THE RESTORATION OF BOOK

GEORGICA CURIOSA

Georgica Curiosa

*Georgica Curiosa* is an encyclopedic handbook focused on farming and countryside. Book is richly illustrated. There were 119 illustrations on 914 pages but only 66 are extant. Most of them were colorized. *Georgica Curiosa* was printed in Nuremberg in 1716.

Description of bookbinding

A cover is composed of leather and wooden boards. The bookbinding is full bounded. There is a blind printing and two brass catch plates on the cover. There are also other materials like spine lining and papers. These materials were pasted on the inside of cover. Their function was to strengthen the damaged cover. Missing parts of metal elements were substituted by strings. Sewing was performed with four double cord bends. Text block is made up of hand made paper. One section was composed of two sheets.

The state before treatment

The bookbinding was soiled with dust, stains and rust. The largest damages, like paper losses in edges or separation cover from text block, were caused by mechanical using. In addition, the sewing was almost lost. Remnants of thread were inside of section. Leaves were jumbled because of the missing sewing.

Restoration

Text block

Before treatment, colour layers were tested if they are soluble. Soluble places were fixed with Cyclododecane. Sheets were cleaned, losses were completed with paper pulp, tears were mended with Japanese paper. The text block was sewn according to extant materials. The spine was glued and rounded.

Cover

At the beginning, all materials were separated from boards. Wooden boards were cleaned and completed with putty or new wood. Finished cards were fixed to the text block with pasting of cords. New leather patches were sticked on boards and spine. Original leather was cleaned and pasted. Metal elements were cleaned and preserved. Brass catch plates were fixed on cover and steel nails were saved. At the end of restoration, pastedowns were pasted on inside of boards. Last step was preparation of protective box with melinex cases for fragments.