

*In celebration of
European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations
(ECCO)*

European Day of Conservation- Restoration

Konserveringsdager 2021

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Book Conservation is one type of Conservation

Examples of cultural heritage that Conservator-Restorers work with:

- Books, documents made of paper or parchment, maps
- Works of art on paper
- Photographs
- Paintings
- Furniture, frames for artwork
- Wallpaper
- Buildings
- Costumes, clothes, textile art
- Objects in general

Where?

Libraries (public, school, university, national), archives, museums, churches, historic houses, art galleries, antiquarian bookshops, art in public places...
and cultural heritage can be found in private collections

Book Conservation education ~ a combination of science & art, hands-on & academic

- How do materials interact with each other & their environment
- How do materials change over time
- History of book production in society
(How to keep a book true to its original time and place)
- Reversible repair techniques
- Using researched materials
- How to make books (bookbinding)
...to understand book structures
- How to prevent damage
Preservation / Preventive conservation
- Maintained throughout career – keeping up to date with new research



Book Conservation-Restoration in Norway ~ What's happening?

- There are very few Book Conservator-Restorers in Norway
- Those who want education and training in Book Conservation-Restoration go to other countries
- A Book-Paper-Photograph Conservation group in NKF-N created in 2019 to try to bring attention to these specializations
- Institutions seem to concentrate on preparations: for digitalization or for exhibition
- Trend toward more Collection Management and less practical conservation-restoration – less bench work
- Archives, for example, rarely have book conservator-restorers on staff, although this competence is needed
- Institutions and book collectors tend to send damaged books to bookbinders

Book Conservation is bookbinding + + + (but bookbinding is not book conservation)

Book Conservator-Restorers usually

- complete a Master's degree
- are trained to standards developed through international associations and follow a Code of Ethics ~ includes recording evidence before/during/after
- are like doctors: diagnose damage and make treatment decisions on a case by case basis
- focus on structure & functionality
- conserve the binding & the pages
- have priorities to keep original parts (preserve authenticity) and use reversible techniques

Bookbinders usually

- do secondary education and apprentice-style training roughly equivalent to an Associate or Bachelor's degree
- follow a long tradition of craftsmanship that is important to preserve and transmit
- repeat the same actions until perfection
- focus on aesthetics, decorative elements
- repair or replace binding / covers
- do not prioritize authenticity or reversibility

A book's binding is just as important as its contents

“The conservator-restorer has a particular responsibility in that treatment is performed on irreplaceable originals, which are often unique and of great artistic, religious, historic, scientific, cultural, social or economic value.

The value of such objects lies in the character of their fabrication, in their evidence as historical documents, and consequently in their authenticity.”

International council of museums – committee for conservation

<http://www.icom-cc.org/47/about-icom-cc/definition-of-profession/#.UDAT6KIIsmN>

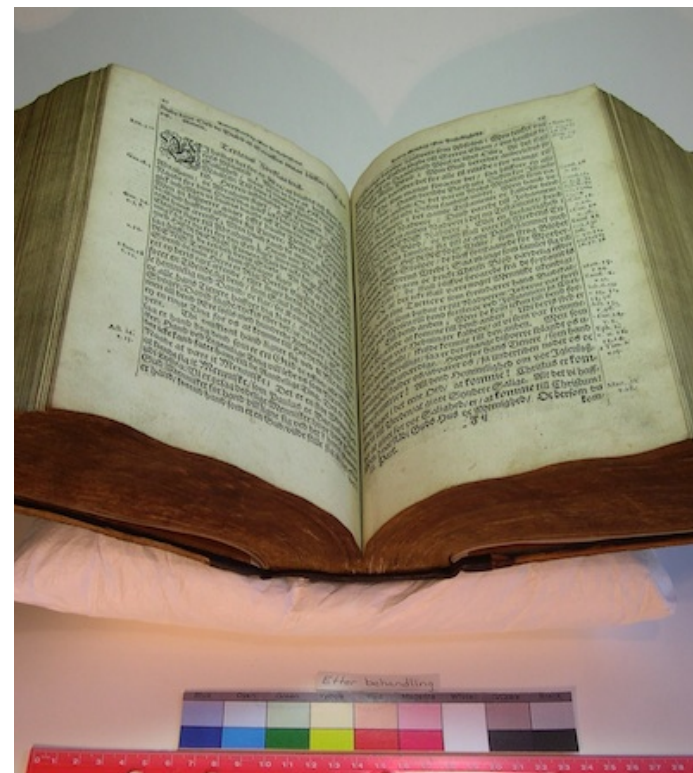
Books are important historical, cultural objects ~ authenticity cannot be digitized

before & after treatment to re-attach boards



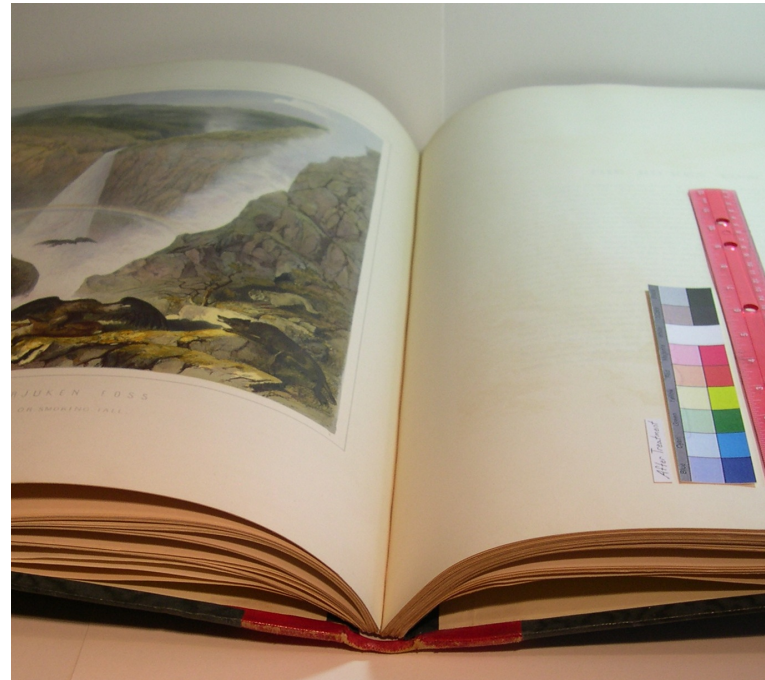
Books are dynamic objects meant to be read ~ (safe handling is part of preventive conservation)

before & after treatment of spine / Reback



*Conservator-Restorers are working to ensure that someone
in 100 years can leaf through books like this one*

before & after treatment of spine / Reback



Find out more about Conservation-Restoration!

- NKF-N den Norske seksjonen av Nordisk Konservatorforbund (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway & Sweden) www.nkf-n.no
+ Bok-, Papir-, og Foto-konservering faggruppe
www.nkf-n.no/undergrupper/emnegrupper/bok-papir-og-foto
- IADA International Association of Book and Paper Conservators (Europe)
<http://iada-home.org>
- European Research Centre for Book & Paper Conservator-Restorers
www.restauratorenohnegrenzen.eu/erc
- American Institute of Conservation, Book & Paper Group
www.culturalheritage.org/membership/groups-and-networks/book-and-paper-group
- ICOM-CC International council of museums – committee for conservation
www.icom-cc.org
- ECCO European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations
www.ecco-eu.org