



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Tatura Museum Conservation Project

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Treating garments for insect attack – removing casings

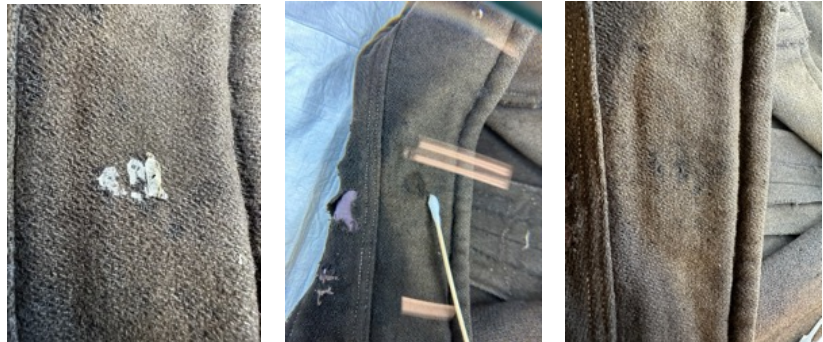


Image (l to r): Insect casings on jacket, removal and wet cleaning with cotton swab, after removal.

Textile conservator Larry Edwards has treated 11 garments from the Taura Collection for insect infestation. The first step in eradication is to ensure all insects are dead and that there is no live activity. This is done by freezing the items for a period of 14 days. After freezing they are gradually thawed and returned to room temperature and cleaned using brush vacuuming.

To assist with the removal of adhered casings, wet cleaning using water and tweezers was used on some items (refer to images above).

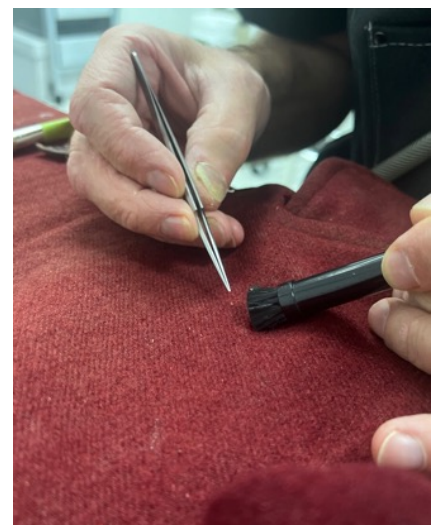
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Video and Image (l to r): Click on the video of conservator Larry Edwards brush vacuuming.

Repairing garment holes caused by insects

Work to repair holes to garments caused by insects has been completed on a number of items. Threads have been colour matched and holes have been stabilised using backing fabric and couching techniques.



Image: Colour matching thread.



Images (l to r): holes in hand knitted brown cardigan sleeve before and after repair.

Conservation students – Master of Cultural Materials Conservation

Grimwade Conservation Services hosts intern students from the University of Melbourne’s Master of Cultural Materials Conservation course throughout the year with the objective of mentoring their skills development in conservation treatment work. In June 2023 the team welcomed Sally Birkett and Mikayla Holland into the paper lab for their internships. Both students will assist Paper and Book Conservator Peter Mitchelson with the conservation of 3 books in the Tatura Collection. The students will be shown how to remove tape and staining, complete book spine and tear repairs.

Image: Student Sally Birkett applying paste to new spine lining for the book ‘Cosmorama oder Die Welt in Bildern’.



Book conservation – spine repairs

Three books form part of the Tatura Museum Conservation Project in 2023, one of which requires significant repairs to its spine. Paper and Book Conservator Peter Mitchelson has mentored student Sally Birkett in the process of repairing the spine, including cleaning, applying a new spine lining, and reattaching the spine using aero-linen sutures.



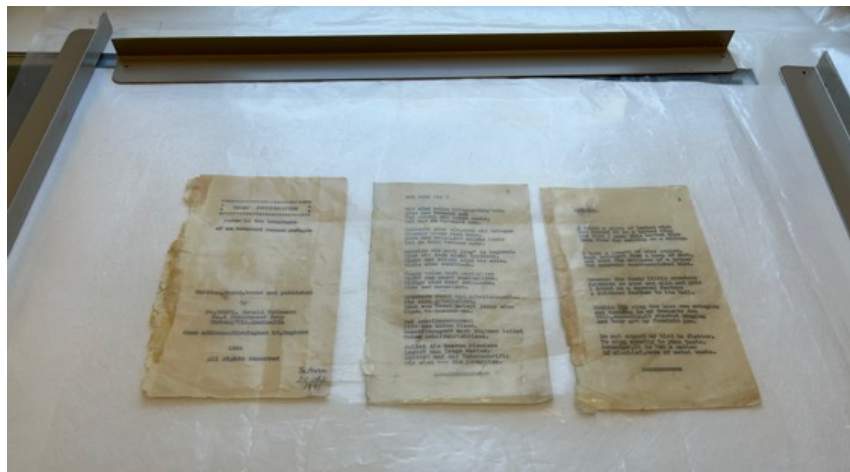
Image: Student Sally Birkett applying paste to the spine of ‘Cosmorama oder Die Welt in Bildern’.



Images: (l to r) Student Sally Birkett applying paste to the spine of 'Cosmorama oder Die Welt in Bildern'.

Book conservation – tape removal and stain reduction

Significant work has been completed in May and June to remove tape from two books and reduce residual adhesive and staining. Tape stain has been reduced using acetone and ethanol klucel poultice.



Images: Humidification of pages from the book 'Under Consideration'.



Images: (L to r) before, during and after treatment. Tape stain reduced using acetone and ethanol klucel poultice to 'Der Struwwelpeter' book



Images (clockwise): Tape removal from 'Under Consideration' Poems in two languages.

Packing garments for return to Tatura

The conservation team have begun constructing custom storage solutions for both the textile items and books which have completed treatment works. It is anticipated that the items will be completed and ready for return to Tatura in early July 2023.



Images (clockwise): Woollen baby jacket is padded with acid free tissue, custom box is created for child's necktie, and a custom support has been made for a hat.



This project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Living Heritage Grants Program.