

Presentation of a Bachelor thesis: “papersplitting as a preservation technique”

Sidse Stammerjohan & Katrine Minddal
The Royal Danish Academy of fine Arts, School of Conservation

In our thesis we investigate papersplitting as a preservation technique.

This method is not a subject in our education at school in Denmark, but we think it could be an interesting alternative to the traditional preservation techniques, when it comes to heavily damaged paper.

We visited the workshop of Günter Müller in Jena (Friedrich Schiller Universität und Landesbibliothek) where papersplitting techniques has been practised and developed for many years.

We learned about the method as a rational process that requires experience and knowledge as well as the right equipment and materials.

After having seen good results with this technique we wanted to have a closer look at the process and to try it ourselves.

We have tried to get some experience with the technique as we have seen it practised in Jena. To this part of our work we have had the opportunity to use the workshop of Per Laursen in Humlebæk, Denmark, and he has helped and advised us during the process.

In our thesis we want to cover the practical as well as the more theoretical aspects of papersplitting.

Besides describing and investigating the technique with the materials and chemicals involved we would like to discuss some ethical questions.

We have made a few experiments with splitting of ground wood paper (paper containing lignin). We will compare the results with the same type of paper that has been laminated with tissue of Japanese paper. Paper specimens restored with both techniques, splitting and lamination, will be tested in different ways and - if we have the time - artificially aged

We think that papersplitting deserves more attention as a preservation technique in Denmark. and we hope to get to investigate it further in the future.