

Treatment of a map of Newcastle

Natalie Ison - University of Canberra - Placement at Art and Archival with Kim Morris

Before Treatment (May 2, 2011)



Condition Report and Treatment Proposal

Map is of the Newcastle area and has a publication date of 1952.

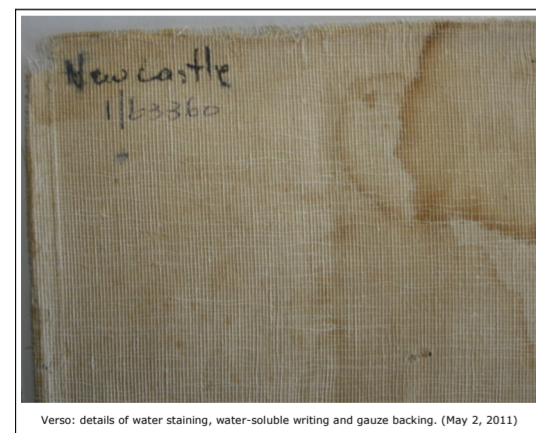
It measures 620 x 891mm and has been used extensively as evidenced by the wear in the fold-lines, the water staining and handwritten notes.

The map had also been backed with a thin gauze and water-soluble adhesive to keep it together.

A requirement of the treatment of the map is that the handwritten notes are retained.



Detail of handwritten notes and wear along fold-lines (May 2, 2011)

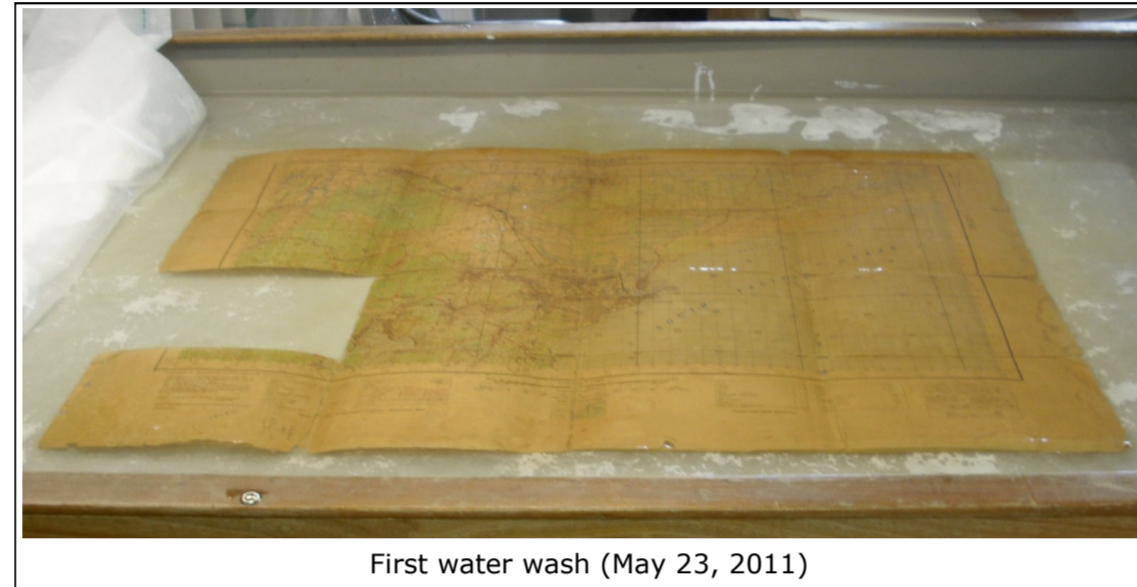


The treatment proposed was to clean the map, remove the gauze backing and reline with a medium weight Japanese tissue.

After solubility testing on the handwritten notes, it was determined that the section of map containing them would be treated separately to prevent information loss. This section was removed from the body of the map and set aside.

After relining, any losses would be treated with tissue of a similar colour and the map would be mounted for framing.

Cleaning and Backing



First water wash (May 23, 2011)

The large section of the map was washed in water to remove some soiling and soften the water-soluble adhesive attaching the gauze to the paper. After the first wash, a backing removal was performed to remove the gauze.



Detail of backing removal (May 23, 2011)

The map was then washed again in water and also in an alkaline wash (containing calcium hydroxide measuring pH8).

The smaller piece of the map containing the handwriting was steeped with the water soluble ink isolated by Mylar. Due to wicking, the ink began to bleed, so the piece was placed on a suction table and excess ink removed. The piece was then washed on the suction table with an alkaline wash (calcium hydroxide measuring pH8).

Once dry, a backing of sinpuu sekishuu paper was applied using 4% carboxy methyl cellulose and the map was tension dried.

Pieces of medium weight tissue were painted with acrylic paint to colour-match the base paper colour of the map.

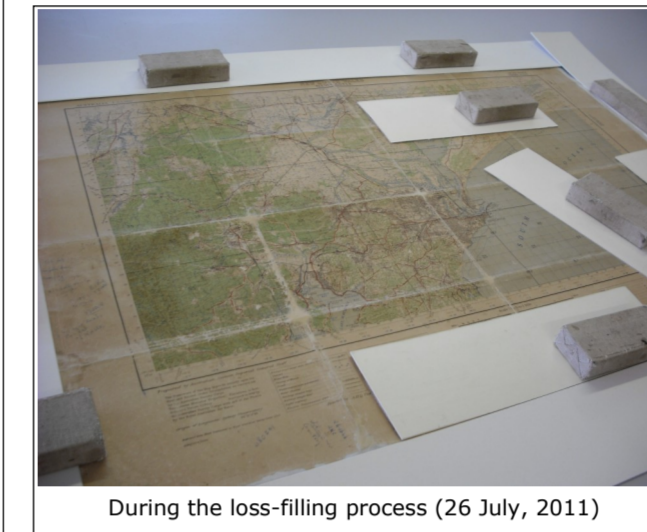


Colour matching tissue (July 18, 2011)



A moment in the backing application (June 24, 2011)

Repairs and Mounting



During the loss-filling process (26 July, 2011)

Small shapes of the medium weight coloured tissue were used to fill large losses in the folded areas of the map. This was necessary to draw the eye from the missing sections of map.



Section of map before fill (26 July, 2011)



Section of map after fill (26 July, 2011)



Finished map with mounting hinges applied (1 August, 2011)

The map will need to be mounted under tension and framed to protect it from tearing and further damage, so tissue hinges were applied and the map was mounted on a backing board with a window containing Foamcore spacers.

After Treatment (12 August, 2011)

