

Poster abstract

Guy Caron and Bronwen Glover

Treatment options for 17th century vellum

During 2013 Book Conservator Guy Caron and Assistant Conservator Bronwen Glover completed the preservation of 6 volumes of the 12 volume set of Joan Blaeu Atlas ou Geographie Blaviane, Amsterdam 1667.

The contents of this unprecedented atlas illustrate the high standards of contemporary cartography and geographical knowledge and its presentation bears witness to the superb craftsmanship of engraver, printer, binder and papermaker. Made of 597 engraved maps, plans and views, most full sheet, all maps are embellished with cartouches, allegorical figures, coats of arms, ships and are fully coloured by a contemporary hand with a few heightened with gold.

The Dutch publisher's vellum over pasteboard binding had covers panelled in gilt with central decoration of a blocked gilt arabesque and large floral corner pieces.

In poor condition, severely abraded, dirty and damaged, the vellum covers had numerous large losses on 3 volumes most due to rodent attack. This created challenging decisions and a degree of complexity in the choice of treatment methods for repair of the volumes.

The poster will show different techniques and compare approaches for successfully repairing the vellum. This will range from the traditional technique using a prepared patch of pared vellum to fill losses, or the technique using "reconstituted parchment" pulp suspension for direct leaf casting to precast patches or laminated fills.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Guy Caron has a diploma in fine binding and book conservation after studying at the Institut de Formation aux Metiers d'Arts CREAR Gouvieux, France followed by an internship in a private studio, Dekimpe in Belgium. Guy managed his own private studio in Belgium and France for 10 years. In 2002 he moved to Sydney and since then has worked in the Preservation Branch at the State Library of NSW.

Conservator – Collection Preservation and Storage Branch
State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: 9273 1580
guy.caron@sl.nsw.gov.au

Bronwen Glover holds a diploma in Collections Conservation and Management from Fleming College in Ontario, Canada. This diploma was followed by an internship in the book conservation department of Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. Bronwen then undertook further work in various cultural institutions in Canada including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Parks Canada's conservation centre, and the Archives of Ontario. Bronwen has also undertaken several bookbinding courses through the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild as well as the Guild of Craft Bookbinders in NSW. In 2011 Bronwen joined the Preservation department at the State Library of NSW as an Assistant Conservator.

Assistant Conservator
Collection Preservation and Storage Branch
State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9273 1676
bronwen.glover@sl.nsw.gov.au