



NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

Date: September 10, 2013

From: Anna Friedman, RXC

To: Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Chief of Document Conservation Laboratory, RXC  
Sue Murphy, Iraqi Jewish Archives Project Manager, RX

Subject: Treatment Report IJA #1790  
La Haggadah de Pessach  
הגדה של פסח  
Vienna, 1930

*DESCRIPTION*

This chromolitho haggadah was printed in Vienna in 1930 and was severely eaten by pest activity before being oversewn and rebound in a quarter-cloth and oiled-paper case binding. It has received full conservation treatment for exhibition including washing, paper stabilization, rebinding and custom rehousing.

*TREATMENT SUMMARY*

Conservation of this volume was undertaken to address extensive mold and water damage and to prepare it for exhibition. The volume will be exhibited open to the title page and frontispiece during the traveling exhibit "Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage".

## *TREATMENT PROCEDURES AND DETAILS*

### **1) DISBOUND THE TEXT BLOCK**

The original boards, binder's waste and sewing threads were retained in a wrapper inside the new custom housing.

### **2) MOLD REMEDIATION AND SURFACE CLEANING**

The volume was vacuumed page by page with a Nilfisk HEPA vacuum and micro-attachments. When necessary, pages were then surface cleaned with soot sponges.

### **3) TESTED PAPER AND MEDIA**

The inks were tested for water solubility and for solubility in a water/alcohol mix. The inks were stable in water and alcohol, and the alcohol was clearly necessary for the water to penetrate the size on the paper.

### **4) WASHED**

The text block was washed in a series of calcinated deionized water baths. The pages required pre-wetting using an alcohol and water solution sprayed from a dahlia sprayer to penetrate the sizing in the paper. After washing no new sizing was necessary.

### **5) DRIED**

The washed folios were dried unrestrained until the pages were nearly completely dry, then they were stacked neatly and dried under weight until completely dry. Re-folding the folios before they were completely dry was necessary to retain the alignment of the paper as it curved around the sections.

### **6) PAPER REPAIR**

All tears were mended with toned 5g tengujo from Hiromi long fiber tissue and the losses were stabilized with toned 5g tengujo from Hiromi long fiber tissue patches. The first section of the book had completely disassociated leaves from their conjugated leaves, so they were reassembled for ease of sewing.

After stabilization, the holes in the text block pages from pest activity were filled using layers of long fiber tissues toned with dilute dispersions of Golden Acrylic paint. The stabilized losses in the decorative plates were filled with Permalife paper fills toned with dilute dispersions of Golden Acrylic paint.

## 7) SEWING STUBS

In order to facilitate sewing through the folds, the decorative plates were stubbed out with University of Iowa Center for the Book (UICB) Barrett text-weight paper. Wide Barrett paper strips were adhered to 5mm in from the gutter-edge of the plate using wheat starch paste. The line of paste did not extend to the full height of the plate nor to the edge of the stub. These free areas help distribute the forces of the book opening to prevent a hard-line of adhesive causing a stress fracture inside the newly rebound book.

## 8) REBINDING

The text block was sewn all-along using 25/3 Irish linen thread. New Mohawk end papers were sewn to the text block during the binding process.

The spine of the text block was consolidated with paste and an overhanging lining of heavy weight longfiber tissue. An additional overhanging lining of UICB Barrett text-weight paper was added to reinforce the case-to-text attachment.

A new case of buff colored UICB Barrett paper was created using cross-grain laminated corrugated board stiffeners inside the front and back covers. The text block cased in using the Barrett paper overhanging lining, the new Mohawk paper endsheets and Jade-R PVA adhesive.

## 9) PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

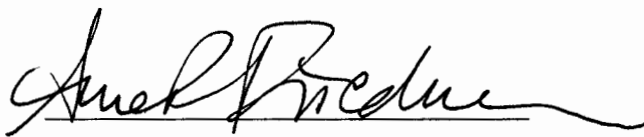
Before (January 2007 and June 2012) and after treatment (April 2013) digital photo-documentation was produced. During treatment processes were documented with a digital camera.

## 10) CUSTOM HOUSING

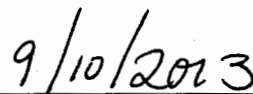
The volume is housed in an archival custom box together with the unidentified fragments and removed original sewing.

**After Treatment Dimensions:** 29.8 cm H x 22.9cm W x 4.7 cm D

**TREATMENT HOURS:** 128 hours



Anna Friedman, Conservator  
Document Conservation Laboratory



date

**Before Treatment:**



**After Treatment:**



Digital photograph. Conservation Lab. June 2012.

Digital photograph. Digital Imaging Lab. April 2013.



Digital photograph. Conservation Lab. June 2012.

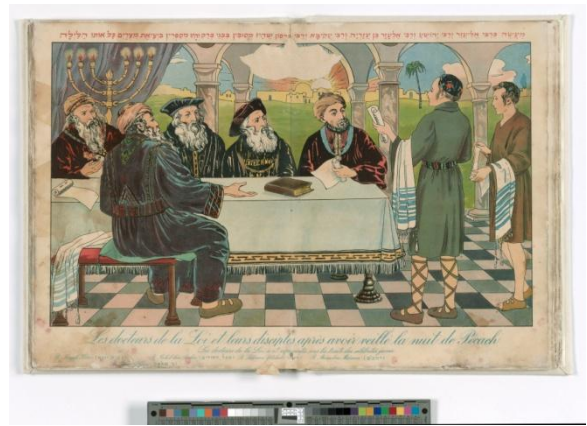
Digital photograph. Digital Imaging Lab. April 2013.

**Before Treatment:**



Digital photograph. Conservation Lab. January 2007.

**After Treatment:**



Digital photograph. Digital Imaging Lab. April 2013.

## During Treatment:



Washing the text block

Stabilizing and mending the pages.

