

THE HAND-PRODUCED BOOK
by
DAVID DIRINGER

Philosophical Library - New York 60/ (900)

THE CONSERVATION OF BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

W. H. LANGWELL in Rome ✓

PITMAN 25/- (400)

Conservation of Antiquities + Works of Art ✓

H. J. Plenderleith - Oxford 63s. (900)

Victoria + Albert Museum:

Bookbinding (1950) by J. P. Hartman ✓

T. N. Lawrence

Papers -

2 Bleedingheart Yard
Greville St.

Hatton Garden, London E.C.

Work at Istituto di Patologia del Libro.

Professore Muzzisoli, Giovanni, director.

Signora Manganello assistant director of Restuaro

Signorina Menna - teacher

~~Signor~~ Signore Bignozzi designer

Scannificare - to tear off or pare off

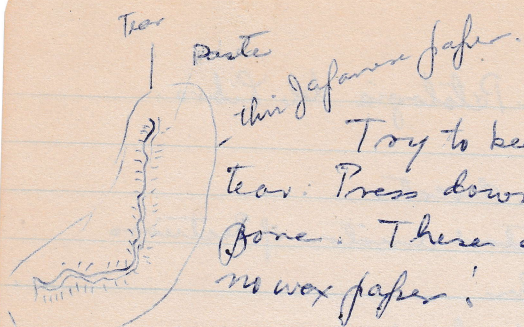
Certosine - monk-like work

A hand written manuscript on silk (subject)

Marzo 30, 1519

Bound in parchment, size 8" X 11"

- ① Collated in pencil on original sheets, not on patches where it has been mended many times. If there are patches with written words - these are also numbered, to correspond with sheet no. Number of sheets written on inside of book cover.
- ② Cut back with joint from cones.
- ③ A bath solution in flat, shallow enamel pan $\frac{1}{2}$ water + $\frac{1}{2}$ 95 degree alcohol. Each sheet is submerged in this solution + all patches float off. Lift out of solution + let drip for a few seconds then lay on absorbent paper. Save all patches. These are left between (sheets, patches) between absorbent paper over night. No weight put on the stack.
- ④ Next morning sheets were put between cardboard about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick + put in press for 24 hr.
- ⑤ Mending begins with a commercial paste COCCONIA + thin gapanse paper. Doing the worst tears to hold sheet to-gether. A small amount of paste is put on edges + a pc. of gapanse paper patted on. The the sheet is turned + the same is done on that side.



Try to keep paste in narrow strip along tear. Press down thru clean news print into bone. These are set aside to dry, no weight no wax paper!

⑥ When these are dry - next day, a clean soft rubber eraser is used to rub off all superfluous paper leaving only that which is pasted.

⑦ Then edges of paper are mended, paper is selected to match the original ^{in color} & two sheets must be same thickness of one original sheet because a pt. is pasted on each side of sheet.

When this is thoroughly dry, the new paper, that past upon the original sheet is wet slightly with a soft paint brush dipped in water & with a point is slowly pushed away so that only thin fibers of the new paper is left pasted to the original.

I should have explained how the new paper is pasted on. Select the new paper & lay in front of you, a little longer & wider than needed. Then lay original sheet on it, leaving the new protrude & just enough under the original sheet. Then with paste brush lift edge of original sheet & run paste brush just along edge & rub down, ~~push down~~ Turn sheet & do the same on the other side. Put in press for a while.

When the new paper has been sufficiently seined, brush the fibers lightly with thin paste & press down lightly with ivory worm holes.

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A piece of paper the same as used to mend edges, about 1" sq. is laid on glass & dampened with water. When thoroughly wet, paste is

brushed over ^{on both sides}, then with a point pull off a tiny bit just large enough to cover hole or worm shaped hole & pat it in. Then do the same on other side - set a side to dry. Then put in to press between cardboard

Silk ^{gauze} method.

After washing & drying, if sheet has parts missing a pc of paper is cut to fit. Then on a piece of glass framed & on four legs - 2 back legs higher than front so that glass slants toward worker - the silk gauze is laid & brushed over with sizing then the sheet is laid on & edges brought together & pc of plain paper fitted in then the whole is gently given a coat of sizing & hung up to dry. *Is there another piece of gauze?*

Laminating

Laminated between 2 pc of plastic the sheet is put between plastic, then a pc of Card board on each side & then a pc of zinc ^{on face of metal} & put in press - the hot part ^{seconds} then for a few minutes than in cold part for another few minutes. If air bubbles appear a point with point will let air out or if a corner is not well done it can be patched & put in hot & cold press again. These are carefully pulled off Card board & left to dry or Cool thoroughly then laid out between Card boards - all singly & put in standing press. If by chance a mistake has been made the sheet with plastic coating can be submerged in bath of acetone & the plastic melts away. If parts of sheets are missing a piece of paper larger than the part missing is laid on - in this order - ① plastic ② sheet with hole ③ pc of plain paper larger than hole than Card board & proceed as above but then cold press. When this is cooled & out of standing press

the area of plain paper is carefully seined away with paint leaving a narrow - even edge - no paste is applied but only patted down with bone. Then second pc of plastic is applied.

Parchment is repaired by fitting a large pc than the part missing, if its a hole or corner, a pencil line is lightly drawn where it should be pored. The original pc. is also pored each side about $\frac{1}{8}$ " or less. 49 or 44 is used or gelatin melted in acetone.

Preparazione della colla per attaccare la pergamena.

Si prendano 80 centimetri cubi di acido acetico avente la densità 1,064 (cioè al 54%) e vi si disciolgano 25 grammi di gelatina, che deve essere in polvere oppure tagliata in piccoli pezzi. Per fare la soluzione si agiti il liquido, dopo avervi introdotto la gelatina, riscaldando leggermente a bagnomaria fino a che non si ha un aspetto sciropposo.

Using silk gauze

Smooth out all wrinkles after sheet has been washed & dried. ^{if necessary} If parts are missing a piece of plain paper is torn or cut plus $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger all around so that it ~~overlaps~~ ^{fits} hole or missing part. The gauze is spread on glass plate, slanting toward worker & brushed over with sizing then sheet & patch laid on then they are brushed lightly with size, then another piece of gauze & this also is brushed over with size. The three pc. are then carefully lifted off glass & hung to dry.

Plastic laminating.

After sheet has been washed, dried & pressed it is laid between two sheets of plastic, pressed down well with hands so as to leave no air bubbles & put between two Cordbboards & two sheets of zinc then inserted into hot part of press & pressed down for few seconds (I would say $\frac{1}{4}$ minute) then taken out & put in to cold part of press for same length of time. Removed & carefully lifted out & laid to cool. If any air bubbles - finish & when dry. put them all in press over night.

If a badly damaged sheet is laminated & a missing piece of paper other than original - DONOT USE paste. Just cut paper $\frac{1}{2}$ in wide & over top and

laminates only on one side. When cool & ⁱⁿ press 24 hrs, pull away all but a tiny margin of fibers & then laminate again on other side which has no plastic.

first lay plastic, then sheet to be repaired then piece of plain paper. When cool shive.

If ink has not eaten in to paper, one sheet of plastic will be enough

June 27

Professor Longo took me through the Museum rather depressing in great need of dusting & arranging. Very interesting material. On the walls of stairwell are paintings depicting different interesting subjects matter pertaining to printing, illuminating of manuscripts & book binding. Canevari was one of first book-binders. Aldo & Pietro Manuzio first printers, Bodoni - type designer.

FARADIC LOROBENSOLO - a small amount, a half wine glass, kept in a pen jar in glass case will discourage bugs.

ARTEMISIA ABSINTHIUM - plant. if a small pc. of it is inserted in books will discourage termites.

Parchment mending, if it is an old binding & has worn holes they are cut so as to have an even edge then about $\frac{1}{8}$ of inch is scined off from top side. A pc of parchment the same thickness & color is cut about $\frac{2}{3}$ inch wider than hole & then carefully scined on wrong side. Patch is always fitted on to top. When thin enough & evenly scined this edge is reduced so that it overlaps the original page just a bit. Then the glue made of acids acetic is lightly & evenly put on edge & the two pc. put together in press between wax paper.

Feb 6, 1961

Visit to Vatican Library with Prof. Luongo

Very efficient set up. As each person registers he is given a key to a locker where he may leave his coat, umbrella etc. Great silence! Many priests, monks studying or making notes. Was taken thru restoration dept. photography where micro films are made of all books. The ref. or catalogue of these films, which are all numbered like books in a library fills a large room. New process being developed where a whole book - sheet by sheet is photographed on a very small card & when needed can be enlarged & read with a reading lens.

The vatican restorators do not use chlorox but put sheets ^{to wash} in hot water. They have a lamination machine same as Istituto but are getting a "Barrows". Claim it is better. They prefer to use silk gauze & sizing in preserving sheets. Saw some very thin pared parchment for mending parchment - transparent. They use ^{fish} gelatin dissolved in acido actico to glue & mend parchment leaves. The whole work room was very neat & well organized not many workers but more efficient than Istituto.

Legatura - Gallo

to soften hard or dried leather bindings recommends a rubbing of "vaselina toxica" (?)

When a fragment or page of parchment is to be repaired or pasted on a frame of parchment - It must be the same thickness & shade as original or near as possible. The original is laid on new pc. & traced - cut about $\frac{1}{8}$ " in side pencil line so that it over laps if there is writing cut just to edge. Seize both old & new so that the combined will not be thicker than original.

Note Public Records Office - London

they claim that when parchment is pasted it should never be put under pressure or press as that discolors the parchment & makes it darker.