

TREATMENT PROPOSAL/AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

Date: February 26, 2007
PCS Identification number: 07-11
Owner/Custodian: Center for American History
Address: Physical Address:
The Center for American History
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The University of Texas at Austin
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Telephone: 512-495-4385
Owner/Custodian call no.: AR 85-311
Title/Subject/Description (.01): Title: Winchester Family Papers
Subject / Description: Papers of George Winchester, attorney, judge, and state senator from Natchez, Mississippi. He and his family reflect on local political and social affairs in the post-Civil War era.
Creator: Winchester family (George Winchester, d. 1851)
Date of production: 1783-1906
Place of production: Natchez, Mississippi
Approximate dimensions (hxw): English 12 7/16" x 7 7/16"
Metric 31.6 cm x 18.8 cm (These dimensions apply to the one item concerned in this report.)

Conservator: Sarah Norris

Authorization

The undersigned requests and authorizes the Kilgarlin Center at the University of Texas, Austin, TX, to undertake conservation treatment of the artifact described in the attached Condition Report according to the procedures outlined in the appended Treatment Proposal. In the event the Owner/Custodian authorizes the Kilgarlin Center to proceed with the treatment recommended in the proposal such authorization shall be deemed to include acceptance by the depositor of the terms and conditions appearing in the original Authorization for Examination and Treatment. The undersigned further agrees that the Kilgarlin Center and the conservator may share any information or images obtained during the agreed upon examination, treatment, or investigation in written and public presentations.

Signature of Owner/Custodian: _____

Date: _____

Signature of conservator: _____

Date: _____

Description

Primary support(hxw): English 12 7/16" x 7 7/16"
 Metric 31.6 cm x 18.8 cm

General

The manuscript is written in iron gall ink on beige, machine-made paper. It is a single leaf with ink on one side. Thickly applied iron gall ink covers the top half of one side of the manuscript, leaving approximately 1" margins.

Media

The medium is iron gall ink, thickly applied. Because the thickness of the lines varies, the ink may have been applied with a fountain pen. The ink appears on only the top half of the front side of the manuscript. Approximately 1" margins border the written area at the top, left, and right sides. An ink smudge appears at the bottom right of the manuscript's front side. The medium appears dark black under UV light.

Primary support

The primary support is machine-made paper. It is approximately beige 2 in color (viewed under fluorescent light,) medium weight, and slightly textured, according to the standards established in *The Print Council of America Paper Sample Book*.¹

Condition

General

The manuscript is friable and fragile, with multiple losses, tears, and creases.

Media

The manuscript has experienced severe ink corrosion where thickly applied lines of iron gall ink have made the paper drop out. The result is an overall lacy appearance, as best seen in transmitted light. The remaining ink is dark brown in color, with slight haloing in the thickly applied areas.

Primary support

The paper has a visible coating of surface grime, especially around the edges and creases of the primary support. It has yellowed, but still retains flexibility. One major diagonal crease crosses approximately the bottom 1/3 of the manuscript. A tear with an associated area of loss extends from the upper front edge diagonally down to the left, extending through the text to approximately 1 cm from the left edge. The tear has been mended with glassine tape at the top. The manuscript is severely creased overall, perhaps as a result of haphazard storage in a drawer with other items. Wrinkles and creases range in size from 3 – 7 cm, creating sharply raised edges prone to abrasion and grime. A 3 cm tear exists at the bottom right of the manuscript on the ink side. A 0.7 cm tear with several associated creases appears in the upper left of the manuscript's ink side, where it appears that the manuscript suffered some type of impact.

Treatment Proposal

1. Humidify the manuscript in a Gore-tex chamber.
2. Wash the manuscript in a 50/50 ethanol/water bath.
3. Face the manuscript with manila hemp lens tissue, adhered with wheat starch paste.
4. Line the back of the manuscript with heat-set tissue.
5. Remove the facing.

¹ Lunning, Elizabeth and Roy Perkinson. *The Print Council of America Paper Sample Book*. 1996: The Print Council of America.

6. House in a folder.

Photography

Photodocumentation was completed with a Nikon 4500 Coolpix digital camera. Images include recto and verso shots in spectral and raking light, as well as one image taken in transmitted light. The images document the manuscript's condition before and after treatment.

Possible Effects of Treatment

Small, fragile pieces of the primary support could float off in the bath, requiring reattachment in the lining process. The glassine tape will also float off in the bath; this effect is desired.

Testing

Media was tested in two inconspicuous locations using four methods:

1. Testing for dye offset with a small drop of water placed on medium.
2. Testing for particulate offset with a moistened strip of chromatography paper held on the medium. This test was conducted with water, ethanol, and 50/50 water/ethanol.
3. Testing for particulate offset by wetting the medium and pressing a strip of chromatography paper against it for 1, 5, 10, and 20 seconds.
4. Testing for particulate offset using a dry cotton swab with gentle abrasion.

Results were as follows:

No dye offset was observed, but slight particulate offset occurred with water, ethanol, and 50/50 water/ethanol.

Treatment Notes

A second bath of 70/30 water/ethanol was required to improve the flexibility of the paper so that wrinkles and creases could be adjusted.

The glassine tape was softened in the humidity chamber and removed before the manuscript went into the bath.

The facing adhered with surprising strength and required local humidification to remove.

Treatment Performed

1. Humidified the manuscript in a Gore-tex chamber (15 minutes.)
2. Placed manuscript in 50/50 water/ethanol bath (5 minutes.)
3. Placed manuscript in 70/30 water/ethanol bath (5 minutes.)
4. Transferred manuscript to mylar sheet on light table. Worked out wrinkles and creases with a microspatula and blotted dry with chromatography paper (20 minutes.)
5. Applied manila hemp lens tissue facing to manuscript with thin, 4:1 wheat starch paste (10 minutes.)
6. Dried in blotters, boards, and Hollytex (2 hours.)
7. Applied Crompton's heat set tissue lining on back of manuscript, using a tacking iron over silicone release paper (10 minutes.)
8. Peeled back facing, using local humidification with a dampened cotton swab where the facing adhered strongly (1.5 hours.)
9. Trimmed heat set tissue along the manuscript's edges (5 minutes.)
10. Housed in an acid-free folder.

Treatment time: 4.5 hours