 3 at head and page 67 at tail; Mohawk marginalia in graphite on page 16 at head, page 28 at center, page 31 in

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SIZE (H x W x D):

the gutter, page 48 at the center, page 57 in the gutter, and the back pastedown at the head; "19" in graphite at fore-edge of page 21; Mohawk marginalia in blue fountain-pen ink in the gutter of pages 24 and 25 and at the head of page 31; "24" in graphite at fore-edge of page 27.
 16.3 x 11.0 x 2.2 cm

HOUSING:

Will be stored in custom box of alkaline corrugated paperboard

REASON FOR TREATMENT

Stabilization for handling and researcher use

CONDITION

The case binding is in poor condition, with a fragmentary spine, losses to the spine leather, and a detached front board. Approximately half the spine leather remains with the volume. A 3-cm section of the spine, containing the remnants of the gold-stamped title, remains attached to the back board near the head but flaps free over the spine itself. A 7-cm section of the spine has broken from the bottom of this flap and is now completely detached. The tail of the spine and the headcap are both missing. The gilding on the spine and boards has largely worn off, and the remaining leather is scuffed and abraded, particularly over the board edges. The pulp boards are exposed at the board corners, which are crushed and delaminating. The second pastedown at the front is poorly adhered to the first, which has resulted in edge tears at its fore-edge and tail. Paint penetration from the edge coloring has caused pages 36 and 37 of the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) to stick together at the tail in the gutter, and to tear when the book is opened.

The sewing system is in poor condition, with broken sewing thread and sewing supports as well as failed spine linings and spine consolidation. Both sewing supports are broken over the front joint, and the front inner hinge is split. The sewing thread is missing from the front endleaf section and broken at the head and tail of the first section of the text block. A loose end of thread from the head of section 2 has been knotted to the kettle stitch of section 3 to prevent further unraveling. The front endleaves and section 1 were once completely detached and have been repaired and reattached to section 2 with hinges of pressure-sensitive rubber-based tape. Head-to-tail strips of this tape hinge the front pastedown to the first flyleaf, the second flyleaf to the title page of the BCP, and the last page of section 1 (p. 12) to the first page of section 2 (p. 13). Two shorter (2-3 cm) strips of tape at the head and tail were used to hinge the title page to page [3] and page 4 to page 5. The long strip of tape hinging the second flyleaf to the title page has split along the fold, allowing the front board to become detached. In all cases, the tape adhesive has severely stained the gutters of the adhered leaves and has caused them to become transparent. The tape carriers are often loose or lifting, and the majority of the tape carrier over the gutter edge of the title page is detached. The tape adhesive is in the process of cross-linking, with some areas that are crusty and brittle and other areas that are gummy. Its attachment makes the affected leaves very stiff and prevents them from opening well. The sewing thread in the remainder of the book remains intact, but it is sometimes tearing through the paper at the kettles. The adhesive spine consolidation has failed, and the text block is split between sections 6-14, although the back endleaves remain securely tipped to section 14 in the gutter. The outermost folios of sections 9 and 14, and of the back endleaves, are beginning to split along the spine fold at the tail, but the sewing supports are intact across the back joint. The back inner hinge is splitting at the tail.

The text block is in fair condition, with scattered dog-ears (pages 99/100 BCP; 21/22, 35/36, 39-48 SPH) and a few minor edge tears and creases (pages 49/50 of BCP at the fore-edge and pages 19/20 of SPH at the head). In addition to the tape staining already mentioned, it has extensive moisture staining at the edges and deposits of grime that indicate heavy use. Pages 98-99 (the introduction to "Prayer to be Used in Families" and "Morning Prayer" from the BCP) are particularly grimy at the fore-edge and tail, with many individual fingerprints discernable. The two following page spreads (pages 100-103, which continue Morning Prayer) are also heavily

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thumbed, although far less grimy overall. Several psalm and hymn texts were also heavily consulted, based on the grimy fore-edges and marginalia near selections 22 (pages 24-25) and 27 and 28 (pages 30-31). The blue fountain pen ink has bled through the paper from page 40 to 39 in the BCP and from page 31 to 32 in *Selected Psalms and Hymns*. Leaf 63-64 has an inky fingerprint at the fore-edge, likely created during printing. The leaves are discolored throughout, with scattered dark stains caused by iron inclusions in the paper. A fragment of leather or wood in the gutter between pages 66 and 67 in the BCP has stained the adjacent paper at the tail.

TREATMENT RATIONALE AND PROPOSAL

Treatment seeks to remove the pressure-sensitive tapes to the extent possible, as crosslinked rubber-based adhesives can become impossible to remove except by mechanical means. The staining and transparency of the affected leaves will also be addressed to the extent possible. The freed leaves will be mended and guarded to allow the first sections to be re sewn with the remainder of the text block. The front board will be reattached, and the fragments of remaining spine leather will be supported by a new spine of laminated cotton fabric and toned Asian paper. The grimy leaves will not be addressed, as they provide evidence of a history of use.

TREATMENT

1. The object was photographed before and after treatment.
2. Disbinding was carried out by Renée Wolcott. The sewing thread in section 2 was snipped to allow the section to be removed for tape reduction.
3. Tape reduction was carried out by Anne Downey. The tape carriers were removed mechanically with a heated spatula. The associated adhesive mass was reduced by swabbing with ethanol and isopropanol. The majority of the residual adhesive, as well as the staining, was reduced with poultices of diatomaceous earth and isopropanol. Any residual earth/adhesive layer was reduced by swabbing with isopropanol. Final stain reduction was performed using a suction table and brush-applied isopropanol.
4. The remainder of the treatment was carried out by Brittany Murray. The text block was surface cleaned with a soft brush and latex-free cosmetic sponges to reduce overall surface grime, being mindful of not removing repeated signs of use.
5. The flapping spine fragments were trimmed from the boards and retained.
6. Remaining adhesive and paper spine linings were reduced with the aid of a methylcellulose poultice and a microspatula.
7. The leather covering the boards was lifted approximately one inch on both sides of the spine, as were the pastedowns.
8. Exposed board was sized with two layers of undiluted wheat starch paste.
9. The loose gatherings and flyleaves were guarded and/or hinged with acrylic-toned mulberry tissue and a 3:1 methylcellulose and wheat starch paste mixture in preparation for sewing.
10. A layer of thin mulberry tissue (Hanji 1201) was adhered over the spine of the intact portion of the text block as a barrier layer, set down with undiluted wheat starch paste. Broken cord slips from the original sewing system were frayed out and set down over the barrier layer with the same adhesive.
11. Two 1-cm-wide ramie bands were adhered beneath the lifted leather on the back board with a 1:1 mixture of Lascaux 498 HV and wheat starch paste and stretched across the spine just above and below the existing sewing supports. The loose gatherings and the first section with intact sewing were re sewn over the ramie bands with 2-ply linen thread following the original sewing pattern.
12. The front board was aligned with the text block and the book was placed in a press. The free ramie band slips were adhered beneath the lifted leather on the front board with a 1:1 mixture of Lascaux 498 HV and wheat starch paste, and a second strip of Hanji 1201 was set down over the unlined portion of the text block spine with undiluted wheat starch paste. When that had dried, a second extended lining of Hanji 1201 was adhered over the spine and onto the boards with wheat starch paste.

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13. Hollytex was toned with Golden acrylics to match the dark color of the covering leather, and airplane cotton was toned to match the yellow color of the exposed corium. The pieces were laminated together using a 1:1 mixture of Lascaux 498 HV and wheat starch paste to act as the new covering material.
14. A western paper spine inlay was tacked to the spine of the text block with dots of Lascaux 498 HV before rebacking.
15. The new spine covering was adhered to the book using a 1:1 mixture of Lascaux 498 HV and wheat starch paste and allowed to dry. The lifted leather sides were then set down using the same adhesive mixture. The western paper spine inlay was then released, creating a baggy back structure.
16. The paper spine lining on the spine fragments were mechanically reduced and reattached to the spine of the book using Lascaux 498 HV. The fragment closest to the head darkened due to oversaturation from the Lascaux. Isopropanol and then ethanol were used to reduce the sheen from the Lascaux, and then the fragment was gently abraded to remove excess adhesive.
17. The inner hinge of the first flyleaf was adhered to the front board beneath the lifted pastedown with a 1:1 mixture of Lascaux 498 HV and wheat starch paste and allowed to dry. The pastedown was readhered to the board using the same adhesive mixture. The hinge of the second flyleaf was set down over the pastedown using a 3:1 methylcellulose and wheat starch paste mixture.
18. The delaminating bottom corner of the back board was consolidated with wheat starch paste, and the lifting leather was tacked down with Lascaux 498 HV.
19. Thin strips of toned mulberry tissue and a 3:1 methylcellulose and wheat starch paste mixture were used to mend the split in the hinge of the back pastedown, at the tail of the book.