**Preservation of a 15th Century Spanish Antiphonary**

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**Introduction**

A large Spanish antiphonary was generously donated to the University of Central Florida Libraries. The antiphonary is bound in leather over wood boards with ornate metal bosses and decorated corner pieces. There are two front leather closing straps, which slid over the brass clasps attached, and the back with two brass clasps catches. The size of the antiphonary measures 34 x 26 cm in height, 390 mm in width, and 110 mm across the spine when closed. The condition of the antiphonary is deteriorating at an alarming rate due to the massive weight of the antiphonary. The massive weight of the antiphonary is not ideal for bookbinders board, even layered when pressed. The massive weight of the antiphonary was not ideal for bookbinders board, due to potential collapse of the material. The use of archival grade 4mm compact for the fabrication of the sled was chosen because of its strength and durability. Keeping in mind that not all compact is archival. Compact content specifically indicated can have coatings that are not suitable for archival use.

**Why “Sled” housing?**

By the request of our archivist, the housing for the antiphonary should be minimal handling and not be fully enclosed. The container should also be allowed to move easily from a shelf. Based on these parameters, the University of Chicago Library’s previous presentation of a design and build of a minimalistic “sled” housing was most favorable. This was an innovation to store flat, retrieved safely when necessary, and returned onto the shelf. The sled consists of a rectangular base and three walls for protection on its sides. One side is exposed to allow the antiphonary to be removed from the sled if necessary.

**Tray Support**

The tray supports the antiphonary to gently slide off the sled. Rather than resting on the sled, the tray requires no handling of the item when removing from the housing. Attached straps at the edge of the tray makes it easy to pull. In addition, shallow cutouts were cut out specifically for the metal bosses of the antiphonary to allow the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. The strap was measured by the width and length of the book as well as the leather straps laid down flat. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. This was particularly beneficial because of weight distribution. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. The strap was measured by the width and length of the book as well as the leather straps laid down flat. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. This was particularly beneficial because of weight distribution. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. The strap was measured by the width and length of the book as well as the leather straps laid down flat. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. This was particularly beneficial because of weight distribution. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. The strap was measured by the width and length of the book as well as the leather straps laid down flat. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. This was particularly beneficial because of weight distribution. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. The strap was measured by the width and length of the book as well as the leather straps laid down flat. The overall weight was concentrated on five metal bosses as well as the corner pieces on the cover to rest flat, which was inspired by Jeff Peachey’s housing of a large bible. This was particularly beneficial because of weight distribution.

**Cover of Antiphonary**

The metal bosses on the front and back covers carry most of the weight of the antiphonary. To relieve the weight from the metal bosses, an additional support tray was created in order to place the antiphonary flat on its cover rather than the bosses. In addition the leather straps attached to the covers are slowly weakening. This is due to the weight of the SRA straps on the straps pulling the leather. My directive was to not perform any treatment on the leather straps. To prevent the loss of the leather straps, the support tray was created with cutouts so that the straps would lay flat. The straps were measured precisely for the placement of the metal bosses to be cut out. Because the leather straps were weakening, the book was placed flat on the front cover. This allowed the straps to lay gently flat to prevent increased stress because the metal bosses were pulling the leather when closed.

**References**


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**Results**

The sled consists of 3 layers of compact as shown on the above diagram. Each layer of compact was adhered on top of another, alternating the “grain” of the compact, running long and short creating a visible grid. Hot glue was used because PVA would not bond properly because of the compact’s smooth surface. Because the sled would be in a relatively controlled storage area on its own shelf space, it would not be near any other materials that would cause acidification of the leather. While covered under a unbleached cotton cloth, our archivist observed the leather straps shrinking and expanding throughout the year. Even in a favorable at the time. While covered under a unbleached cotton cloth, our archivist observed the leather straps shrinking and expanding throughout the year. Even in a favorable at the time. While covered under a unbleached cotton cloth, our archivist observed the leather straps shrinking and expanding throughout the year.

**Tray**

The tray consists of layers of bookbinders board, 0.8 mm and compact. The cutout on the top layer of the tray allows the metal bosses to rest on the sandwich areas. Tracing the cover with blow-up paper, an outline was made as a template to cut the board. Bookbinders board was used because the material was easier to cut with a biocut and straight edge. Once the bookbinders board was cut, the top of the tray was covered with natural Canvasa bookcloth. The bookcloth was cut to the size of the top layer. The tray was constructed with the top layer as a backing support and the bottom layer as a tray support. To add extra support to the tray, the leather straps were attached in between the bookbinders board cutout and compact layer as shown on the diagram above. Straps made from folded Canvasa bookcloth act as pull tabs that can easily move the tray without touching the antiphonary.