



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

Date: September 10, 2013

From: Anna Friedman, Conservator, RXC

To: Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Chief of Document Conservation Laboratory, RXC
Sue Murphy, Iraqi Jewish Archives Project Manager, RX

Subject: Treatment Report IJA #870
Masekhet Yoma min Talmud Bavli
מסכת יומא מן תלמוד בבלי
Vienna, 1792 or 1793

DESCRIPTION

This volume was in poor condition overall. It was covered in surface grime, mold and debris. It was stab-sewn approximately 8mm from the spine of the book with heavy thread. The back board was missing and the front board was damaged, especially at the top corner and the bottom corner which is missing. The first few pages and the last few pages were severely compromised. The front fly leaves was partially attached to the cover, and the top corner of the title page was also stuck to the second flyleaf and the board. The title page was in three pieces, one stuck to the front cover, one loose and one barely attached to the binding. The interior pages of the text block were in fair condition, although they were coated in surface grime and mold.

TREATMENT SUMMARY

Conservation of this volume was undertaken to address extensive mold and water damage and to prepare it for exhibition. The volume will be exhibited open to the title page during the exhibit "Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage".

NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and*
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001

www.archives.gov

TREATMENT PROCEDURES AND DETAILS

1) MOLD REMEDIATION

The volume was mold remediated with a HEPA filter Nilfisk vacuum and soft brushes in a fume hood. When necessary, pages were then surface cleaned with soot sponges.

2) DISBOUND THE TEXT BLOCK

Removing the heavy oversewing was essential to complete mold remediation as well as repairing the volume. Threads were snipped on the heavy stab sewing, retaining the sewing threads and original board in a wrapper inside the custom housing.

3) SEPARATING STUCK PAGES

The flyleaves and parts of the title page were released from the board using gentle mechanical lifting. A thin metal spatula was used to slide between the delicate layers of paper in order to separate them.

4) SURFACE CLEANING

Where necessary, the pages were surface cleaned with vulcanized rubber sponges and/or Mars white eraser crumbles.

5) TESTED PAPER AND MEDIA

Careful testing of the inks on the title page and fly leaves showed that the inks would not run if those pages were wet lined with long fiber tissue and paste. The rest of the media in the text block was not tested because it would not be subjected to water treatment.

6) LINING COMPROMISED PAGES

The title page and fly leaves were lined with paste and 5g tengujo purchased from Hiromi and toned with a dilute dispersion of Golden acrylic paints. The pages were sprayed out with deionized water and all fragments realigned before lining so that the text lined up. Lining successfully stabilized the fragile, mold-damaged paper.

7) VISUAL INTEGRATION

After lining, the losses in the fly leaves and the title page were filled with layers of long fiber tissue toned with dilute dispersions of Golden acrylic paint. Toned fills visually integrate the losses and allow the pages to move evenly across the sheet.

8) PAPER REPAIR

The rest of the pages in the book were mended as necessary using acrylic-toned long fiber tissue (Hiromi MMN-1 Tengucho and HP-04 Usu Mino Thin) and wheat starch paste, or a 50-50 mixture of wheat starch paste and methyl cellulose as a remoistenable tissue preparation..

9) NEW SEWING

The book was re sewn through the original stab binding holes with 25/3 Irish linen thread with new University of Iowa Center for the Book (UICB) Barrett bookweight endsheets. The original sewing holes were used so as to not introduce new holes into the pages and because the pages draped nicely and were not brittle. The 86 leaves were gathered together in single-folio sections which would have introduced an inappropriate amount of swell if sewn through the fold.

10) NEW COVERS

A new case was fashioned for the book using UICB Barrett case-weight paper with 4-ply museum board stiffeners inside the front and back covers. The pieces were secured with light edge-applications of Polyvinyl Acetate (PVA) adhesive. The textblock was secured to the new case by drumming-on the new Barrett paper endsheets to the new case with PVA.

11) PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Before (January 2007 and June 2012) and after treatment (April 2013) digital photo-documentation was produced. During treatment processes were documented with a digital camera.

12) CUSTOM HOUSING

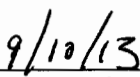
The volume is housed in an archival custom box together with the original sewing threads, unidentified fragments and removed original front board.

After treatment measurements: 35cm H x 21.6 cm W x 1.7 cm D

TREATMENT HOURS: 64 hours



Anna Friedman, Conservator
Iraqi Jewish Archive Project



date

Before Treatment:



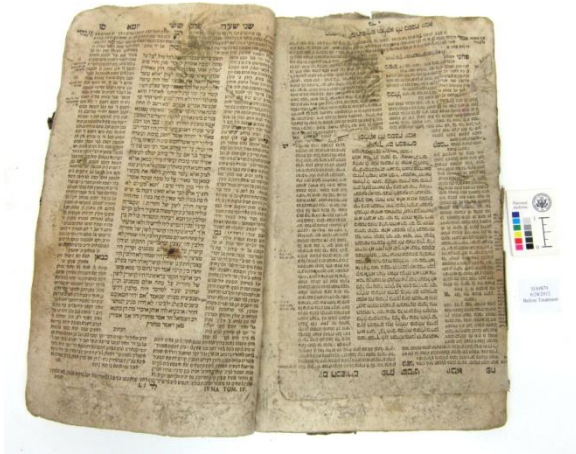
Digital photograph. Conservation Lab. January 2007.

After Treatment:



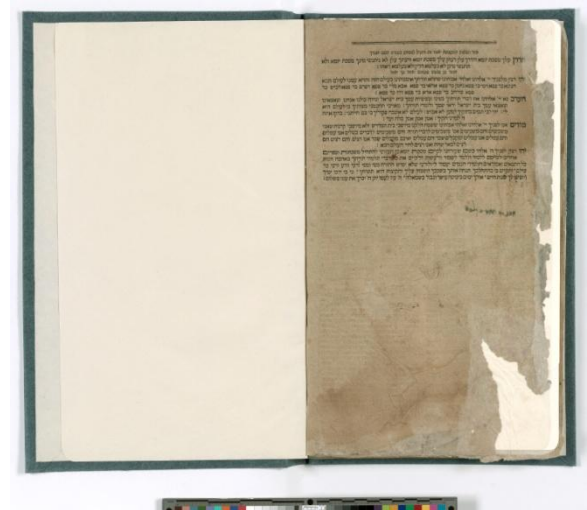
Digital photograph. Digital Imaging Lab. April 2013.

Before Treatment:



Last page, inserted in the middle of the text block
Digital photograph. Conservation Lab. January 2007.

After Treatment:



Last page after treatment, in proper location
Digital photograph. Digital Imaging Lab. April 2013.

Before Treatment:



Second to last page, before treatment
Digital photograph. Conservation Lab. January 2007.

After Treatment:



Second to last page, after treatment
Digital photograph. Digital Imaging Lab. April 2013.

Before Treatment:



Title page, before treatment
Digital photograph. Conservation Lab. January 2007.

After Treatment:



Title page, after treatment
Digital photograph. Digital Imaging Lab. April 2013.