

Conservation Treatment of a Seljuk Qur'an

Treatment Report



Inventory Number: no number (from Birgi)
Object: Quran
Date: 1320
Format: bound codex
Dimensions: 28.0 cm (W) x 37.7 cm (H) x 7.8 cm (D)

1. The textblock was removed from the binding.
2. The outermost covering of brownish-black leather was removed mechanically from the boards by first lifting the turn-ins and then detaching the outer surfaces.
3. Delaminating areas of the boards were re-adhered with wheat starch paste.
4. The outermost brownish-black leather covering was cleaned mechanically, with methyl cellulose and finally with Maroquin dressing.
5. Losses and tears in the brownish-black leather were repaired with undyed vegetable-tanned goat leather. The neutral color of repair leather matched the heavily abraded areas of loss and damage on the binding.
6. The wine-red leather was cleaned mechanically and with methyl cellulose. To restore some suppleness to the leather, which had become very hard and dry, it was further treated with Marney's Conservation Leather Dressing.
7. Losses and tears in the wine-red leather covering were repaired with vegetable-tanned goat leather dyed to match the original color.
8. Layers of paper on the doublures were softened with water and/or methyl cellulose and removed mechanically.
9. The brownish-black leather on the doublures was cleaned mechanically and with methyl cellulose. To restore some suppleness to the leather, which had become very hard and dry, it was further treated with Marney's Conservation Leather Dressing.
10. Losses in the brownish-black doublure leather were repaired with vegetable-tanned goat leather dyed to match the original color.
11. Moldy areas of the textblock support were lightly swabbed with a 30:70 mixture of water and ethanol.
12. Failing repairs in the textblock or those causing further damage to the support were softened with methyl cellulose and removed mechanically.

13.



Page 2 before treatment



Page 1 before treatment



Pages 1-2 after treatment

14. Tears and breaks in the textblock support were repaired with remoistenable tissue. The adhesive on the tissue was activated with a minimum of water.
15. Losses in the textblock support were filled with acrylic-toned Japanese paper, adhered with methyl cellulose.
16. Toned remoistenable tissue was adhered over stable but distracting old repairs in the textblock support to make them less aesthetically unattractive.
17. Separated leaves that had once constituted bifolios were guarded together with strips of acrylic-toned Japanese tissue, adhered with methyl cellulose.



Page 4 before treatment



Page 3 before treatment



Pages 3-4 after treatment



Page 582 before treatment



Page 581 before treatment

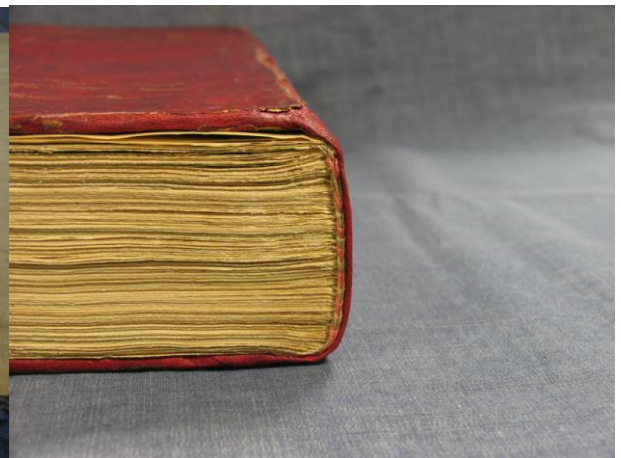


Pages 581-582 after treatment

18. The leaves were reassembled into gatherings as originally constituted.
19. The textblock was sewn with undyed linen thread.
20. The textile lining used previously on the manuscript was washed to remove soiling and adhesive residues. It was then used to line the manuscript again. The lining was adhered to the textblock spine with wheat starch paste to which a little methyl cellulose was added to retard the drying.
21. New endbands were sewn on the manuscript through the spine lining. The anchoring threads for the endbands are beige-colored cotton while the endbands themselves are woven of the same beige-colored cotton and pink cotton threads
22. A new guard leaf was made for the manuscript from acylic-toned Japanese paper. An extension of the paper was left on the spine side of the leaf.
23. The boards adjacent to the spine were split. The extensions of the spine lining and, in the front, the extension of paper on the spine side of the guard leaf were inserted into the adjacent splits in the board. Then the layers of board and the inserted extensions of fabric and paper were adhered together with wheat starch paste. The orientation of the boards was maintained so that the wine-red leather covering remained on the outside and the brownish-black leather on the inside.



Endband tail before treatment



Endband tail after treatment

24. A new spine was created for the manuscript from vegetable-tanned goat leather dyed to match the wine-red leather on the boards. The leather on the boards adjacent to the spine was lifted. Repair leather was then adhered on the spine, with extensions from the new spine inserted and adhered under the lifted leather on the boards. The repair leather was adhered with wheat starch paste.
25. The piece of textile used to cover the fore-edge flap doublure and adjacent joints was adhered back into place with wheat starch paste. However, as this textile entirely covered and obscured the textile fragment on the envelope flap doublure adjacent to the fore-edge flap, the position of the upper textile was shifted about 2 cm towards the back cover allowing the lower textile fragment to remain visible.
26. The outermost binding of brownish-black leather was slipped back over the boards, but remains detachable.

Materials Used in Treatment:

Remoistenable tissue - RK-0 with an adhesive made from a 50:50 mixture of 3% A4M methyl cellulose and Aytex-P wheat starch paste thinned to a light cream consistency

Aytex-P wheat starch paste

2.5% MPS 3000 methyl cellulose for adhesion

4% Tylose 300 methyl cellulose for cleaning

Art Deko acrylic paints

Vegetable-tanned goat leather

Domino mercerized 100% cotton thread

100% Linen thread

100% Kozo fiber Japanese paper

Maroquin leather dressing

Marney's Conservation Leather Dressing

Hüls-Stockhauser metal-complex leather dyes