

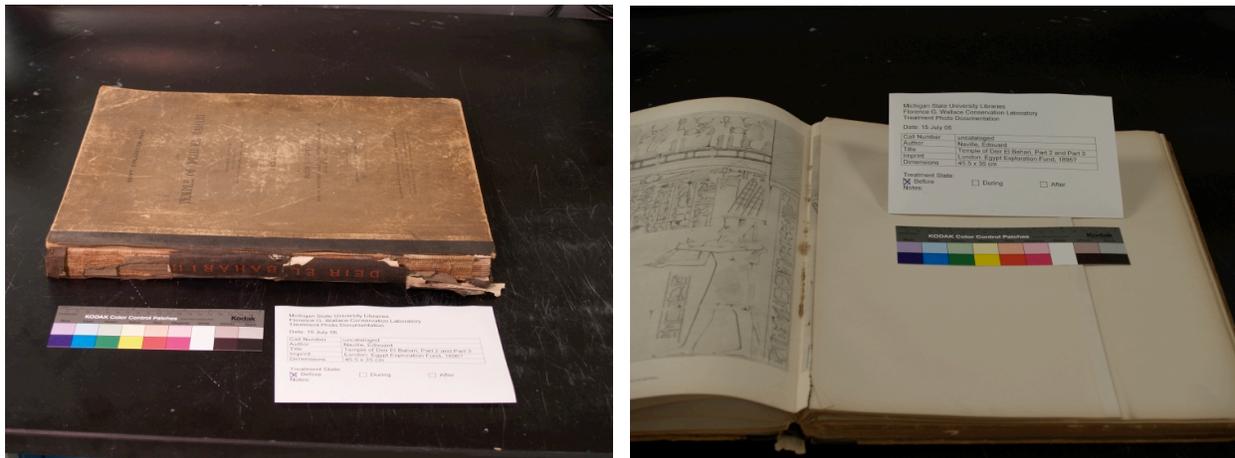
Conservation Treatments Encapsulated Books

In some cases, a book cannot be saved in its original format. This is especially true if the paper is brittle. Brittle paper can crumble at the slightest touch, thus causing the book to quickly deteriorate. There are several options to treat such an item: make a facsimile, called a “preservation photocopy;” reformat using either microfilm or digital methods; or make an “encapsulated book.” An encapsulated book is a book where all the pages have been encapsulated, or sandwiched, between two pieces of clear polyester. A binding edge is made on the spine side so that the book can be reassembled, usually using posts.

Due to the time consuming nature of this work and the fact that the materials used are very expensive, we usually send books needing this treatment to one of our conservation vendors. But we can perform this treatment in the lab. Below are some pictures of once such book.

Edouad Naville – Temple of Deir El Bahari, Part 3 (1896?)

Before

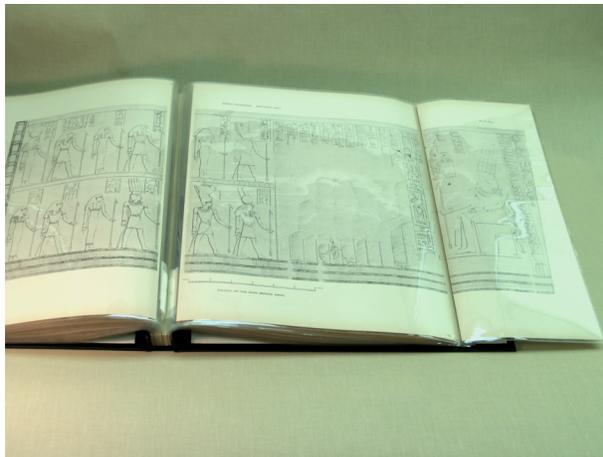
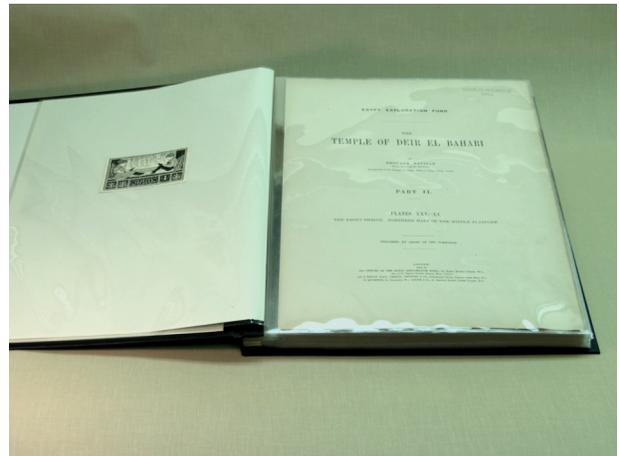
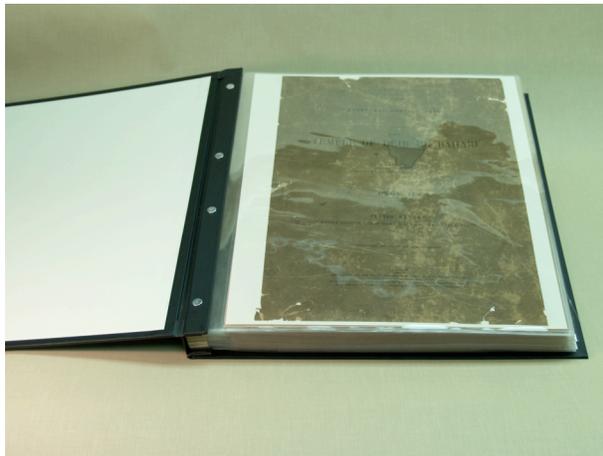


Two photos of the book before treatment. On the left, the spine and cover of the book. On the right, an example of the pages and hinging system. The paper was weak and the plates were starting to tear from the hinges.

After



One of the downsides of this treatment is that the book will look different after treatment. If possible, we try to adhere the original cover to the new. With this book, this was not possible.



I was able to save the cover and place it as the first page of the book (upper left). The original book plate is preserved as is the title page (upper right). Many of the plates folded out. This is very difficult to do in an encapsulated book. Here is one example on a fold out (lower left).