

TREATMENT PROPOSAL/AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

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Date: 9/29/07  
PCS Identification number: 08-32  
Owner/Custodian: Stephanie Malmros  
Address: Center for American History  
Sid Richardson Hall, Unit 2  
University of Texas at Austin  
Telephone: 512-475-4257  
Owner/Custodian call no.: n/a  
Title/Subject/Description (.01): Jany' 31, 1844 to Sah-Sah-roque  
Creator: unknown  
Date of production: 1/31/1844  
Place of production: Washington  
Approximate dimensions (hxw): English 12 7/16" x 8 1/16"  
Metric 31.7 cm x 20.6 cm

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 8 1/16"  
Metric 31.7 cm x 20.6 cm

### **General**

The manuscript is iron gall ink on machine-made paper. It has been silked all over on both sides.

### **Media**

#### **Medium 1**

Iron gall ink covers the recto extensively, and covers slightly more than the top half of the verso. It has a warm brown-black color. The autograph reads, "Your Brother." Just below the autograph, on the right side of the verso, several annotations appear, reading vertically. These annotations are in the same hand and the same iron gall ink as the text, and appear to be contemporary with the rest of the manuscript. They may have belonged to a copyist or secretary.

### **Primary support**

The primary support is a machine-made paper, beige (1) in color, medium thickness, and smooth in texture.<sup>1</sup> It displays a roughly square-shaped impression in the upper left corner of the recto, most likely a stamp pressed into the paper when it was made.

### **Condition**

### **General**

The manuscript is in good condition overall, but with a thin layer of silk covering the recto and verso. Three horizontal creases cross the manuscript where it was folded into four equal sections.

### **Media**

#### **Medium 1**

The iron gall ink is in good condition overall, displaying minimal haloing and no burn-through. It varies in application thickness from medium to light. The ink is not soluble in water or ethanol.

### **Primary support**

The primary support retains significant flexibility. It displays slight waves along its top edge. Pin holes appear in the upper corners. The upper right corner of the recto is partially torn, spanning approximately 4 mm. A small loss appears on the upper right edge of the recto, also spanning approximately 4 mm. One slightly yellowed spot appears near the center of the verso, spanning approximately 1.5 cm across the lowest fold line. Thin silk is adhered to both sides, and fibers of silk dangle off the document. The silking is not firmly adhered where the paper buckles. This is most noticeable along the top fold on the recto, where the paper is slightly folded over on itself and the silk tents over the area.

### **Treatment Proposal**

1. Remove silk from front and back of manuscript in deionized water bath.
2. Wash to remove residual adhesive, as possible.
3. Wash with phytates.
4. Dry in polyester, blotters, and boards, taking care not to remove the paper's manufacturing impression.
5. House in folder.

### **Photography**

Digital images, recto and verso, in spectral, raking, and transmitted light, will be taken before and after treatment. During treatment photos will be taken, as well.

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

**Possible Effects of Treatment**

The paper's manufacturing impression could lessen if excessive weight is used in drying. The upper right corner of the recto could become more torn and require mending.

**Treatment Notes**

10/12: Spray out with 50/50 ethanol/deionized water on blotter.

Wash in gently alkalinized de-i water baths and remove silk on light table. Brush document in bath to remove residual adhesive – 30 min.

Place document in phytate bath for five minutes.

Wash document in bath of deionized water alkalinized to pH 8.5 for five minutes. Result leaves document looking more blue than before; this may simply be the result of removing the silk and old paste.

Dry in blotters and boards. Leave sandwiched in hollytex to prevent any residual adhesive from sticking to the blotter.

**Treatment Performed**

Spray document out with 50/50 ethanol/deionized water solution.

Wash document in gently alkalinized deionized water, remove silk, and brush off old adhesive: 30 min

Wash document in phytates: 5 min

Wash in deionized water conditioned to pH 8.5: 5 min

Dry between blotters and boards: 30 min (2 days)

Tot: 1 hr 10 min