



**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
CONSERVATION EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT REPORT**

Bib Number	6083568	Department	Special Collections
Call Number	L Manuscript 26	Department Contact	Scott Krafft or Sigrid Perry
Title	Scriptum super IV libros	Conservator(s)	Graham Patten
Author	S. Thomas Aquinas		
Format	Book	Date Examined	9/16/2014
Publisher	manuscript	Date Completed	12/12/2014
Publication Date	ca. 1460?	Background Info	

DESCRIPTION

Support cm H x cm W x cm D

The textblock is handmade laid paper. No original paste-downs remain on the boards.

Media The volume is a manuscript on paper in an ink that varies from black to light brown. The text is ruled, rubricated throughout, and has decorative initials and marginal notes.

There are remnants of inscriptions in black ink on the inside faces of both cover boards. The inscriptions are reversed and embedded in glue. The original support of this writing was adhered face-down to the boards before it was lost.

There are graphite inscriptions on strips of paper that were adhered to the insides faces of the cover boards at a later date than the original binding.

The book was titled by hand in black ink on the tail edge of the textblock.

Binding 34.5 cm H x 23 cm W x 8.8 cm D

The volume was sewn all-along over three double raised alum-tawed supports. There are also two supported kettle stations, sewn over single alum tawed supports. All supports were laced through wooden cover boards. Transverse parchment linings were adhered with animal glue to the spine of the textblock between sewing stations and onto the inside faces of the cover boards. The book was covered in full alum-tawed skin.

A wrought iron chain is attached to the head edge of the back cover board with a clip that has a single rivet. The chain has six links and an additional circular end ring.

Brass furniture was added to the four fore-edge corners, each fastened with two rivets. Four turned brass bosses were affixed to each cover board, and there is evidence of a missing additional fifth center boss on each board. Two brass pins remain in the front cover board from currently missing fore-edge clasps. A small strip of tanned skin remains riveted at the upper clasp location on the back board.

Housing

None.

CONDITION

Support The majority of the textblock is in good condition, with damage limited to the outermost leaves. Losses in the lower fore-edge corners of the first four leaves have been previously repaired. The losses were filled with oversized triangles of a translucent material adhered to both faces of each leaf. The fills have since yellowed and cockled. There are also many small tears in the fore edges of these leaves.

A breaking edge has been created in the first three leaves where a fabric repair material was tipped to the paper, and where the three paper leaves were tipped to each other.

All three exposed edges of the textblock are soiled.

Media Overall the manuscript writing remains intact and legible. Losses correspond to the paper losses in the first four leaves.

Binding The back cover board has broken through from head to tail 11 cm from the fore edge. The loose piece of board is tenuously attached to the binding by the covering skin.

The sewing supports, and the covering skin, and the lower two transverse parchment linings have all broken through at the front joint. The lower support has begun to break through at the back joint. The endcaps are lost and the covering skin is lifting from the spine in many areas.

The binding was repaired at some point. This previous repair involved re-attaching the front cover board with a fabric inner hinge tipped to the textblock and adhered to the inside surface of the cover board. This repair has not been entirely successful; the front board is loose and the action of opening the cover is damaging the sewing of the first gatherings.

The alum tawed covering skin has degraded over time; it has become thin, hardened, and possibly partially gelatinized in areas. The entire surface is cracked and in some areas the surface is delaminating from the skin. The skin is lifting from an area near the head of the back board.

Housing N/A

PROPOSED TREATMENT

Proposed treatment of object Consolidate broken back board.

Reinforce attachment of front board.

Adhere lifting areas of covering skin. Estimated hours: 4

Proposed housing Clamshell box Estimated hours: 5

TESTING

TREATMENT

Object Treatment 1. Written and photographic documentation were completed before, during, and after treatment.

2. The broken edges of the back wooden board were sized with a warm 5% solution of gelatin. Once most of the moisture had wicked into the surface of the wood, another thin layer of gelatin was applied and the broken edges were pressed together and dried under weight overnight.

3. A medium weight parchment was chosen to create support patches for the inside face of the back board. The parchment was toned with acrylic paints to match the board, and cut into four 2.5x3cm diamonds. The patches were adhered to the wood along the join with 5% warm gelatin, and dried under weight. The patches were positioned so as not to obscure remaining text on the board.

4. At both the first and the last sewing stations two pieces of linen cord were looped under the original sewing support to form extensions. The covering skin was lifted mechanically from the wooden board at the areas corresponding to the first and last stations. The ends of the cord extensions were trimmed, frayed, and adhered with wheat starch paste to the outside of the wooden board under the covering skin.

5. Patches of Senka-shi tissue were adhered with wheat starch paste over the exposed areas of sewing at the head and tail, where the sewing support extensions were added. The edges of the tissue patches were inserted under the lifted covering skin. The skin was then adhered with cold sieved gelatin. The paper was toned in situ to match the surrounding materials, using acrylic paints mixed with methylcellulose.

6. The lower two broken parchment transverse linings were reintegrated with strips of medium-weight Senka-shi paper adhered with gelatin. The strips were inserted beneath the parchment edge on the spine, and laid over the parchment edge protruding from the board. The paper was toned in situ to match the parchment, using acrylic paints mixed with methylcellulose.

7. The lifting skin on the back board was adhered with wheat starch past and dried under weight.

Actual hours: 5.5

Housing A clamshell box was constructed with recesses to accommodate the metal furniture. A hinged flap was mounted on the lower tray, used to isolate the chain from the binding. Housing hours: 5

Materials Used Treatment:

Type B gelatin, 220 Bloom, 5% in deionized water

Parchment

Senka-shi paper, Hiromi HM36

Golden fluid acrylics

Zen Shofu wheat starch paste.

Methyl cellulose A4M

Total Hours Required for treatment and housing: 10.5

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