



HARVARD LIBRARY
WEISSMAN PRESERVATION CENTER

PROPOSAL RECORD #7865

Repository:	Baker Library	Call Number(s):	554 v.1
Curator:	Laura Linard	Author/Artist:	Medici Family
Project:	Medici Family Business Records	Title:	~
Group:	2014-03-19 Medici (3)	Date of Object:	~
Coordinator:	Katherine Beaty	Size:	H: 33.80 cm W: 26.50 cm T: 5.20 cm
Proposal Author(s):	Graham Patten		

Item Counts: 1 volume, 0 sheets, 0 photos, 0 boxes, 0 other

Comments:

Description:

The volume is a 16th century tacketed account book from the collection of the Medici Family Business Records. The volume is bound in a limp vellum cover with five brown tanned leather overbands. The textblock was wrapped in a vellum inner wrapper before being tacketed to the limp cover. The binding has a fore edge flap, which has a leather strap, an extension of the center overband. Holes in the leather strap are evidence of a previous metal buckle attachment, though it is no longer present. The overbands are laced onto the cover with thin alum tawed strips in a double X pattern. The edges of the leather saddle-stitched with a double green thread. There are two original paper inscribed labels on the spine, and one paper library label.

The text is written on a cream heavy weight handmade laid paper. The text is written in an ink, which varies in color from warm black to light brown, likely iron gall ink. Columns are ruled along the right hand side of each page. Currently, the textblock consists of 7 gatherings each composed of 7 or 8 folios. The gatherings were sewn over four split brown tanned thongs with a thick, coarse flax thread. The thongs are laced through the front cover, underneath the overbands, but are free inside the back cover. At the head and tail, endbands were sewn over a rolled alum tawed core with a similar thread to the primary sewing. The spine is unlined. The textblock is attached to the binding with tackets of twisted alum tawed strips. These tackets pass behind the thong sewing supports and pierce through the overbands on the spine.

Condition:

Overall, the textblock is in good condition, but at least one section has been removed from the back. Though the iron gall ink shows some signs of deterioration, mild strike through and discoloration, there is no visible cracking or fracturing of the ink. The first two leaves and final leaf show significant surface soiling, but the rest of the textblock is clean. The top corner of the first leaf is dog eared and has several insect holes at the tail near the gutter edge.

The sewing is mainly intact for the remaining 7 sections, although damaged in the first section. Both endband cores are attached to the textblock, but several of the tie downs are loose.

Overall, the binding is in poor condition. The parchment cover exhibits a large loss due to pest grazing. The loss encompasses approximately half of the material of both the front cover and fore-edge flap. The pest activity is limited to the parchment components, and stops short of the leather overbands. The damage due to pest activity continues through to the parchment inner wrapper, which has smaller losses that correspond to the shape of those in the outer cover. The upper edge of the parchment inner wrapper also has several folds and creases. There are two tears that extend into the back cover from the spine, 2 cm long and 7 cm long respectively.

Several of the spine tackets are broken or missing: one at the top station, two at the second, three at the third, and one at the fourth. Where the metal buckle would be, the overband is torn.

The lower paper spine label has numbers inscribed in heavy iron gall ink. The ink is fractured with drop outs. There is a large loss in the upper label, encompassing about half of the handwritten text. Both paper labels are torn, creased, and lifting from the spine of the cover.

Proposed Treatment:

1. Written and photographic documentation before and after treatment.

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2. Dry clean surface dirt throughout the text with vinyl eraser, soot sponges, or a soft brush.
3. Stabilize endbands, as necessary, either adhering loose threads with wheat starch paste or anchoring loose cores with thread or Asian tissue paper.
4. Flatten dog eared corners. Repair tears with remoistenable tissue or solvent set tissue near areas with ink.
5. Secure loose tackets with toned twisted Asian tissue and wheat starch paste, which will be anchored into the original lacing holes.
6. As needed, torn and distorted pieces of the cover will be locally humidified with Gore-tex and flattened.
7. Tears in the parchment will be repaired, from the back where possible, with 4% 220 bloom photo grade gelatin and goldbeater's skin, alum-tawed goldbeater's skin, or Asian tissue.
8. Parchment fills we be created for the large losses in the cover. These will be laced to the cover where possible, using original holes. Vulnerable areas of original parchment will be adhered with gelatin to the fills where necessary.
9. Reattach the paper spine label with gelatin, avoiding areas of ink. Face the surface with solvent set tissue.
9. Where abraded, consolidate leather with Klucel-G in ethanol.
10. To alleviate the pressure on the spine, a spacer may be constructed to fill out the missing sections. .

Proposed Hours: 30.00-40.00

Proposed By: Graham Patten

Date: 04-09-2014

Approved By: Electronically Approved by Laura Linard

Date: 04-11-2014