

Examples of Conservation Procedures & Practices

Maryland State Archives

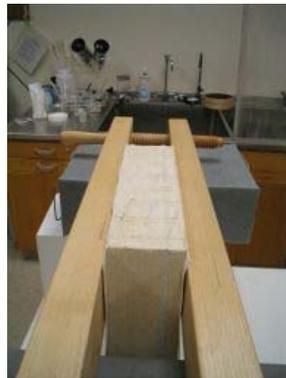
The Universal Asylum, and Columbian Magazine, March 1792 MSA SC 2418-19-2



Full treatment of a pamphlet. 2) Surface cleaning, 3) washing to remove damaging chemical degradation. 4) discoloration removed 5) drying on rack 6) re-sewn book shown in protective enclosure.

Book Repair

Large books sometimes suffer weight-related stress to their structures.



The old spine lining is removed, sewing fixed, and new end sheets put on the text block.

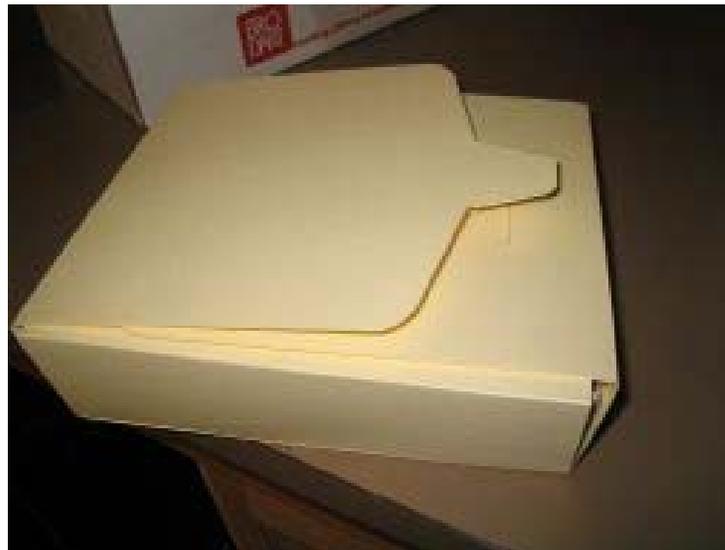


With the help of presses a new lining is put on the spine, and the book will be re-cased.

Death Certificate Books

With the help of summer interns, most of these often-used permanent records have been put into custom-made protective enclosures.

This helps reduce wear on the delicate, poor quality papers inside.



Bug-Eaten Ledger Book



The larval stage of a paper-eating insect created the damage seen here. Before joining the MSA collection, this book had not been checked for a considerable time, allowing extreme infestation.

Decades later, conservation technology has progressed, allowing more efficient stabilization of objects that once seemed beyond hope.



Examples of Damaged Records



Poor storage inevitably leads to damage. Great care must be taken with documents that have become brittle while misshapen over years of storage. Unfolding is a delicate process. Improper art storage leads to surface and other types of damage.

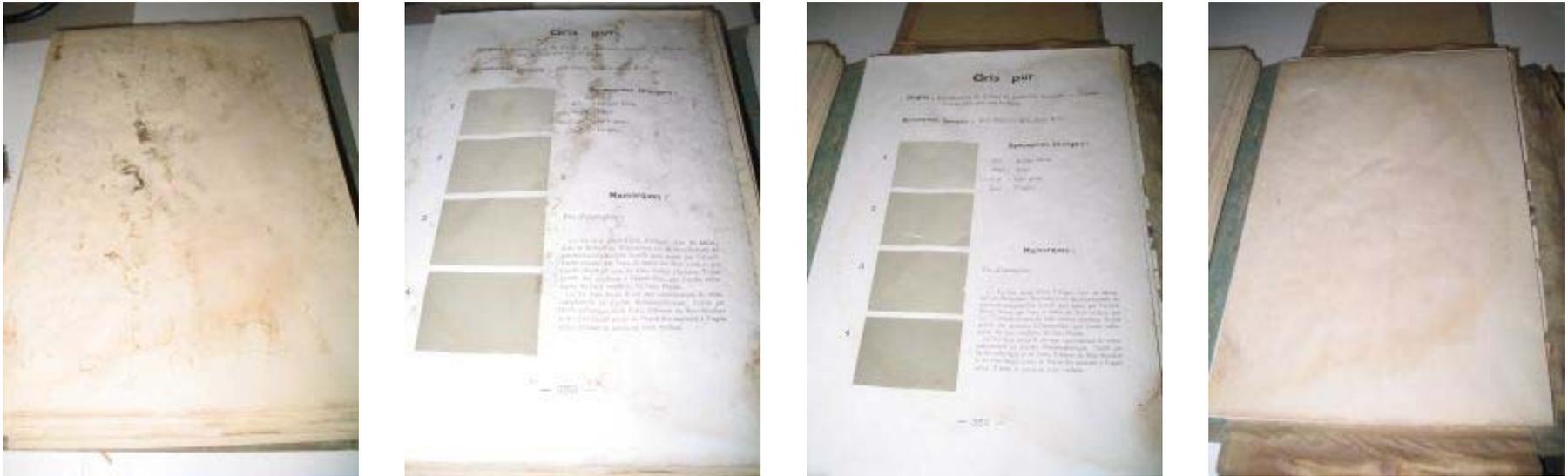
Nova Belgica et Anglia Nova, Valk & Schenk, 1694



Surface cleaning removed dirt and inscriptions. Then the damaging backing was whittled down to a thin layer, and removed with moisture.



Mold



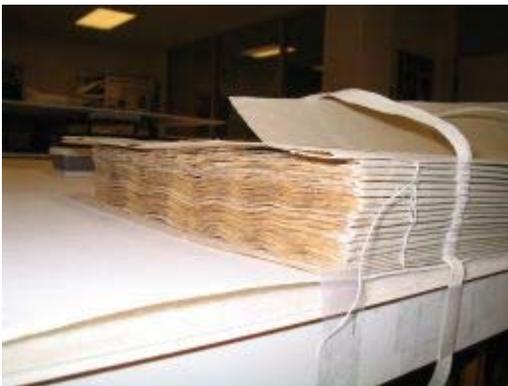
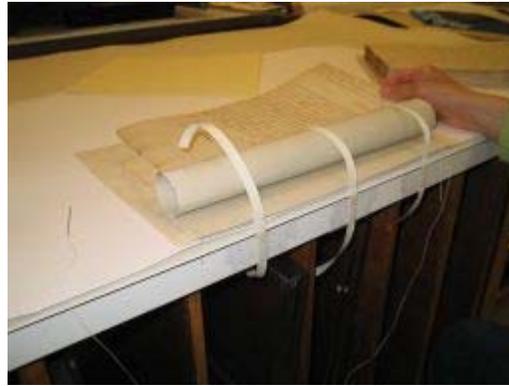
Through careful use of a soft brush, a HEPA vacuum, and a fume hood, staff in respirators and gloves remove the surface portions of mold. This improves legibility, reduces the likelihood of additional staining and repeated outbreaks.

Mold prevention is a key reason why environmental conditions must be controlled. Outbreaks of mold literally eat collection objects, leaving discoloring toxins and wastes in their wake.

Kent County Questers sponsor treatment of one of the oldest Kent County records



Re-sewing of book, treatment sponsored by Questers



Photographic Material



Damage to cellulose acetate and glass plate negatives.

Properly controlled low humidity, low temperature storage, careful handling and housing are all essential to survival of photographic materials.

Flags



All textiles including flags, should be stored flat or carefully rolled, never folded. Notice on the bottom left photo, soft spacers prevent creasing and damage to the long campaign streamers.

Note the dangerous proximity of delicate rolled silk flags to our Halon-based fire suppression system, center slide at arrow.

Conservation of Paintings



**Portrait of William Paca by
Charles Willson Peale
1772**



Partially cleaned area in contrast to untreated canvas



Treatment underway to remove overpaint

Conservation of Decorative Objects



Historic 19th mirror originally installed in Governor's Office of State House, as found in basement of State House



Mirror packed for removal to conservation studio



Mirror as reinstalled in office of Governor Martin O'Malley

