Material Range and Treatment Compatibility: Board Edge Consolidation with the Use of Japanese Paper

Anahit M. Campbell

anahitmarina@yahoo.com

Book Conservator, Conservation Science Student

Abstract:

Japanese paper is one of the East's most vital resources in paper and book conservation due to its dual properties of strength and flexibility. This poster presents a use of the paper in book board covering material consolidation. Often times marbled and other decorative papers delaminate from the board due to wear and handling. This wear may also extend to the covering material on the face of the board itself which is not only aesthetically displeasing, but also exposes the board material to further wear and abrasion. While readhering the paper with adhesive such as wheat starch paste may secure the lifted paper covering material temporarily, the location of the paper on the board edge poses the highly probable chance that the paper will once again lift and loss may occur. This poster presents a treatment solution for this particular problem with the use of very light weight (3.5 gsm) Japanese kozo paper which provides an option for repairs that are similar to that described and underscore the unique suitability of Japanese paper in such uses.

Method:

After the paper covering material on the edges of the boards are readhered using wheat starch paste, a strip of feathered edge Japanese paper (3.5 gsm) can be secured around the edge of the board, extending onto the verso and recto of the board-far enough onto the board that the Japanese tissue cannot easily delaminate from wear. In addition, it's fibrous feathered edge serves to transition from the covering material to the Japanese paper with minimal chance of lifting. Furthermore, as this Japanese paper is substantially thin and translucent, it can be secured to the surface of the covering material inconspicuously. The noteworthy element to this simple treatment is that it is only with the duel characteristics of Japanese paper that this treatment can be executed.

Treatment Steps:

1. (Mechanically clean the area to be treated. Also ensure that no pigment from the paper covering material will bleed and that the paper will not form tide lines from the moisture).

2. Adhere the loose and delaminated paper covering material to the board edge, using wheat starch paste. Set gently using a teflon bone folder. Allow to dry.

3. Trim the desired tone of 3.5 gsm Japanese Kozo paper and feather the edges as needed, using a needle. The Japanese paper should be cut slightly past the width of the repair area on the board edge and the length should begin about 1 centimeter into the outside of the board, wrap around the board edge, and extend to the edge of the paper covering material turn-in (or about 1 centimeter) on the inside of the board. This will prevent lifting from handling.

4. Brush on a thin layer of wheat starch paste on the area described above.

5. Place down the Japanese paper on the area of the board with the adhesive brushed on and gently set the Japanese paper using the length of the a teflon bone folder. Allow the repair to dry between blotter paper and Bondina®.

Summary of Advantages:

*Reversible and fairly non invasive.

*Unlike other methods of consolidation, prevents the loss of the paper covering material in the case of future delamination

*Addresses the potential of loss and delamination from handling and use.

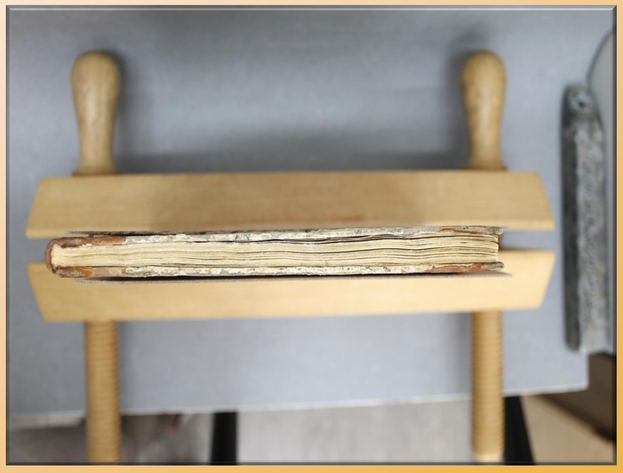
Sample of 3.5 gsm Japanese Kozo Paper

(left: natural toned right: light toned)

SAMPLES

Before: The 18th century English Admiraly signal book.

During: The marbled paper board covering material delaminating from the edges.



After: The edges of the board after treatment.