

Author: Mariano de Vedia y Mitre

Title: El Gobierno del Uruguay

Imprint: 1919

Dimensions (binding): 18.2 cm x 11.9 cm x 4.0 cm

Dimensions (text block): 17.9 cm x 11.9 cm x 3.6 cm

Collection: Benson Latin American Collection

Examination Date: 6/24/08

Treatment Date: July 2008

Conservator: Sarah Norris

### **Treatment Objective**

The goal of this treatment is to reverse the previous library preservation treatment and return the volume closer to its original state.

### **Condition**

15 sections are loosely sewn together with white, machine-made thread. The sewing pattern is roughly two-on with no kettles, with stitches alternately appearing nearer the head and tail in alternating sections. However, this sewing pattern is not regular, and sewing holes in many sections appear several millimeters away from the section folds and into the page margins. The spine is unlined except for a paper case adhered directly to the spine folds with animal glue. The paper case is made of moderately flexible, machine made paper, which is cream colored, approximately 80# coverweight, and smooth. The case is darkened by grime and fingerprints. It displays gray-blue and red printer's ink. The item's call number is hand written on the spine covering in black ink that displays significant feathering around the edges. A library bar code sticker is adhered at the head of the front paper cover.

The spine covering has detached from the first three sections of the volume, combining with the minimal sewing to produce loose sections. The volume opens at the section folds. During opening, the spine covering flexes significantly and the pages do not flex at all. The spine lining shows significant creasing, but no cracking. At some point in the past, the volume's front cover broke off approximately 1.3 cm away from the spine. The book was then drilled in three places through the inner margin for laces, and thin, pamphlet-style boards were laced on. The boards are approximately 1.5 mm thick, with an olive-colored stiff textile spanning a 2-mm hinge and machine-made decorative paper on the interior and exterior of the boards. The original paper cover was adhered to the front pamphlet-style board. Metal reinforces the outer lace holes in both boards, though the laces are no longer present. The volume was found held together with a rubber band.

The inside of the front pamphlet board displays an adhered bookplate, a stuck-on library label, a clear adhesive sticker, and the handwritten call number in black ink (apparently the same ink as on the spine cover.) The inside of the back pamphlet board shows an adhered, handmade paper strip (probably a check-out slip holder) with a graphite cataloguing annotation. An adhered date due slip shows three stamped entries, the last one from 1936.

The text block is made of flexible, machine made paper. This paper is cream colored, approximately 80# in weight, and moderately textured. It retains significant strength and flexibility. Black printer's ink appears throughout, with a slight type

impression. The title page and original back cover display acid burn from the pamphlet-style boards. A library stamp appears on the title page. A library punch-out appears on the title page and the first page of the text, and a graphite bookseller's annotation on the first page lists the year 1929. Two leaves of publisher's advertisements are tipped to the back of the text block. These leaves are thinner and browner than the rest of the text block.

OCLC shows only one other copy of this book, held at LaTrobe University in Australia.

### **Treatment Proposal**

1. Test inks on cover for water solubility.
2. Mechanically remove bar code sticker and remove adhesive as possible with alpha cellulose.
3. Humidify front board and remove front cover.
4. Release spine cover mechanically if possible. Humidify if necessary, pre-testing the cataloguing annotation for solubility.
5. Tone kozo and thicker Japanese tissue.
6. Line spine with both tissues overhanging.
7. Break front joint at shoulder.
8. Mend front cover together with toned kozo, lining it fully if necessary.
9. Adhere repaired cover to overhanging spine lining.
10. Build up new material to cover thickness as necessary, making sure the shoulder remains flexible for opening.

### **Materials Used**

1. Alpha cellulose
2. Kozo tissue
3. Thicker Japanese tissue
4. Acrylic paints
5. Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (Colophon)
6. Lascaux
7. Methyl cellulose

### **Treatment Steps**

1. 6/30, 15 min: Tested red and blue ink. Edges do not feather with water applied under magnification. No dye or particulate offset with 15 seconds' contact with damp chromatography paper.
2. 6/30, 1.5 hour: Removed barcode sticker mechanically and removed adhesive with alpha cellulose and gum eraser. Found damaged area under sticker that became slightly more damaged during removal.
3. 6/30, 1.25 hour: Humidified front cover and pamphlet board in Goretex.
4. 6/30, 30 min: Removed front cover from board. Let dry under weight 1 day. The animal glue adhering the cover did not easily release, so the cover was removed along with the top layer of the board.
5. 6/31, 3 hour: Pared remaining board off cover on light table. Sanded back of cover to remove the last board fibers.

6. 6/31, 1 hour: Removed spine covering mechanically and with small amount methyl cellulose. Spine covering split in several places near the tail, so removal ceased about halfway across the spine.
7. 7/7, 2 hour: Toned kozo and lightweight western paper. Gently removed damaged fibers where methyl cellulose was found to have moved through the spine covering and left tidelines.
8. 7/7, 2 hour: Released remaining front cover from shoulder and lined it along with the loose front cover with thin wheat starch paste and toned kozo. Dried flat under weight for one day. Lined exposed spine with overhanging toned kozo.
9. 7/8, 1 hour: Released  $\frac{1}{4}$ " strip of front cover from lining, realigned it, and readhered it. Trimmed overhanging spine lining and adhered it to the lined front cover with wheat starch paste. Dried under weight.
10. 7/8, 2 hour: Adhered toned western paper fills at shoulder and at slight gap in front cover. Spot toned fills with colored pencil.
11. 7/14, 2 hour: Readhered spine covering with Lascaux to avoid potential staining. Softened edges of tidelines on spine covering with water.