

Eric C. Alstrom
Collections Conservator

Michigan State University Libraries
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EDUCATION

University of Michigan School of Information and Library Studies Ann Arbor, MI
December 1989: Master of Information and Library Studies, Concentration in Archival Management
Course work focused on preservation of library materials, including four-month internship at the Bentley Historical Library Conservation Lab

Kalamazoo College Kalamazoo, MI
June 1988: Bachelor of Arts - History, Concentration in American Studies

EMPLOYMENT

Michigan State University Libraries East Lansing, MI
April 2004 – present: Collections Conservator

Dartmouth College Libraries Hanover, NH
October 1998 – present: Collections Conservator, Book Arts Program Instructor

Ohio University Libraries Athens, OH
February 1994 - September 1998: Collections Conservator

University of Michigan Libraries Ann Arbor, MI
January 1993 - January 1994: Technical Library Assistant, Special Collection Library

James Craven and Associates Ann Arbor, MI
January 1990 - January 1994: Conservator – Book and Paper

Bessenberg Bindery Ann Arbor, MI
October 1990 - December 1992: Book conservator and hand binder

Bentley Historical Library Ann Arbor, MI
January 1990 - October 1990: Conservation Assistant

CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Book Treatments

- Expertise in a variety of binding methods, including: tightback and hollowback leather bindings; cloth and leather case-bindings; springback bindings, lay-flat adhesive bindings; Japanese stap bindings; and encapsulated postbindings
- Experience in conservation treatments for bindings from all periods, including: resweiving whole and partial textblocks; cloth and leather rebacking; Japanese paper hinge repair; and board ticketing and other conservation board reattachments
- Developed innovative binding solutions for new library materials, including: durable, lay-flat double-fan adhesive binding for paperbacks; sidesewn pamphlet which leave spine visible so title can be read while on the shelf

Paper Treatments

- Lamination with heatset tissues and Japanese papers
- Encapsulation of fragile documents and textblocks both by hand and ultrasonic welder
- Bathing, washing and resizing of paper
- Deacidification using both aqueous and non-aqueous methods

Box Making

- Drop-spine boxes, slip cases and phase boxes
- Custom made protective containers, including a reusable temporary four-flap enclosure designed for housing damaged books placed on reserve or sent through interlibrary loan

Online portfolio is available at: www.lib.msu.edu/alstrom/portfolio.html

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

Board Reattachment Using Japanese Paper Hinges

September 2003: Garage Annex School for Book Arts, Easthampton, MA (Weekend Workshop)

Board Reattachment Roundtable: Japanese Paper Hinges for Hollowbacks

June 2001: Library Collection Conservation Discussion Group, AIC Annual Conference (Lecture)

Leather Volume Board Reattachment Alternatives: Japanese Paper Hinges

March 2000: ACRL/NEC Conservation/Preservation Interest Group, University of Connecticut (Lecture)

Disaster Recovery Workshop

Spring 1999: Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH (Workshop Series)

Southeastern Ohio Regional Conservation Workshop

Summer 1996: Ohio University, Athens, OH (IMLS Grant-sponsored Workshop Series)

Book Arts Program Open Bindery

1999 – 2004: Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH (Workshop Series)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of Conservation (1993 – present)

Member: Book and Paper Group, Library Collections Conservation Discussion Group

Guild of Book Workers (1993 – present)

Member: Midwest Chapter and New England Chapter

Chair, Publicity Committee: 2002 – present; *National GBW Webmaster:* 1998 – present

New England Conservation Association (2002 – 2004)

Ohio Preservation Council (1994 – 1998)

Member: Education Committee, Web Page Task Force; *Secretary:* 1996-1997

SELECTED CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

American Institute for Conservation

2005 (Minneapolis, MN)

2003 (Washington, D.C.)

2001 (Dallas, TX): Presented slide lecture on Japanese paper hollowback board reattachment treatments for the Library Collections Conservation Discussion Group.

1998 (Washington, D.C.)

1997 (San Diego, CA): Presented samples for the Library Collections Conservation Discussion Group's forum on treatments for spiral bound materials and casebound rebacks.

Guild of Book Workers' Annual Standards of Excellence Seminars 1994 – 2004 (attended all except for 2000)

Bookbinding 2000 Conference May 2000 in Rochester, NY

Paper and Book Intensive 1999 (Haystack, ME) and 2000 (Oxbow, MI)

Selected Workshops

Photographing Your Artwork November 2004 (Providence, RI): with P.J. Saine, professional photographer

Molded Paper Spine August 2004 (Hanover, NH): with Donia Conn, conservator Syracuse University

Chemistry for Conservators July 2003 (New Haven, CT): with David Dorning, West Dean College, U.K.

Emergency Response for Cultural Institutions (Northeast Region) May 2001 (Andover, MA): sponsored by the American Institute for Conservation; Instructors: Mary Jo Davis and Barbara Moore; Mentor: Barbara Roberts

Treatments for Spiral Bound Books and Publisher's Cloth Bindings May 1997 (Cleveland, OH): with William Minter, conservator in private practice, Woodbury, PA

Conservation of Leather Bindings Using Japanese Papers May 1996 (Cleveland, OH): with Don Etherington, Etherington Conservation Center, Greensboro, NC