



Saving the Spine:

A Book Conservation Project by the University of Glasgow Library



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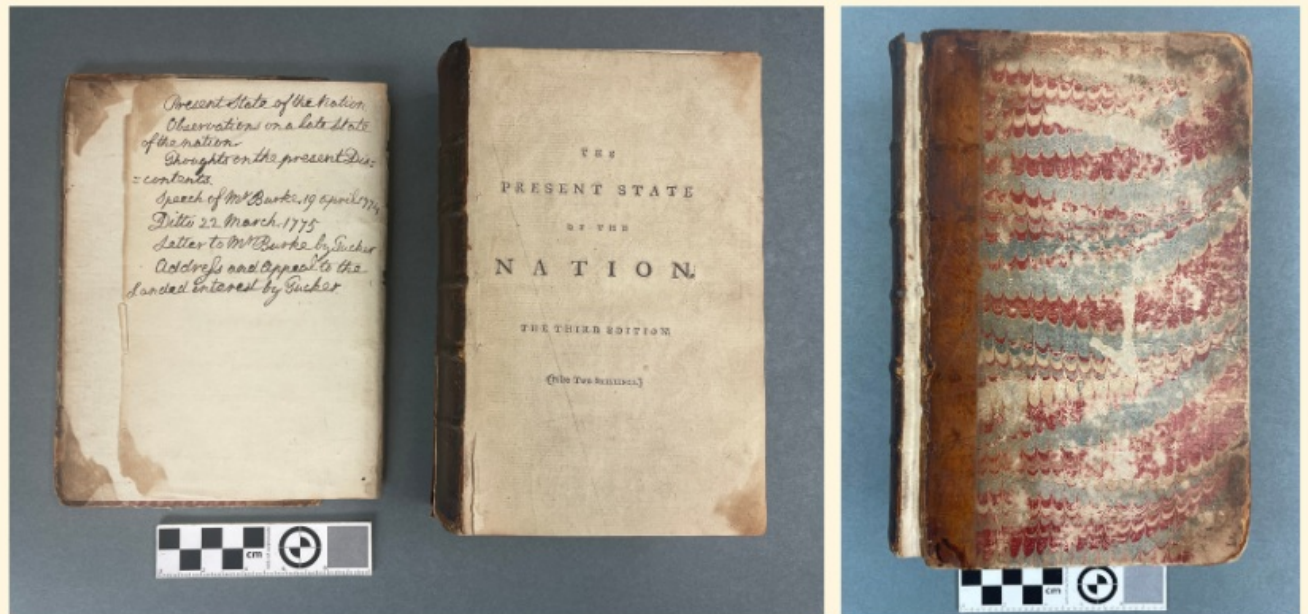
ABOUT THE BOOK

A BOOK CONTAINING SEVEN WORKS BOUND TOGETHER, DATING FROM 1768-1775, WITH ANNOTATIONS BY ADAM SMITH. AFTER BEING REQUESTED (AND REJECTED DUE TO ITS DAMAGED CONDITION) FOR THE ADAM SMITH TERCENTENARY IN 2023, ITS CONSERVATION WAS PRIORITISED AND SUBSEQUENTLY INITIATED.

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WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?

OVER TIME, THE BOOK SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE: ITS COVER AND SOME PAGES WERE DETACHED, THE SPINE SPLIT INTO TWO HALVES, PARTS OF THE TITLE LABEL AND STITCHING WERE LOST, AND THE ANNOTATIONS BECAME THREATENED BY ACID DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE LEATHER BINDING.



3

WHAT TO DO?

INTERVENING AS MINIMALLY AS POSSIBLE, THE BOOK CONSERVATOR REPAIRED TEARS WITH SPECIAL TISSUE AND ADHESIVES, REINFORCED THE SPINE, AND RESTITCHED LOOSE PAGES AND THE DETACHED COVER PAGE. THEY ALSO BACKED THE SPINE WITH DYED LEATHER, CLOSELY MATCHING THE ORIGINAL.

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THE RESULT

THE VOLUME IS NOW STABLE AND CAN SAFELY BE USED FOR STUDY AND DISPLAY. THE CONSERVATION PROJECT ENSURED THAT ADAM SMITH'S ANNOTATIONS AND THE WORKS BOUND WITHIN THE VOLUME ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED, ALLOWING FUTURE GENERATIONS TO EXPLORE THE BOOK FOR YEARS TO COME.

