

Duke University Library  
Conservation Lab  
Perkins Library 031A

## TREATMENT PROPOSAL FORM

<b>Call Number:</b> PA8560 1498 4to	<b>Lab Number:</b> 2016/17-046	
<b>Library/Department:</b> Rubenstein	<b>Author/Artist:</b> Poliziano, Angelo, 1454-1494	
<b>Librarian:</b> Andy Armacost	<b>Title:</b> Opera.	
<b>Date Examined:</b> 10/20/2016	<b>Publication Date:</b> 1498	<b>Number of pages:</b> 452
<b>Examined by:</b> Henry Hebert	<b>Size:</b> H 28.9 cm	W 22.0 cm T 6.9 cm
<b>Special instructions:</b>		

## Description:

Full leather binding in red goatskin with extensive gold tooling over the spine and boards, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century. Spine leather has also been diced. Some discoloration of pasteboards are visible underneath the pastedowns, suggesting they are reused from a previous binding. Machine made, stuck on endbands. Edges trimmed and sprinkled (appears to be made-up copy, since first section and section marked I are trimmed more and sprinkled red, but all others are sprinkled blue). Endsheets are single folios of cream wove paper sew onto the textblock. Front pastedown has two bookplates (Ex libris Cecil Mallaby Firth and Duke University) fully adhered. Some graphite manuscript on pastedown and flyleaf. Printed bookseller's descriptions tucked in. Harvard College release stamp on verso of flyleaf. Rear endsheet has Harvard College Library bookplate and small William Sallock label adhered to pastedown. Textblock is letterpress printed on cream laid paper with visible watermark. Initials painted in by hand in red and blue. Marginalia throughout in various hands and inks, some affected by over-trimming. Pagination in graphite has been added to upper corners. Sewn all along on 3 thin recessed cords, but visible saw kerfs in the gutter evidence multiple previous binding campaigns.

## Condition:

Binding is in very poor condition. The front board remains attached by only a single thread. The board edges are abraded and the corners are splitting, exposing the underlying board. Extensive damage and loss at the head turn in of the lower board. The surface of both boards features extensive small cracks. The rear board remains attached, but that is only due to a textile repair that is adhered to the spine leather and spans the rear joint. The leather across that joint is entirely split. The textile was not made to extend across the front joint, so it has failed completely. It is unclear if this binding was originally a tightback or if it had a hollow tube. The damage has exposed a print-waste spine lining, visible printing of "in cui cessa la pensione o l'assegno" (translates to: on termination of the pension allowance) indicates it was an Italian ledger page.

Front endsheet is dirty, the hinge is splitting at the tail, and it has pulled away from the textblock. The first section appears to be from a different copy and has been extensively treated. All the leaves have been guarded. The first leaf of the original text has been infilled at the tail edge to make it the same size as the larger leaves in the text. Fading, creep, and transfer of color from initials suggest some aqueous treatment and/or light bleaching. This section is loose and has some leaf attachment problems. The remainder of the text does not have the same sewing problems, but exhibits some yellowing, surface dirt, and periodic staining

## Treatment Proposal:

- Before and after photographic documentation will be produced.
- Dry clean pages as necessary with white vinyl eraser crumbs.
- Snip thread to detach front board. Remove textile repair and detach spine from rear board.
- Lift current paper linings from leather spine and from textblock. Retain?
- Pull first section, guard with toned Japanese paper and sew back onto textblock.
- Mend front endsheet and other pages, as necessary with toned Japanese paper and wheat starch paste.
- Line spine with strong linen and handmade paper, as necessary, to create an appropriate opening for display at intended opening.
- Consolidate board corners, cover with toned Japanese Paper or Dyed Goatskin and re-adhere any lifting leather.
- Reattach boards with extended linen linings
- Reback volume with dyed goatskin.
- Create custom cloth-covered clamshell enclosure.

**Estimated Treatment Time:** 12 hours

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<b>Proposed by:</b>	(signature)	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>	(signature)	<b>Date:</b>

## TREATMENT REPORT FORM

<b>Call Number:</b> PA8560 1498 4to	<b>Lab Number:</b> 2016/17-046
<b>Library/Department:</b> Rubenstein	<b>Author/Artist:</b> Poliziano, Angelo, 1454-1494
<b>Librarian:</b> Andy Armacost	<b>Title:</b> Opera.
<b>Date Examined:</b> 10/20/2016	<b>Publication Date:</b> 1498
<b>Treated by:</b> Henry Hebert	<b>Size:</b> H 28.9 cm      W 22.0 cm      T 6.9 cm
<b>Special instructions:</b>	

### Treatment Performed:

- Before and after written and photographic documentation was produced.
- The textile repair was mechanically removed from spine and lower board with a bamboo hera. Mechanically removed endbands from spine.
- Photographically documented the printed text on the paper spine linings, then applied 4% Culminal MC 2000 S Methylcellulose (Talas) in deionized (DI) water poultice to textblock spine to remove spine linings and proteinaceous adhesive.
- Removed broken sewing from first section and pulled it away from the textblock while the adhesive was soft.
- Guarded folios in first section and repaired tears as needed with untoned 1101 Hanji (Polistini) and Aytex-P wheat starch paste (Talas).
- Lined the textblock spine with untoned 1101 Hanji and wheat starch paste as a reversibility layer and attached original endbands with wheat starch paste.
- The boards were reattached to the textblock using unbleached airplane linen, cut on the bias. A triangular piece of linen was adhered to the interior face of the board with wheat starch paste. Then the board was positioned on the book and the remainder of the linen was adhered over the textblock spine, so that the two pieces of linen meet on the diagonal across the spine of the book block and do not overlap.
- Additional layers of Gutenberg handmade paper were applied to the textblock spine to achieve a more supported opening that still allowed access to the gutter.
- Lifted leather along the spine of both boards and at the corners in order to consolidate the underlying pasteboard and to receive new material.
- The board corners were consolidated with wheat starch paste and infilled with layers of pasted blotter and untoned HM 57 Japanese paper (Hiromi), anchored between layers of pasteboard. When dry, board corners were covered in vegetable-tanned faire Chieftain goat skin (J. Hewit & Sons), dyed to match with sellaset dye (Leather Conservation Centre).
- The book was rebacked with the same dyed goatskin, including a 10pt Bristol board spine inlay.
- The original leather was readhered to the repair materials with wheat starch paste and pressed.
- The original spine leather was encapsulated in clear polyester and will remain detached from the book at least until after the upcoming exhibition loan.
- A custom cloth-covered clamshell enclosure was constructed.

**Original to Conservation Lab  
Copy to Library**

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**Total Hours:** 15 Hours

**Treated by:**

**(signature)**

**Date:**