




10-23-2015

What's New in Preservation at Musselman Library: Student Workers and the Beauty of the Book

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Recommended Citation

Sautter, Carolyn, and Mary Wootton. "What's New in Preservation at Musselman Library: Student Workers and the Beauty of the Book." ACLCP 2015 Fall Conference, Harrisburg, PA, October 23, 2015.

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What's New in Preservation at Musselman Library: Student Workers and the Beauty of the Book

Abstract

Musselman Library's Special Collections and College Archives at Gettysburg College involves student workers and interns in our preservation and [conservation](#) efforts. The recent addition to the staff of a half-time conservator position has opened up new avenues for training. This has also resulted in additional access points for our students, faculty and other researchers to interact with our collections. This presentation discusses our preservation activities and our new digital collection [The Beauty of the Book](#). It also illustrates how we have engaged student workers in conservation and enhanced cataloging description projects giving them a deeper appreciation for and understanding of our archival and rare book collections.

Keywords

book conservation, archives, historic preservation, public history, archival collection, cataloging, collection management, preservation

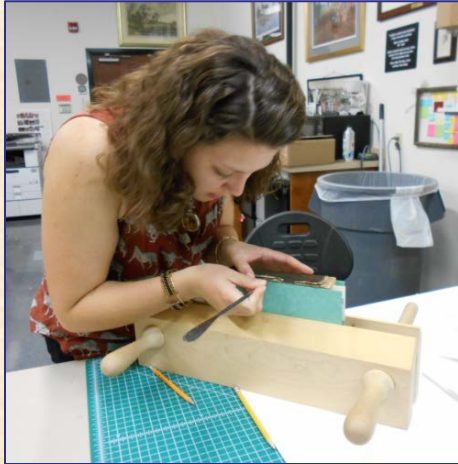
Disciplines

Archival Science | Cataloging and Metadata | Collection Development and Management | Higher Education | History | Library and Information Science | Public History

Comments

This presentation was part the [ACLCP 2015 Fall Conference](#) for the Associated College Libraries of Central Pennsylvania as part of the *50th Anniversary and Member Showcase featuring Access, Collaboration, Learning, Community, Preservation* in Harrisburg, PA on October 23, 2015.

What's New in Preservation at Musselman Library



Student Workers and the Beauty of the Book

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ACLCP 2015 Fall Conference – October 23, 2015

Special Collections and College Archives – 4th Floor Musselman Library

- **Staff**
 - Director of SC & CA
 - College Archivist
 - Digital Projects Manager
 - Digital Scholarship Assistant
 - Conservator
 - Special Collections Assistants
 - Interns/Student workers
- Collections including 14,000 books (5,000 identified as rare)
- New opportunity: Conservation student workers



Conservation Space

- Alumni donation
- Equipment
- Conservator
- Student Workers



Preservation Activities



Installation of perforated shelving to improve air flow



Book cleaning using Nilfisk vacuum cleaner

Encapsulation of posters, maps, photos, and documents



Making custom boxes



**How I Found Livingstone, 1872
Before Treatment**



**U.S. Service Magazine, 1864
Before**



**History of the French Revolution, 1826
Before Treatment**



**Linnea Goebel
Class of 2013**

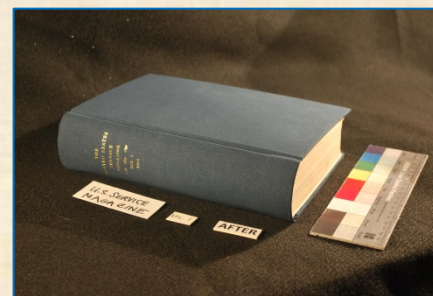
Student binding repair projects



**Alexa Schreier,
2015-16 Holley intern**



**How I Found Livingstone, 1872
After Treatment**



**U.S. Service Magazine, 1864
After**



**History of the French Revolution, 1826
After Treatment**

Conservation Activities



Before treatment

Gray's Anatomy,
1st American
Edition, 1859



**Volume was collated and
vacuumed to remove mold spores**



**Pages were
washed,
mended,
resewn.
Volume was
rebound into its
original covers**



**Student Allie Ward, class of 2014,
with alumni donors**

Researchers, Class visits, and Exhibit Support

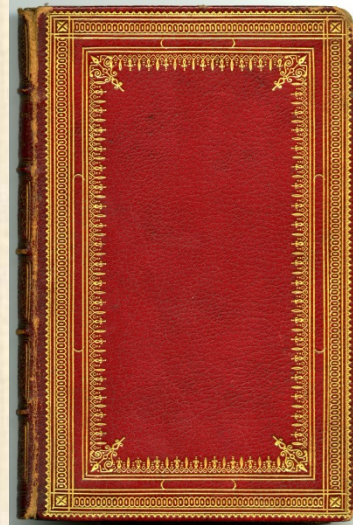
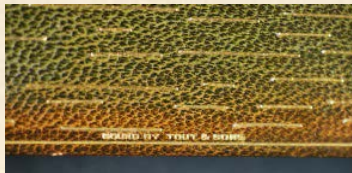
- Researchers visiting the Special Collections Reading Room
- Class visits (on average 33 customized sessions per year)
 - Many request rare books for students to see as learning objects
 - ENG 214 – 17th Century English Drama
 - ENG 221 – Survey of English Literature: 17th and 18th century
 - FYS 181-3 – A Whale of a Tale: Moby Dick in American History and Culture
 - HIST 230 – Native American-European Encounter America
 - THA 214 – Survey of Dramatic Literature
- Exhibits featuring books as artifacts



Binding Description Project

- Form
- Enhanced cataloging
- Beauty of the Book

GettDigital Collection



Cataloging Notes: Bindings and Bookplates

- Rachel Hammer, class of 2015
 - Student cataloger
 - Now works for Folger Shakespeare Library
- Cataloging (in MUSCAT library catalog)
 - MARC tag 561 for bookplates, inscriptions, and marginalia
 - MARC tag 563 for binding description
- Scanning/Photography
 - Covers
 - Notable features
- Metadata (CONTENTdm)
 - Book as artifact
 - The Beauty of the Book
GettDigital Collection



BINDING DESCRIPTION – AS OF JANUARY 2015

Call number: _____
 Citation: _____

Measurements: *ht.* ____cm x *w.* ____cm x *thk.* ____cm

Binding: ____ contemporary
 Notes: _____

Cover materials: (indicate full, ¾, ½, ¼)

Color(s): _____
 ____ cloth ____ paper ____ vellum
 ____ leather ____ tawed skin

Notes: _____

Decoration:

◊ **Cover boards:** (blind/gold) ____tooled ____ stamped
 ____ painted ____ stained ____ speckled
 ____ marbled ____ tree calf ____ inlays/onlays

Notes: _____

◊ **Board [guinea] edges:** ____ blind-tooled ____ gold-tooled
 ◊ **Inner board edges:** ____ blind-tooled ____ gold-tooled

Notes: _____

Spine: ____ round ____ flat ____ smooth ____ raised bands
 (blind/gold) ____tooled ____ stamped

Notes: _____

◊ **Titling:** ____ untitled ____ manuscript
 ____ label - type: _____
 ____ direct titling ____ gold

Notes: _____

Textblock: ____ paper ____ parchment/vellum
 ____ handmade ____ machine-made ____ laid ____ wove

Notes: _____

◊ **Page Edges:** ____ untrimmed ____ rough trimmed
 ____ gilt ____ paste ____ gauffered
 ____ stained/colored ____ sprinkled ____ marbled
 Edge color _____

Notes: _____

Endpapers: ____ handmade ____ machine-made
 ____ laid ____ wove
 ____ plain ____ marbled ____ paste paper ____ printed ____ colored

Notes: _____

Endbands: (none/missing) ____ hand sewn ____ stuck-on
Color(s): _____
 Notes: _____

Ownership marks (signatures, bookplates, etc.):
 ____ bookplate(s) ____ inscription ____ marginalia

Notes: _____

The Beauty of the Book GettDigital Collection

The Beauty of the Book - x
gettysburg.cdmhost.com/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16274coll8

Gett Digital
Special Collections & College Archives
Gettysburg College
Digital Collections

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Home >> The Beauty of the Book - Bindings from Special Collections

The Beauty of the Book - Bindings from Special Collections

E87.T36 1830 - A narrative of the captivity and adventures of John Tanner, (U.S. interpreter at the Saut de Ste....

Recent Additions

PR4611.A5 T4 1872 - The...
gettysburg.cdmhost.com/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16274coll8/id/239/rec/2

PR4611.A5 T4 1872 - Through the looking glass : and what Alice found there

Title PR4611.A5 T4 1872 - Through the looking glass : and what Alice found there
Author Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898

PR4854.I7 J86
1894 - The jungle book

PS1569.E6 R58
1899 - The rivalries of Long and Short Codiac

About this collection
Special Collections and College Archives houses approximately 5000 books in their Rare Book Collection. This digital collection is a celebration of a small sampling of notable bindings from that collection as selected by our conservator, Mary Wootton and Rachel Hammer, Class of 2015. This collection highlights our books as artifacts demonstrating the history of bookbinding. Each entry contains binding descriptions of features such as cover, fore-edge, spine, and binder's tickets.

Browse All Bindings
Each MUSCAT cataloging record for these titles has been enhanced with the provenance and binding description identified through this project.

Special Collections - Conservation (video)
Each school year two Special Collections student workers assist our conservator in a variety of conservation projects involving rare books, posters, photographs, and artifacts.

Binding Description Form
This sample form is used by the cataloging staff to record binding details for titles selected for the Beauty of the Book project.

Visit <http://www.gettysburg.edu/library/gettdigital> and click [The Beauty of the Book](#)

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