

TREATMENT PROPOSAL FORM

Call Number: RM666.D5 W584 1785 8vo	Lab Number: 2015/16-130	
Library/Department: Rubenstein Library	Author/Artist: Withering, William, 1741-1799	
Librarian: Rachel Ingold	Title: An account of the foxglove...	
Date Examined: 2/11/2016	Publication Date: 1785	Number of pages: 208
Examined by: Henry Hebert	Size: H 21.1 cm	W 13.5 cm T 2.4 cm
Special instructions: For exhibit to be installed mid-March 2016		

Apart from some very minor edge tears near the front of the textblock, there are no binding or textblock condition issues that need to be addressed before exhibition. The remainder of this condition report and treatment proposal will be limited to the fold-out page located between the preface and section 'b'.

Description:

Foldout measures approximately 30.5 cm high by 47 cm wide and is made from cream colored laid paper. The sheet appears to be tipped between the first and second section. The page folds once horizontally and four times vertically to fit within the edges of the textblock. The thickness of the foldout paper is roughly twice that of the other leaves in the textblock (0.2 mm and 0.1 mm respectively). Foldout paper has a central watermark of a shield and the letters "GR". The recto of the print features an engraving of the foxglove plant with hand applied color in green, purple, and yellow. Verso has no printing or markings.

Condition:

The foldout is in very poor condition, but remains firmly attached to the textblock. Light surface grime and yellowing of the sheet along the outer edges. Some small aqueous staining on the recto near the left-most edge. Discoloration of the paper is observed on the verso of the sheet where hand coloring is thickly applied.

Severe cracking along the vertical and horizontal folds, with some detached pieces and minor losses along the left edge. The center vertical folds appear to have been refolded several times, with visible creases alongside each of the current folds. The worst of the cracking appears along the vertical and horizontal folds that cross the green leaves near the gutter side of the print. The edges of these cracks are peeling back and disrupt the image.

At least two campaigns of repair are visible: some mends near the gutter on the verso with toned, short-fiber paper, and more extensive repairs along the folds on the recto and verso with lighter, long-fiber paper. This second set of repairs has been applied on top of the first in places. Tide lines along the folds appear to be a result of these later repairs. Some repairs along the folds are quite stiff and make safely unfolding the sheet difficult.

Testing:

Basic water drop test performed on all three colors across the print.

- DI H2O: Minor transfer of purple to blotter observed with prolonged exposure (over 1 min). No transfer of color observed for green or yellow, even after long exposure.
- 50/50 DI H2O and ethanol: Significant color transfer to blotter observed with yellow and green after very short exposure (under 5 sec). No transfer observed from purple, even after long exposure.

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Attempted removal of a small repair (~1 cm in length) on unprinted side of foldout (technically recto of sheet) using a methylcellulose poultice (4% in DI H₂O). After brief exposure (30-45 sec), it was possible to mechanically scrape the fibers of the repair tissue away without disturbing the fibers of the substrate and without discernable color change or tidelines.

Treatment Proposal:

- Dry clean recto and verso of sheet
- Attempt to remove as much of the second set of long-fiber paper repairs as possible so that folds are more flexible.
- Humidify folds from verso (either through localized humidification along the folds or careful application water vapor through Gore-Tex pack) and flatten the sheet.
- Mend cracking and re-attach loose pieces of the sheet on verso only with thin Japanese paper, toned to match, and wheat starch paste.
- Recommend waiting to refold the sheet until after item comes off display.

Estimated Treatment Time: 8 Hours

Proposed by:	(signature)	Date:
Approved by:	(signature)	Date:

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Treatment Performed:

- Dry cleaned both sides of print with dry cleaned using latex-free polyurethane foam sponges from University Products and Staedtler-Mars white vinyl erasers.
- A poultice of 4% Culminal MC 2000 S Methylcellulose (Talas) in deionized (DI) water was applied to page repairs to soften adhesive and remove.
 - Some repairs appear to have been applied with a different adhesive (likely synthetic), which did not react to the poultice or other solvents tested. As these repairs were causing the most stiffness to the fold, they were removed mechanically and some light skinning resulted on the back of the print (recto of page). It appears that nearly 40% of the previous repairs were applied over folds which had not yet become damaged.
- As a result of the applied poultice, most creases were humidified and became flat when dried under weight. Therefore it was unnecessary to resort to overall humidification of the print.
- New mends were applied over cracked folds or edge tears using Matsuo Kozo (#2 Natural, Hiromi) and Aytex-P wheat starch paste on the back of the print. Loose pieces of the page were reattached with the same material. Very minimal repairs were applied to the front of the print, mostly to in-fill small areas of loss.

Total Hours: 6 Hours

Treated by:

(signature)

Date: