

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.



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

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Library and Archives Canada



William Redver Stark by Numbers:



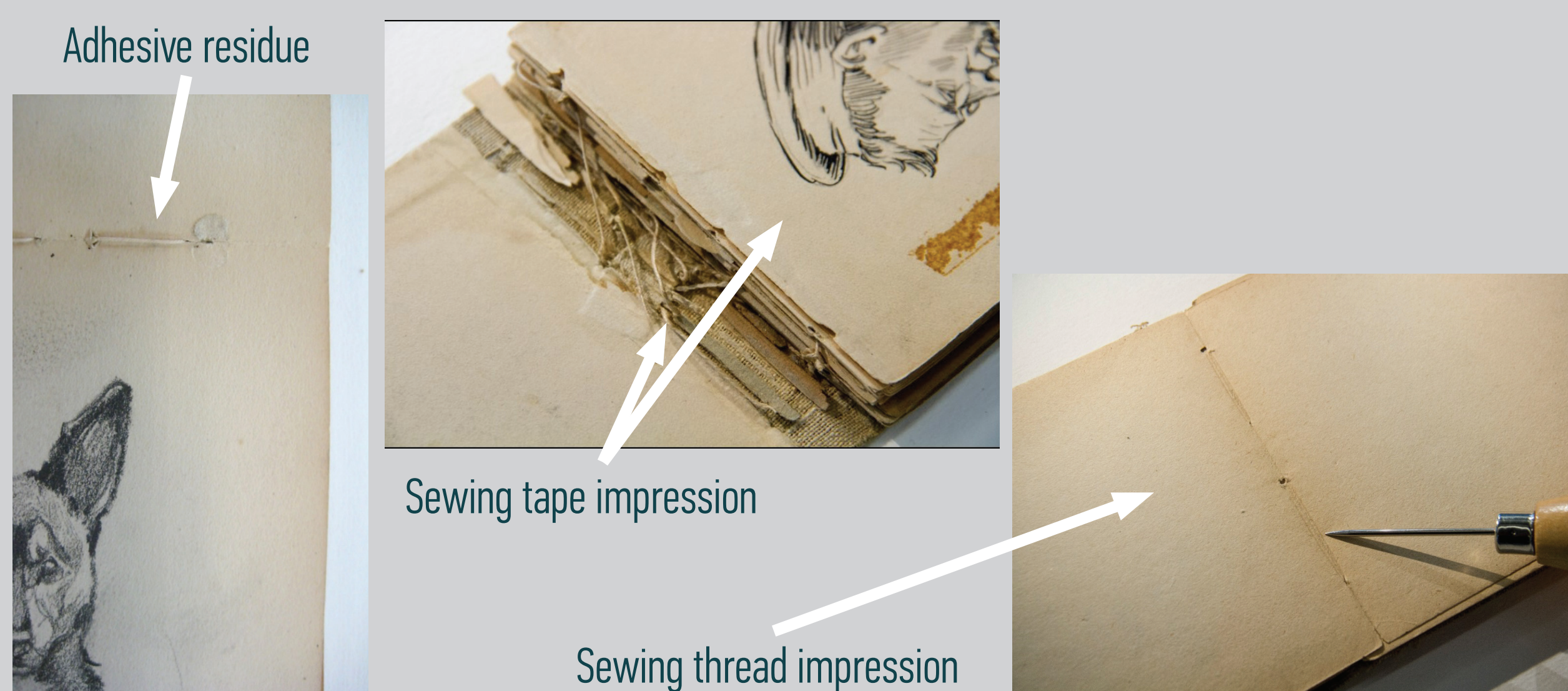
- 665 Treatment hours
- 627 Pages
- 480 Watercolour, gouache, pastel, ink, & graphite
- 100 Years ago
- 29 Cities, towns & villages
- 14 Sketchbooks
- 9 Colourman labels & book tickets
- 4 Countries
- 2 Continents
- 1 Artist

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.

Binding materials & techniques



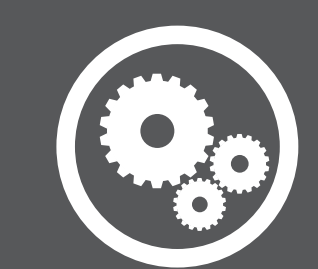
Artists materials & techniques



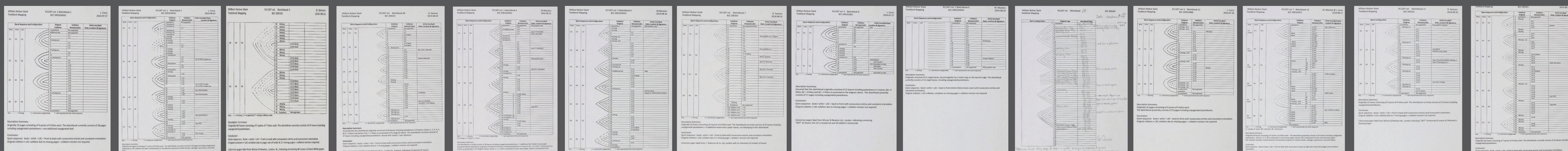
Physical damage



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 sewn and recased into the original cloth covers where required.

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