

Poster abstract

Ian Cox and Marika Kocsis

Commentaries on the Book of Isaiah by Jerome – a conservation treatment

The poster describes the treatment of *Explanatoes Divi Hieronimi in Isaiaam Prophetam or Commentaries on Isaiah by Saint Jerome*, a Dutch manuscript produced in 1497 at the Carthusian monastery, Our Lady of Bethlehem, in Roermond, Holland.

In 2009, *Commentaries* was loaned to the monastery for a major exhibition, *The Secret of Silence: the hidden world of the Carthusians of Roermond*. Displaying the manuscript was problematic as its opening was very restricted and on return to the Library, treatment was proposed to re-evaluate aspects of its twentieth century repairs and to improve the ease of opening.

An experimental, minimally interventive approach was taken in which details of the original book construction revealed during treatment were left exposed. This was inspired in part by the manuscripts in the monastery's collection which, in many cases, have medieval technical details visible. In this way, the finished treatment has an educational function.

The manuscript has also been digitised and is now available on-line on the State Library of Victoria website.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Ian Cox has worked as a book conservator in the Conservation Department at the State Library of Victoria since 1987. In 1994 he attended Centro del Bel Libro in Ascona, Switzerland and studied the restoration of old books.

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Marika Kocsis has a Master of Arts - Conservation of Cultural Materials from the University of Melbourne specialising in paper conservation. Marika has recently rejoined the State Library of Victoria as a Senior Paper Conservator. Having an interest in the treatment of degraded leather Marika has also undertaken specialised training in the conservation of books in Australia, Italy, and at the Centro del be libro in Ascona, Switzerland.

In 2006, Marika was awarded the AICCM Student Conservator of the Year Award and in 2010 she was selected as an ICCROM/NRICPT participant in the International Course on Conservation of Japanese Paper, Tokyo. She is currently undertaking a joint research project on two Ethiopic Coptic Bindings.

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