

Conservation Treatment: Reduction of Discoloration

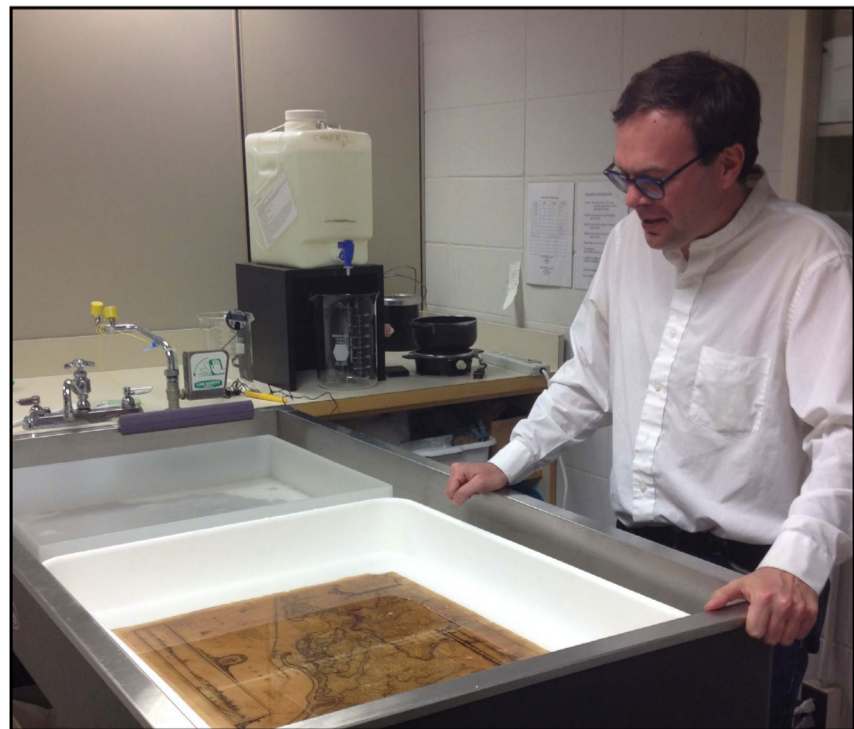
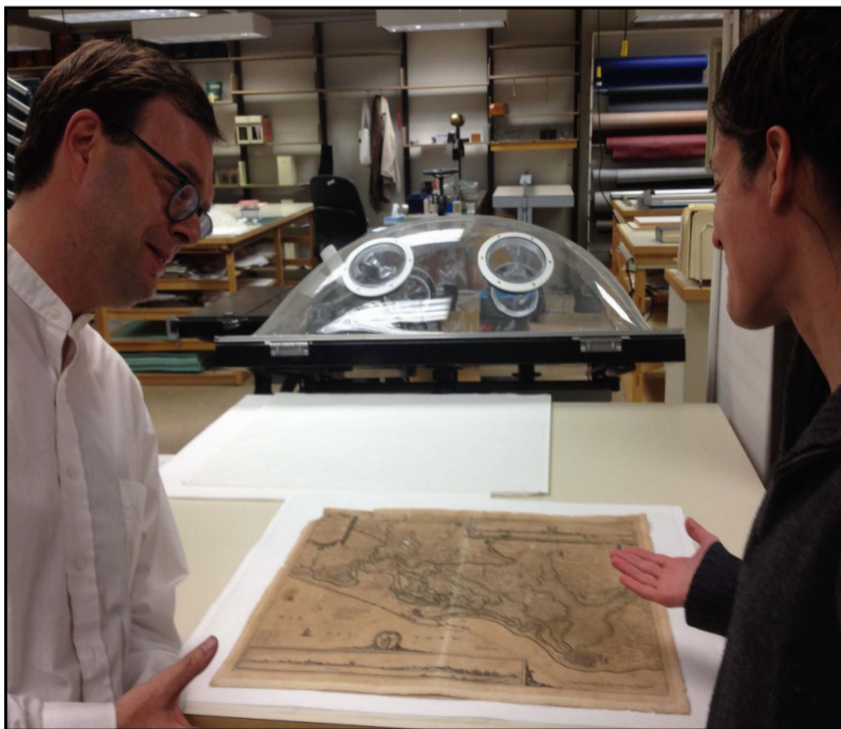
Discoloration is a sign that the paper is degrading and acidity is increasing. Discoloration results from the type of paper fiber, deterioration of the sizing, aging, light exposure, and contact with acidic enclosures. In some cases, it benefits the paper to reduce the degradation and discoloration with aqueous treatment. Aqueous treatment removes soluble degradation byproducts in paper resulting in less discoloration and acidity and improved appearance.



Perfect Caerte der Gelegen theyt van Olinda de Pharnambuco Mauritsstadt ende t'Reciffo; Cornelis Golyath; Hull Collection, Rare and Manuscripts Division, Kroch Library

This 17th century Dutch map of Brazil on handmade, laid linen paper, was a candidate for aqueous treatment because it was discolored and acidic from significant light exposure and contact degradation.

The map was treated using a combination of aqueous treatments which significantly reduced the acidity and discoloration. After treatment, the map is structurally and visually improved.



Curator Laurent Ferri, confers with Jill Iacchei, Paper Conservation Technician, about the condition of the map and proposed treatment. Consultation with the curator provides valuable context for the item being treated and is an integral part of the treatment decision process.