

RESTORATION OF THE "MISSALE ROMANVM" LITURGY BOOK

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INTRODUCTION

The printed matter was published in the Latin language by *Balthasar ab Egmond* in Cologne, 1695. There are 826 pages in the block which have been placed in a decorative cover.

The cover was produced from wood and covered with a blue velvet fabric. It has been decorated with massive silver fittings in the centre and in the corners, as well as two fastening elements. The date 25th December 1762 has been engraved in one of the cover's fittings which makes one think that the cover was added to the printed matter later.

CONDITION OF THE ITEM PRIOR TO RESTORATION

The covers have come off of the block. One of the fasteners is damaged and the decor has become blackened. Cover 1. The cover's fabric is together with the cover's spine. The fabric is dusty, and the spine section is fragile having tears in it. In the centre of the cover is an oval-form metal decoration with the initials *IHS*. There is a cross above the letter *H*. Cover 2. In the centre of the cover is an oval-form metal decoration with the initials *AMRIA*. The external excisions of the block have been gilded.

The pages are dusty and yellowed with water staining and rot. The paper of the pages has become fragile, with losses of paper in individual pages (see Fig. 1). Ten pages at the start of the block and ten pages at the end have fallen out of the cover. The first pages of the block have been mechanically damaged, as the sharp metal parts of the cover have "torn" or damaged the paper. Stitching in the middle part of the block is firm and undamaged.

The pages have been arranged in parts and stitched with white cotton thread on three bands. The ends of the bands have come off.



"MISSALE ROMANVM" LITURGY BOOK
MATERIAL: PAPER, WOOD, CANVAS, METAL
SIZE: 36 X 24 X 8 CM
OWNER: TUKUMS MUSEUM



Fig. 1. Before restoration



Fig. 2. Before restoration



Fig. 4. Restoration process



Fig. 5. After restoration



Fig. 3. Before restoration

RESTORATION PROCESS

The book was disinfected. Mechanically cleaned. Tears and losses in the pages were glued. The bands on the spine were extended, so that the restored pages could be stitched on. The spine of the block was fixed. Metal restorers were invited to take part in the book's restoration as the restored block had to be glued into the cover. The deformation in the cover's fastener was eliminated.

Paper, the remains of glue, corrosion products and patina were cleaned off the fittings. A protective coating was applied in places.

Work was done on the cover fabric after the restoration of the metal parts. The spine of the cover was duplicated and tears in the fabric were glued. The cover paper was cleaned. Tears and losses of the cover paper were glued.

The cover was joined to the block (see Fig. 2). A cardboard box was made for storing the book in the museum collection.

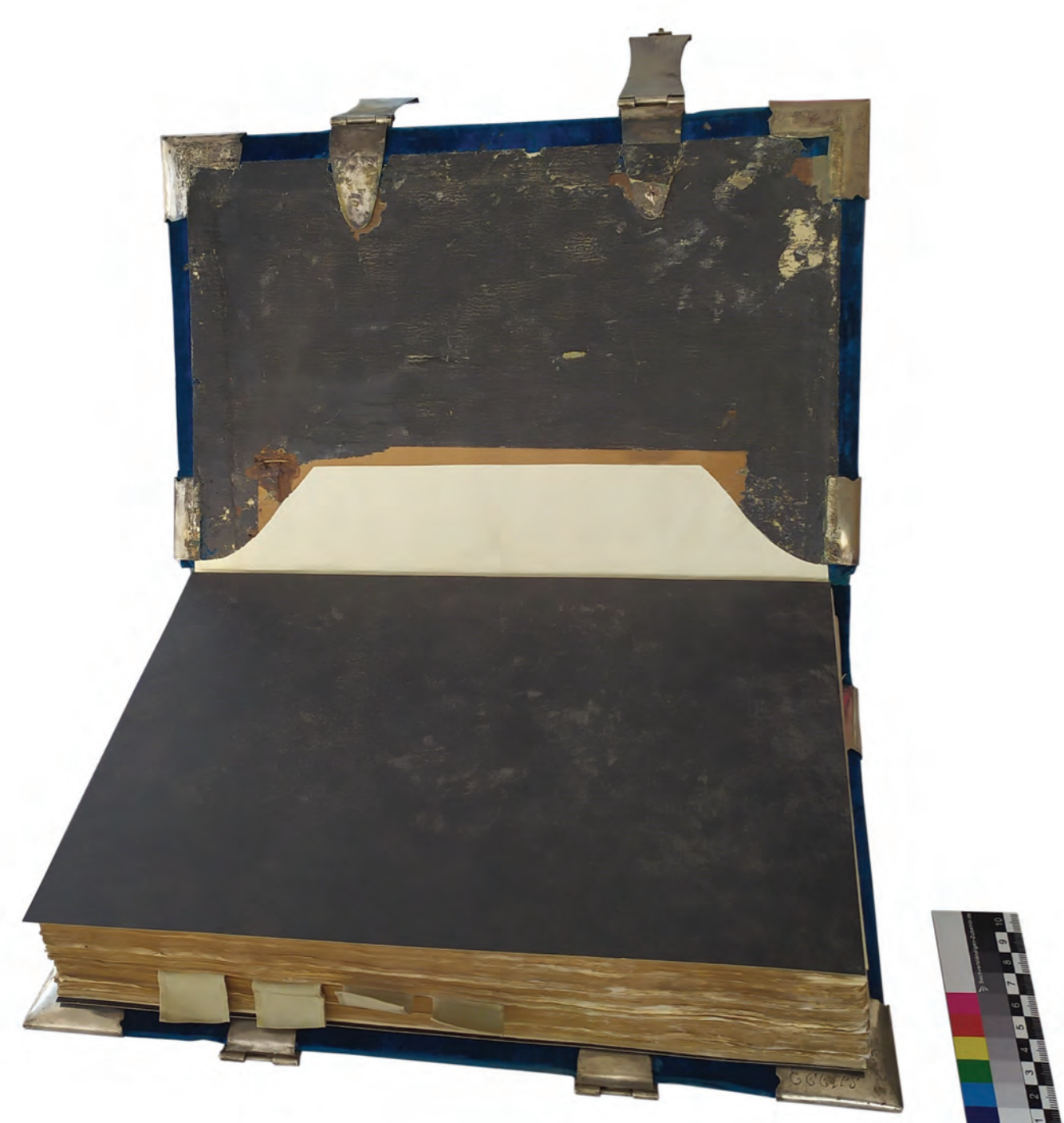


Fig. 6. After restoration



Fig. 7. After restoration



Fig. 8. After restoration