Mapping the Illustrated Wanderings of a Canadian Soldier during the First World War
Reconstructing 14 Sketchbooks

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1. Introduction
The William Redver Stark Fonds is a rare, illustrated record of a soldier’s life at work and rest. After 100 years the fourteen cloth bound sketchbooks exhibited structural and physical damage with pages that were either separated or in random order or removed thus disrupting the original collation as well as the artist diary timeline.

2. Conservation Goal
To determine the original quire sequencing and page configuration in order to reconstruct the textlocks and stabilize the bindings.

3. Analysis
The original collation was determined using magnification and various light sources such as angled light, revealing evidence from repetitive patterns based on the following indicators: binding structures, artist media and physical damage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Binding materials &amp; techniques</th>
<th>Artists materials &amp; techniques</th>
<th>Physical damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adhesive residue</td>
<td>Pencil impression</td>
<td>Oil stains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewing thread impression</td>
<td>Media overlap</td>
<td>Tidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewing tape impression</td>
<td>Media transfer</td>
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<td>Paper loss</td>
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4. Methodology
The textblocks were virtually reconstructed using a customized “quire sequence and page configuration” mapping template. The outcome confirmed the original quire and page collation thus re-establishing the artist diary timeline.

5. Conservation Results
The sketchbooks were physically re-collated | Separated folios were rejoined with traditional tissue repair and compensation guards were added in place of missing pages, re-establishing the textblock original thickness | Textblocks were resewn and recased into the original cloth covers where required.

William Redver Stark by Numbers:
665 Treatment hours
627 Pages
480 Watercolour, gouache, pastel, ink, & graphite
100 Years ago
29 Cities, towns & villages
14 Sketchbooks
9 Colourman labels & book tickets
4 Countries
2 Continents
1 Artist

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